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Brunei Darussalam

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RBAF celebrate 46th anniversary



His Majesty inspecting the guard-of-honour in conjunction with the 46th anniversary of RBAF held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Berakas.

BERAKAS, May 31 – The Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) celebrated its 46th anniversary with the theme 'Iltizam Memperkasa Pertahanan Negara', which represents the continuous commitment of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces in raising standards and abilities in terms of its assets and human resources.

Present at the celebration were His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, who is the Supreme Commander of RBAF and Minister of Defence, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

In his *titah* (royal speech), His Majesty outlined several matters such as prevention towards threats; the Brunei International Defence Exhibition 2007 (BRIDEX); importance of leadership; and the setting up of 'Performance Optimisation Centre'.

According to His Majesty, while enjoying peace, we should be aware of the incidents happening around us where some of the incidents are threatening universal peace. Some of the threats include the usage of high tech equipments; and psychological forms through different unwanted actions and deeds.

His Majesty said all these could not be avoided therefore we must look at ways to prevent them. To make preventive methods more effective, self-determination and strength are needed. Strength is needed both physically and

mentally. It dominates a high fighting spirit, patience, bravery besides advanced defence technology.

These brings to the second matter highlighted by His Majesty where it fulfils the Ministry of Defence's initiative to hold an International Defence Exhibition and Forum in conjunction with the celebration of RBAF's anniversary this year.

The events arranged would bring a number of advantages to the society in terms of knowledge and education on the different kinds of threats, as well as on the latest technology in relation to the various perspectives of defence and safety. This is also desired as a basis towards acquiring a local defence industry planning that is an aspiration to be achieved through the revision of the Defence White Paper 2007.

According to the Supreme Commander, he could see the benefits if activities from defence could contribute to the development of the country's economy and would provide new opportunities for the citizens.

In relation to this, with the existence of the different types of modern defence equipment, His Majesty reminded the Ministry of Defence to be wiser in valuing priorities that are in line with the country's current developments and threat assessment.

Thus, in the choosing of equipment and procurement process, it should be determined that it is really accurate, genuine and clear from any issues of

self-importance, which needs thorough investigation and a systematic and efficient management.

His Majesty also touched on the upgrading of the Military Capability Development Unit to that of a Directorate which is one of the efforts to upgrade effectiveness and integrity of the current procurement system.

The sovereign also touched on the importance of leadership.

"In the enthusiasm of conquering high technology, we must not forget that no matter how advanced the technology is, it will not be able to replace the functions of leadership in the organisation. Leadership will continue to be needed as the main pillar to decide the good or bad of the organisation," said His Majesty.

Therefore, His Majesty hoped that efforts to improve the qualities of leadership which covers not only on knowledge of management, however the absorption of noble values of a leader in a group would not be neglected.

The monarch lauded the efforts taken towards enhancing the spiritual aspect of the defence personnel through academic programmes and the establishment of the Military Religious Department.

His Majesty also welcomed the plan of the Ministry of Defence to establish a 'Performance Optimisation Centre' that will include on disciplines such as 'Sports Science' and 'Sports Medicine' as a measure towards the care and improvement of the members of RBAF.

Pemajangan

Pemajangan is a white piece of cloth used to cover a particular area as decoration in a carriage or along the route of any ceremony. Today it refers to the whole structure. Pemajangan is where the Royal Decorations such as Tunggul Charok, Sandran and Chogan Ugama are arranged.



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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

1. Singapore's Senior Minister, His Excellency Goh Chok Tong on June 11.
2. The Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, The Right Honourable Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on June 11.

They were in the country to attend the royal wedding ceremony between Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Khairul Khalil.

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received in audience, Rebecca Chee, Deputy Chairperson of the Asia Pacific Committee of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) on May 21 at the Istana Nurul Iman.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience, Singapore's Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong at the Istana Nurul Iman on June 11.

'Tafsir Darussalam' a milestone for Islam in Brunei Darussalam

BERAKAS, May 24 – The success in arranging the translations of the Al-Quran will be seen as a milestone for Islam in Brunei Darussalam. The compilation named 'Tafsir Darussalam' will add to the collection of references in comprehending the Al-Quran besides the existing translation books.

These were stated by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the final of the National Quran Reading Competition for Adults 1428 Hijrah (Islamic calendar).

His Majesty also expressed his appreciation and hoped that the effort will be a success in line with the efforts of disseminating understanding of the contents of the Al-Quran.

The sovereign also presented prizes to the winners of the competition. For the male category, the champion was Awang Haji Ismail bin Haji Sulaiman while the female category was won by Dayang Nurfaezah binti Haji Emran. Each received cash prize worth \$5,000, a challenge trophy and a haj package worth \$7,500 sponsored by Darussalam Holdings.



Dayang Hajah Nurfaezah, the champion for female category receives a trophy from His Majesty.

Brunei host inaugural BRIDEX 2007

BERAKAS, May 31 – Brunei Darussalam hosted the first Brunei International Defence Exhibition 2007 (BRIDEX 2007) in conjunction with the 46th anniversary of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

Present to officiate BRIDEX 2007 was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and Minister of Defence at the Plenary Hall, International Convention Centre.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

At the opening ceremony, His Majesty also launched the "Defence White Paper 2007" which gives focus on the plan to improve the development of RBAF capabilities.

The exhibition was participated by 108 companies from around the South East Asia and prominent entrepreneurs worldwide such as Australia, Austria, Canada, China, France, China, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America and several local companies.



Declaring the official opening of the first Brunei International Defence Exhibition 2007.



His Majesty receives a token of appreciation from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) for graciously opening BRIDEX 2007.

Regimental Dinner for RBAF's anniversary



His Majesty mingles with members of RBAF.

BERAKAS, MAY 26 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), attended a Regimental Dinner to mark the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) 46th anniversary, at the Officers' Mess in Berakas Garrison.

His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

The Regimental Dinner is a customary event held by RBAF to celebrate RBAF's anniversary held every year.

This year's 46th RBAF anniversary theme is "Iltizam Memperkasa Pertahanan Negara" or 'Commitment Empowering the Nation's Defence' held on May 31.

Thanksgiving ceremony to mark 46th anniversary of RBAF

BERAKAS, MAY 30 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office attended a thanksgiving prayer to mark the 46th anniversary of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

The ceremony was held at the *surau* of Berakas Garrison.

After the thanksgiving prayer, His Royal Highness launched a book entitled 'Core Values and Leadership Traits'. It is a Strategic Defence Planning 2004 initiative to enhance the appreciation of the values of the Ministry of Defence.



His Royal Highness at the thanksgiving prayer.

230 graduates receive Higher National Diploma

BERAKAS, May 21 - Skilled, knowledgeable, good communication skills and high proficiency in English language are among the traits that graduates should possess to enable them to be more marketable in the international level.

This was stated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office at the 16th Convocation of Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB) held at the International Convention Centre.

His Royal Highness also urged stakeholders in the country to continue pursue efforts to ensure that any education programmes or courses that are to be offered, should be more focused towards areas or occupations in sectors which require them. This is to prevent graduates from mismatching their skills or acquiring irrelevant skills, which is one of the root causes of graduate unemployment.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of Higher National Diploma to 230 graduates and the presentation of the best student award for the 20th intake.



One of the recipients receives his diploma from His Royal Highness.

Royal Wedding of Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Khairul Khalil bin Pengiran Syed Haji Jaafari

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 15

– The royal wedding between the fourth child of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah and the second child of Pengiran Syed Haji Jaafari and Hajah Sarbanun Abdi Manaf, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Khairul Khalil was recently held in full Brunei Malay tradition and splendour, carried out in accordance with Islamic rites.

The royal wedding began with the Majlis Istiadat Bersuruh Diraja at the Istana Nurul Iman on June 1. This is when the groom's father, Pengiran Syed Haji Jaafari delivered his son's intention to seek the hand of the daughter of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for marriage.

Soon after the Majlis Istiadat Bersuruh Diraja, the next event was the Majlis Istiadat Membuka Gendang Jaga-jaga on June 2 which denoted the beginning of the royal festivity called the Musim Istiadat Diraja. Gendang Jaga-jaga is the collective name for the musical instruments that compose the royal orchestra. Present at the ceremony was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, other male members of the royal family, the *cheteria*, the nobility, the aristocracy, state dignitaries, and representatives of the Brunei-based

diplomatic missions. A 21-gun salute soon followed when the tune of the Gendang Jaga-jaga could be heard.

The event called for a display of an item of the royal regalia called Nakara which was then placed next to the gilden waing-eave canopy called the Mahligai that houses the sovereign's throne.

A distinguished feature of the royal festivity was the embellishment of a white colonnade called the Balai Pemajangan situated at the front of the Istana Nurul Iman where ornamental decorations were installed. The showpieces that adorned the Balai Pemajangan include white fabric to cover the girders; and rows of ceremonial flags and umbrellas of various shapes and sizes that display the colours of the sovereign, the royal consort, the crown prince, the *wazir*, and the *cheteria*. Similar ceremony took place at the groom's residence at Darul Karamah.

Soon after was the Istiadat Menghantar (delivering) and Menerima (accepting) Tanda Diraja or the royal pre-engagement ceremony. The ceremony started at Darul Karamah, the groom's residence where a delegation was sent to the bride's residence at Istana Nurul Iman to send several gifts to mark the ceremony. Some of the gifts include a piece of hand woven fabric embellished with gilded threads called Kain Jong Sarat, a complete set of attire, a pair of bangles and a pair of ear studs. This was held on June 3.

This ceremony was followed with the Majlis Istiadat Menghantar and Menerima Pertunangan Diraja on June 4. The hallmark of this event was the sending of more gifts from the groom to the bride that indicated the couple's agreement to marry. The gifts include a letter called Surat Mahar (also known as Berian) that described the groom's agreement to marry the bride and lists all the goods bought as gifts for the bride to commemorate the engagement.

A Majlis Istiadat Berbedak Pengantin Diraja was held on June 5 where dressed in traditional wedding attire, the bride and groom hold court at the Indera Buana Throne Hall of Istana Nurul Iman and Darul Karamah respectively. Members of the royal family and the groom's parents had a choice of seven-colour powdered paste to apply on the palms of the bride and groom.

Meanwhile on June 7, the Majlis Istiadat Akad Nikah Pengantin Diraja, the groom's recital of his marriage vows in accordance with Islamic law was held. The ceremony was held in the presence of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; male members of the royal family; the groom's father; the *cheteria*; the nobility; the aristocracy state dignitaries; and representatives of the Brunei-based diplomatic missions.

The wedding ceremony continued with the Majlis Istiadat Berinai Pengantin



The newlywed royal couple before proceeding to the procession.