



برونى دارالسلام

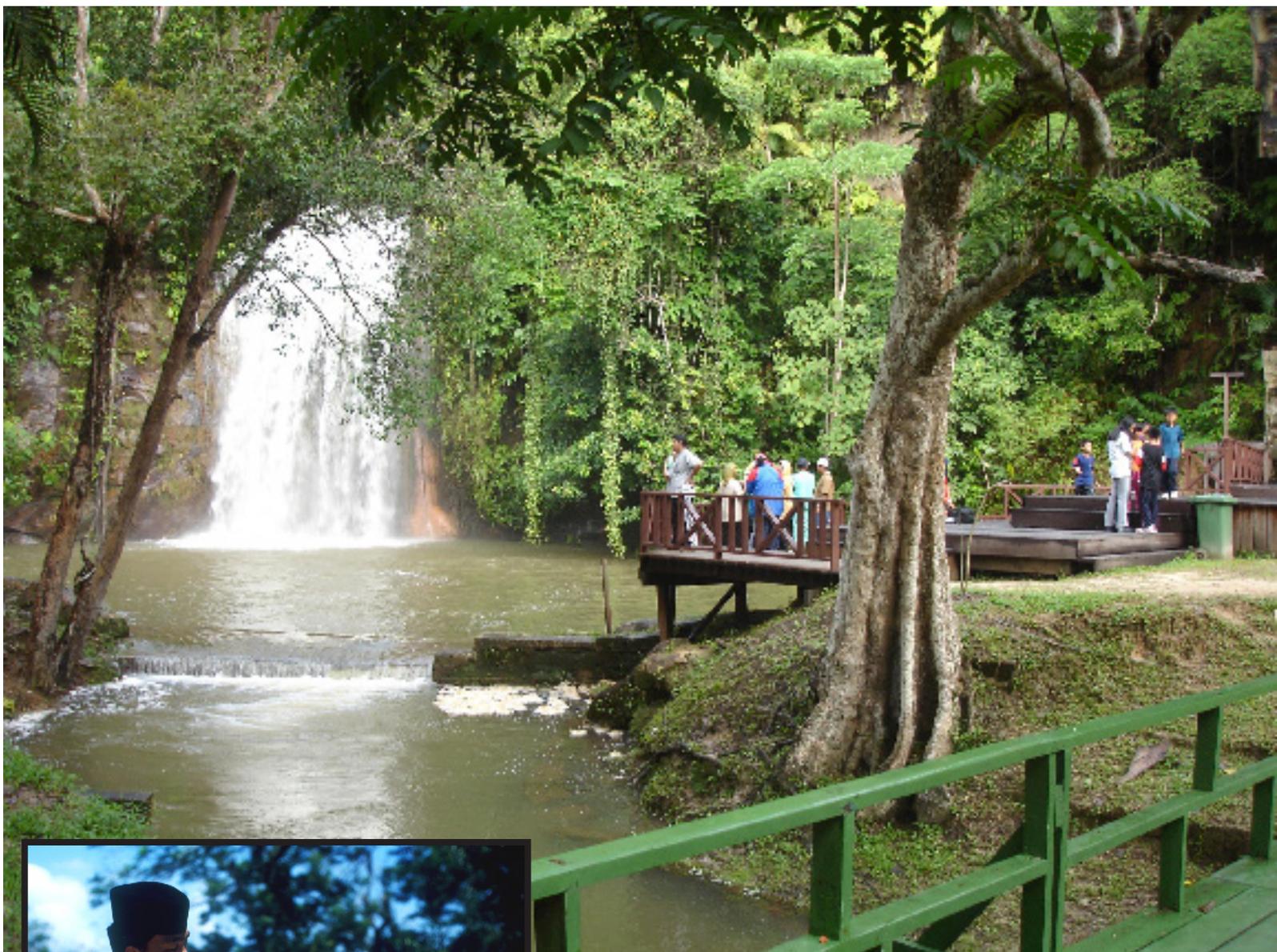
Brunei Darussalam



BRUNEI DARUSSALAM news letter

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Tasek Lama Recreational Park is one of the oldest natural reserves in Brunei with a spectacular waterfall.

- Heritage** : **Gulingtangan, a traditional musical instrument**
- In Brunei** : **Kuala Belait District**
- Colours** : **Tamu kianggeh, a one stop market**
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Tasek Lama Recreational Park

The park during peak hours.

Tasek Lama Recreational Park is a popular national park in the midst of the capital city of Brunei, Bandar Seri Begawan. The park features a beautiful garden of trees and flowers and one could escape the hustle and bustle of the city which is only minutes away from the capital. It is an ideal place to relax and enjoy the serene quiet surroundings with the sounds of luscious rainfall in the background.

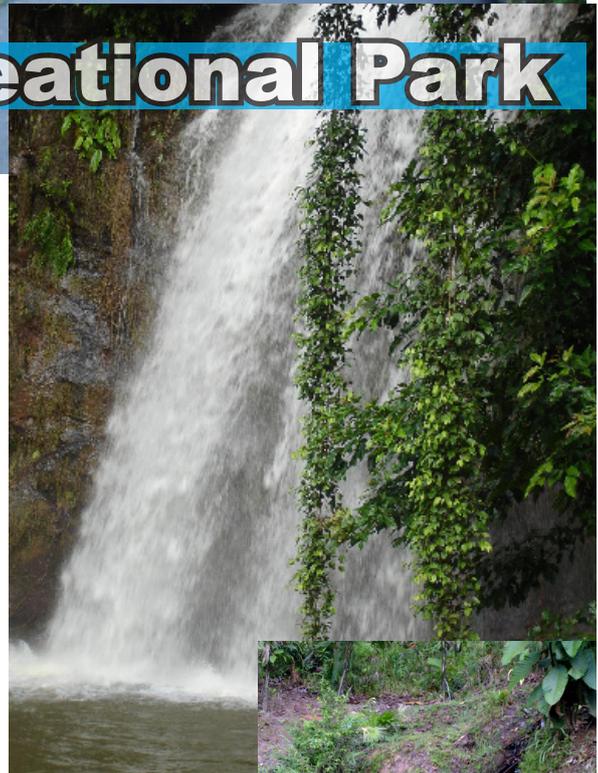
As one of the oldest parks within the city, it is conveniently located about ten minutes walk from Sheraton Utama Hotel.

With its green nature all preserved, it is a perfect haven for jungle trekking enthusiasts, outdoor fitness or those simply longing for a stroll. It has a waterfall and reservoir that provides a tranquil retreat away from the bustle of the city centre. It not only offers a relaxing ambience for jogging or brisk walking but also situated is the unique waterfall.

Long time ago, the park is one of the earliest water reservoir which supply fresh water to the public and became famous because of the waterfall.

However in recent years, the park received a facelift. As you walk through, you will be able to jog on a nicely cushioned walkway and you will pass by new colourful playgrounds, new clean toilets and better amenities and recreational facilities. A special wall is erected for climbing enthusiasts and a number of platforms were built.

In the early wee hours of a day, you will see not only joggers but also a group of people performing tai chi and aerobics. While in the afternoons, the number of joggers will usually double or triple after office hours. This park is also frequently chosen as venue for brisk walk for ministries and departments activities.



The waterfall.



Clean water for the public.



A special wall erected for climbing enthusiasts.



A nicely cushioned walkway to jog on.



A new colourful playground.

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His Majesty receives credentials



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 20 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, received letters of appointment and granted in separate audiences the four newly appointed foreign envoys at Istana Nurul Iman.

They were:

1. High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Riewad V. Warjri.
2. Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Abolfazi Khazaei Tarshizi.
3. Ambassador of People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam, Her Excellency Tong Xiaoling.
4. Mexico's non-resident ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Juan Jose Gomez Camacho.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



1. The Deputy Minister of National Defence, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Huy Hieu on March 17.
2. The Malaysian Chief of Defence Forces, Yang Berbahagia General Tan Sri Dato Paduka Seri Haji Abdul Aziz bin Haji Zainal. During the audience, His Majesty consented to bestow the title of 'The Most Exalted Order of Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang (First Class), (D.P.K.T)' or Darjah Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang Yang Amat Gemilang Darjah Pertama to the Malaysian Chief of Defence Forces on March 26.
3. The Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Her Excellency Truong My Hoa on March 27.
4. The Minister of Transport and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, His Excellency Raymond Lim on April 11.
5. The Honourable Dato Seri Utama Dr. Rais bin Yatim, Malaysian Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage on April 12.



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman from the wife of the Malaysian Chief of Defence Forces, Yang Berbahagia Puan Sri Datin Seri Hajah Rositah binti Haji Md. Mawi on March 26.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office received in audience from:

1. The Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Her Excellency Truong My Hoa at the Royal Lounge, Jerudong Park Polo Club on March 26.

2. The Malaysian Chief of Defence Force, Yang Berbahagia General Tan Sri Dato Paduka Seri Haji Abdul Aziz bin Haji Zainal at the Istana Nurul Iman on March 27.

3. His Excellency Riewad V Warjri, newly-appointed High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman on April 9.

4. Her Excellency Tong Xiaoling, newly-appointed China's Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman on April 9.

5. The Minister of Transport and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, His Excellency Raymond Lim at the Istana Nurul Iman on April 11.



Vietnam Vice President on official visit to Brunei



The Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and delegate take a closer look at one of the exhibition at the Brunei Museum.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 28 – The Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Her Excellency Truong My Hoa was in Brunei Darussalam for a four-day official visit from March 25 to 28.

Her Excellency arrived in Brunei on March 25 upon the invitation of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office.

Throughout her visit, Her Excellency visited Brunei's sole university, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), the Brunei Museum at Jalan Kota Batu, Jame 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah, Kampong Ayer, the Water Village on the Brunei River, the Royal Regalia in the capital and the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB).

Her Excellency also attended separate audiences with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince.



Gulingtangan, a traditional musical instrument

Round-shaped, flat and produces gong-like sound, Gulingtangan is a traditional musical instrument handed down from generations. The gulingtangan although it looked like made from metal, it is however made from wood.

Gulingtangan is made from the special wood of *timbaran*. Also used are *sedaman*, *pulaei* and *balik angin*, which are all light wood derived from the jungle. The gulingtangan is played with other five types of instruments: *gulingtangan*, *gongs* (subdivided into two types; big and small), *tawak-tawak*, *gendang labek* or *dumbak* and *canang*.

Initially, gulingtangan was played with the instrument placed at the end of the player's legs. However, nowadays it is placed in a row on a wooden stand and consists of a set of eight small gongs of graduated size. The gongs are arranged according to its notes, from the lowest to the highest note. The wooden stand, *langkungan*, consists of two long parallel woods with several rows of smaller woods in between to hold two rattan strings. The length of the *langkungan* is from a meter

to two meters long. The mass of the gong varies but is normally less than one kilogram.

Long time ago, gulingtangan is used mostly by the Murut and Kedayan ethnics. The instrument has been played since time immemorial as entertainment, especially during wedding ceremonies. Today, music from the gulingtangan could be heard in a number of occasions. This musical instrument is considered as a royalties' musical instruments, thus, the melodious sounds from gulingtangan could be heard in most royal ceremonies such as during a royal wedding and the crowning of the new Sultan.

Nowadays, as an effort to enliven the tradition of gulingtangan and promote Malay traditional music to the young people, the Co-Curriculum Department of the Ministry of Education introduces this traditional musical instrument to the young people especially those in secondary schools. It is one of the efforts to protect this musical instrument from vanishing because of the challenges faced from modern musical instruments.

In this regard, the Co-Curriculum Department supplies the equipments to secondary schools in stages, encouraging students to partake in the respective gulingtangan groups set up in their schools. The Co-Curriculum Department also organise inter-school gulingtangan competitions. The objectives of the competition are to expose students to gulingtangan music and promote healthy competition among the students. Besides that, the competition also aims to ensure the continuity of the gulingtangan culture and to nurture the musical talents of the young and at the same time promoting their interests in traditional folk music.

To play the gulingtangan well, one must attained the appropriate skill on how to hit the instrument to produce a melodious sound. Workshops on how to play the gulingtangan have been organised with the focus on teaching youngsters.

With such efforts from relevant agencies, gulingtangan is here to stay. It has gained back its momentum and appreciation towards this traditional musical instrument will continue to rise.



Gulingtangan is normally play with other musical instruments.



Gulingtangan performance by a group of 10 people.



Gulingtangan is arranged from highest to lowest note.



His Majesty leads the mass procession during the anniversary of Prophet Muhammad's birthday.

Mass procession celebrate Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 31 - Muslims in Brunei Darussalam celebrated the anniversary of Prophet Muhammad's birthday for the 1428 Hijrah year, with a mass procession throughout the capital.

The focal point was at the Taman Haji Sir Omar Ali Saifuddin in the capital with similar events also held in the Tutong, Belait and Temburong districts simultaneously.

The mass procession took route along the main streets of the capital,

led by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family.

Teams from government ministries and departments, the private sector, uniformed personnel and various educational institutions also took part.

Prophet Muhammad was born on 12 Rabiulawal in the year 571 AC in the holy city of Mekkah.



His Majesty presents a prize to the winner.

Indonesians champions of 4th South East Asia Youth Al-Quran Reading Competition

BERAKAS, April 13 – M.Rokhani and Robiyah Al Adawiyah from the Republic of Indonesia emerged as the *qari* and *qariah* champion in the 4th South East Asia Youth Al-Quran Reading Competition.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Fikri bin Haji Metussin and Zulhafiz bin Tengah both from Brunei Darussalam won the first and second runner-up in the *qari* (male) category.

For the *qariah* (female) category, Monaifah Amen Alwi from the Republic of the Philippines was the first runner-up and Norfaezah binti Haji Emran from Brunei Darussalam came second runner-up.

Prizes were presented by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The champion received a trophy, prizes, Mushaf Brunei Darussalam, certificate of participation and B\$4,000 cash. The runner-up received prizes, Mushaf Brunei Darussalam, certificate of participation and B\$3,000. The third place winner received prizes, Mushaf Brunei Darussalam, certificate of participation and B\$2,000.

The three-day event aimed at promoting and enhancing the ties and enhancing the quality of Al-Quran recital among ASEAN youths.

Brunei upholds noble behavior

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, March 30 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* said that we do not only contribute towards goodness with money but also through prayers, sympathy, thoughts and commitment.

According to the monarch, promoting good moral values is also a contribution to the world as it is a global issue that never ends where as Prophet Muhammad was sent to perfect noble behavior.

His Majesty said in a *titah* to mark Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary celebration.

In Brunei's context, His Majesty said that the nation needed to be stern in maintaining its good values and shun away from the bad ones. "We do not want to be burdened with bad elements. We do not want to waste time and money over these," said His Majesty.

Brunei Darussalam celebrates Prophet Muhammad's birthday every 12 Rabiulawal (Islamic calendar) which is the date of birth of the Prophet.

Call for youth's support

BERAKAS, April 12 – Youths are future leaders who need to equip themselves from the earliest beginnings. Indeed, the nation needs the support of youths who possess determination and positive attitudes, who equip themselves with knowledge, self-reliance and self-esteem.

These were highlighted by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office at the opening ceremony of the 4th Asean Youth Musabaqah Tilawatil Al-Quran Competition at the International Convention Centre.

Calling youths as future leaders, His Royal Highness saw their support to the nation instrumental in moving forward the national development.

His Royal Highness continued to say that youth interaction programmes of this nature should be enhanced through proper and focused planning in order to gain the most benefit in generating a spirit of cooperation and camaraderie, tolerance and goodwill, to safeguard harmony and order whilst avoiding conflict and misunderstanding.

Accompanying His Royal Highness was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.



The Crown Prince at the opening ceremony of the 4th Asean Youth Musabaqah Tilawatil Al-Quran Competition.

Did you know that...

- Crude oil and liquefied natural gas are the main exports of Brunei Darussalam. Brunei Darussalam is the third largest oil producer in South East Asia, producing 163,000 barrels per day. It is also the fourth largest producer of liquefied natural gas in the world.
- Muara port, situated some 29km from Bandar Seri Begawan, is one of the two main gateways for foreign goods coming into and going out of Brunei Darussalam.
- His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, officially proclaimed the Melayu, Islam, Beraja (MIB) philosophy on January 1, 1984 – the very moment Brunei Darussalam gained its independence and sovereign status.

>> CALENDAR OF EVENT 2007

January 1	-	New Year 2007
January 20	-	New Year of Islamic Calendar 1428 Hijrah
February 18	-	Chinese New Year
February 23	-	Brunei's 23 rd National Day
March 31	-	Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary
May 31	-	Royal Brunei Armed Forces 46 th anniversary
July 15	-	His Majesty's 61 st birthday anniversary
August 11	-	Israk Mikraj celebration
September 13	-	First Day of Ramadhan
September 29	-	Nuzul Al-Quran celebration
October 13	-	Hari Raya Aidil Fitri
December 20	-	Hari Raya Aidil Adha
December 25	-	Christmas

*subject to changes

Brunei's School Holiday

March 16 to 25	-	First Term School Holiday
June 10 to 24	-	Second Term School Holiday
September 7 to 16	-	Third Term School Holiday
November 30 to December 31	-	Fourth Term School Holiday

>> 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 383,000 people (2006).
- 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).

International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also flies frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, the Malaysian budget carrier also has direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Bandar Seri Begawan.

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.

Belait District

In the last edition, In Brunei featured some of the interesting places in the Belait District. For this edition, more interesting places in the Belait District will be featured.

The first stop is at Luagan Lalak Recreational Park, a popular park located about 25 km from Sungai Liang along the Labi road. The park covers an area of roughly 270 hectares within the Labi Hills Forest Reserve. A rare and interesting place, it features an alluvial freshwater swamp. During rainy periods it fills up like a lake, and during drier spells, the water recedes and the valley will be covered with sedges mainly of the species *Lepironia*. There are shelters, footpaths and a 200 meter wooden walkway, which spans most of the lake.

Anduki Jubilee Recreational Park is one of the newest recreational areas in the district and a hit among families. It is located about 80km from Bandar Seri Begawan and was opened by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam in 1992. It is a contribution from Brunei Shell Petroleum to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty's ascension to the throne. The park has general recreational facilities and an attractive lagoon of blue water. A jogging track of 3.8 km was built throughout the park.

Meanwhile, for those who prefer a day of sun and sand while in Belait, Lumut Beach is the perfect place to be. It lies about 10 km from Seria's town



A 'nodding donkey' of Seria Town.



Luagan Lalak, an interesting place which features an alluvial freshwater swamp.





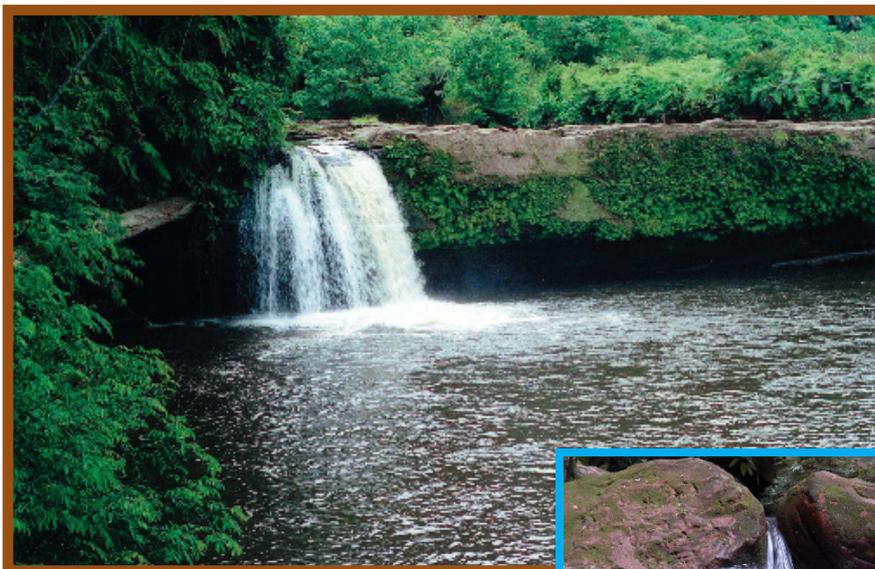
Among the attraction are a mini lake, swimming pool and shelters with tables at the Sungai Liang Reserve Forest.

centre. Like other beaches in the state, it offers complete facilities for picnicking, jogging and family outings. Added features here are huts and shelters especially designed for visitors' relaxation.

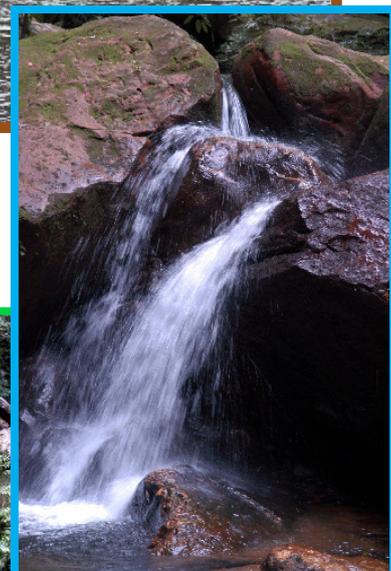
The Sungai Liang Reserve Forest is another place you can visit. It comprises 14 hectares of largely undisturbed lowland forest which was officially opened to the public on March, 1989 in conjunction with World Forestry Day. Among the man-made attraction are a mini lake, river-dam swimming pool, shelters with tables and seats, ponds, platforms and open areas suitable for games. True to its designation the park has been catering to general recreation such as picnicking, jogging, hiking as well as nature appreciation involving self-guided or organised group tours.

Lodging around the Seria Town will give you chance to walk around the town as Tamu Seria is located about 15 minutes from town between Jalan Bolkiah and Jalan Nakhoda Manis Seria. However, the tamu only opens every Saturday from 6.00am to 11.00am. Among items sold are fresh vegetables, local and imported fruits, household goods, local delicacies, clothes, freshwater fish poultry, plants and birds.

These some of the interesting places you can visit if you are in the Belait District. More will be featured in the next edition.



Wasai Rampayoh Labi



CORRECTION
Picture of Luagan Lalak in the previous edition was Wasai Wong Kadir, also found in the Belait District. The error is highly regretted.



View of Tamu Kianggeh from afar.

Tamu Kianggeh, a one stop market

Conveniently located in the central of Bandar Seri Begawan and along the river Kianggeh, Tamu Kianggeh is a one stop market to buy fresh fruits and vegetables, and a place to taste local delicacies.

Tamu which means market and Kianggeh as it is located along the river Kianggeh, hence the name Tamu Kianggeh, is open daily from 6am to 6pm.

From afar you will notice a lengthy stretch of stalls that can accommodate more than 200 stalls, equipped with basic facilities such as proper restrooms, prayer hall, and parking lot.

There are arch bridges located at the entrance that gives accessibility for the public to visit and convenient for the hawkers to load their stock. Besides that, there are also jetties to accommodate the residents of Kampong Ayer.

A thriving quaint business centre, this market has gained its popularity as far back as more than 20 years ago and to this day, the market still possess similar sentiments.

To meet the demands of time, it has undergone several facelift as more permanent stalls were built to accommodate the hawkers. As it is under the Municipal Board's jurisdiction, each stall is charged at \$165 for rental fees and \$10 for license annually.

The *tamu* itself sells a wide range of items ranging from local vegetables and fruits to culinary, salted fish, medicinal herbs, rice, potted plants, different types of leaves for making mats, baskets to dried fish and banana fritters.

This *tamu* is the best place to savour local delicacies where there are a number of local cuisines such as *kuih cincin*, *sapit*, *jala* and the likes. Not only delicacies are sold here, but you will also be able to find antiques and local traditional handicraft.

What makes this *tamu* unique is not only the prices are cheap but it is also rare to find at other conventional markets.



Traditional medicines are also available.



Fresh vegetables at a reasonable price.



Permanent (left) and temporary (above) stalls set up at the market.



His Majesty delivers a *titah* at the State Banquet.

Brunei – Cambodia make efforts to face world's challenges

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, April 5 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said that Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia with other members of ASEAN countries make an effort towards achieving new future for the citizens so that they can face world's challenges today with full hope and confidence.

According to His Majesty, relations between both governments in this modern world can be describe as counterpart and partnership.

His Majesty said in a *titah* (royal speech) at the State Banquet hosted by the King of Cambodia, His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni in honour of His Majesty's state visit.

His Majesty also expressed his joy in working with Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen and the Cambodian government as well as sharing ideas and hope.

His Majesty also praised the efforts of the Cambodian government towards enhancing the bilateral relations and cooperations between the people of both countries.



His Majesty and Cambodian Prime Minister in a meeting at the Royal Palace, Moha Prasat.

Brunei – Cambodia enhance cooperation in various field

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, April 5 – Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia will continue to enhance the bilateral relations particularly in areas of trade, investment and the development of human resources.

This was discussed between His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam dan Cambodian Prime Minister, His Excellency Samden Hun Sen in a meeting at the Royal Palace, Moha Prasat. Both leaders also exchanged views on bilateral issues and areas of mutual interest.

Prior to, His Majesty held a separate meeting with the President of the Cambodian Senate, His Excellency Samdech Chea Sim and the President of the Cambodian National Hall, His Excellency Samdech Heng Samrin.

His Majesty on official visit to Cambodia

SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA, April 7 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei was on a three-day official visit to Cambodia starting from April 5.

On the second day, His Majesty had a meeting with the Prime Minister of Cambodia, His Excellency Samden Hun Sen. Prior to that, His Majesty had a separate meeting with the President of the Cambodian Senate, His Excellency Samdech Chea Sim and the President of the Cambodian National Hall, His Excellency Samdech Heng Samrin.

His Majesty also visited the Independence Monument in the heart of Phnom Penh where His Majesty paid homage by placing a wreath. The monument was built in 1958 to commemorate the independence of the Kingdom of Cambodia from the French colonials.

On April 6, His Majesty also visited the "Special Forces Airbone 911" and Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC).

A banquet was also hosted by the Governor of Siem Reap province, His Excellency Sou Phirin in honour of His Majesty's visit to Cambodia.

In Siem Reap, His Majesty visited the Angkor Wat temple, a historic and unique structure. Siem Reap is a province in Cambodia located about seven kilometers from Angkor International Airport and about half an hour from Phnom Penh.

The sovereign ended his official visit on April 7. Brunei Darussalam and Cambodia established its diplomatic relations on June 9, 1992. Brunei opened its diplomatic office in Phnom Penh on February 28, 1997. Meanwhile, Cambodia opened its high commission in Bandar Seri Begawan on August 19, 1999.



His Majesty places a wreath during a visit to the Independence Monument.



His Majesty during a visit to the Angkor Wat temple.



His Majesty takes a closer look at a traditional music performance by the former land mine victims.

Women's assembly celebrate Prophet's birthday celebration

BERAKAS, April 7 - A special women's assembly celebrating Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary was held at the Plenary Hall of International Convention Centre (ICC).

Present at the ceremony were Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar.

Their Royal Highnesses Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah, Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah and Princess Hajah Masna also attended the event.

The highlight of the event was the announcement and presentation of the "Bakti Hijrah Khas Wanita" (Special Hijrah Meritorious Award for Women) by Her Majesty the



Her Majesty, Her Royal Highness and other members of royal family at a special women's assembly celebrating Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary.

Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri.

The recipients were Hajah Zahrah binti Kimong, Hajah Taibah binti Kudi and Hajah Husnah binti Abdul Wahab. All three recipients

received cash amounting to B\$10,000 each, a certificate of appreciation, a memento and free medical treatment in a first class ward at any public hospital in the nation. The award presentation was based on their valuable experience

in spreading the Islamic faith throughout the country.

The special women's assembly was organised by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Women's Council in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence.

CIPTA Award 2007 winners receive prizes



His Royal Highness presents the prize to the winner.

GADONG, March 22 – CIPTA Award 2007 reached its culmination with a prize awarding ceremony.

Present to award the prizes was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Songket Ballroom, The Rizqun International Hotel.

In the first category, first place went to Chua Kok Vee @ Alan for the creation of PIC Controlled Cloth Line System; second place for Mat Kapar bin Hj Awg Karim for the EE Padi Harvesting Device; and third place went to Ong Wee Hong, Liong Hong Hwa and Ho Chang Jie for their creation of the Party Launcher.

In the second category, first place went to Yee Soon Keong, M Supramaniam and Manuel Victoria for their creation of the Electric Motor Controller with three Operational Functions; second place went to Sharizan bin Hamidon for their PIC Controller Mobile Car Alarm System; while third place was Suardy Joffry bin Awang Jumat.

Winners from both categories received a trophy, \$6,000 cash and certificate of participation from the Crown Prince. The competition was divided into two categories: with the first category focusing on - Create New Products, Process or Technology. While the second category focused on - Modifying Existing Products, Process or Technology.

The CIPTA Award is a biennial competition held to support innovation and creativity in Brunei Darussalam. It is opened to all schools, technical and tertiary educational institutions, government and private organisations and the general public. The competition was organised by Institut Teknologi Brunei in partnership with the Brunei LNG (BLNG) and co-sponsored by Standard Chartered Bank.



Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim.

Brunei welcome birth of new Prince

KIARONG, March 24- His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with great pleasure has named his grandson, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim.

Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim is the newly born prince of His Royal Highness Crown Prince 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 binti Pengiran Salleh Ab' Rahaman.

Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim was born on Saturday, 27 Safar 1428 Hijrah corresponding to March 17, 2007, at 3.50pm.

To honour the joyous occasion, a 19 gun salute was fired from the cannons on the grounds of Istana Nurul Iman. The royal couple was married in September 2004.

A mass thanksgiving prayer was also held to mark the royal birth of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's grandson in all mosques and prayers' hall throughout the nation.

The focal point was at the Jame 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah in Kampong Kiarong.



Minister of Communications attends reception celebrate Pakistan's National Day

Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar and wife attended a reception celebrating the 67th anniversary celebration of Pakistan's National Day on March 23 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Also present at the reception were His Excellency Major General (Rtd) Syed Haider Jawed, Pakistan High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam and wife.



Minister of Health attends reception celebrate Bangladesh's Independence day

Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Suyoi and wife with His Excellency Md Hedayetul Islam Choudhuiy, Bangladesh's High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam and wife attended a reception to celebrate the 36th anniversary celebration of Bangladesh's Independence and National Day on March 26 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.



The Acting Permanent Secretary (centre) of Ministry of Religious Affairs witnessed the signing contract ceremony.

Computer labs for religious academic institutions

JALAN MENTERI BESAR, March 28 – Religious academic institutions will soon have more computer labs equipped with necessary facilities under the recent contract signing between the Department of Islamic Studies (JPI) and Alif Technologies Sendirian Berhad.

This is the latest series of the e-government project under e-Government Project Interactive Teaching and Learning (InTel).

InTel initially started by JPI when it was still under the Ministry of Education. Under this project, 42 InTel computer labs and a multimedia lab will be set up with an estimated overall cost of \$5.4million.

Some of the religious academic institutions involved in this project are the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers College, Arabic schools, and religious schools under JPI of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Signing on behalf JPI was its Director, Ustazah Dayang Hajah Kasmah binti Haji Siput with the Head Section of Info-Technology of Minister of Religious Affairs, Haji Abu Bakar bin Haji Md. Don. While, Alif Technologies was represented by its Chairman and Head Executive Officer, Pg. Mohammad Pg. Kamaluddin.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Acting Permanent Secretary of Minister of Religious Affairs, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ishaq bin Haji Abdullah.

Congratulatory messages

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

1. His Excellency General Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the country's 67th anniversary of Pakistan's National Day on March 22.
2. His Excellency Professor Iajuddin Ahmed, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, Chief Adviser of the Caretaker Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in conjunction with the republic's 36th Independence and National Day on March 26.

Forestry policy leads to successful outcome

SUNGAI LUMUT, March 21 – Five thousand and seven hundred hectare of tropical rainforest has been successfully preserved through the policy "cut one, plant four" practiced by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources adopted since 1983.

This was highlighted by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Seri Seti Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad at the launching of Brunei's World Forestry Day.

The Minister also outlined the Eight Key Performance Indicators that would measure the performance achieved by the industrial sectors under the ministry such as the gross output, revenue, foreign direct investment, employment opportunities, small-and-medium enterprises' establishment, technological and innovation shift, human resources' productivity, and the competitive international trade.

The highlight of the ceremony was the official launching of the 500-hectare Tropical Biodiversity Centre (TBC) by the minister, located within the Andulau Forest Reserve - part of an important tropical forest ecology site under the Heart of Borneo initiative.



The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources plant a Champor or *gaharu* tree in conjunction with the World Forestry Day.

Acts on environment to be introduced

JALAN TUTONG, March 27 – Acts on the environment is in the pipeline. This was stated by Dato Seri Paduka Haji Kifrawi, the Attorney General at the opening of the new Legal Year 2007.

He further stated that the Attorneys General Chamber is currently working with relevant agencies in the bid to introduce such acts that will protect the environment.

The Attorney General further said that the future generations will not be able to enjoy the natural environment if actions to protect it are not taken now.



The Attorney General delivers a speech at the opening of the new Legal Year 2007.

Seven new legislations passed

JALAN TUTONG, March 27 – Seven new legislations were introduced at the new Legal Year 2007.

Among the legislations is the Centre Strategic and Policy Studies Order, 2006. Among the tasks of the Centre Strategic and Policy Studies Centre include the development, disseminating of knowledge and encourage research concerning this country and matters imperative to this country.

Another legislation is the Civil Aviation Order, 2006 which deals with the organisation and administration of the civil aviation, aircraft, personnel, handling of the aircraft, air transportation, acrodrom, liability and civil aviations safety insurance.

The other new legislations passed are the Intermediate Courts Act (Amendment) Order, 2006; Minor Offences Act (Amendment) Order, 2006; Small Claims Tribunal Order, 2006; Tabung Amanah Pekerja Act (Amendment) Order, 2007; and the Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Order, 2007.



The Minister of Communications delivers a speech at the World Meteorological Day.

Projects on meteorology unveiled

BERAKAS, March 24 – Two meteorological projects recently approved by the government were introduced at the World Meteorological Day 2007 celebration.

The projects – Low Level Wind Alert System (LLWAS); and System for Wind Profiling and Echo Registering (SWiPER) are under the ninth National Development Plan (NDP).

These were stated by the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar at the official launching of the celebration held at the Brunei International Airport.

According to the Minister, with the implementation of LLWAS, it will enhance the safety of air-flight in accordance with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

While project SWIPER is aimed at continuous observing of the movement of the wind. With the system, any sudden changes can be detected and used for information on flight safety operation and research on the country's weather.

ASEAN call for common standard digital television

KUALA LUMPUR, March 29 – ASEAN broadcasters look set to push for a common standard for digital television terrestrial broadcasters across the region.

Broadcasters who attended the 4th ASEAN Digital Broadcasting (ADB) Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur agreed to recommend the adoption of Digital Video Broadcasting-Terrestrial (DVB-

T) technology as the ASEAN digital terrestrial broadcasting standard to the 9th Conference of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) due to take place in Jakarta in May 2007.

More than 50 delegates comprising policy makers, regulators and broadcasters from all ten ASEAN countries and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat attended the meeting. Brunei

Darussalam's delegation was led by Haji Hamiddon bin Haji Ibrahim, Acting Deputy Director of Radio Televisyen Brunei.

Among the other issues addressed in the meeting was the importance for ASEAN countries to also target their respective analogue broadcasting switch-off schedule, even is as a preliminary stage.

Freedom of press not license to publish inaccurate statement

JERUDONG, April 4 – Members of the media and public relations officers (PRO) should work harmoniously even though their methods may be different.

This was stated by Dato Seri Paduka Haji Eusoff Agaki bin Haji Ismail, the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office at a Media Get-Together Ceremony 2007, held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

He further stated that the ability of the media to influence public's opinions and views could not be denied. However, he cautioned against the misuse of the "freedom of the press" as it is not to be taken as a license for publishing just about anything for the sake of public reading.

He also said it is significant for the media and PRO to understand the difference between responsibility and freedom of press.

The deputy minister also called for the media to always be aware and not play with the sentiments of the people, especially in reporting false and sensitive information. It is important for the media to differentiate between the importance of the public knowledge and public security. Hence, public security should be a priority and be more important than the need for the media to provide information to the public.

He also said that media should provide and share information so that it is fair and not one sided.

A sports festival was held between media practitioners and PROs. The get-together ceremony also saw prize awardings for winners of the sports activities held.



The Deputy Minister (left) at the Prime Minister's Office presents a trophy to one of the recipients for the sports competition held between media practitioners and public relations officers.



The Malay Technology Museum based at Jalan Kota Batu.

Malay Technology Museum



The Malay Technology Museum, situated about seven kilometers from the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan gives you an insight with how Brunei Darussalam has progressed over the years.

Along Kota Batu, this museum was a gift from the Royal Dutch/Shell Group Company to the government and people of Brunei Darussalam to commemorate the independence of Brunei Darussalam in 1984.

It was officially opened by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on February 29, 1988.

The Malay Technology Museum houses exhibition areas depicting the technology of the Brunei Malays where it covers a range of fields namely from the architectures of the traditional houses; cottage industries; and the traditional economy.

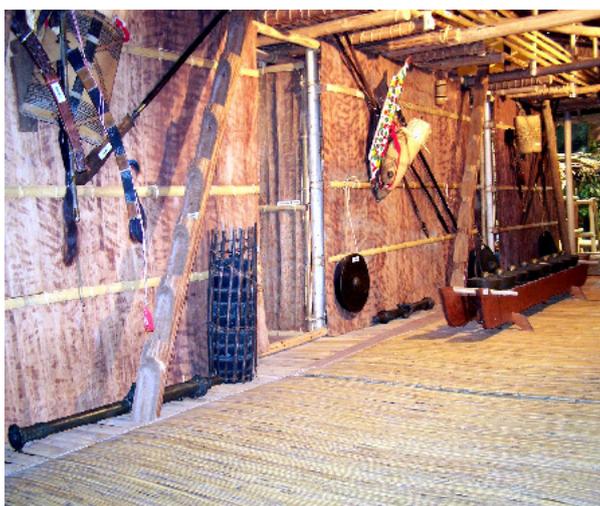
There are three main showrooms available for public viewing.

The first hall showcases six models of the traditional houses found in the famous water village, Kampong Ayer back in the 19th to the 20th century. Among the houses featured are the Rumah Belah Bubung; Rumah Loteng; Rumah Belah Bubung Berserambi; Rumah Potong Limas; Rumah Belanggar; and Rumah Tungkup. Each model portrays different shapes and sizes and named according to its structural designs.

While in the second showroom premiers traditional entrepreneurs and handicraft of the Kampong Ayer residents such tools used for fishing; the making of traditional boats; the making of rooftops; gold, silver and brass-making; and cloth weaving. Also shown is the products made from handicraft.

Meanwhile in the third hall showcases four house models of the communities that lived on dry land such as Rumah Murut; Rumah Kedayan; Rumah Dusun; and Lamin Tana (a house for Penan). Also shown are the traditional economic activities such as the producing of sago, wild sugar cane, and handicraft products produced by them.

This museum is opened daily for the public where operating hours are from 9am to 4.30pm from Sunday to Thursday. While on Friday, it is opened from 9am to 11.30am and 2.30pm to 4.40pm. Meanwhile on Saturday, it is opened from 10am to 4.40pm.



A showcase on the technology of Brunei Malays that cover a range of fields namely the architectures of the traditional houses, cottage industries and the traditional economy.

ARDAM

Ingredients:

1.8 kg rice
1.2 kg palm sugar
Oil

Method:

Wash and soak rice for two hours and drain. Blend and sieve. Mix rice flour with palm sugar and mix well until it forms a dough. Prove for two to three hours. Then flattened the dough at about 8mm thick and make a round shape. And make four small holes on the dough using finger. Hot oil in a pan over medium heat and deep-fry.



"SHERATON UTAMA HOTEL - THE ONLY ADDRESS YOU NEED IN BRUNEI"

Standing in the heart of the historic capital of Brunei is an unassuming edifice bearing the well-known logo that symbolises impeccable, discerning service the world over. Drawing on our twenty-five years of leading hospitality in Brunei and vast international resources through Starwood, Sheraton Utama constantly strives to deliver personalised, consistent service without compromise. With our newly refurbished facilities such as the Executive Club floor, exclusive Signature City Club, and the Presidential Suite, our job just got easier.

Layered over 6 floors are our 142 discreetly appointed rooms with tasteful decor that calms and soothes away all the worries of a weary traveller. Out of the 142 rooms are 12 distinctive suites individually named after rare botanical species found only in Borneo. Each room is equipped with amenities such as a marble bathroom featuring a massage shower and desk-level modem jacks. Even the smallest comfort has been carefully thought out - no more gymnastic manoeuvring to reach the bedside control panel that faces away from you, our control panel has been thoughtfully positioned to face the bed for easy access. 16 well-appointed rooms on the newly refurbished Executive Club Floor is equipped with 24 hour in room wireless high speed internet access, satellite channels, Sheraton's Sweet Sleeper beds and offers a handful of exclusive privileges such as an access to Signature Club Lounge. Guests on the Executive Club Floor are also given complimentary Executive Breakfast, evening beverages and hors d'oeuvres, laundry and many more.

If you are looking for some place private and exclusive, our Signature City Club fits right into the bill. With its contemporary colour scheme and minimalist style of decoration, it is easy to see why relaxation comes naturally after a hard day at work. Featuring a private Dining Room which serves outstanding cuisine, a private Boardroom with state of the art equipment, and a Club Lounge for members and guests to relax and unwind, the Club is an outstanding meeting place for socialising, networking and entertaining your VIP guests.

Speaking of easy access, the state-of-the-art Mutiara Ballroom will meet even the most demanding planner's needs. Hidden LCD projectors will appear discreetly to cast brilliant images of the centre of attraction to three projection screens for an all-round better view. The clarity of the sound system leaves no error for miscommunication between speaker and all 300 guests. A subtle change in mood can be cast by a simple flick of our light switches put guests in just the light frame of mind for whatever the occasion. As the only ground floor ballroom nation-wide with easy access, Mutiara has the enviable position of allowing cars to drive straight from our porte cochere through to its wide doors for spectacular car launches. The insurmountable success of our exemplary banqueting team continues to lead guest expectations to a higher level - whether for corporate conferences or private dinner functions.

For the personal touch of cosy private dinners, there is no better place than Deals - our signature contemporary restaurant that remains unrivalled and beloved by its patrons who consistently return for the fine flavours of delicate fusion cuisine. Newcomers and regulars alike are greeted with the warm welcome and personalised attention that has made Deals a name for itself as the place to dine for cosy comfort, a graceful style and discreet recognition that is a welcome contrast to the hauteur of a fine-dining establishment.

For something a little lighter in ambience and service, Tasek Brasserie is the best place in the city for a distinct dining experience. Combining the best of flavours from all around the world, our culinary experts blend the best local and international essences in our progressive menu. With natural light reflecting off the pool and into the avant-garde styled restaurant, dining truly begin to be a pleasure in itself.

Alternatively, surround yourself with nature by dining al fresco poolside. Our mist fans will help to keep you cool and refreshed while high sail shades will keep the sun from your delicate skin. There is no better place to kick back and laze the time away in the relaxed ambience of our Pool Terrace.

Discretion, Humility, Commitment, Respect, Care. At Sheraton Utama Hotel, we are all about providing the very best for our guests. And they have been some of the most instantly recognisable faces in the world - from world leaders such as South Korea's former President Kim Dae Jung to FI Champ Michael Schumacher. We have been the only address the discerning traveller needs in Brunei for the last 25 years and we will continue to be the only address worth knowing.

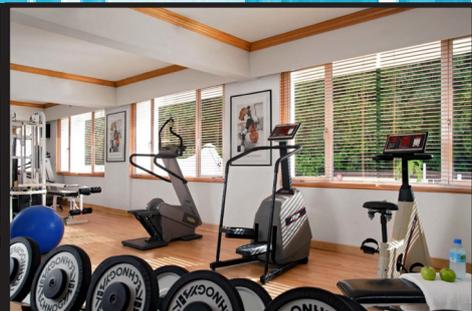


Photo and text courtesy of Sheraton Utama Hotel



Royal salute to mark royal occasions



A 21 gun-salute could be heard in the near distance, marking the birthday anniversary of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the birth of a new prince or the ascension of the throne for the new Sultan. This is the typical situation in Brunei Darussalam, a royal salute to mark royal occasions.

However, one would wonder the history of the cannons used. Typically the earliest cannon 'bedil' you see in this region are from foundries in the Netherlands and Portugal.

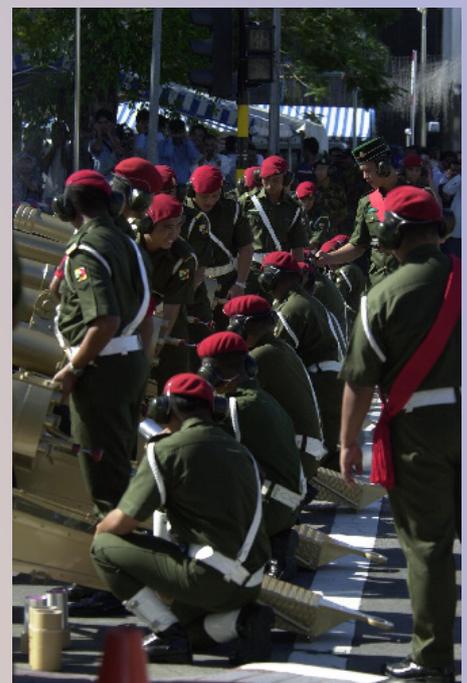
In Brunei, cannons are most well known as *bedil* or *meriam*, but Bruneians prefer to call it *bedil*. *Bedil* in Brunei comes in the size of big and small and divided into four types; *bedil garabus*, *bedil naga*, *bedil buluh* and *bedil lapis*. *Bedil* are designed with the creativity of the local craftsmen.

Until today, *bedil* are still used and fired as honour along with awards and titles, such as to a newly born prince or princess, usher in the festive season like, to the start or finish of religious holidays such as Ramadan and Hari Raya, during royal wedding (before starting the nightly vigil at the Istana), marking the start of His Majesty birthday celebration and many other important events especially to the royal family. The number of gun salute, however, depends on the place and occasion. The basic royal salute is 21 rounds.

In 17th and 18th century, land transportation in Borneo was extremely difficult and cannons were fired for virtually all types of signaling. Whether they were fired in celebration of a birth or wedding, or to warn another hilltop fortress or riverbank fishing village of impending attack, cannons were used to transmit messages telling of urgent or special events.

But in hard times they also served as a form of currency that could keep the family fed. As a recognised form of currency, cannon could be traded for rice, drums, canoes, tools, weapons, livestock, debts of honor, and even settlement of penalties for crimes ranging from the accidental death of a fellow villager to headhunters against another tribe.

Nowadays, the Brunei Arts and Handicrafts Training Center open a course for school leavers in making brassware such as cannons. We can also purchase ornamental cannon and replicas at The Arts and Handicraft Centre. Outside the Brunei Museum brass cannon which were once a symbol of Bruneian power especially during the Brunei Empire in the 15th and 16th centuries are displayed.



A gun-salute only fired at certain occasions especially involving the royal family.