



# برونى دارالسلام

## Brunei Darussalam

### news letter

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## Royal speech on 25<sup>th</sup> National Day HM: Call to change mindset and attitude

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 22** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said that there is a need to change our mindset and attitude and strengthen our moral base and ethics in the bid to stimulate growth and achieve excellence as a country.

His Majesty said these in his *titah* (royal speech) to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> National Day of Brunei Darussalam which was broadcasted nationwide through radio and television.

Earlier in his royal speech, His Majesty said that development process of this nation begun more than 25 years before its independence. The direction of the nation's development was created through the vision, ideologies and hard work of the nation's statesmen and intellectuals.

He further said that his late father, Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien is an acclaimed statesman known as Arkitek Brunei Modern (Architect of Modern Brunei). One of the greatest deeds of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien is the launching of the nation's first five-year National Development Plan in 1953. As an early investment, an amount of \$100 million was allocated to enhance the program to modernise Brunei Darussalam in a big and wide scale.

During that time, the total length of

roads in Brunei was only 160km long, with a small number of houses, schools, one hospital and a small number of literate people.

The late Sultan focused on fulfilling several basic necessities such as health and education facilities, construction of houses, roads, electric power station, communication system and developing the oil industry, agriculture and fisheries. The National Development Plan had successfully provided peace and harmony to the citizens of this country.

His Majesty also highlighted on the importance of an educated human resource. This is important as this country is a small country with a small population. A quality human resource is the deciding factor for a country's capability to enjoy prolonged progress.

His Majesty further said this is why education has never been neglected. The underlying principle is clear, that is to produce intellectuals with expertise in various disciplines where it is hoped to see the rise of credible leaders, thinkers and entrepreneurs.

His Majesty also spoke on the mutual understanding and friendly relations that Brunei has forged with many countries, saying that it brings about a "complete achievement", and expressed the Sultanate's appreciation towards friendly nations that have always given their cooperation, particularly since Brunei



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

His Majesty delivers a *titah* in conjunction with the 25<sup>th</sup> National Day of Brunei Darussalam.

achieved full independence.

As a result of these development efforts, until the era of independence, it had drawn the development to a wider extend. It brought meaning to 'complete achievement' when we also entered international relations.

With the grace of Allah The Almighty, Brunei Darussalam has established relations to many nations in a harmonious and understanding manner.

The nation also owns a number of higher academic institutions along with enjoying modern telecommunications and other developments.

## Brunei Darussalam celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> National Day

**BERAKAS, February 23** - A grand celebration took place on February 23, 2009 to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> National Day of Brunei Darussalam. The spectacular event took place at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium involving more than 18,000 people in the march pass from 108 contingents ranging from the public and private sectors, non-governmental organisations and academic institutions.

Present at the celebration were His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar and other members of the royal family.

The highlight of the celebration saw a colourful field performance involving 4,900 people displaying various human graphics and creative movements.

This year's celebration carries the theme 'Mature Nation'







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**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on February 10 presented diplomatic accreditations at the Istana Nurul Iman for:**

- ❶ Brunei's newly-appointed Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency Pehin Datu Inderasugara Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohammad Yusof bin Abu Bakar.
- ❷ Brunei's newly-appointed Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Hamid bin Pengiran Haji Mohammad Yassin.
- ❸ Brunei's newly-appointed Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Kamis bin Haji Tamin.
- ❹ Brunei's newly-appointed Ambassador to the Russian Federation, His Excellency Dr. Haji Emran bin Bahar.

**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also received diplomatic credential's at the Istana Nurul Iman on February 10 from:**

- ❺ Non-resident Ambassador of Republic of Cuba to Brunei, His Excellency Carlos Alfredo Amores Balbin.
- ❻ Non-resident Ambassador of Denmark to Brunei , Her Excellency Vibeke Rovsing Lauritzen.
- ❼ Non-resident Ambassador of Mongolia to Brunei, His Excellency Putrevjav Gansukh.

PHOTOS: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR  
HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

**His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:**



- ❶ The new non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Carlos Alfredo Amores Balbin on February 11.

- ❷ Brunei's newly-appointed Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency Pehin Datu Inderasugara Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohammad Yusof bin Abu Bakar; Brunei's newly-appointed Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Hamid bin Pengiran Haji Mohammad Yassin; Brunei's newly-appointed Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Kamis bin Haji Tamin; and Brunei's newly-appointed Ambassador to the Russian Federation, His Excellency Dr. Haji Emran bin Bahar on February 16.



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT



Their Majesties at a state banquet hosted by the Governor of Sabah.

## Their Majesties on official visit to Sabah

**KOTA KINABALU, SABAH, February 4** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri were on a two-day official visit to Sabah, Malaysia starting February 3.

Accompanying Their Majesties were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bulajah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.

Their Majesties' itinerary began with attending a luncheon hosted by Sabah Chief Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Musa Haji Aman and wife, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Panglima Hajah Faridah Haji Tussin held at Spice Island, Marina Golf and Country Club, Sutera Harbour Resort.

On a separate itinerary, His Majesty received a briefing on Sabah's tourism industry and visited the Sabah Development Corridor at Wisma Tun Mustapha at Teluk Likas; while Her Majesty attended a gathering hosted by an organisation of house wives and female staff of the Malaysian Civil Service (PUSPANITA), senior women officials, and members of the Welfare Body of Wives of Elected Representatives (BAKISA).

Their Majesties then attended a state banquet hosted by the Governor of Sabah, His Excellency Tun Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Ahmadshah bin Abdullah and wife, Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Datuk Seri Panglima Hajah Dayang Masuyah binti Awang Japar held at Banquet Hall, State Legislative Assembly Building.

Their Majesties' itinerary on the second day saw His Majesty visiting the Teluk Sepanggar Royal Malaysian Navy; while Her Majesty attended a gathering to meet children from welfare homes. The event was hosted by Welfare Body of Wives of Elected Representatives (BAKISA). Her Majesty also presented donations for various welfare homes in Kota Kinabalu held at the Hotel Pacific, Sutera Harbour.

Their Majesties then attended a luncheon hosted by the Sabah Chief Minister, and wife held at the Ballroom of 1Borneo Hypermall.

The official visit which was upon the invitation of the Governor of Sabah ended on February 4. His Majesty's last visit to Sabah was in 2001.



His Majesty at a briefing on Sabah's tourism industry and Sabah Development Corridor.

PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR



His Majesty at Teluk Sepanggar Royal Malaysian Navy.

PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT



Her Majesty on arrival to a gathering to meet the children from welfare homes.

PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR



## Royalty attend Chinese New Year celebration

**BERAKAS, February 9** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri and other members of the royal family attended a Chinese New Year celebration held at the International Convention Centre.

The celebration was also attended by various associations and Tionghoa Community Association representatives from all four districts.

Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri also took the opportunity to receive *junjung ziarah* (revered greetings) from the guests and took a closer look at the exhibition displayed.

There are approximately 60,000 ethnic Chinese currently living in Brunei Darussalam where they contribute to about 11 per cent of the total population.



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

His Majesty signing an autograph.

## Caring monarch visits flashflood affected area

**TUTONG, February 10** – Areas affected by flashflood in Mukim Tanjong Maya and Mukim Lamunin received a visit by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul Azim.

His Majesty first visited Lubok Pulau Primary School where His Majesty met the teachers and students of the school.

Prior to visiting the areas affected by flashflood in Mukim Tanjong Maya, His Majesty received greetings by the residents of Kampong Lubok Pulau.

Also visited were the residence Penghulu of Mukim Tanjong Maya where His Majesty also received greetings from members of the public; and Command Post Tanjong Maya based near Kampong Tanjong Maya Mosque.

His Majesty then visited two temporary accommodations for those affected by flashflood in the Tutong District. First accommodation was the hall of Kampong Tanjong Maya Mosque where two families are currently staying.

At the hall, His Majesty also met the affected families and medical team based there.

Later, His Majesty went to a second temporary accommodation, Koperasi Tanjong Maya (PERTAMA) building. Here His Majesty met the two families who are affected from flashflood; and also took a closer look at the food distribution system and met the volunteers.

His Majesty then visited areas affected by flashflood along Jalan Tanjong Maya, Penapar and parts of Kampong Layong. Also visited were several affected houses.

Also visited were Penapar Police Post, Layong Primary School, and residence of village head of Layong where His Majesty received greetings from members of the public. His Majesty then visited Command Post Lamunin based in Lamunin Fire and Rescue Station.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness at the food distribution area.



His Majesty visiting the Lubok Pulau Primary School.

PHOTOS: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN



## Royalty attend Silver Jubilee banquet

**KUALA KANGSAR, PERAK, February 14** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended a royal banquet to commemorate the silver jubilee of the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Azlan Shah's reign held at Istana Iskandariah, Kuala Kangsar.

His Majesty was accompanied by Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar.

The banquet were also attended by the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin and the Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Nur Zahirah, the Malay Rulers and the Yang DiPertuan Negeri of the various states.

Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess `Azemah Ni`matul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

Sultan Azlan Shah became the 34<sup>th</sup> Sultan of Perak after ascending the throne on February 3, 1984. He was installed as the ninth Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia on April 25, 1989 and served until 1994.

**His Majesty is greeted by the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Azlan Shah on arrival at Istana Iskandariah.**



PHOTOS: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. AUI



**Group photo of Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri with His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, Her Majesty The Raja Permaisuri Agong and His Highness Kings and Her Highness Permaisuri of Malaysia.**

## 85 receive houses and land grants

**MUKIM LUMAPAS, February 19** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented keys and land grants to 85 recipients under the Indigenous Landless Scheme of Kampong Lumapas "A" and land grants under National Housing Scheme at Lambak Kanan.

The ceremony was held at Sayyidina Umar Al-Khattab Secondary School in Kg. Lupak Luas, Mukim Lumapas.

From the total recipients, 73 received keys to type "D" houses under the Indigenous Landless Scheme at Kampong Lumapas "A", meanwhile 12 recipients received land grants under the National Housing Scheme at Kampong Lambak Kanan.

Following the presentation of house keys to new homes and land lots, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam toured the secondary school and viewed several performances by the

**One of the recipients receives the key to his new home from His Majesty.**



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN

students including physical exercise martial arts and army cadets. The \$22 million school was built in 1992 and completed a year later. At present, it has over 120 teaching staff and has more than 1,300 students.

His Majesty also visited local industries including Hikmah Enterprise,

specialising in woven fabric; Hua Ho agricultural farm; Tasamul Filling Station and cooperative; Kg. Parit Recreational Park and Community Hall; Makro Jaya Sdn. Bhd. Departmental Store and HSBC in Jerudong and some houses of recipients at Kampong Lumapas and Kampong Lambak Kanan.



## His Majesty attends banquet

**JERUDONG, February 25** – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam hosted a private banquet for the Minister Mentor of Singapore, His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Lee Kuan Yew at Istana Darul Taqwa.

The banquet was held in conjunction with the 'Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien Memorial Lecture' held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister Office and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Lee Kuan Yew was in the country to present the Sultan Omar `Ali Saifuddien Memorial Lecture.



PHOTO: PG. HAJI BAHAR PG. HAJI OMAR

**His Majesty, His Royal Highness Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah greet His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Lee Kuan Yew.**

## HM congratulatory messages

**His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to:**

- The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in conjunction with the 40<sup>th</sup> National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran on February 11.
- His Royal Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait in conjunction with its National Day on February 25.



14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN SUMMIT  
THAILAND 2009

## 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Hua Hin, Thailand

### His Majesty attends Opening Ceremony of 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit

**HUA HIN, THAILAND, February 28** – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Opening Ceremony of the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit at the Dusit Thani Hotel in Hua Hin, Thailand.

After the opening ceremony, His Majesty held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of Thailand. During the meeting, His Majesty and His Excellency exchanged views on the bilateral relations between both countries. Both leaders expressed satisfaction with existing excellent ties of friendship and cooperation between two countries. Also discussed were ways to further strengthen cooperation in various field such as trade, education, defence and other areas of mutual interest. His Majesty and His Excellency also discussed regional and international developments.

Accompanying His Majesty for both occasions was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Later in the afternoon, His Majesty joined other ASEAN Heads of State and Government to meet His Majesty King Bhumibol Aduljadev of Thailand at the Klai Kangwol Palace.

In the evening, His Majesty attended a gala dinner hosted by His Excellency Prime Minister of Thailand, in honour of the ASEAN Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The gala dinner was held at the Mirigadayavan Palace.



**His Majesty held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of Thailand.**



PHOTOS: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTMAN

**His Majesty at a gala dinner hosted by His Excellency Prime Minister of Thailand.**





## 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Hua Hin, Thailand His Majesty attends 5<sup>th</sup> BIMP-EAGA Summit and ASEAN Meetings

**HUA HIN, THAILAND, February 28**  
– His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit at Dusit Thani Hotel.

The Summit was also attended by other Heads of State and Government of member-countries; His Excellency President Bambang Susilo Yudhoyono of Indonesia; the Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia; and Her Excellency President Macapagal Arroyo of Philippines whereby leaders discussed the progress and recent development in BIMP-EAGA.

His Majesty in his *titah* took note of the positive progress made in the tourism and investment sectors. His Majesty also added that BIMP-EAGA needed to continue its efforts in facilitating free flow of goods, services, investment and people in the sub-region, particularly in light of the current economic downturn.

The sovereign also commended the work being made to enhance air, land and sea linkages with BIMP-EAGA. His Majesty believed that this would benefit the people and assist businessmen in further reducing the cost of doing business in the sub-region.

On climate change and environment, His Majesty stated that BIMP-EAGA should take advantage of the 'Heart of Borneo' and the 'Coral Triangle' initiatives, and viewed that the sub-region was in the good

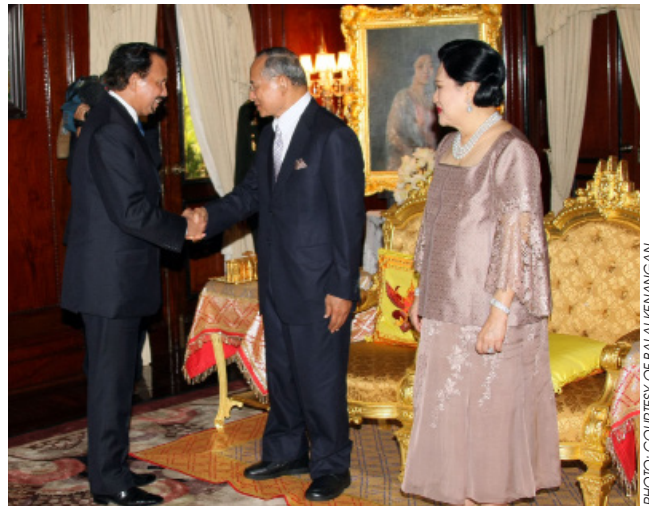
position to become a centre of excellence for research in areas such as conservation, biotechnology or alternative sources of renewable energy.

In this regard, His Majesty welcomed the participation of BIMP-EAGA youths at the Workshop on Biodiversity for Young Scientist in Brunei Darussalam in the middle of this year.

The success of BIMP-EAGA, said His Majesty, depended on the active participation of the community at all levels especially the private sector. The sovereign added that member countries needed to assist the private sector in developing the sub-region by enhancing the level of interaction between the business community and the BIMP-EAGA process.

His Majesty stated, BIMP-EAGA's engagement with its development partners such as China and Japan could add value to the cooperation undertaken at the regional level such as ASEAN. In this regard, His Majesty encouraged the ASEAN Secretariat to further promote BIMP-EAGA initiatives to all Dialogue Partners of ASEAN.

At the end of the summit, the leaders endorsed the Joint Statement of the Fifth Brunei Darussalam-



His Majesty meets His Majesty King Bhumibol Aduljadev of Thailand at the Klai Kangwol Palace.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BALAI KEMANGAN

Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area Summit.

After the summit, His Majesty together with other ASEAN Heads of State and Government attended a series of informal meetings with representatives of ASEAN Peoples, specifically from ASEAN inter-Parliamentary Assembly, ASEAN Youth, and ASEAN Civil Society. The meetings were chaired by His Excellency Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of Thailand.

After the meetings, His Majesty and other ASEAN leaders proceeded to attend a working lunch with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC) leaders, at which ASEAN leaders were presented with ASEAN Business Investment Summit (ASEAN-BIS) report.



His Majesty in a group photo with other ASEAN leaders.

PHOTO: HERNE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN



## DPMM FC Gala Night



PHOTO: AK AMIRUNIZAM PG-HAJI MOHD ALI

Their Royal Highnesses in group photo with DPMM FC's board of management and players.

**JERUDONG, February 17** – One of Brunei's successful football club, DPMM FC held a gala night where the highlight was the presentation of awards to its best players.

In attendance were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and other members of the royal family.

Three awards were presented at the gala where the 'Most Consistent

Player Award' was awarded to Awang Haji Mohammad Subhi Abdillah bin Haji Bakir; the 'Young Player of the Year Award' went to Awang Mohammad Azwan bin Salleh; and the 'Long Service Award' was awarded to Awang Mohammad Kamarul Ariffin bin Haji Mohd Arpan.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince also received a letter of participation for DPMM FC in the Singapore League 2009 (S-League) presented by His Excellency Joseph Koh, the High Commissioner of Singapore to Brunei Darussalam.

## SOAS Memorial Lecture



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness and His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Lee Kuan Yew.

**BERAKAS, February 25** – A memorial lecture to honour Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien, the 28<sup>th</sup> Sultan of Brunei was held known as 'Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien Memorial Lecture'.

Present to launch the memorial lecture was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

The lecture was held at the International Convention Centre.

A special lecture was presented

by Minister Mentor of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Dato Laila Utama Lee Kuan Yew.

The SOAS Memorial Lecture was organised by Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation (YSHHB) with cooperation from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) who is a strategic partner of the foundation in organising suitable programs that enhances knowledge.

This lecture was held as part of the National Day Silver Jubilee's celebration.

## Thanksgiving prayers and celebrations mark Crown Prince's birthday

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 26** – Thanksgiving prayers and celebrations to mark His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah's 35<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary were held by various agencies.

On February 26, a high tea reception was held by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and Ministry of Defence in conjunction with His Royal Highness' birthday at Berakas Garrison.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office, General of RBAF and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah consented to attend the reception.

Prior to that, on February 21, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Deputy Inspector General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah attended a reception hosted by Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF).

The ceremony was held at Police Officer Mess in Police Headquarter, Gadong.

A thanksgiving prayer was also conducted to mark His Royal Highness' birthday.

On February 18, the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation (YSHHB) as the Secretariat of the Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah Orphans Fund held a thanksgiving prayer at Multipurpose Hall of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation in the capital.

Another three separate thanksgiving prayers were held by Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) at the UBD Mosque; RBPF at Bolkiah Garrison Surau and RBPF at RBPF Mosque in Gadong on February 16.



# Brunei Darussalam Silver Jubilee C



PHOTOS: MASRI OSMAN  
RAMLI TENGAH  
MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN  
HATRAL HAZMI ABD. HAMID



# m's National Day celebration 2009





## Did you know that...

- The history of hospitals in Brunei began with the official opening of proper hospital building named as General Hospital on September 7, 1929.
- Brunei has four government hospitals and located in every districts.
- The Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkihah, Kiarong is named after His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanil Bolkihah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and officially used on July 14, 1994.
- The Brunei Arts and Handicrafts Training Centre was inspired by Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien the 28<sup>th</sup> Sultan of Brunei. The BAHTC was officially opened on January 1, 1984.

## >> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

- Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.
- Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.
- It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.
- Land size is 5765 sq. km
- Population is estimated at 398,000 people (2008).
- It is divided into four districts – Brunei Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.
- Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.
- Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.
- National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.
- It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

**Public Warning:** The trafficking of controlled drugs carries the death penalty in Brunei Darussalam

## >> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

### **There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.**

- By air - Brunei's national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines travels to more than 20 destinations around the world. The airline also has worldwide office for you to book a return flight to Brunei (to know the nearest RBA's office at your place, please log to: [www.bruneiair.com](http://www.bruneiair.com))
- International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, the Malaysia's lowest airfare carrier also has direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Brunei.
- Arrival by plane would land you to Brunei International Airport (BWN), the sole airport in the nation.
- For those who enjoy journey by sea, you can reach Brunei by boat or ferry. The main ferry terminal in Brunei is the Serasa Ferry Terminal at Muara. You can catch a ferry from Labuan, Sabah or Lawas and Sundar, both in Sarawak, a state of the neighbouring country, Malaysia. Another option is via a boat from Limbang, Sarawak which will arrive at the jetty around Jalan Residency area in the Capital.
- You would have two options of entry point to Brunei by land transport. You can enter through the Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait District or the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post in Brunei Muara District. The Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait is the entry point for those from Miri, Sarawak. While the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post is the entrance for those coming from Limbang, Sarawak; Kota Kinabalu; and Kalimantan.



## Brunei Shell Refinery achieves world standard excellence

**JERUDONG, February 28** – Brunei Shell Refinery achieved a world standard excellence by being able to conduct its services for '25 Years Without Lost Time Injury (LTI)'.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan stated the matter in his *sabda* at a banquet to commemorate the 25 years of Brunei Shell Refinery's establishment held at the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

His Royal Highness said this standard of excellence is the result of the quality, commitment and dedication of all the employees of the Brunei Shell Refinery, both past and present, who all played their role in ensuring this success.

His Royal Highness also congratulated Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas (BLNG) for making Brunei Shell Refinery as 'Employer of First Choice For Bruneians', which "is a worthy effort in line with the Government's policy in encouraging locals to serve in the private sector."

"Throughout all this, Brunei Shell Refinery has continued to play its role in ensuring the continuity of its services as well as the quality output of its products in support of the

Government's constant efforts towards generating the country's economy," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness also touched on His Majesty's *titah* at the recent National Day Silver Jubilee that emphasised the 'Quality human resources determines the nation's ability to enjoy long-term development'.

Efficient and effective human resource management is the main facilitator in establishing the capability and strength of an organisation," His Royal Highness added.

Further into the *sabda*, His Royal Highness is also confident that Brunei Shell Refinery and BLNG will continue to take proactive steps in preparing a new generation of successors to ensure the continued effectiveness and success of the refinery whilst staying committed to generate relevant improvements and business expansion.

His Royal Highness said, "After 25 years in operation, the ability to fulfil the needs for petroleum products through the existing refinery has become more



His Royal Highness delivers a *sabda* at a banquet to commemorate the 25 years of Brunei Shell Refinery's establishment.

challenging due to rising levels of demand in comparison to the refinery's capacity and specifications even though the refinery has gone through a process of upgrading in order to enhance its capacity to produce specific petroleum products."

Accompanying His Royal Highness was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

## Her Royal Highness wins Cross Country Competition

**TUTONG, February 27** - Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah emerged as the champion in the Universiti Brunei Darussalam Female Singles Category in the National Army Cadets Cross Country Competition 2009.

The competition was held at Muda Hashim Secondary School, Tutong District.

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah completed the four-kilometre event in 28 minutes and 20 seconds.

In the UBD Male Singles Category, Amirul Shahezul emerged as the winner with his time of 34 minutes and 27 seconds. Meanwhile, in the Secondary Schools and Colleges Male Singles Category, the champion was Abdul Malik Awang Hidup from Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Mentiri Secondary School with his time of 27 minutes and 13 seconds.

In special group category for secondary schools and colleges, first place went to Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam Serasa Secondary School.

Some 150 army cadets from UBD and 19 secondary schools and colleges joined the National Army Cadets Cross Country Competition, organised by the Department of Co-Curriculum Education at the Ministry of Education and Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

## UBD army establishes army cadets



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah in a group photo with guests and members of UBD's army cadet.

**TUNGKU, February 21** - Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) has established its first batch of army cadets, the first for a higher institution in the Sultanate.

Among members of the women platoon is Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, who joined the programme in August.

Set up with the collaboration of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), the establishment of UBD army cadets is part of the activities supported by the Extra-Curriculum Unit of UBD Student Affairs.

A number of activities are conducted for the cadets as part of their training, including march past, the use of radio and signals.



## Sports associations need to identify the shortcomings

**BERAKAS, February 28** - The country's relatively poor record at regional and international tournaments were highlighted by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council.

His Royal Highness highlighted the matter in his *sabda* at the Brunei Darussalam's National Olympic Council annual general meeting, held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

To overcome this problem, His Royal Highness advised the various national sports associations to identify their shortcomings and find ways to resolve them.

His Royal Highness also announced that the Olympic Solidarity Movement has allocated more than US\$100,000 to help Brunei athletes excel at

international level.

He also called for increasing the level of coaches' expertise, saying that they have to be equipped with skills in sports science and methodical training regimes.

His Royal Highness said to achieve this, associations affiliated with BNOOC are eligible to apply for the US\$80,000 that the Olympic Solidarity Movement has set out to conduct coaching courses. The Olympic Solidarity Movement has also allocated US\$19,000 for athletes to undergo intensive training and accommodation and US\$5,000 for them to compete in qualifying tournaments leading up to the 2012 London Olympics.

Besides representatives of local sports associations, the meeting was also attended by senior officials of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.



His Royal Highness delivers his *sabda* at the Brunei Darussalam's National Olympic Council.

PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD, AU

## Symposium on Kampong Ayer

**TUNGKU LINK, February 4** - One of the main objectives of organising a symposium on Kampong Ayer is to gather as many organisations and persons who are interested in this historic village.

This was stated by Dr. Hajah Anita Binurul Zahrina, the Dean of Institute of Medicine, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) at the official opening of the National Symposium on Kampong Ayer held at UBD.

It is hoped that through this symposium, significant issues will be identified; and recommendations to enhance the living standard of residents of Kampong Ayer will be tabled out where it can lead to the drafting of several government policies for the village's future.

Present to launch the symposium was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah.

The symposium is a two-day event co-organised between UBD's Institute of Medicine and Brunei Academic Studies with the theme 'Culture, Heritage and Preservation: Past, Present and Future'.

In conjunction with the symposium, an exhibition will also be held from February 4 to 7.

## Higher education applications via online

**BERAKAS, February 7** - Students who wish to apply for higher education via online is now feasible. This is made possible through an online system known as Higher Education Centralised Admission System (HECAS), a service provided by the Ministry of Education and DST Sdn Bhd.

This was revealed by the Permanent Secretary (Higher Learning) at the Ministry of Education, Awang Haji Mohd Daud bin Haji Mahmud at the launching of open day for the Scholarship and Higher Learning Institution Division held at the International Convention Centre.

All applications for Diploma, Higher National Diploma, First Degree programs offered by Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB); and application for scholarship to further studies overseas which are offered by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) can now be applied via HECAS.

HECAS can be used effective February 7, 2009.

## HRH presents prizes to 'Think Big' winners



Her Royal Highness presents the special award to a representative of Met Group.

**JERUDONG, February 11** - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade graced the prize presentation of 'Think Big Business Plan', at the The Empire Hotel and Country Club.

The Rafiqun WDSI with the project entitled 'Brumesh' emerged as winner and received cash prize of \$20,000.00. First runner-up to receive cash prize \$10,000.00 was Expansys Technology with the project 'YouGotSnapped' and the second runner-up was 24-7 Assist through the project 'Outsource Contact Centre' receiving cash prize \$5,000.00.

Meanwhile, Met Group with the project 'Ilmu' or 'Knowledge' was announced as the winner of Excellent Special Award and received \$2,000.00

The 'Think Big Business Plan' competition was launched in August 2008. The competition focused on business plan where some 39 participations were received in the competition including from iCentre, schools and private sector.

It aims to support local entrepreneurs to realisation of their ideas in ICT with the opportunity to expand business ideas as well as to enhance creativity.

PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT



## Cancer top killer

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 4** – Cancer has been identified as the top killer in Brunei Darussalam since 2004 where in 2006, 20.1 per cent of death cases recorded were due to cancer.

Common cancers detected are lung cancer, breast cancer, uterus cancer, cervix cancer, thyroid cancer, and colon cancer. Lung cancer is common cancer affecting men (21.7 per cent) while breast cancer is the main cancer affecting women (20.7 per cent).

The matters were stated by Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi in his World Cancer Day message.

Every year, seven million people around the world die from cancer and about 11 million new cancer cases are detected. Cancer is leading cause for early death in developed countries and this trend also observed at developing countries.

Cancer can be prevented and curable. More than 30 per cent of cases can be prevented with knowledge and change of lifestyle. Use of tobacco, diet, physical



PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION OF DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION

**Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi.**

activity and exposure to sunlight can lead to the risks of suffering cancer.

Public are advised to take main preventive measures which include creating smoke-free environment, encouraging balance living by practising physical activity regularly and consuming low-fat diet to avoid obesity, and also educate children to aware of over exposure to sunlight.

World Cancer Day is celebrated on every February 4 and the theme for this year is 'I Love My Health Active Childhood'.

## Brunei Darussalam - Oman sign MoU on health

**SULTANATE OF OMAN, February 10** – Brunei Darussalam's Ministry of Health signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Health.

The ceremony took place at Sultanate of Oman's Ministry of Health.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi, Minister of Health and his counterpart was His Excellency Dr. Ali bin Mohammed bin Moosa Al-Moosa, Oman's Minister of Health.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) contains areas of cooperation that could be explored which among others are exchange of information, development of manpower resources, fundamental health care, medicinal control, medical research and health development, disease monitoring and quality management.

Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Health and delegation were in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman for a four-day visit. During the visit, the Minister also visited several government hospitals, health centres and institutions.

## RBPF opens Police Gallery Museum

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 3** – Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) marked another milestone with the officiating of its Police Gallery Museum at the Police Headquarters in Gadong. The museum was officiated by the Commissioner of Police, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Zainuddin bin Jalani.

Among purposes of establishing the museum is to ensure that RBPF's properties are protected and become heritage for the new generation. With the opening of the museum, it is hoped that it will become the centre of research and storage for valuable artifacts owned by RBAF or contributed by public.

The officiating of the museum was part of RBPF's 88<sup>th</sup> year celebration.

The museum is opened for the public where further details are available at Museum Unit, Administration and Finance Division of RBPF at Police Headquarters in Gadong.

## National carrier appoints new acting CEO

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 2** – The Board of Directors of Royal Brunei Airlines Sendirian Berhad announced that Pengiran Haji Alihashim Pengiran Haji Yussof, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has been appointed as the Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) effective February 2, 2009.

The Board of Directors also announced that Mr. Ray Sayer had stepped down as CEO effective February 2, 2009 and had been appointed to the position of Advisor (Special Projects) to the Chairman of the Board of Directors from February 2 to April 30, 2009.

## Brunei Darussalam to host 3<sup>rd</sup> Borneo Games

Brunei Darussalam will be hosting the 3rd Borneo Games this year which is scheduled to take place from November 29 to December 6, 2009. It will be participated by Sabah, Sarawak, Kalimantan, Melaka and Brunei Darussalam.

Twelve games will be competed where participation in football, hockey, athletics, and sepak takraw are compulsory.

Borneo Games was first introduced in 1954 in Seria, Brunei Darussalam where the sports included football, badminton, hockey, basketball, body building, boxing, sepak takraw, tennis, rugby and many more.

However in 2004, an agreement was reached to introduce Borneo Games with a new concept which included Sabah and Sarawak. The first Game was held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah and the second one in Kuching, Sarawak.

The objectives of the Borneo Games are to strengthen the relationship amongst neighbouring countries and to unearth new talent for international meets.



The Second Minister of Finance, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Rahman and the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Abolfazl Khazaei Torshizi at a reception to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran held at the International Convention Centre, Berakas on February 10.



PHOTOS: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN  
AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



The Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Abu Bakar and the Ambassador of Kuwait, His Excellency Ghassan M. Al-Duwaisan at a reception to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> National Day of Kuwait at the Indera Kayangan, The Empire Hotel & Country Club on February 25.

## Bicyclethon to mark World Habitat Day

**BERAKAS, February 23** – A bicyclethon event was held to mark the World Habitat Day. It was organised by the Housing Development Department of the Ministry of Development.

The event was officiated by Deputy Minister of Development, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Mat Suny.

A total of 250 cyclists led by the deputy minister cycled along the 30km route which started and ended at the headquarters. The route involved Jalan Tapak Kuda, Mile one, Hassanal Bolkiah Highway and Kg. Rimba road in Gadong.

The event was to reflect on the state of towns and cities globally on the basic right of adequate shelter for all citizens. It is also intended to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat.

The World Habitat Day's theme was 'Harmonious Cities for 2008'. It aimed to raise awareness about the problems of rapid urbanisation, its impact on the environment, the growth of slums, and the urbanisation of poverty as more and more people move to towns and cities looking for a better life.

## SHBIE upgraded to Graduate School of Education

**TUNGKU LINK, February 18** – Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education (SHBIE) of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) had been upgraded to Graduate School of Education. Beginning this August, the institute will no longer be offering undergraduate degrees and diplomas.

The step is taken in order to ensure the success of the nation's new education system that is 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nation Education System (Sistem Pendidikan Negara Abad ke-21 – SPN 21), stated SHBIE's Dean, Dr. Azman bin Ahmad during a media conference.

SHBIE recognised the importance of aligning the teaching profession in Brunei Darussalam with the international best practises whereby the best performing education system in the world today are supported by teachers who hold a professional qualification at Master level, said SHBIE Dean.

"With the upgrade, SHBIE would renew its programmes, administrative system and structures," stated Dr. Azman.

The new programmes to be offered are Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D), Master of Education (M.Ed), Master of Teaching (MTeach) and Postgraduate Diploma (PG.Dip).

The Dean further added that the institute will offer high quality continuing professional development programmes for in-service teachers relevant to the teaching and learning of the 21st Century Nation Education System.

The institute will also offer 'Master of Education' for teachers who do not possess first degree.

## 'KNK PASSPORT' introduced



PHOTO: SASTRA SARINI HAJI JULAINI

The 'KNK Passport'.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 19** - The Brunei Tourism Development Department has introduced a 'KNK Passport' where it is one of the department's initiatives to promote domestic tourism through its 'Kenali Negara Kitani' campaign.

The 'KNK PASSPORT' has a '10 Must Do packages for 2009' which include; Sunset Brunei Bay Cruise; a one night at Ulu-ulu resort; Sungai Brunei Night Safari; enjoying beach fun day with sea sports activities; experiencing a typical Brunei fishing village; sailing in Brunei; and a day trip adventure to Ulu Temburong.

'KNK PASSPORT' is a platform to attract local residents to experience Brunei Darussalam at its best through tour packages, services, goods and activities offered by participating KNK partners and to provide an opportunity for participants to win prizes. To qualify for the Grand Draw, participants must collect a minimum of 25 stamps on their KNK PASSPORT, one of which must be a stamp from the listed KNK '10 Must Do packages 2009'.

Stamps can also be collected with a minimum purchase of \$ 20 per person in tours, services, goods or activities at any of the participating KNK partners. Each person is allowed to have as many passports competed as he/she wishes.

The passport is valid until December 31, 2009.



## Brunei Darussalam's National Day Silver Jubilee Celebration 2009

### HM joins citizens perform mass prayers

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 22** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined hundreds of his subjects on the eve of the country's National Day Silver Jubilee in performing the Maghrib and Isyak prayers at the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien (SOAS) Mosque in the capital.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The thanksgiving ceremony, mass prayers and thanksgiving *doa* held in commemoration of the momentous occasion was held throughout the nation in mosques in all four districts.



His Majesty and members of the royal family receive greetings from the public.

PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. ALI

## 25<sup>th</sup> National Day Congratulatory Messages

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 23** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received congratulatory messages from Presidents, Heads of States and foreign dignitaries for the 25<sup>th</sup> National Day of Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty received congratulatory messages from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand; His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, King of Bahrain; His Majesty King Albert II, King of Belgium; His Majesty King Harald R, King of Norway; Her Majesty Queen Koningin Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgrad, Queen of the Netherlands.

His Majesty also received messages from His Excellency Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia; His Excellency S. R. Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore; Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of Philippines; His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State, Peace and Development Council of Myanmar; His Excellency Nguyen Minh Triet, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; His Excellency Choummaly Sayasone, President of the Democratic Republic of

Lao; His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates; His Excellency Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; His Excellency Md Zillur Rahman, President of the National Republic of Bangladesh; His Excellency Barack Obama, President of the United States of America; His Excellency Hu Jintao, President of the National Republic of China; His Excellency Quentin Bryce AC, Governor General of Australia; Her Excellency Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of the Republic of India; His Excellency Lee Myung-bak, President of the Republic of Korea; His Excellency Dr Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran; His Excellency Horst Kohler, President of the Federal Republic of Germany; His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the Republic of France; His Excellency Heinz Fischer, President of the Federal Republic of Austria; His Excellency Stjepan Mesić, President of the Republic of Croatia; His Excellency Serzh Sargsyan, President of the Republic of Armenia; His Excellency Anibal Cavaco Silva, President of the Republic of Portugal; His Excellency Felipe Calderon Fournier, President of the United Mexican States; His Excellency Vaclav Klaus, President of the Republic of Czechoslovakia; His Excellency Hans-Rudolf Merz, President of the Swiss Federation and His Excellency Kgalema Motlanthe, President of the Republic of South Africa.

Congratulatory messages were also received from His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and the Emir of Dubai; The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia; His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore; His Excellency General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of Myanmar; His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; His Excellency Bouasone Bouphavanh, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Lao; His Excellency Gordon Brown MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; His Excellency Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Prime Minister of the National Republic of Bangladesh and His Excellency Mirek Topolánek, Prime Minister of the Republic of Czechoslovakia.

Secretary General of the United Nations, His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon and the Secretary-General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, His Excellency Prof Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu also sent their congratulatory messages to His Majesty.



## Brunei Darussalam's National Day Silver Jubilee Celebration 2009

### Largest Serving of Grilled Satay in the World

**JERUDONG, February 23** - Brunei Darussalam has successfully made it into the Guinness World Records for "The Largest Serving Grilled Satay in the World". The event was held on February 23, 2009 at the Royal Brunei and Riding Club in Jerudong as part of the celebration to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> National Day of Brunei Darussalam.

A total of 25,000 sticks of satay were prepared for each round of grilling. There were three rounds of grilling altogether which accumulated to a total of 75,000 sticks of satay. The satay were grilled on a 250 meter long satay grills.

A total of 205 volunteers from students of Sultan Saiful Rijal Technical College were involved with the grilling while 15 full time employees of Tarindak Restaurant were involved with the preparations.

Present to witness the event was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik who later received a Guinness World Records certificate from the Guinness World Records Adjudicator, Mr. Talal Omar for the success of the attempt for the largest serving of grilled satay.

This event was also attended by orphans registered under the Community Development Department and *fakir miskin* registered under Majlis Ugama Islam Brunei.

This initiative was organised to answer the call made by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his royal speech to mark Hari Raya in 2001 for everyone to come forward and help



His Royal Highness takes a closer look on the largest serving grilled satay in the world.

those in need.

The event was organised by the Office of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through Tarindak Restaurant, and Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club, Jerudong.

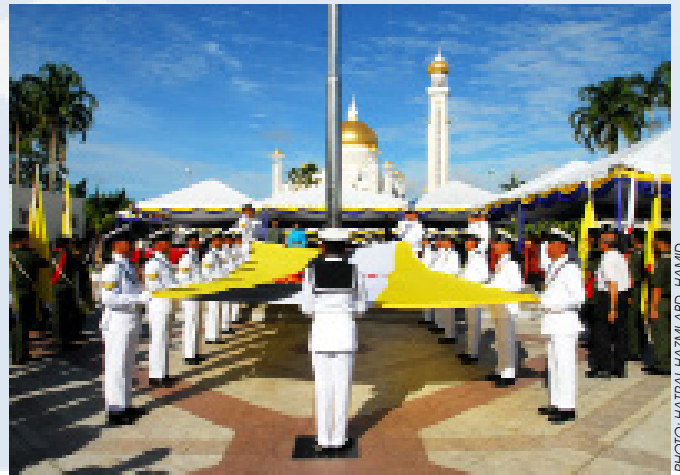
### National Day celebrations begin with hoisting of giant national flag

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 8** - The hoisting of the giant national flag to mark Brunei Darussalam's National Day silver jubilee celebrations was held at the open area Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation complexes in the capital.

In attendance as guest of honour was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Awang Ahmad.

The minister also presented the national flag and posters published by Information Department to Brunei Muara District's Officer; Belait District's Officer, Tutong District's Officer and Temburong District's Acting Officer.

The hoisting of national flag nationwide started from February 8 to 26.



### Official website for the 25<sup>th</sup> National Day

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 8** - Information Department, Prime Minister's Office as a member of the publicity (Print media) Working Committee for the 25<sup>th</sup> National Day celebration launched the official website for the 25<sup>th</sup> National Day of Brunei Darussalam.

The website contains news and information related to the auspicious occasion. Members of the public are welcome to visit the website at [www.nationalday.org.bn](http://www.nationalday.org.bn)

### Brunei Book Fair 2009

**BERAKAS, February 28** - The Brunei Book Fair 2009 will be held for 10 days starting from February 28 to March 8. It was launched by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad.

More than 120 booths featuring both local and international books from countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, Canada and Taiwan participated the book fair.

The book fair was organised as part of the National Day Silver Jubilee celebrations and held at the National Indoor Stadium, Berakas.



## Brunei Darussalam's National Day Silver Jubilee Celebration 2009

### Commemorative Coins & First Day Cover to mark 25<sup>th</sup> National Day unveiled

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 23** - The Philatelic Unit, Brunei Postal Services Department unveiled the First Day Cover set to mark 25<sup>th</sup> National Day.

The set sold at \$35.00 include two First Day Cover with eight different stamps design (denominations of 25 cents each), miniature issue, special miniature issue and pack.

Other items sold include mug, notepads, maximum card, framed stamp, framed miniature issue, and framed special miniature issue.

Meanwhile on February 22, Brunei Currency and Monetary Board unveiled three types of commemorative coins in conjunction with Silver Jubilee National Day.

The commemorative coins are with face values of \$25, \$2.50 and 25 cents. The coins are minted in gold, silver and cupronickel.

The coins with face values \$2.50 is the only one found in the world.

All coins are with markings of 'Silver Jubilee of Independence of Brunei Darussalam 1984-2009' on the sides in both English and Jawi scriptures. Numatists can purchase the coins at the Brunei Currency and Monetary Board gallery at the Ministry of Finance.



The commemorative coins.

### National Day cupcakes

**BERAKAS, February 23**

- The Orchid Garden Hotel displayed a 25-tiered cake made up of 250kg of cupcakes as part of the National Day celebration.

The cake is sold at \$5.00 per piece and sixty per cent of the proceeds are donated to 'Flood & Landslide Victims' fund.

### History Centre launches eight publications

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, February 25** - The Brunei Darussalam History Centre launched eight publications to commemorate the National Day Silver Jubilee.

The launching ceremony was held by Minister of Energy, Pehin Major General (Rtd) Dato Awang Haji Mohammad.

The books launched were; 'Satu Pemikiran Mengenai Corak Pendidikan Untuk Brunei Darussalam Berasaskan Islam: Melalui Pengalaman Sejarah', 'Memoir Seorang Negarawan', 'Monograf Jurnal Generasi', 'Keruntuhan Empayar Brunei KM19: Satu Kajian Dari Sudut Ekonomi', 'Islam in Brunei', 'Jurnal Darussalam Bilangan 8', 'Malajah Pusaka Bil. 15 and Majalah Pusaka Bil. 16'.

### More than 18,000 participate in march-past

**BERAKAS, February 23** -

More than 18,000 people participated in the National Day march-past. The participants were made of uniformed personnel from Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF), Prison Department, Fire and Rescue Department, Royal Custom and Excise Department, National Registration and Immigration Department, cadets, scouts, girl guides and red crescent.

Also participating were officers and staff from ministries, departments, schools, private sectors, and non-government organisations (NGOs) and associations.



March-past participants.



### Colourful performances involves 4,900 participants

**BERAKAS, February 23** - Four thousand nine hundred people from various sectors and students were involved in the National Day's colourful field performances.

The performances were divided into five segments: 'Keris Si Naga'; 'Kalasak dan Kampilan'; 'Kitab Terbuka'; 'Gear, Bunga Padi dan Api'; and 'Glove'.

All the segments reflected on the nation as Malay Islam Monarchy (MIB) government; defence, the holy book Al-Quran, industries and international relations.





# Brunei Darussalam's National Day Silver Jubilee Celebration 2009



PHOTOS: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN  
AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH  
HATRAL HAZMI ABD. HAMID  
AK. AMIRULNIZAM PG. HAJI MOHD. ALI

