



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

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His Majesty delivers a titah at the Audience and Special Investiture Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty's 61st birthday anniversary.

Royal 61st birthday anniversary speech:

Call for creative and self-sufficient SME

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, July 15 – A call for creative and self-sufficient small-and-medium enterprises (SMEs) was made in the pursuit towards exploring business opportunities domestically and overseas.

This was highlighted by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his royal speech celebrating his 61st birthday anniversary.

According to His Majesty, the government has provided a number of venues to facilitate entrepreneurs and members of the public. It is carried out as incentives to encourage locals to venture into the business sector. Hence, His Majesty wants SMEs to seize this opportunity. He also expressed his confidence that if we have the manner and with organised planning, we would be able to produce entrepreneurs that could be trained to explore the export industries.

If this happens, it would enable us to place "Made in Brunei" products to the international markets both in medium and long term time frames.

The sovereign also highlighted several new challenges that should be handled wisely. Among the issue highlighted was the usage of energy. Natural resources such as oil and gas are not sustainable thus a call for thrifter usage of energy was made.

Another issue discussed was the impact of development on the environment. As of late, the nation had experience flash floods, land slides and rivers filled with mud. Although the situations were not as bad as others, it should be treated as

a warning so that we would not ignore on the effectiveness of planning and infrastructure of construction in this country.

The sovereign also spoke on the process and mechanism of the services. The services should always be reviewed, and the rules and regulations updated, especially those concerning services provided for members of the community. The main aim is to provide effective, customer-friendly, fair, and visionary services. The monarch also said that a much awaited services is when we are able to lessen the burden of the people such as the decrease the waiting period, to speed up the process of decision-making, and to provide an effortless passageway for interaction with the government.

His Majesty also expressed his delight with the establishment of two new higher institution; Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali and Kolej Universiti Perguruan Ugama Seri Begawan. He hoped that these two institutions would play its role in creating an excellent generation.

With the desire to assist members of the civil service, the monarch also announced that bonuses for all government staff including security personnel would be given out a month early. The annual bonus, which normally is given at the end of January, will now be given at the end of December. The change takes effect beginning this year. The early bonus, said His Majesty, can help those especially in the low-income group for their new school year preparations for their children.



Colourful fireworks serenading the night celebrating His Majesty's 61st birthday anniversary.

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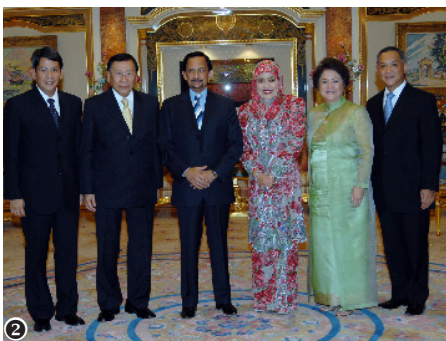
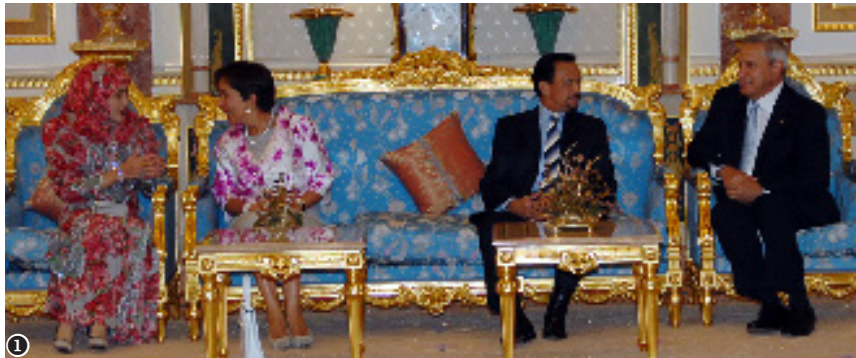
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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri received in audience invited foreign dignitaries in conjunction with His Majesty's 61st birthday anniversary at the Istana Nurul Iman on July 15. The invited foreign dignitaries were:

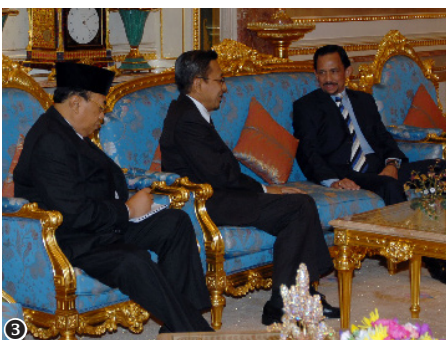


❶ Her Royal Highness Princess Basma binti Talal and His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Al-Sayed Walid Ismail Al-Kurdi of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.



❷ His Excellency Alberto G. Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs from the Republic of the Philippines and wife, Mrs Rosie Lovely T. Romulo.

❸ His Excellency Dr. Boediono, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs of Indonesia;



❹ Marshal TNI His Excellency Dato Paduka Seri Djoko Suryanto of Indonesia;

❺ The Right Honourable Dato Seri Utama Dr. Rais Yatim, Minister of Culture, Youth and Heritage of Malaysia.



❻ The Right Honourable Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, Chief Minister of Sarawak;

❼ His Excellency Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister of Manpower and Second Minister of Defence for Singapore;

❽ The Right Honourable Datuk Seri Musa Haji Aman, Chief Minister of Sabah;



❾ Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Laos, His Excellency Thongloun Sisoulith.

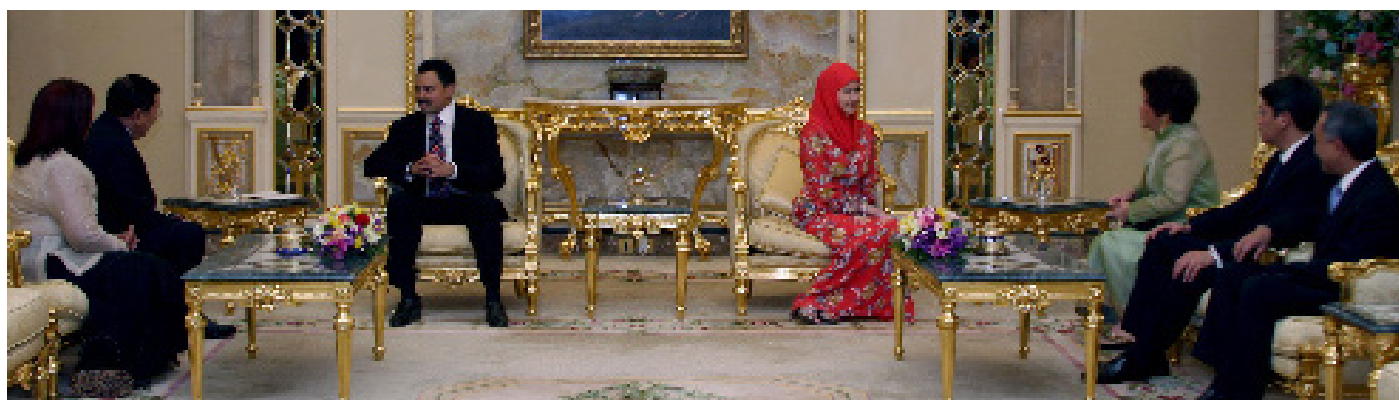
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- ① The wife of Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs of Indonesia; Ibu Herawati Boediono.
- ② The wife of Marshal TNI of Indonesia; Datin Ratna Djoko Suyonto.
- ③ The wife of Minister of Culture, Youth and Heritage of Malaysia, Yang Berbahagia Datin Seri Masnah Muhamat.
- ④ The wife of Chief Minister of Sarawak, Yang Amat Berbahagia Dato Amar Puan Sri Dr. Hajah Laila Taib.
- ⑤ The wife of Minister of Manpower and Second Minister of Defence for Singapore; Mrs Ivy Ng.
- ⑥ The wife of Chief Minister of Sabah, Yang Amat Berhormat Datin Sri Faridah Haji Tussin.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah granted an audience for the Secretary of Foreign Affairs from the Republic of the Philippines and wife, His Excellency Alberto G. Romulo and Mrs. Rosie Lovely T. Romulo on July 15 at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty receives congratulatory greetings

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received congratulatory messages from the heads of state and other foreign dignitaries in conjunction with His Majesty's 61st birthday anniversary on July 15.

The messages were from:

- His Majesty Al-Wathiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin, the 13th Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia.
- His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Guardian of the Two Holy Mosques.
- 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 Choummaly Sayasone, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.
- His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the Union of Myanmar State Peace, and Development Council.
- His Excellency General Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- His Excellency Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, President of India.
- His Excellency Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Republic of Singapore.
- His Excellency Bouasone Bouphavanh, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.
- His Excellency Shaukat Aziz, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
- And His Excellency Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, Chief Adviser to the Caretaker Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.



Members of the royal family and a special invited royal guest at the Balai Singgahsana (throne chamber) Indera Buana of the Istana Nurul Iman.



One of the recipients receives a state decoration from His Majesty.

25 receive state decorations

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, July 15 – Twenty five people received state decorations issued by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Balai Singgahsana (throne chamber) Indera Buana of the Istana Nurul Iman. The presentation took place soon after His Majesty delivered his royal speech (titah).

Among the recipients were senior government officials. Three orders were issued - The Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei Yang Amat Mulia Second Order (DPMB), the Order of Seri Ugama

Islam Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bersinar Third Order, (SS11B) and the Order of Setia Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bahagia Third Order (SNB).

Eight individuals received the Darjah Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei Yang Amat Mulia Second Class (DPMB). Two individuals received the Order of Seri Ugama Islam Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bersinar Third Order. While the Order of Setia Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bahagia Third Order were received by 15 recipients.

Congratulatory messages

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to:

- The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor-General of Canada and Prime Minister of Canada, The Right Honourable Stephen Harper in conjunction with the 140th Canada Day on July 1.
- His Excellency George W. Bush, President of United States of America in conjunction with United States of America's 231st Independence Day on July 4.
- His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President of Republic of France and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Dominique de Villepin in conjunction with France's 521st National Day on July 14.

State's banquet celebrate His Majesty's 61st birthday

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, JULY 15 - In conjunction with His Majesty's 61st birthday's anniversary, a royal state banquet was hosted by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Present at the event were His Majesty, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri. Also present 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 and other members of royal family.

His Majesty's special guests, local dignitaries and senior government officials also attended the state banquet.



ISTANA NURUL IMAN, July 9 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present diplomatic credentials to two newly appointed Ambassadors of Brunei Darussalam to Vietnam and two the newly appointed Permanent Representatives of Brunei Darussalam to United nations in Geneva. His Majesty also received diplomatic credentials from new envoys to the sultanate.



They were:

- ❶ His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mahadi bin Haji Wasli, the Sultanate's new ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Vietnam.
- ❷ His Excellency Haji Awang Alaihuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Di-Gadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Utama Haji Awang Mohammad Taha, the Sultanate's new Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva.
- ❸ His Excellency Mohamad bin Jameel Abdul Jaleel Hashim, the new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❹ His Excellency Alejandro Gordillo Fernandez, the new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Peru to Brunei Darussalam.
- ❺ His Excellency David Kersey, the new High Commissioner of New Zealand to Brunei Darussalam.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granted in audience at Istana Nurul Iman for the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Ha Hong Hai on June 16.



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri granted in audience at Istana Nurul Iman for the wife of the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Brunei Darussalam, Madame Tran Thi Ngoc Tho on June 16.

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



- ❶ The Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, Her Excellency Gu Xiulian on June 19.
- ❷ The Honourable Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin, Minister for Entrepreneur and Cooperative Development of Malaysia on July 9. Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled was on a three-day working visit to the Sultanate beginning July 8.

Brunei-Japan sign free trade agreement

TOKYO, JUNE 19 – Brunei Darussalam and Japan have signed a landmark free trade agreement, 'Agreement between Japan and Brunei Darussalam for an Economic Partnership' (BJEPA).

The agreement was signed by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Japanese Prime Minister, His Excellency Shinzo Abe at the Japanese Prime Minister's Office on June 18.

BJEPA aims to open more opportunities on new markets for goods and services. At the same time, it aims to attract more investments between the two nation-states.

This agreement enables the two countries to cooperate in the field of energy, development of human resources and an enhancement on capabilities.

His Majesty was on a three-day work visit to Japan starting June 17. Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.

During the visit, His Majesty visited the Tokyo Electric Sodegaura Thermal Power Station and Tokyo Gas Sodegaura LNG Terminal at Tokyo Bay, about 50 kilometres away from Tokyo's city centre. Here, His Majesty was given a briefing by the President of Tokyo Electric on the background and activities of Sodegaura Terminal Centre. His Majesty also took a closer look at the facilities at the Tokyo

Electric and Tokyo Gas.

His Majesty also visited 'Bubuk' tankers - one of the vessels that transports liquefied natural gas (LNG) owned by Brunei Shell Tankers, at the Terminal Sodegaura. Since its operation in 1973, 'Bubuk' has supplied more than 5,000 cargo (193 million tonne of LNG).

On June 19, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended a court luncheon hosted by His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito. The court luncheon was held at the Imperial Palace, Tokyo.

During the court luncheon, His Majesty and His Imperial Majesty exchanged views on bilateral relations in general and expressed pleasure with the continued warm friendship and close relations between the royal families.

Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with Japan since April 2, 1984. Also in attendance was Her Imperial Majesty Empress Michiko.

Prior to the Court Luncheon, His Majesty received audiences from three prominent Japanese parliamentarians, His Excellency Toshihiro Nikai, Chairman of the Diet Affairs of the Liberal Democratic Party and the Chief Secretary-General of the Japan Brunei Parliamentarian's League for Promotion of Friendship; His Excellency Kozo Watanabe, Chairman of the Diet Affairs Committee of the Democratic



His Majesty and Japanese Prime Minister at a signing ceremony of land mark free trade agreement between the two countries.

Party of Japan and the Chairman of the Japan-Brunei Parliamentarian's League for the Promotion of Friendship; and His Excellency Tetsuma Esaki, Senior Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is also the Secretary-General of the Japan-Brunei Parliamentarian's League for the Promotion of Friendship.

Exchange visits stimulate cooperation and understanding

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, July 2 - Exchange of visits between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia is a good culture that could stimulate both governments to continue enhance cooperation and understanding.

This was said by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at a royal banquet in honour of His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Al-Wathiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin and Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Nur Zahirah's visit to Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty also expressed his confidence that through His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong's visit to Brunei, the bilateral relations between both nations would be further enhanced.

According to His Majesty, the relations between both nations have brought cooperation in various fields, especially in education, defence, trade, health and culture. In trade and investment, both countries have shown potential and success. Therefore, it is high time for both nations to work together in the bid to seize trade and investment opportunities both regionally and internationally.

His Majesty also congratulated Malaysia for its role in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). The monarch also congratulated the His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, Malaysia's government and citizens for the robust development achieved throughout their 50 years of independence.

The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and



Their Majesties, Their Royal Highness in a group photo with the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong and Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia who were in the sultanate for a three day state visit.

Raja Permaisuri Agong were in the sultanate for a three day state visit starting from July 2 to 4. This is their

first visit to Brunei since Tuanku Mizan was installed as the 13th Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia on April 26, 2007.

Brunei-Singapore launches new \$20 currency notes

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 27 – Brunei Darussalam and Singapore launched new \$20 polymer notes. The currency notes were launched to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Currency Interchangeability Agreement (CIA) between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore.

The new \$20 polymer notes were jointly launched by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Prime Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong. The historic ceremony was held at Baitur-Rahmah of the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty in his titah at the ceremony said that the launching is much more than the routine launching of a new banknote.

“Firstly, we are celebrating the banknote means that is stable currency and stable prices and employment,” said His Majesty.

His Majesty further added that, it also means vital investment and trade; and strong combined financial reserves that enable us to resist speculations and the damaging costs on our economies.

Secondly, said His Majesty, we were celebrating what the banknote offered to our people and our governments.

That is the chance to pursue our national objectives in peace and stability.

“Like our friends in Singapore, we see that as being the bedrock upon which successful modern nations are built,” said His Majesty.

In Brunei Darussalam, said His Majesty, it was that which gave our people confidence in the future.

According to His Majesty, in terms of currency, it was an instinctive confidence that was reinforced in this new bank note.

On one side, it showed us as sovereign

nations while on the other, it showed us as very closely linked in a crucial aspect of modern life, added His Majesty.

“That clearly sums up our countries relationship,” stressed His Majesty.

Brunei also reaffirmed its commitment to what as established forty years ago.

Earlier in the titah, His Majesty also mentioned about Brunei and Singapore engagement with other partners in ASEAN in far-reaching consultations with a vast array of countries and regions.



His Majesty and the Prime Minister of Singapore launches the new \$20 polymer notes.

His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong was in the country for two-day official visit beginning on June 27. Besides attending the banquet and launching ceremony of the new notes; His Excellency's itinerary also included brisk walking with His Majesty; attending briefings by Brunei Economic Development Board, and luncheon hosted by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkih, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



His Majesty presents land grants to one of the recipients.

More citizens receives houses and land

LUMUT, July 5 – Two hundred and thirty one people received their land grants and key to their new homes. The presentation was held Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkihah Secondary School.

Present to grace the ceremony was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

From the total recipients; 117 received keys to new homes with; 36 recipients receiving keys to 'Class C'; 81 recipients received keys to 'Class D'; while 47 received land grants. All recipients were under the National Housing Scheme of Lumut/Sungai Liang, Belait District. Meanwhile another 67 recipients received land grants on the Temporary on Lease (TOL) land based at Tutong District.

According to statistics by Department of Housing Development; until December last year about 7,638 houses under the National Housing Scheme had been given to the applicants. From the total recipients; 1,694 received land lots while 5,944 received houses.

Kampung Lumut/Sungai Liang is one of the sites in Belait District dedicated for National Housing Scheme. With the area of 282 hectares, 2,096 housing lots are built here.

Until April 2007, statistics have shown that about 16,403 applications had been granted and waiting for housing and land lots under the National Housing Scheme. From the total applications; 2,971 applicants are from Belait District.

Royal visit to school and private agencies

LUMUT, July 5 – Following the presentation of house keys to new homes and land lots, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visited a school, home of recipients and private agencies.

Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkihah Secondary School, the venue for the event was the first place on the list. The school was built on 16.2 hectares of land in November 1992 and formerly known as Sungai Tali Secondary School. The school was officiated by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkihah and later the name of school was changed to the current name.

Currently, there are 783 students with 72 educators. The school is conducted in two session - morning and afternoon. With 11 buildings, the school is equipped with classrooms, ICT labs, audio-visual therapy room, interactive auditorium and library.

His Majesty also visited Syarikat Joffren Omar based at Sungai Bera Light Industrial Area in Seria. Since its establishment in 1982, the company had developed and became one of main suppliers of contractor's services and equipment to Brunei Shell

Petroleum (BSP) and Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas (BLNG).

Next, His Majesty visited the Oil and Gas Discovery Centre (OGDC). The centre was opened on September 14, 2002. With the cost of more than B\$8 million, OGDC is fully funded by Royal Dutch Shell Group of Companies and as a gift to Brunei Darussalam.

Also visited were several homes of recipients including home of village head of Kampung Pandan 'A'.

The sovereign also visited NBT Toyota showroom and few business premises located at Harapan Complex at Jalan Setia Negara in Kuala Belait. Belait District is the second commercial district after Brunei Muara.

His Majesty also visited Brunei Shell Fabrication Dockyard at Jalan Sungai. The Fabrication Dockyard is one of the important areas in supporting the BSP operation.

His Majesty's itinerary ended at fuel station owned by Syarikat Perniagaan Melayu. Built in 1969, the fuel station complex is renovated to match the current standard. The station also offers services like car servicing and car washing workshop.

Sovereign officiates 'Class of 64' Library



His Majesty conducts a working visit to Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien College in the capital.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 7 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam officiated the opening of 'Class of 64' library during his working visit to Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien College in the capital.

The 'Class of 64' library is a gift from the Alumni of Form Four Literature Year 1964 (His Majesty's schoolmates) for His Majesty's 60th birthday anniversary.

During this work visit, the sovereign also visited an exhibition and attended a briefing on Building Improvement of Schools and Infrastructure (BISAI) Project.

The visit ended with the official launching of SOAS College Memorial Sports Arena.



A library plaque to commemorate the officiating ceremony.

Cooperation required to produce quality students

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 29 - Cooperation among parents, teachers, society and students are needed in the bid to produce quality students. With an established relationship, the dream of making a generation that is responsible towards religion, nationality and country will be a reality.

These were stated by Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha in her titah (royal speech) in conjunction with the Sekolah Tinggi Perempuan Raja Isteri (STPRI) Secondary School's golden anniversary celebration.

Also present was Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar and other female members of the royal family.

At the event, Her Majesty presented Golden Jubilee Awards to four former STPRI students in recognition of their achievements in their respective fields. They were Datin Paduka Hajah Misli, Datin Paduka Hajah Azizah, Datin Paduka Hajah Salmah and The Honourable Justice Datin Paduka Hajah Hayati.

STPRI as an all-girls secondary is one of the oldest academic institution in Bandar Seri Begawan. To date, STPRI have produced a number of high achieving individuals that have attained higher post in both the public and private sector.



Her Majesty delivers a titah in conjunction with the STPRI Golden anniversary celebration.

Crown Prince on working visit



His Royal Highness conducts a working visit to Selirong Island Recreational Park.

MUARA, JUNE 26 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office carried out a working visit to Selirong Island Recreation Park at Brunei Bay.

Selirong Island is rich with mangrove swamp forest where its natural habitants are still active. This recreation park is preserved solely for outdoor recreation, research and nature education. This mangrove wonderland is a breeding ground for much of the marine life that populates Brunei Bay.

At the island, His Royal Highness was briefed on the various species of flora and fauna that inhabit the island by Forestry Director, Awang Haji Saidin and Forestry Officer, Dayang Noralinda.

Selirong Island was developed as recreation park in 1995 to support the efforts for the development of nation's eco-tourism.

The Crown Prince continued his visit to three companies of fish breeding at Tanjong Pelompong. The companies are Harvesea Enterprise, Idot and Jane companies and Florid Development Enterprise.

Aquaculture is one of the sector which has a huge potential to the nation's economy.

Nowadays, there are four areas identified by Fisheries Department for fish breeding entrepreneurs namely, Tanjong Pelompong, Pulau Keingaran, Buang Tawar and Sungai Bunga.

Sayyidina Ali Secondary School wins PRYNOSA award

GAGONG, JUNE 28 - Sayyidina Ali Secondary School of Mumong, Belait emerge as champion for the 9th Princess Rashidah Young Nature Scientist Award (PRYNOSA) with their project entitle "Ant community ecology, a study into the Diversity, Interactions and Resources Partitioning among Ground Dwelling ants in a Tropical Rainforest".

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah presented the prizes to the winners. Accompanying Her Royal Highness to the ceremony at

the International Rizqun Hotel in Gagong was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah.

This is the second time that the school has bagged the Princess Rashidah Young Nature Scientist Award, having won the award in 2004.

PRYNOSA was first introduced in 1997. Sponsored by Brunei Shell Petroleum Company, it aimed to nurture excellence among the young, particularly in the area of natural science.



Her Royal Highness at the PRYNOSA prize presentation.

Asean-China's total trade US\$160 billion



Her Royal Highness officiates the 2nd Conference on ASEAN-China People-to-People Friendship Organisations.

BERAKAS, June 20 – Total trade between ASEAN and China have increased from around US\$130 billion in 2005 to US\$160 billion last year, besides the encouraging progress for the free trade area; comprehensive cooperation in ICT, transportation, cultural; and including the overcoming of natural disaster, emergencies and health issues.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade said these at the opening ceremony of the 2nd Conference on ASEAN-China People-to-People Friendship Organisation at the International Convention Centre.

Her Royal Highness also commended China for being the first ASEAN Dialogue partner to accede to the Treaty of Amity and cooperation in South East Asia. These developments said Her Royal Highness, are important progress and achievements in our dialogue relations which surely benefit our people.

This year, ASEAN celebrates its 40th anniversary and are working towards establishing an ASEAN Community through the three pillars of political and security, economic and socio-cultural communities.

The conference was attended by Her Excellency Gu Xiulian, Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China, President of All China Women's Federation and President of the China-Asean Association.



The Minister of Finance II, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman and wife with His Excellency John Saville, the British High Commissioner to Brunei and wife at a reception to commemorate the 81st birthday anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II on June 20 at the Empire Hotel and Country Club, Jerudong.



Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister Office, Pehin Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Yahya and the High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Leopold Battel cut a cake in conjunction with the 140th Canada Day on June 27 at the Sheraton Utama Hotel.

231st Anniversary of US Independence Day

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Dr Haji Awang Ahmad bin Haji Jumat and the US Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Emil Skodon, attended the reception to mark the 231st anniversary of American Independence Day on July 4 at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Did you know that...

- By the end of 2002, the Ministry of Finance implemented the government-wide Treasury Accounting and Financial Information Systems (TAFIS).
- On May 2, 2007 Radio Brunei celebrates its 50th Golden Jubilee held in Dewan Raya of the Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB) building in the capital. Now Radio Brunei serves five radio networks with 24-hour service.
- In an effort to increase and preserve cottage industry in 1975 the government formed the Brunei Arts and Handicrafts Training Centre (BAHTC).

>> 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 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.

Tutong District



Scenery of Tutong River.



The Sungai Basong Recreational Park.

Tutong District is situated between Brunei Muara and Belait District with an area of 1,166 square kilometers and the third largest district after Belait and Temburong.

With a population of about 44,400 people, Tutong has its own share of uniqueness worth to visit – beautiful beaches and recreational parks along with its own food as a trademark that singles out Tutong from the rest of the districts.

The three well-known spots in the district are Pantai Seri Kenangan, Tasek Merimbun and Sungai Basong Recreational Park, which are a beach, a lake and a recreational forest respectively. The Tutong District Office, which developed and maintains these places, has provided many amenities

such as small pavilions and canopied stalls. All three places are ideal for day-trippers who wish to escape the hurly-burly of town life.

Pantai Seri Kenangan, literally the unforgettable beach, is a popular recreation area at Kuala Tutong. The beauty of the beach is enhanced by a narrow spit of land that has the South China Sea on one side and the Tutong River on the other. The Seri Kenangan beach invokes pleasant memories as its name suggests; located in a tranquil area near Tutong, the beach has a magical atmosphere along with warm sands and gentle seas. There are chalets, restaurants, huts, a playground and food stalls available. The beach is only five-minute drive from town of Tutong, and a lovely spot for picnics, fishing and swimming.

Tamu Tutong is another place to visit while you are in Tutong. This big Tamu or open market offers a great variety of products, especially local foods, fruits, vegetables and handicrafts. Most of the vendors of these items are from the inland forest areas, who come here to sell their products and also to buy for their own needs. The Tamu is open every Thursday and is located about one kilometre from the centre of town.

Arriving at Tutong District, Sungai Basong Recreational Park lies just short of Tutong on the Muara-Tutong Highway. It is one of the most popular spots in the district for picnicking. The park features a mini-lake, shelter huts and open activity areas. From the town centre, Sungai Basong Recreational Park is just a five-minute drive.

Those who enjoy nature will be in for a delight with a day trip to Tasek Merimbun, Brunei's largest lake. The lake naturally forms an unusual S-shape. There is a small island in the center, which is accessible by way of a wooden walkway. The island has pavilion facilities made from tree trunks for picnicking, and is a restful and quiet spot. There are chalet facilities for research only. Administered by the Brunei Museum, the park aims to provide a safe haven for protected wildlife to breed, preserve flora and fauna and to provide a base for scientific research and study. For those interested in botany or birdwatching, there is also a trail through the jungle. For about 1 hour 15 minutes drive from Bandar Seri Begawan, Tasek Merimbun is declared as an ASEAN Heritage Park.



Tasek Merimbun Recreational Park



Pantai Seri Kenangan (insert pictures: among the facilities available for public).



The newly-built Tamu Tutong (insert pictures: Some of the items for sale).



Sumbangsih Mulia



Sumbangsih Mulia at the Beribi Industrial Area in Gadong.

Sumbangsih Mulia is the latest building established in the Beribi Industrial Area in Gadong. With an estimated cost of \$2.4 million to build this building, spread over four acres of land, the Sumbangsih Mulia gives more opportunities for small-and-medium enterprises (SME) to progress and contribute to the nation's economy.

Conveniently located on top of a hill, the new building has a huge parking space for the convenience of the customers along with basic facilities such as supply of clean water and electricity, surau (prayer room), hall and public restrooms.

The new building is spacious as it could house more than 100 stalls at its open area and a number of stalls in the main building itself.

At the open area, you will be able to see a variety of stalls ranging from food, beverages, vegetables and even raw meat. An additional area outside the building is also set up particularly for those selling smoked chicken and fish. Also provided is a space for you to dine in.

You can choose different types of dishes ranging from local to western. The price of dishes range from as low as \$1.00. You can have, Nasi Katok which is rice served with fried chicken (sometimes beef) and *sambal* (chilli paste); *Nasi Campur* that is plain rice served with vegetables, chicken, beef or fish; soto (noodle soup), chicken rice, chicken beriani, and many more.

For finger food, a choice of local kueh (delicacies) and *cucur* are available. Among the local favourite *cucur* are banana fritters, prawn fritters and yam fritters. Other delicacies available are *tumpi* (a dough of flour made into flat circle shaped and later fried), cakes and burgers.

Business starts at 7.00am until 7.00pm or 8.00pm but some stalls may close earlier if their items sold are sold-out. The peak time is during lunch hour where most people flocked to get their lunch here.

One of the customers said that Sumbangsih Mulia not only offers great taste food but also affordable price.

The location of Sumbangsih Mulia which is easy to access and with its ample parking spaces is its main strength. Meanwhile, Beribi itself is located near to government housing and one of the main industrial areas.

"It hard for me to find time for preparing lunch if I'm on morning shift, so it is a good thing to have this establishment with varieties of dishes not far from home. My kids will choose their own packed lunch. I can save my time and arrive early to continue my work," said Maria, a nurse.

Moving to the main building, you can find people selling women cloth and accessories and also local products. If you wish to buy local products as souvenirs, you can easily get one here. There are wide choices of items such as local made biscuits, different types of chilli ketchup, local handicrafts, *kain tenunan* (weaved-cloth), *songkok* (traditional headgear) and *keris* (daggers).

The building is owned by a local prominent business who opened-up this commercial building in order to support His Majesty's called for private agencies



Brunei's traditional songs and dances



Most of Brunei's traditional songs carry its own message or storyline. The songs were composed related to an array of events such as those about the country, the Ruler, folk story, and the day-to-day living activities.

Accompanying each song is a dance created especially for the song. Hence, different songs will have its own dance steps and movements. Different attires or costumes will also be used.

In Brunei Darussalam, the Malays are divided into seven races; Brunei, Belait, Tutong, Dusun, Bisaya and Murut. This contributed to the different songs and dances.

Among the popular traditional song is 'Dong Dong Oma' as the song's message is for youngsters not to neglect their parents. This song was composed from a folk story 'Nakhoda Manis', a traitorous son (to his mother). The song is usually used as part of the 'Nakhoda Manis' theatre, and also dance performance.

'Adai-Adai' is another traditional song that the dance (tarian Adai-Adai) is always performed as part of a cultural show. The song was sung by olden day fishermen to relief tiredness during the journey back and forth to the sea. The dance requires male dancers wearing traditional fishing attires such as sirau (broad hat) and pengayuh (paddle) while the ladies wear baju kebaya.

Like 'Adai-Adai', both songs and dances of 'Alus Jua Dintang' and 'Samalindang' are also popular for performance. 'Alus Jua Dintang' dance is portraying a newly wed couple who are flirting with each other. Meanwhile, Samalindang dance is believed to be the name of the lad.

Another well-known dance is 'Aduk-Aduk'. 'Aduk-Aduk' means gathering or mingling indicating that a group is holding a public gathering or a cooperative work. The dance is where the dancer holds two halves of a coconut shell and hit them together in tempo with the music played.

In olden time, some songs and dances is also made as parts of ritual activities. One of the songs is 'Tak Bamban', where two or three persons are required to hold 'bubu', local fishing equipment. The 'Bubu' will start to move when the song Tak Bamban is sung. It is believed that a spirit is called and makes the bubu to move. But due to more widespread of Islamic education, more of these types of dances or songs are only done as parts of entertainment or as tourist attraction during exhibitions.

Joget and Zapin is another form of Brunei's songs and dances. If the song is Joget, the dance movement or steps will be lively while movement for Zapin dance will be slightly slower. This also applied to the songs.

Nowadays, to preserve the songs and dance as heritage, the government through respective ministries hold various activities such as traditional dance competition for primary schools and choir (traditional song) competition for secondary schools.

Besides preserving the songs and dance as heritage, the step is also taken to promote it to others. For example at the Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Programme (SSEAYP), local participants will perform few traditional dances to their colleagues.



Different malays
races contributed to
the different songs
and dances

National Blood Transfusion Services will be established

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 14 – Brunei will establish its National Blood Transfusions Services soon. The establishment is made as an early step to enhance the quality level and safety guarantee of blood transfusions services in the nation.

The Acting Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hazair stated the matters at Launching of Blood Transfusion Centre Open Day at the Raja Isteri pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital. The open day was held in conjunction with the World Blood Donor Day.

According to the Acting Minister, the services among others will responsible to enact more proper policy and to improve the current services level.

He further added that as the long term strategic plan project, the Ministry had planned to establish National Blood Centre besides actively working on computerised blood donation management program.

The blood donation status in Brunei is satisfactory and it is done continuously to avoid shortage of blood stock, said Pehin Dato.

Last year, a sum of 10, 841 units of bloods were collected. From the sum, 3,102 units were collected from 'walk-in' donors (to Blood Donation Centre, RIPAS Hospital) while 7,739 units were from 'mobile collection'.

An exhibition on information and activities regarding blood donation process in Brunei was also held.

Theme for this year was 'Safe Blood for Safe Motherhood' which highlighting on the life-saving role of safe blood donation transfusion in maternal and prenatal care.



Acting Minister of Health during the launching of Blood Transfusion Centre Open Day at RIPAS Hospital.

7th Issuance of Sukuk Al-Ijarah

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 21 – Ministry of Finance announced the successful pricing of the 7th issuance of Short-term Sukuk Al-Ijarah Securities.

The \$70 million issue carrying a maturity of 91 days begins on June 21, 2007 and matures on September 20, 2007, at a rental rate of 2.275 per cent.

With this issuance, the government of Brunei Darussalam had issued B\$800 million worth of Short-term Sukuk Al-Ijarah Securities since the successful maiden offering on April 6, 2006.

MIPR launches e-Fisheries

BERAKAS, June 18 – Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) launched its new online service known as eFisheries. The eFisheries project is part of the eMIPR project under the eGovernment project.

The eFisheries was officially launched by the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Jaafar at the Dewan Setia Pahlawan.

According to the Permanent Secretary, eFisheries is part of the ministry's initiative to heed His Majesty's titah (royal speech) which urged the public sector to mark the year 2007 as the year to improve the quality of services delivered in order to fulfil its role as facilitator of national development, said the Permanent Secretary.

Through this online service, fisheries entrepreneurs, investor and the public can availed to the several services provided by the Fisheries Department, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and other relevant government agencies. Services like application and renewal of fisheries license, and also import and export permits can be made at any time.

It is hoped that eFisheries would facilitate the realisation of the Fisheries Department vision which is 'Sustainable and Competitive Fisheries Contributing towards a Diversified Economy', said the Permanent Secretary.

The move towards eFisheries which is fast, reliable and business-friendly would enable both local and foreign investors and entrepreneurs to establish a fisheries venture in the country to get necessary license and services.

The permanent secretary also called fisheries entrepreneurs and investors to make full use of the services under the eFisheries as a way of achieving competitive advantage in their businesses.

The eFisheries project of the Fisheries Department started with the development and implementation of the 'Network Infrastructure' project in the beginning of 2005. The project which cost about \$248,000 was completed in 2006. With the implementation of the project, it has enabled interconnectivity between the department's headquarters and its field stations and branches throughout the country.

The department then proceeded with the implementation of the second phase of eFisheries which is done together with MIPR. The second phase consists of two components; Release 1a - 'Business Facilitation Services (BFS)' and Release 1b - 'Management Information System (MIS)'. The project was completed in April 2007.

Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources hoped that the eMIPR Business Facilitation Services would become a "Single Window" for all integrated services required by entrepreneurs and investors which would be readily available online. An eMIPR Business Help Centre also had

been set up to assist entrepreneurs. Located at the Industry and Trade Information Centre at MIPR building, the centre is where sufficient resources are provided with the present of Information Technology (IT) Officers to assist public particularly entrepreneurs. Branches of the Business Help Centre would also be set up in all departments under the MIPR.



The Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources officiated eFisheries.

Consumer Price Index, April 2007

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in April 2007 with an index of 102.6 increased by 0.2 per cent from the March. The raise was attributed by the price of few items that backed to normal price after the end of Quarter Year Sale that held from March 18 to April 8, 2007.

Higher prices of ready-made clothing, fabrics for male and female and footwear led to a 0.6 per cent increase in the cost of clothing and footwear.

Meanwhile, the cost of housing, water, electricity and maintenance; dropped by 0.1 per cent due to the lower prices of accommodation.

The cost of household goods, services and operation increased by 0.1 per cent as a result of higher prices household furnishings.

On the other hand, lower prices of certain air fares led to 0.1 per cent decreased in the cost of transport.

The cost of communication rose by 0.1 per cent due to the higher prices of equipments including the accessories.

The cost of education declined by 0.1 per cent due to lower prices of stationeries and computer and its accessories.

Due to higher prices of holiday package expenses, the cost of recreation and entertainment rose by 2.0 per cent.

Lower prices of personal care and personal effects and others personal goods led to the lower cost of miscellaneous goods and services to 0.1 per cent.

The cost of frozen food and non-alcoholic beverages remained the same but few items like flours, eggs, coco based-drinks and palm oils record increased in price.

The cost of medical and health remained the same.

The CPI in March 2007 was 0.1 per cent lower than that of the same month in 2006.

Universiti Brunei Darussalam



Universiti Brunei Darussalam, the first university.

Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), was established in October 28, 1985. Its establishment came after His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's announcement on April 23, 1985 that, in the interest of national development, Brunei Darussalam was to have its own university.

Soon after, a temporary campus was set up in a renovated building complex close to the Institute of Education, in Gadong, four and a half kilometers from the city centre.

With the help of several overseas universities and under the supervision of a Ministry of Education Committee on the Establishment of the University, the first degree programmes and courses were devised. Formal academic links were established with University College Cardiff and the University of Leeds where both universities assisted in the development of the English-medium programmes. For Malay-medium programmes, assistance was provided by Universiti Sains Malaysia and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Academic staff were recruited from the United Kingdom, Malaysia and Singapore, and some were also seconded from universities in these countries.

Today, the UBD is located at Jalan Tungku Link in Gadong. His Majesty officially opened the permanent campus at Tungku Link on September 15, 1995.

At present, the UBD accommodates more than 300 academic staff and around 3,000 students in seven faculties, namely Arts and Social Sciences, Business, Economics and Policies Studies, Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddin Institute of Islamic Studies, Science, Sultan Hassanul Bolkiah Institute of Education, Academy of

Brunei Studies and Institute of Medicine.

Meanwhile type of studies provided are PhD Degree, Masters Degree, Post-Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), First Degree and Diploma and certificate.

UBD hold its first convocation on September 21, 1989. His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam who is UBD's Chancellor was appointed honorary Doctor of Letters and 166 graduates received their degrees.

Meanwhile, at the 18th convocation, held on September 4, 2006, His Royal Highness The Crown Prince, Pro-Chancellor since 16 September 1998 was awarded an honorary Doctorate of letters.

Students are now graduating at the rate of more than one thousand annually, including undergraduates, postgraduates, and persons awarded diplomas and certificates.

Notably, UBD's graduates include several members of the royal family - His Majesty's daughters, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah in 1994 and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nurul Bulqiah in 2000 and His Majesty's sister, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna in 1992.

Meanwhile the current intake include the spouse of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Universiti Brunei Darussalam through Brunei Darussalam Government Scholarship also provides students, who are citizens of ASEAN member countries, an opportunity to undertake first



One of the graduates receiving his degree from His Majesty.



Among UBD's graduates.

degree programmes or the Master's degree programme at UBD. Under a special scheme, the Government of Brunei Darussalam offers 18 scholarship annually, nine slots specifically for MSc. in Petroleum Geoscience. This means only two scholarships will be awarded each year to two students from each ASEAN member country (one for MSc. in Petroleum Geoscience programme).

UBD also hosts international seminars, workshops, Quran-reading competitions, short courses for non-UBD members (such as government officials), public lectures, and open days. Academic exchange agreements had been signed with more than twenty universities world-wide as early as 1997.

Jit Manis

Ingredients:

907 g rice
605 g wheat flour
10 eggs
680 g sugar

Method:

Soak rice until swell and drip away. Then grind and sieve. Sieve wheat flour. Heat pan, add in rice flour and stir (without oil) until dry and sieve once again. Then mix thoroughly with wheat flour. Whip eggs and sugar until rise. Add in the dough and knead thoroughly. Make the dough even and roll until moderately thick on the pastry board scattered with a little flour. Then press flower shaped mould on dough. Then bake with ember underneath and on the top of the mould until it turns yellowish. Then remove.



New B\$1,000 Polymer currency issued

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 21 - The Brunei Currency and Monetary Board issued new \$1,000 polymer currency note. The newly released \$1,000 is the last of the three denominations issued for circulation in conjunction with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 60th birthday anniversary last year.

The other two denominations that were issued are the \$10,000 and \$500 notes. The new \$1,000 note has a picture of the Ministry of Finance's building printed on the back of the note.

Crown Prince presents prizes to the champion of charity golf tournament

JERUDONG, June 24 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office presented prizes to the winners of His Royal Highness The Crown Prince Challenge Trophy for the Charity Golf Championship held at the Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club.

More than 250 golfers joined the three-day competition including local, Malaysian and Indonesian golfers.

After presenting the prizes to the winner, His Royal Highness received a mock cheque for Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Orphans Fund from Dato Paduka Lim Beng Thai, Chairman of Boustead Sdn Bhd.

Women council organise charity walkathon

BERAKAS, June 23 – A charity walkathon was held aimed to strengthen relations among members of the Women Council and associations under it.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna attended the event. Also taking part was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz, senior government officials, members of the Women Council Administrative Board and the associations under Women Council as well as their family members and members of the public.

The event kicked off with a brief aerobics session before a 4-kilometre walk for men and 3.5 kilometre walk for women.

The event took place at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

Forestry Department host PCF meeting

BERAKAS, June 21 - The Department of Forestry under the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) hosted the Plenary Meeting of the Brunei Peer Consultation Framework (PCF) ASEAN from June 20 to 21.

The main objectives of the PCF on Forestry are to monitor ASEAN Member Countries (AMC) forest policies and programmes, and assess their effectiveness, inputs, outputs and results against the goals and policies defined in the ASEAN Forest Strategy.

The ASEAN Secretariat also informed the meeting of the background, development and progress of the implementation of the ASEAN PCF in Forestry of Brunei Darussalam with Cambodia and the Philippines as the Assessor Countries starting from the Ninth Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (9th ASOF) in August 2006.

Olympic Day Run Sunday open to all

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, - The Olympic Day Run 2007 is an upcoming event in which people from all walks of life are encouraged to take part.

Its Organising Committee has planned as many as six categories of races and competitions.

These include a 2km course for participants with special needs, a 10km course for men under 49 years of age, a 6km course for boys under 15 years, a 5km course for girls under 15 years, a 5km course for women and a 5km course for men above 50 years.

The special needs programme will be further divided into following categories: the Blind Open, Hearing Disability (for boys), Hearing Disability (for girls), Wheelchair Open and Intellectual Disability (for participants below and over 15 years of age).

This event also aims to remember the establishment of IOC (International Olympic Committee) on June 36, 1894 in Paris.

The idea to create an Olympic Day meanwhile was passed during an IOC meeting at St Moritz, Switzerland in January 1948.

The first Olympic Day was held on June 26, 1948 in nine different countries including Austria, Belgium, Canada, Great Britain, Greece, Portugal, Switzerland, Uruguay and Venezuela.

In its efforts to encourage the NOC (National Olympic Committee) to celebrate Olympic Day, the IOC Sport for All Commissions launched the concept of the Olympic Day Run.

Thailand APA Sports Meet Champ

BERAKAS, June 29 – Thailand emerged as the overall winner of the 9th ASEAN Ports Association (APA) Sports Meet which was held in Bandar Seri Begawan beginning June 26. The champion grabbed 11 gold, eight silver and five bronze medals. First runner-up was Indonesia and followed by Malaysia. Host country, Brunei Darussalam was on the fifth position.

Prizes were presented by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Yusof. He also presented the APA official flag to Thailand as the next APA Sports Meet will be held at Thailand in 2010.

About 300 people from nine ASEAN member-countries excluding Lao participated in this once in three years sports meet. This was the second time for Brunei to host with the first in 1991. The sports meet started in 1985 which was then known as Regional Ports Sports. As the number of participating countries increased, the sports meet was then changed to ASEAN Ports Association (APA) Sports Meet.

The main objective of the sports meet is to strengthen the spirit of goodwill among ports staff, for good health and to develop sports champion.

HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah attends Brazilian Cultural Performance

BERAKAS, July 1 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the Brazilian Martial Art "Capoeira" at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

The show was performed by the Bantus Capoeira Malaysia group and co-organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Brunei Darussalam and Embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil in Kuala Lumpur.

"Capoeira" is a unique Brazilian self defence martial art that combines aspect of martial art, dance and acrobatic and practised in a game called "Jogo de Capoeira".

Grand Ceremonial Guard of Honour Parade

Thousands of well wishers flocked to the Taman Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin in the capital to witness the much anticipated grand ceremonial Guard of Honour Parade that marked the 61st birthday celebration of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on July 15.

Stationed amongst flag-wavers along the stretch of road leading to Taman Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddin in Bandar Seri Begawan were hundreds of *hadrahs* players beating their instruments with high-spirited fervor as His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam arrived at the venue for the highlight of the Royal Birthday celebrations.

Together with the military guard of honour and 21 – gun salute, the parade officially started with the playing of the national anthem by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and Royal Brunei Police Force bands.

His Majesty inspected the guard-of-honour and contingents comprising of uniformed personnel from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF), as well as other uniformed agencies such as the Customs and Excise Department, the Prisons Department, the Fire and Rescue Department, the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association, Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association and the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Association.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also awarded 25 of his deserving subjects with orders of the second and third classes in conjunction with his 61st birthday at the Audience and Investiture Ceremony held at the Istana Nurul Iman.

