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Brunei Darussalam

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HM: Be cautious of unhealthy elements and influence



PHOTO: HAMZAH BIN MOHIDIN

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, delivers a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1436 Hijrah / 2015.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 18 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam reminded the citizens and residents in the country to be more cautious of all unhealthy elements and influence.

His Majesty stated this in a *titah* (royal speech) delivered in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1436 Hijrah / 2015 that was broadcasted across the country.

“We must not be complacent and gullible, we must fortify ourselves with true Bruneian spirit and the Bruneian way of life that are deeply rooted in religion. We should not be attracted by any propoganda,” His Majesty said.

Alhamdulillah Brunei Darussalam is spared from all crises, His Majesty

said, adding that the country has never experienced disruptions.

In terms of socio-economy, the country has always been harmonious and stable due to its prudent and fair management.

This situation, His Majesty stressed, should be maintained for Brunei Darussalam to remain blissful and prosperous. It is not easy to attain such happiness.

A country may be vast, but if it is plagued with crisis it cannot be blissful.

Brunei Darussalam may be small, but it is free from any crisis and chaos.

This is a true blessing and numerous lessons can be learned from incidents happening in other countries such as natural disasters, accidents and wars that claim many human lives.

Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty stressed, is already good in the eyes

of the world and is in the best position that there are no disputes. Thus, it is appropriate to strengthen that situation without seeking for anything else that is supposedly better.

The country has possessed this excellent status for over 600 years and it has proven to bring development and progress.

“I am satisfied with what we have. It is a special gift that other people in this world dream of having and this status does not come easy,” His Majesty said.

It reminds us of Allah's promise that faithful human beings will be rewarded with blessings. We believe that this peace and stability that we enjoy are blessings from Allah, His Majesty said.

In ending the *titah*, His Majesty wished Muslim citizens and residents a happy Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

Contents



1 HM: Be cautious of unhealthy elements and influence



5 Royalties join congregants for Aidilfitri prayer



7 His Majesty: Al-Quran, light from Allah the Almighty



8 More than 8,500 people receive His Majesty's personal gifts on Aidilfitri



10 His Majesty's birthday celebration symbolises unity



11 His Royal Highness graces YSHHB Khatam Al-Quran



12 Paddy planting project involves 21 entrepreneurs



16 Singapore ministers visit Brunei Darussalam for Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration



17 Chicken farm to produce 72,000 eggs per day



19 Meeting discusses preparation for ASEANSAT Summit in Cambodia



JULY 2015 - VOLUME 30 ISSUE 7

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Brunei Darussalam

His Majesty receives audiences



PHOTO: HERNIE SULTANA BINI HAJI TOTHMAN

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 27 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience the Chief Secretary for Administration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government of the People's Republic of China, The Honourable Mrs. Carrie Lam at Istana Nurul Iman.

The purpose of the visit was to strengthen trade and investment ties between both countries and to express their appreciation for Brunei Darussalam's support in the ASEAN-Hong Kong Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations.

The Honourable was accompanied by the Director at the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in the Republic of Singapore Mr. Fong Ngai and other senior officials from the Chief Secretary for Administration of Hong Kong's Office and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore's Office.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng was also present.



PHOTO: MASRI BIN OSMAN

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince receives audiences

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 27 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee-Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, consented to receive in audience the Chief Secretary for Administration of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government of the People's Republic of China, The Honourable Mrs. Carrie Lam at Qashr Al-Meezan.

The Honourable was accompanied by the Director at

the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in the Republic of Singapore, Mr. Fong Ngai; the Administrative Assistant to Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr. Bruno Luk; the Press Secretary to the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr. Andy Lam; the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Secretary for Administration, Ms. Candy Lau and other senior officials.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Setia Lim Jock Seng was also present.

HIS MAJESTY SENDS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 1 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to Governor-General of Canada, His Excellency The Right Honorable David Johnston as well as the Government and people of Canada on the occasion of Canada Day.

In the message, His Majesty stated that the two countries and the people have enjoyed friendly relations over the past years. His Majesty expressed hope to continue strengthening cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Canada both bilaterally and through joint work in ASEAN, APEC and Trans-Pacific Partnership.

In concluding the message, His Majesty conveyed kindest regards and best wishes to The Right Honourable.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, also sent a congratulatory message to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada, The Honourable Rob Nicholson as well as the Government and people of Canada on the occasion of Canada Day.

In the message, His Royal Highness expressed appreciation for the cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Canada in Trans-Pacific Partnership and in the bilateral relations particularly in defence.

His Royal Highness is also pleased with Canada's contribution in research and professional support in the special needs education in Brunei Darussalam.

At the end of the message, His Royal Highness conveyed kindest regards and extended congratulations on hosting a successful worldwide coverage of the 2015 Women's World Football Cup.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 14 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to the President of Republic of France, His Excellency Francois Hollande as well as the Government and people of the Republic of France on the occasion of Bastille Day.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade also sent a congratulatory message to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development of the Republic of France, His Excellency Laurent Fabius as well as the Government and people of the Republic of France on the occasion of Bastille Day.

Royalties join congregants for Aidilfitri prayer



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD BIN AMPUAN TENGAH

His Majesty and members of the royal family performing the sunat Aidilfitri prayer at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah in Kiarong (left and below).



PHOTO: MOHAMMAD SAHRIZAL BIN HAJI SAID

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 18 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined hundreds of congregants in performing the sunat Aidilfitri prayer at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah in Kiarong.

His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah

ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah.

The sunat Aidilfitri prayer was led by The Honourable Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustadz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal.

In the *khutbah* (sermon) delivered by

the Deputy State Mufti Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Setia Raja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Awang Haji Suhaili bin Haji Mohiddin, Muslims are urged to not forget our brothers and sisters in Islam who are in a state of fear and chaos during this Aidilfitri.

In the second *khutbah*, the deputy state mufti advised Muslims not to be neglectful and forgetful of religious reminders to maintain good behaviour and not to be tainted by sinful matters that contradict our religion.

* Continue on page 6

* From page 5
(Royalties join congregants for Aidilfitri prayer)

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness The Crown Prince greeting the congregants at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkoh.



PHOTO: MOHAMMAD SAHRIZAL BIN HAJI SAID



PHOTO: MOHAMMAD SAHRIZAL BIN HAJI SAID

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik greeting the congregants.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen greeting the congregants.



PHOTO: MOHAMMAD SAHRIZAL BIN HAJI SAID

His Majesty: Al-Quran, light from Allah the Almighty

PHOTO: MUHAMMAD ASRI BIN HAJI AWANG ABAS



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the Nuzul Al-Quran 1436 Hijrah / 2015 celebration at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 3 – Places to learn Al-Quran reading such as mosques, surau, prayer halls and government and private education institutions are easy to find in Brunei Darussalam. Al-Quran reading is also a subject taught at all school levels.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said this in a *titah* (royal speech) delivered at the Nuzul Al-Quran 1436 Hijrah / 2015 celebration at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The aim, His Majesty said, is to have a generation that is able to read and understand the contents of Al-Quran.

His Majesty expressed pleasure that various efforts have been made to uphold the Al-Quran such as the establishment of the Institut Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, organising Al-Quran reading and memorising events and participating in regional and international reading and memorising competitions.

Touching upon the theme of this year's celebration 'Al-Quran Healings and Blessings', the theme refers to the functions of the Al-Quran itself, which heals and blesses apart from being a source of guidance, His Majesty said.

His Majesty added that having faith implies belief and obeying wholeheartedly all the commands and prohibitions set by Allah the Almighty without any doubts or objections.



PHOTO: MUHAMMAD ASRI BIN HAJI AWANG ABAS

His Majesty and members of the royal family at the celebration.

In the *titah*, His Majesty said that Ramadhan is a blessed month and a month of maghrifah (forgiveness). It is the month that leads to numerous rewards and the month of the Al-Quran's revelation.

One of the Al-Quran's miracles, His Majesty said, is the form of light that shines and transforms a world of darkness.

"Hence, we should not neglect this light, and we all must equally seize the opportunity to be in possession of it," His Majesty said.

The only way to do this is by proficiently and avidly reading the Al-Quran, His Majesty added.

In concluding the *titah*, His Majesty congratulated the participants who excelled in the national and the Informal Meeting of Religious Ministries of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore (MABIMS) member countries' Al-Quran memorising competitions, especially the young participants.



PHOTO: MASRI BIN OSMAN

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince presenting His Majesty's personal gift to one of the recipients in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 2015 at Istana Nurul Iman.

More than 8,500 people receive His Majesty's personal gifts on Aidilfitri

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 9 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to bestow personal gifts upon more than 8,500 people comprising orphans, less privileged and those with special needs in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 2015.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik

ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah binti His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah were present as His Majesty's personal representatives.

A total of 3,385 recipients received the gifts on July 9 at Istana Nurul Iman.

In Pekan Bangar, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah presented the gifts to 713 Temburong recipients at Belalong Hall of Community Hall Complex on July 9.

On July 11, His Royal Highness Prince

'Abdul Mateen bestowed the gifts upon 2,322 Tutong recipients at Community Hall Complex while His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik presented the gifts to 2,246 Belait recipients at Pusat Insani in Seria.

* Continue on page 9

* From page 8
(More than 8,500 people receive His Majesty's personal gifts on Aidilfitri)



PHOTO: MOHAMAD AZMI BIN AWANG DAMIT

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik presenting the gift to a recipient at Istana Nurul Iman.



PHOTO: HAMZAH BIN MOHIDIN

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen presenting the gift to a recipient at Community Hall Complex, Tutong District.



PHOTO: PG AMIRUL NIZAM BIN PG HI MOHD ALI

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkih presenting the gift to a recipient at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty's birthday celebration symbolises unity



PHOTO: MASRI BIN OSMAN

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince at the second Meeting of the National Committee for His Majesty's 69th birthday celebrations at the Prime Minister's Office.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 14 – The traditional celebration held in conjunction with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's birthday is a symbol of unity among the people in Brunei Darussalam and is synonymous with the continuous development, peace and prosperity of the country.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, said this in a *sabda* (royal speech) as the Patron of the National Committee for His Majesty's 69th birthday celebrations at the Prime Minister's Office.

His Royal Highness said that the country's development and progress are the result of His Majesty's farsightedness, commitment and caring attitude that always focus on the welfare of the people.

Thus, the opportunity to express gratitude for the peace and harmony should be demonstrated through festive celebrations.

His Royal Highness stressed that

it is the responsibility of the executive committee to generate great ideas and plan strategically and properly to improve and reform the celebration based on past experiences.

They should learn from previous weaknesses and shortcomings and increase their determination and commitment to ensure perfection during the events.

Here we can appreciate positive feedbacks from holding a post-mortem meeting as I suggested at last year's meeting and the credible information supported by data can ensure well-founded and realistic discussion, His Royal Highness said.

His Royal Highness also highlighted that the committee should focus on the content of the programmes in order to attract more presence of every level of the community.

We can foster successful agreements through consensus of ideas that are not only government-driven but also from the private sector, non-government organisations, and more importantly, from the public, especially the youth, His Royal Highness said.

In addition, it creates a sense of belonging and togetherness among the citizens and residents in the country.

Contributions in the form of ideas and

involvement of citizens and residents in general could only be addressed at the District Office level with the cooperation of village consultative council members.

Therefore, every village head plays a significant role as a leader who encourages the involvement of village residents in order to seize the golden opportunity to attend the get-together ceremony, His Royal Highness said, adding that it not only symbolises the unity among the people but also portrays their gratitude, appreciation and loyalty.

They should also plan wisely and approach well in advance.

This year, His Majesty's birthday celebration falls in the month of Ramadhan. In this context, His Majesty has consented for 21 cannon firing on the morning of July 15 and doa selamat will be held after Zuhur prayer, His Royal Highness said.

The celebration will be held on August 15, starting with the Ceremonial Parade at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin in the capital and followed with the audience and the honorary medal presentation ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman.

However, every event's planning should be based on His Majesty's titah especially those that invoke blessings from Allah the Almighty, His Royal

His Royal Highness graces YSHHB Khatam Al-Quran



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik at the Khatam Al-Quran ceremony organised by the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation.

Bandar Seri Begawan, July 7 – His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consented to attend a Khatam Al-Quran ceremony organised by the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation (YSHHB) held in conjunction with the month of Ramadhan.

Earlier, His Royal Highness was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Development, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, as Chairman of the board of directors, and the Minister of Finance II at the

Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim as the Deputy Chairman I of the board of directors.

The ceremony commenced with the recital of short verses from the Al-Quran by Institute Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (ITQSHHB) students before proceeding with the Khatam Al-Quran recital led by the Mualim of ITQSHHB Awang Mohd. Hashim bin Haji Abdullah.

Meanwhile, the recital of Doa Khatam and Tahlil was read by Yang Mulia Pehin

Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Salim bin Haji Besar.

It was then followed with the breaking of fast and Maghrib prayers to mark the end of the ceremony.

Members of the YSHHB Committee of Governors, the YSHHB Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees from the Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans, YSHHB officers and staff, as well as teachers from YSHHB school were among the congregants present at the ceremony.

Brunei Darussalam delegation attends 16th CONSAL in Bangkok

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 30 – Ten librarians participated in the 16th Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL) that carried the theme '16th ASEAN Aspirations: Libraries as Sustainable Advancement' at BITEC Bangkok, the Kingdom of Thailand.

Held from June 11 to 13, the congress was organised by the Thai Library Association (TLA) and the National Library Thailand. It was inaugurated by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, the Patron of the Thai Library Association.

Brunei Darussalam participated in the congress with Dr. Haji Muhammad Hadi bin Muhammad bin Muhammad Melayong as keynote speaker at the presentation of a paper entitled 'The Preservation and

Dissemination of National Heritage: The Experience of Brunei Darussalam'.

Meanwhile, Awang Mohd. Hafizuddin bin Abu Basrah delivered a paper entitled 'Comparative of Information Needs and Seeking Behavior of Law Students Studying in Aberstwyth University and Sultan Sharif Ali University'.

In Bangkok, the Brunei Darussalam delegation attended the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), Building Strong Library Associations (BSLA) Workshop on ASEAN Integration: Mobility of ASEAN Librarians, launch research-ASEAN, 3rd CONSAL XVI Meeting of the Executive Board, ASL Workshop on School Library Development in ASEAN member countries and CDNLAO Meeting.

The Brunei Darussalam Library Association and IFLA have been successful in organising IFLA BSLA workshops on leaderships for young librarians to build stronger library associations in ASEAN member countries.

The delegation also visited TK Park and the Thai Creative and Design Centre Libraries before returning back to Brunei Darussalam.

Paddy planting project involves 21 entrepreneurs

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD BIN AMPUAN TEWNGAH



The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources at the paddy planting ceremony at the Kampung Limau Manis Agricultural Development Site.

MUKIM PENGKALAN BATU, July 1 – Farming entrepreneurs are responsible for restoring their respective fields and cultivating without neglect as well as continuously maintaining infrastructures such as drains and ditches provided by the government.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar said this at the Padi Laila Planting ceremony at Kampung Limau Manis Agricultural Development Area.

He said that the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources has carried out initiatives to further develop the paddy planting industry as well as increasing rice production in Brunei Darussalam.

The efforts of the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood include providing quality platforms for cultivation, building water pipelines and technology and planting paddy with systematic techniques.

The newly released MRQ76 can help to increase production of insect-resistant rice, he explained.

He expressed hope that the farm would enable the community to be self-sufficient and for the villagers to generate their own economy.

Earlier, the paddy planting ceremony was officiated by the minister as the guest of honour.

A total of 21 farmers have been actively planting Padi Laila on a 50 hectare of land owned by Awang Tarsim bin Haji Malik since 2013. They are also offered a basic paddy planting management course through the Brunei Rice Farmers Field School organised by the department.

In 2013/2014 prime season, they yielded a total of 100.872 kilograms, 42,130 kilograms in the off-season and 79,755 kilograms in the 2014/2015 prime season.

The project aims to increase the economic prospects of Kampung Limau Manis Village Consultative Council and to contribute to exporting the country's rice overseas.

The Department of Agriculture and Agrifood has organised various activities



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD BIN AMPUAN TEWNGAH

Farmers loading rice seedling mats to the planting machine while the minister looks on.



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD BIN AMPUAN TEWNGAH

The minister and senior officers with the village residents of Kampung Limau Manis.

to monitor the progress of paddy fields such as to provide advisory services, help to purchase quality seeds and support local farmers with an aid scheme to encourage paddy entrepreneurs.

Through the aid schemes and infrastructure and other facilities provided by the government, it is hoped that the rice production will increase and accommodate the needs of the people in the country.

The Permanent Secretary at the

Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati binti Pehin Jawatan Dalam Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr.) Haji Awang Mohd. Jamil Al-Sufri; the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Aidah binti Haji Mohd. Hanifah; officers and staffs at the ministry, penghulu, village heads and farming entrepreneurs were present at the ceremony.

New locally grown rice to increase domestic rice supply

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 2 – The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources has informed that a new variety of locally produced rice called MRQ76 is now sold at local stores and supermarkets.

The MRQ76 has been tested under a joint research project conducted by the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood and the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute.

Since 2013, the department has been conducting production rate and rice taste evaluation with the Primary Resources Research and Development Centre of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

The MRQ76 was introduced in Malaysia in 2012 as a high quality rice variety that was selected based on the scent and texture of the rice, which are aligned with the demands of the local market.

Based on the result of the taste evaluation, the department found that the MRQ76 variety is on par with the quality of Laila rice as well as the fragrant rice imported from the Kingdom of Thailand or Hom Mali.

Currently, the planting of MRQ76 rice is still under assessment at the entrepreneur's paddy field and is still limited to several paddy fields only.

The research has also found that

the variety has a high potential to be developed whereby entrepreneurs can achieve an average yield of four metric tonnes per hectare.

In addition, it has shown a potential to produce high yields and good resistance against pests, thus making it more cost effective.

With the recent success in research and development in increasing production at paddy fields, it is hoped that the government can further boost the domestic supply of rice and in turn enhancing the national food security.

Ministerial meeting explores immigration issues

KUALALUMPUR, July 2 – The Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, The Honourable Pehin Datu Singamentero Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar attended the Emergency ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime Concerning Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia Region in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

During the meeting, the minister said that Brunei Darussalam supports ongoing humanitarian assistance to irregular migrants provided particularly by Malaysia, the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of Thailand.

Brunei Darussalam also expressed its support to the establishment of a trust fund for voluntary contributions for humanitarian assistance from ASEAN member states and the international community.

He further stressed that ASEAN member states must strengthen the law enforcement cooperation including

intelligence sharing and establishment of Ports Intelligence Units and using all legal methods available to combat transnational crimes.

The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Home Affairs of Malaysia The Honourable Dato' Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi.

It discussed three main issues: the Scenario on the Irregular Movement of Persons in Southeast Asia by land and sea, the Connection between Irregular Movement of Persons with Human Trafficking and People Smuggling and Plan of Action or Way Forward to resolve these issues.

The ministers have also agreed on many issues, which are to support the Republic of Singapore's proposal to establish a trust fund under the administration of the ASEAN Secretariat for voluntary contribution; to conduct analysis and study on the correlation between human smuggling and trafficking proposed by the Republic of Indonesia;

and to strengthen law enforcement efforts and to fully utilize the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal matters proposed by Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei Darussalam also proposed to consider human trafficking as one of the areas under the purview of Senior Official Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC).

The Brunei Darussalam delegation included the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdan bin Haji Abu Bakar, the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Malaysia His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Alaihuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Utama Haji Awang Mohd Taha as well as senior officials at the Prime Minister's Office, Attorney General's Chambers, Royal Brunei Police Force and Department of Immigration and National Registration.

17 police personnel promoted

GADONG, July 6 – By the command of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Inspector General of the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF), 17 senior officers were awarded promotions as of June 1, 2015.

The Police Commissioner Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Bahrin bin Mohd. Noor presented insignias to four Assistant Superintendent of Police, one Acting Assistant Superintendent of Police, six Chief Inspectors of Police and six Senior Inspectors of Police at the police

headquarters in Gadong.

The ceremony began with the recital of Surah Al-Fatihah led by Imam of Gadong Police Headquarters Surau.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police Awang Haji Mohd. Jammy bin Haji Mohd. Shah Al-Islam, directors, senior officers police and other special guests were also present at the ceremony.



PHOTO: MUHAMMAD ASRI BIN HAJI AWANG ABAS
The Police Commissioner presenting an insignia to one of the promoted officers.

Agricultural stations privatised to lessen operational costs



PHOTO: HAMZAH BIN MOHIDIN

The Department of Agriculture and Agrifood Bhd signing the agreement with TNC Landscaping Sdn as the Deputy Permanent Secretary looks on.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 6 – The agricultural stations at the Agriculture Development Sites in Pengkalan Batu, Selangan and Tanah Jambu are now privatised as a move by the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood to encourage economic growth, particularly in the field of agriculture and to lessen the government's operational costs.

The signing ceremony of a Land Rental Agreement between the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood for the privatisation of agricultural stations was held at the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood in Berakas.

The department was represented by the Director of Agriculture and Agrifood Hajah Aidah binti Haji Mohd Hanifah and the signing was witnessed by the Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture and Agrifood Hajah Khartini binti Haji Musa.

Meanwhile, Company Owner Dayang Adina binti Dr Haji Amzah signed on behalf of Imbru Essential Oil Enterprise with Manager Dr Haji Amzah bin Haji Abdul Rahman as witness; TNC Landscaping Sdn Bhd was represented by its Director Pengiran Haji Hashim bin PSR Pengiran Haji Jaya, with Manager Lien Ching Ming as witness; and United Agri-Fishery Market Sdn Bhd was represented by its Director Haji Yusrie bin Haji Jaman, with General Manager Harold Raps as witness.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary (Industrial Development and Entrepreneurship) at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources Awang Haji Khairuddin bin Haji Abdul Hamid was present as the guest of honour.

The stations were previously organised and run by the department as part of the efforts for the production of fruit seeds; selected, high quality tree buds; and fruit seedlings for sale to the public.

The Pengkalan Batu Agricultural



PHOTO: HAMZAH BIN MOHIDIN

The Director of Agriculture and Agrifood exchanging documents with the Director of TNC Landscaping Sdn Bhd Director.

Station was first opened in 1966 with 3.73 hectares. Meanwhile, the Selangan Agricultural Station opened in 1971 with 55.8 hectares and the Tanah Jambu Agricultural Station in 1978 with 40 hectares.

The tenancy for these agricultural stations have already been advertised to qualified companies through Pelita Brunei as well as the department's website.

The Department of Agriculture and Agrifood has planned various programmes to improve yields to support the department's strategic plan.

One of the efforts undertaken is through the privatisation of agricultural stations. The project involves companies to maintain all government assets such as the fruit plantation without requiring department spending as well as operating their field such as high-tech planting and floriculture.

These companies are also able to generate revenue either through their main farm income or from the result of existing plans.

The Pengkalan Batu Agricultural Station will be developed further with the planting, processing, exhibiting and sale of coconuts and coconut-related products by Imbru Essential Oil Enterprise.

Over BND43 million spent on Old Age Pension

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 7 – The Government of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam spent more than BND43 million on Old Age Pension and allowances between January and June 2015.

According to the statistics released by the Department of Community Development, the Old Age Pension

amounted to BND40, 201,750, the Pensions for the Blind BND480, mental health allowance BN1,420,135 and disability pension BND1, 654,000.

Brunei and Muara District recorded the largest number of BND28, 369,414, followed by Belait District with BND9, 271,184. Tutong District recorded in the amount of BND4, 555,540 while Temburong District amounted to BND1, 559,861.

The Department of Community Development explained that the Old Age

Pension was given to 28,415 senior recipients across the country while 220 recipients received the Pensions for the Blind. The mental health allowance fund recorded 770 recipients while 1,103 recipients received the disability pension.

The old age and disability pensions was introduced on January 1, 1955 through the intention of the late Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien the 28th Sultan of Brunei Darussalam and included in the First National Development Plan.

Brunei Islamic Religious Council distributes over BND8million zakat money

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 7 – The Brunei Islamic Religious Council distributed over BND8 million of zakat money to the Fakir Miskin (poor) and Muallaf (new Muslim converts) in conjunction with the upcoming Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration.

A total of BND4, 806,800 was donated to 5,638 Fakir Miskin, which comprised of 1,482 heads of the families and 4,156 representatives, while BND3, 345,000 was given to 3,266 Muallaf, which consisted of 2,676 heads of the families

and 590 representatives.

The zakat is given to the Brunei Islamic Religious Council registered groups, who receive monthly assistance to pay basic household items, school fees and house rent.

The funds were distributed to the recipients beginning July 2 via their bank accounts.

The zakat contributions will allow these groups to celebrate this upcoming Hari Raya Aidilfitri with joy and ease.

Brunei Darussalam – The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg sign double taxation avoidance agreement

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 16 - Brunei Darussalam and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg signed an Agreement of the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital in Brussels on July 14.

The Government of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was represented by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Kingdom of Belgium His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Serbini bin Haji Ali while the Minister Finance of Luxembourg His Excellency Pierre Gramegna signed on behalf of the Grand Duchy of

Luxembourg.

According to the agreement, the two countries will further enhance the economic and trade cooperation especially through the private sectors, as they will benefit from the reduction of tax liability from each jurisdiction.

The agreement will also facilitate Brunei Darussalam and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to exchange information on taxation issues that is aligned with Brunei Darussalam's commitment in the implementation of the internationally agreed tax information exchange standards.

To date, Brunei Darussalam has signed double taxation avoidance agreements with 18 countries, namely the United Kingdom, the Republic of Indonesia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic

of Singapore, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Sultanate of Oman, the Kingdom of Bahrain, Japan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Malaysia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, the Kingdom of Kuwait, the Republic of Tajikistan, the State of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Korea and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Apart from these agreements, Brunei Darussalam has also signed 10 exchange of information agreement with the Commonwealth of Australia, Canada, the Republic of France, Denmark, Faroes, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway and Sweden.

Singapore ministers visit Brunei Darussalam for Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 20 – The long-standing relationship between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore is further strengthened through visits held in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration in Brunei Darussalam.

The delegation comprised of Singapore Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Ministry of Home Affairs and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs His Excellency Masagos Zulkifli Masagos Mohammad and spouse, Mrs Jumelah Ja'far; Minister of State for Defence and National Development His Excellency Dr Mohamad Maliki Osman and spouse, Mrs Sadiyah binti Sahal; and Minister of State for National Development His Excellency Desmond Lee and spouse, Mrs Wong Yuen Fei.

The visit began at the residence of the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji



PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA BINTI HAJI VO THIMAN

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports with the Singapore delegation at the minister's residence in Kampung Salambigar.



PHOTO: MOHAMMAD SAHRIZAL BIN HAJI SAID

The Minister of Education with the Singapore delegation at the minister's residence in Kampung Manggis.

Education) Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi, the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) Dr. Hajah Anita Binurul Zahrina binti Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, the Deputy Director of Education Awang Haji Abd. Rahman bin Derus and the Director of Planning, Development and Research Dr. Awang Haji Hazri bin Haji Kifle were also present.

The visit shows the close friendship and

ties between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore.

In the field of education, both countries have established cooperative relations over the years through joint working group, exchange of educators, education and students, and capacity building educational programmes.

Hazair bin Haji Abdullah in Kampung Salambigar.

The High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam His Excellency Jaya Ratnam, the Permanent Secretary at the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Affendy bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, the Director of Youth and Sport, the Director of Language and Literature Bureau and officers from the ministry were also in attendance.

Afterward, the delegation visited the residence of the Minister of Education The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong in Kampung Manggis.

They were welcomed by the minister and spouse, Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Jahrah binti Haji Mohammad as well as family members and several officers from the Ministry of Education.

The Permanent Secretary (Higher

Chicken farm to produce 72,000 eggs per day

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources (middle) officially opening Salasa Asyar Sdn Bhd's farm.



The minister touring the farm at Tanah Tuah Kulapis Agricultural Development Area.



The building of Salasa Asyar Sdn Bhd's farm provided by the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood.



The layer farm at Tanah Tuah Kulapis Agricultural Development Area.

KULAPIS, July 23 – Salasa Asyar Sdn Bhd's farm at Tanah Tuah Kulapis Agricultural Development Area was officially opened by the guest of honour, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary (Industrial Resources Development and Entrepreneurship) at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Awang Haji Khairuddin bin Haji Abdul Hamid; the Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture and Agrifood, Dayang Hajah Kartini binti Haji Musa and the Director of Pusat Ehsan, Dato Paduka Awang Mohd. Alimin bin Haji Abdul Wahab were also in attendance.

Established on May 23, 2011, Salasa Asyar Sdn Bhd is managed by Director Awang Mohd Zen bin Omar and Operating Director Tuan Gilbert Ong Ang Eng.

The land for the farm was provided by the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood.

The company has recently completed two out of four of the layer farms. The first farm is used to breed day-old chicks until they are mature enough to be transferred to the second layer farm, which typically usually takes three to four weeks.

The innovation behind this project uses technology to feed and breed chickens to lay eggs.

The layer farm consists of a cooling system pad to cool the temperature inside the enclosed layer farm to balance the temperature for the growing chickens.

The company also placed conveyor belts beneath the chickens to remove the dung (waste material) and to reduce odour to keep the layer farm consistently clean.

Each layer farm can accommodate up to 25,000 chickens.

After the completion of all four layer farms, Salasa Asyar Sdn Bhd is expected to produce 72,000 eggs per day in the near future. It will be a three-fold increase from the previous production of 18,000 eggs per day

With the significant increase in egg production, the company plans to provide the market with more locally produced eggs and also help with the national economic development.

Brunei Darussalam - Japan summer exchange programme strengthens ties

PHOTO : MOHAMMAD MAHDI BIN HAJI MARSIDI



The Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam delivering a speech at the opening ceremony of the 9th International Summer Medical School Programme.

TUNGKU LINK, July 25 – Eight students from Kagawa University Faculty of Medicine are participating in the 9th International Summer Medical School Programme in Brunei Darussalam for a month.

The opening ceremony was held at Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatol Bolkiah Institute of Health Sciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

Speaking as the guest of honour, Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam Her Excellency Noriko Ik said that UBD and Kagawa University co-presented the results of their research activities at the Healthy Lifestyle Symposium 2015 in June.

It is a milestone in the development of joint research between the two universities and it is a good opportunity to introduce Kagawa University's rare sugar research, Her Excellency stated.

Rare sugars, Her Excellency said, occur only rarely in nature and very difficult to obtain.

Her Excellency explained there are more than 100 types of sugar. Rare sugars contain lower calories and can reduce the blood glucose levels after ingesting food.

The sugars have the potential to solve lifestyle-related diseases, which are growing problems in both countries.

The International Summer Medical School Programme is an annual collaborative event between Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatol Bolkiah Institute of Health Sciences and Kagawa University Faculty of Medicine that started in 2006.

The month-long programme offers students the opportunity to engage in structured academic activities that will complement their theoretical knowledge and practical skills in the medical field.

Participants will also gain experience as medical students in Brunei Darussalam from social and cultural perspectives through recreational activities and home-stay programmes.

The programme will hopefully strengthen the relationship between the medical students of both countries in addition to exchanging knowledge and sharing best medicinal practices.

It also provides valuable experience for Japanese medical students to appreciate and experience life as future medical practitioners and to prepare them to study

abroad aside from improving their English communication skills.

As for the local students, they can benefit from the programme through their interaction with international students to broaden their scope academically, socially and culturally.

The programme marks another achievement for UBD in promoting student exchanges in its role as an international university.

The joint initiative also signifies a strong ongoing collaborative partnership between the two institutions in academic and exchange activities as part of the universities' mission to develop the society through intellectual and cultural activities.

The Acting Dean of Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatol Bolkiah Institute of Health Sciences Dayang Rozita binti Haji Tamin who is also the chairperson of 9th International Summer Medical School Programme, Professor Dr Takashi Kusaka of Kagawa University, Faculty of Medicine and Dr Dayang Ihsan Nazurah binti Zulkipli, the coordinator of programme were also present at the opening ceremony.

PHOTO : MOHAMMAD MAHDI BIN HAJI MARSIDI



The ambassador officially launching the programme.



PHOTO : MOHAMMAD MAHDI BIN HAJI MARSIDI

The participants of the 9th International Summer Medical School Programme and officials from Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

The Auditor General and the Head of ASEANSAI Secretariat at the opening ceremony of the 3rd ASEANSAI Senior Officials Meeting at Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.



PHOTO: HANZAH BIN MOHIDIN



PHOTO: HANZAH BIN MOHIDIN

Heads of delegations and ASEANSAI senior officials with the guest of honour.

Meeting discusses preparation for ASEANSAI Summit in Cambodia

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 27 – The 3rd ASEAN Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) Senior Officials Meeting was held to discuss preparations for ASEANSAI Summit in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia in November 2015.

The meeting was officiated by the Auditor General, Awang Matali bin Haji Md. Yusof, as the Chairman of ASEANSAI at Rizqun International Hotel, Gadong.

The two-day meeting was attended by 35 senior officials from all ASEANSAI member countries, including officers from the Audit Department, Brunei Darussalam.

In his welcoming remarks, the ASEANSAI Chairman expressed strong support for the strategic direction of ASEANSAI to expand capacity building activities and extend collaboration within the public audit sector.

In support of the statement, the Audit Department during its period as chair has overseen several programmes carried out by relevant committees

under ASEANSAI that focus on capacity building and increase cooperation as well as fostering understanding among members to enhance their expertise in the field of audit, which can strengthen audit institutions.

The Head of ASEANSAI Secretariat The Honourable Hendar Ristriawan also delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the meeting.

The topic of discussion included the finalisation of the draft amendment of ASEANSAI Agreement, proposed agenda for the ASEANSAI Summit and ASEANSAI Committees' Work Plan 2016/2017.



PHOTO: HANZAH BIN MOHIDIN

The Auditor General delivering a speech at the opening ceremony of the 3rd ASEANSAI Senior Officials Meeting.



PHOTO: HANZAH BIN MOHIDIN

The Head of ASEANSAI Secretariat delivering a speech.



Bruneians receive His Majesty's kurnia on Hari Raya Aidilfitri

