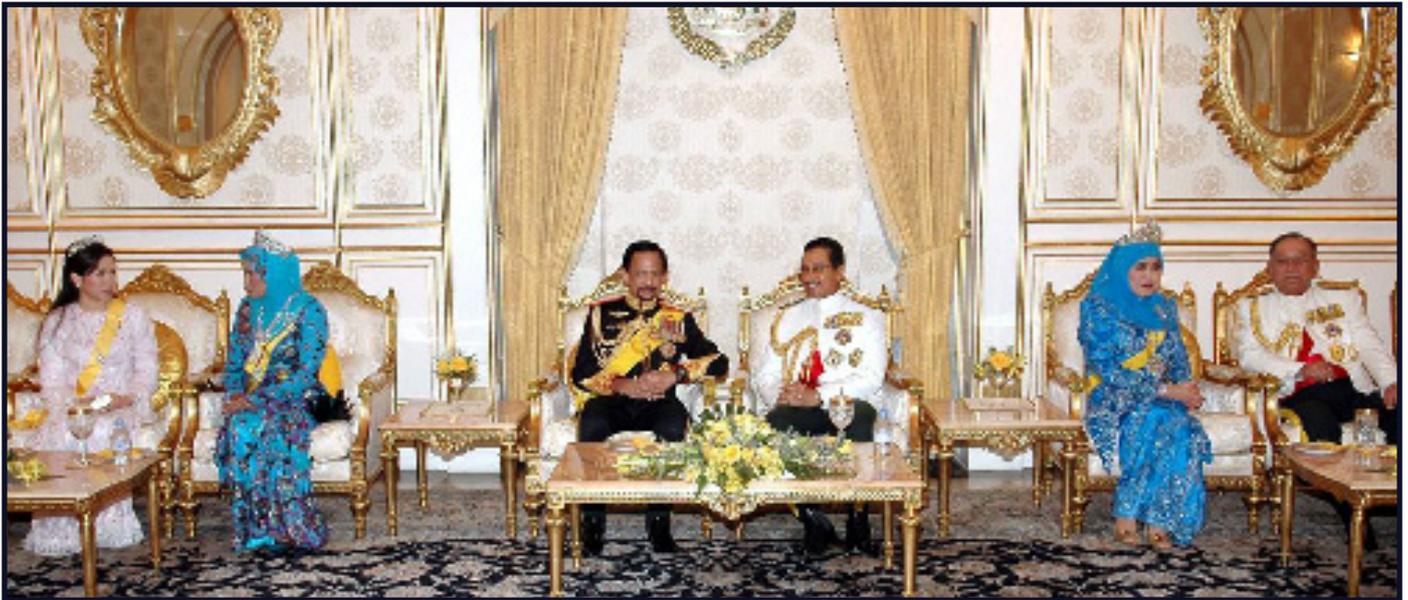




## Royalty attends Royal Banquet in Kuala Lumpur



Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness were in Kuala Lumpur to attend a banquet marking the installation of Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Al-Wathiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin as the 13<sup>th</sup> Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia at the Istana Negara.

**KUALA LUMPUR, April 27** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Royal Banquet in celebration of the installation of the 13<sup>th</sup> Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Al-Wathiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin, at the Istana Negara in Kuala Lumpur.

Accompanying His Majesty at the Royal Banquet were Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

His Majesty Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin was elected as the 13<sup>th</sup> Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia at a special meeting of the Conference of Rulers on November 3, last year to succeed the 12<sup>th</sup> Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail whose five-year term ended on December 12, 2006.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha arrived in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on April 26.

On April 27, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

joined Malaysians for the Friday prayer at the Kampong Baru Jamek Mosque, Kuala Lumpur.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri left Kuala Lumpur on April

29. Prior to, Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness received a courtesy call from His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Al-Wathiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin and Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Nur Zahirah at the place of sojourn of His Majesty whilst in Kuala Lumpur.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah attended the Installation Ceremony of the 13<sup>th</sup> Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Al-Wathiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin at the Istana Negara on April 26.

## Islamic Banking

The first Islamic financial institution in Brunei is the Perbadanan Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei (Brunei Islamic Trust Fund) or locally known as TAIB. TAIB was officially launched by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on September 29, 1991.

The launching of TAIB marked a new beginning for Brunei as TAIB was then the first financial institution that conducted all of its activities in accordance with the Islamic faith.

Currently, besides TAIB, Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam – BIBD (Brunei Darussalam Islamic Bank) is another bank that operate in accordance to Islamic faith.



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### **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER**

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

1. The Commissioner of Police, Republic of Singapore, Dato Seri Pahlawan Khoo Boon Hui on April 18.
2. The Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces (RTAF), His Excellency General Boonstrang Niumpradit on April 19.
3. His Excellency Rt. Hon Donald McKinnon, Secretary General of the Commonwealth on April 24.



**Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:**

1. The wife of Singapore's Commissioner of Police, Datin Betty Khoo on April 18.
2. The wife of the Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces, Colonel Dr. Nucha Niumpradit on April 19.
3. The wife of the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Madam Clare de Lore on April 24.



**His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Deputy Sultan on April 28 at the Istana Nurul Iman, consented to preside over the swearing-in ceremony of:**

1. Judge Sir Noel Plunkett Power, the President of the Court of Appeal.
2. Judge Henry Dennis Litton, the Judicial Commissioner of the Supreme Court.



**His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Deputy Sultan received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman from:**

1. His Excellency Wu Guanzheng, the Member of The Standing Committee of The Political Bureau of The Central Committee of The Communist Party of China on May 2.
2. His Excellency Admiral Muhammad Afzal Tahir, Chief of Naval Staff of Republic Islam of Pakistan on May 10.
3. His Excellency Abolfazi Khazae Torshizi, the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran on May 12.
4. His Excellency Ha Hong Hai, the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on May 12.

**TUTONG, April 19** - His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office made a working visit to the Support Battalion of the Royal Brunei Land Force in Penanjong, Tutong.

His Royal Highness' visit began with a presentation mainly on the overview of the Support Battalion and various units under it; and a recollection on the mission, vision and roles of Royal Brunei Land Force by its Commander, Colonel Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Rosli.

His Royal Highness also visited the Armour Reconnaissance Squadron and witnessed a marching parade weaponry-handling exercise such as the 7.62mm General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) and 76mm cannon.

His Royal Highness also witnessed a driving instruction and maintenance of CVR (T), which is a Scorpion fighting tank vehicle engine model exercise, and a demonstration of the Simulator and Gun Drill (Aqualina Gun-nery Training Simulator). His Royal Highness then proceeded to the Tactic Training Room to view a static display of the CVR (T) vehicle.

His Royal Highness concluded his visit at the Combat Engineering Squadron and witnessed an exhibition on field (on site) equipment and search engineer exhibition while on board the Sultan CVR (T) vehicle.

## Crown Prince visits RBLF Support Battalion



His Royal Highness during the working visit to the Support Battalion of the Royal Brunei Land Force in Penanjong, Tutong.

## Radio Brunei Services celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 2** - Brunei Darussalam's radio service celebrated its 50th anniversary. Present to launch the ceremony was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness toured around the exhibition area held in conjunction with the celebration and visited Nur Islam and Pilihan Networks' studios.

Among the events held in conjunction with the celebration were a *bertahlil* ceremony at the Royal Mausoleum for the late Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien; a thanksgiving ceremony; a reading of Surah Yassin; mass Magrib prayers at Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque; and an exhibition at the lobby and Studio 'A' of Radio Televisyen Brunei.

This history of Brunei's radio service began in the evening of May 2, 1957 where "Inilah Radio Brunei" (This is Radio Brunei) were the first three words heard on the airwave. The transmission of the service could only cover an area of five miles with only two hours and 45 minutes of transmission - 1 ½ hour for Malay and ¾ hour for English segments.

On May 2, 1958, a transmitter was set up at the Tutong district to enable residents of the Tutong and Belait District to receive the transmission. In this year too marked the beginning for a segment dedicated for Tiong Hua listeners.

In 1958, the first ever live coverage of Radio Brunei took place with the



The Crown Prince as the Deputy Sultan officiates the Radio Brunei's Golden Jubilee Anniversary celebrations at the Dewan Raya of the Radio Televisyen Brunei building.

official opening of the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque.

Today, there are five radio stations in the Radio Brunei Services - Nasional FM, Pelangi FM, Pilihan FM, Harmoni FM and Nur Islam FM.

In 1998, Radio Brunei embarked into the digital era. All studios were renovated

where the digital radio systems were installed.

Radio Brunei is constantly on the move to improve their services. With that, on July 9, 2001, Radio Brunei joined thousands of other stations worldwide to offer streaming of all its networks to the internet.

**BERAKAS, April 19** – The Diploma in Midwifery (direct entry) should be continued as it is important in fulfilling the needs of the community that demands for qualified midwifery services. Meanwhile, Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkia Nursing College, in the bid to improve the care services in this country, are urged to continue their efforts in introducing specific nursing fields and health care that is needed by the Ministry of Health.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkia said at the 13<sup>th</sup> Convocation of Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkia Nursing College (PAPRSBNC) held at the International Convention Centre.

The first intake for the Diploma in Midwifery (2003-2006 direct-entry programme), consisting of 17 graduates received their diplomas this year.

The 13<sup>th</sup> convocation of PAPRSBNC saw 172 students graduating with 85 graduating in Diploma of Nursing; 75 graduated with Diploma in Post-Basic (various specialties); and 17 graduated with Diploma in Midwifery (direct entry).

Awards were also given to students who showed excellent performance in their academics and clinical attachment. Awards were also given to those who showed excellent leadership and organisational skills.

## Services of qualified midwives needed



Her Royal Highness presents the award to one of the graduates.

## More houses in the pipeline



The sample of three types of two storey houses to be built under the National Housing Development Scheme of Kampong Rataie.

**TEMBURONG, April 14** – Fifty houses will be built under the National Housing Development Scheme of Kampong Rataie.

The houses will come in three types of two storey houses namely: Rataie Deluxe, valued at \$75,000; Rataie Standard, valued at \$52,000; and Rataie Basic, valued at \$62,000.

These were disclosed by the Acting Housing Development Senior Officer for the Temburong district, Awang Gani bin Haji Ibrahim at the department's customer's day.

The Kampong Rataie National Housing Development Scheme is the sole housing scheme in the Temburong district. Today, 195 houses are occupied with five types of housings. While 32 houses are under the Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme

The government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of

Brunei Darussalam has given housing sector a priority. With that, under the Eight National Development Plan (8<sup>th</sup> NDP) for the year 2001 to 2005, a total of \$900 million or 12.33 per cent from the total budget was allocated for the sector.

There are three types of housing schemes implemented namely the National Housing Development Scheme (NHDS), Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme (LICHS) and Land Entitlement and Infill Scheme (LEIS).

The NHDS is aimed at creating a cohesive and harmonious society in line with the objective of balanced national development. This is consistent with the NHDP's policy and objective of creating a high standard of living for the people in a well-planned and harmonious environment, besides giving the opportunities for them to own land and houses.

## Congratulatory messages

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

1. Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II, the Queen of the Kingdom of Denmark and Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Prime Minister of Denmark on the occasion of the 67<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II on April 16.
2. Her Majesty Queen Koningin Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on the occasion of the 27<sup>th</sup> Queen's Day on April 30.
3. His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of the Kingdom of Sweden and Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson on the occasion of the 61<sup>st</sup> birthday anniversary of His Majesty the King on April 30.
4. His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy, President-Elect of the Republic of France on his victory in the presidential election on Mei 7.

# 100 trees planted for Earth Day

**JALAN MENTERI BESAR, April 22** - Brunei Darussalam celebrated Earth Day with the planting of 100 trees comprising of local and fruit plants.

Through the Environment, Parks and Recreation Department of the Ministry of Development, the country celebrated Earth Day with free planting and green walks activities at the proposed Jalan Mentiri Besar Recreational Park.

Present at the event was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah. Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Mat Suny, Acting Minister of Development, launched the tree planting activity, which is in line with the theme of this year's Earth Day "Plant for the Planet".

Earth Day is celebrated around the world on April 22 every year and it is part of an initiative by the United Nations aimed at raising public awareness and knowledge on global pollution. The programme hoped to motivate the people to care for the environment by staying away from conducting any hazardous activities that may endanger and damage the environment.

This year's celebration focuses on climate changes attributed to the excessive

emission of gases like carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxide into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuel.

The government of Brunei Darussalam in its effort to properly manage the environment has set up the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation. Previously, all matters related to environment particularly in serving the Secretariat to the National Committee on the environment and coordinating matters relating to the environment in Brunei Darussalam was handled by the Environment Unit under the Ministry of Development.

However, as of May 1, 2002, the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation was officially created on May 1, 2002, while the administration changeover of all sections and units involved with the new department took effect on July 1, 2002.

Further emphasis on the environment from the government was also visible through the Eighth National Development Plan where a total of \$91.9 million for the implementation of environment related projects was allocated.



Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Mat Suny, Acting Minister of Development, launched the tree planting activity.

## SME key component to diversify economy

**JERUDONG, April 18** - Small-and-medium enterprises (SME) has the potential to become the main component to diversify the economy.

This was mentioned by Minister of Finance II, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman at the launching of the First International Islamic Conference on Inclusive Islamic Financial Sector Development at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

According to the minister, reports from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD) released in November 2006, SME constituted the dominant form of business organisation accounting for 95 to 99 per cent enterprises in many countries and this

has resulted in a 60 to 70 per cent of work opportunities in OECD countries. This symbolised that SME are the backbone of all economies and the key source for economic growth and dynamism.

In Brunei Darussalam, statistics had shown that SME comprised 98 per cent of all business transaction contributing to 92 per cent of work opportunities in the private sector and 66 per cent of gross domestic product within the non-oil sector of the economy.

However, in the context of the whole economy, that slice of the economic pie commanded by SMEs remains relatively small.

SME received strong support from the government where the Eighth

National Development Plan (8<sup>th</sup> NDP) laid several programmes such as the industry and business incubator scheme, adoption of international standards of SMEs, IT programme, and the technical and management training programme for entrepreneurs. It also mentioned that in addition to the ongoing financial assistance scheme provided by the industrial development fund managed by selected local banks, other financial assistance in the form of micro credit would also be created to enable new comers to start their businesses. A strategic plan to enhance the involvement of local Malay citizens in the economic activities would be formulated especially to assist them to be more capable in these areas.

## Regulations to supervise insurance industry

**COMMONWEALTH DRIVE, April 23** - The introduction of Insurance Order 2006 and Insurance Regulations 2006 in March last year is part of an ongoing effort by the Ministry of Finance in enhancing supervision of this sector that is in line with international best practices.

Another key objective of these legislations is to ensure that the insurance companies will remain financially strong so that the interests of the public as policyholders are properly protected. In turn, it is hoped that this would encourage the general public to also embrace insurance as a key component of their long term financial plans, be it for protection or investment.

These were stated by the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of

Finance cum Acting Director of Financial Insitution, Awang Haji Mohd Rozan bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohd Yunos at the opening of the Insurance Claims and Fraud Investigation Workshop.

Haji Rozan also said that fraud in the insurance industry is more prevalent through false claims, either staged or inflated, and would affect the financial position of an insurer. To compensate for this, insurers must raise premiums and these results in higher costs for policyholders. However, this is not the only method for fraud to occur in the insurance industry.

Haji Rozan also called for all relevant parties to come together in ensuring that

safety guidelines are met - either on the road, industrial sites or at home. This call was made as recent statistics showed that insurance claims in 2006 amounted to \$72.5 million. Half of the claims were life insurance, while non-life such as motor claims increased to 54.9 per cent equivalent to \$18.3 million. While claims on fire increased by 56.8 per cent or \$4.6 million.

Meanwhile in the first quarter of 2007, a number of 583 cases of road accidents were reported and fatalities caused by road accidents increased from seven in 2006 to 16 in 2007. While the Department of Fire and Rescue recorded a loss of \$1.3 million due to fire (first quarter of 2007).

## Brunei celebrates 1<sup>st</sup> UN Global Road Safety Week

**BERAKAS, April 23** – Proper education, providing equipped infrastructure and the implementation of laws, together with more effective road traffic laws are among the aspects that should be considered in the bid to decrease road accidents. Campaigns on road safety to alleviate the discipline on the road such as fastening seat belts, helmets and others are also another aspect of the effort to decrease road accidents.

These were highlighted by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna as Patron of the Brunei Darussalam Road Safety Council in her speech at the First United Nations Global Road Safety Week held at the International Convention Centre. Her Royal Highness also launched the official website of the Road Safety Council.

Her Royal Highness also said that the aim towards achieving minimal number of accidents in Brunei Darussalam should become the main objective of the council.

Brunei Darussalam as of 2007 have registered a number of more than 170,000 licensed cars with an annual of 12,000 cars registered per year. With a large number of registered cars, it also meant a higher risk on the roads.

In the first three months of this year alone, a number of 16 deaths were recorded throughout the nation-state, an increase of 100 per cent compared to only seven deaths of the same period last year.

The government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam emphasised road safety

through a number of road traffic laws.

Road Traffic Act, Chapter 68 (RTA) indicated that the driver should be above 18 years old, possess a valid driving license and in case of public service vehicle, the person must be above 21 years old. Failure to do so will lead to a penalty of \$2,000 and for second or subsequent offence, six months imprisonment and fine of \$4,000.

Using mobile phones whilst driving will also lead to a penalty of \$1,000 fine, six months imprisonment or both. Second or subsequent offence will lead to \$2,000 fine and 12 months imprisonment.

The government is also serious with the safety of a child in the car. Parents or guardians must ensure that their child under the age of six years old must wear suitable restraining device such as a child seat or carry cot. Failure to ensure these will lead to the driver having to face a penalty of a fine of not more than \$2,000, imprisonment not more than six months or both.

There are more road traffic laws that emphasise on road safety. More information are available at the Road Safety Council's official website at [www.brunei-roadsafety.org.bn](http://www.brunei-roadsafety.org.bn)



Her Royal Highness takes a closer look at an exhibition in conjunction with the 1<sup>st</sup> UN Global Road Safety Week.

## Ministry of Health ink deal on dental healthcare



The Ministry of Health, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Suyoi (center) witnessed the signing ceremony for Dental Programme.

**BERAKAS, April 19** – A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Brunei Darussalam's Ministry of Health and London's King's College was signed along with an agreement between the ministry and the College's Dental Institute at King's College Hospital Trust.

Signing the MOU on behalf of Brunei Darussalam was Dato Paduka Awang Haji Serbini, the permanent secretary at the Ministry of Health. While his counterpart was Professor Nairn Wilson, the Dean and Head of the King's College London Dental Institute. Meanwhile, signing the agreement was the Director of Dental Services, Dr Haji Shamshir bin Haji Zainal.

The MoU makes provision for postgraduate studies and specialist training in the Dental Institute, together with opportunities for staff and student exchange.

The agreement was for a Dental Programme, which comprises of a three-year Diploma course in Dental Therapy. Through the programme, dental therapists will receive in-house training, while King's academic staff will visit Brunei Darussalam on a part-time basis to provide training throughout the duration of the course.

## The spirit of charity instill a sense of responsibility

**JERUDONG, April 21** – The spirit of charity through a competitive sport like football should be continued in efforts to raise funds for the special people in the country.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen said at an appreciation dinner for the Gunners and Pusu Charity Football Match, at the Jerudong Polo Club.

His Royal Highness said, these form of charitable undertakings will not only provide young people with an enjoyable past-time, but will also instill in them a sense of purpose and responsibility, for the welfare of those who are less able than we are.

The charity football match between AM Gunners and Pusu Project raised more than \$46,000.00. The proceeds were donated to the Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphana and Pusat Ehsan.



His Royal Highness leads his team, AM Gunners at the charity football match against Pusu Project.

## Minister observes Disaster Management in Singapore

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 25** - Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan were in Singapore for a working visit to the republic starting from April 23 to 24 2007.

The Minister of Home Affairs led a delegation of senior officers from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Fire and Rescue Services Department and National

Disaster Management Centre (NDMC).

In Singapore, the delegation took a closer look to the Incident Management System (ICS) at the Disaster Management Centre, Singapore.

The delegation also observed the capability and training facilities at the Singapore Civil Defence Academy to upgrade the human resource, especially

in the Fire and Rescue duties. This includes upgrading the effectiveness and professionalism, as well as the skills of Brunei's own Fire and Rescue Services Department.

The delegation also visited the facilities at communication centres, especially at the Ministry of Home Affairs and Public Defence Team Headquarters.

## Bruneian pupils chosen for 'Postcards Across ASEAN'

**BERAKAS, April 25** – Three primary school pupils from Brunei Darussalam were chosen for the 'Postcards Across ASEAN' project.

This is part of the Republic of Singapore's initiatives, through their High Commission, to commemorate ASEAN's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

The students are Dayang Nur'afina binti Haji Morsidi from Pulaie Primary School, Dayang Nina Sofiana binti Salleh from Tungku Primary School and Nazihah binti Haji Mahadi from Pintu Malim Primary School.

A total of 10,000 postcards

were distributed to primary schools across the country. Pupils aged from 6 to 12 years old were invited to design the postcard and provide a simple write-up to share something about Brunei Darussalam.

The postcards were judged in Singapore and the most outstanding postcards from ASEAN will be exhibited in Singapore.

The project aimed to generate fun among the younger children while promoting greater awareness of ASEAN and forge common regional identity.

## Brunei Darussalam - China hold bilateral meeting

**BERAKAS, April 12** – A bilateral meeting between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Republic of China in the field of communications were held in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Leading the delegation on behalf of Brunei was the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar and his counterpart was His Excellency Jiang Yaoping, China's Vice Minister of Information Industry.

The bilateral meeting discussed ways to strengthen the relationship between both nation-states and matters of mutual interest in the field

of info-communications technology (ICT).

The meeting also discussed the implementation of the 'Plan of Action to Implement the Beijing Declaration on ASEAN-China ICT Cooperative Partnership for Common Development' – an outcome from the ICT Ministerial Forum held in Penang, Malaysia in April 2006 and further discussed at the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers + China meeting held in the sultanate last September.

## Brunei host 15<sup>th</sup> meeting on ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock

**GADONG, April 26** – An amount of US\$100,000 has been allocated by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as support towards disease prevention programmes and control strategies that may vary among the member countries.

This was highlighted by the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Pengiran Hajah Mariana at the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ASEAN Sectoral Working Group on Livestock held at Centrepoint Hotel.

According to Pengiran Hajah Mariana, the contribution was agreed at the ASEAN ministerial meeting for agriculture and forestry held in Singapore last year where the setting up of the ASEAN Animal Health Trust Fund (AAHTF) was established.

The AAHTF serve as the vehicle in the implementation of unified and harmonised animal health programmes in ASEAN. In addition to the contributions made by ASEAN member countries, the AAHTF is open to financial contributions from ASEAN Dialogue Partners, international organisations and the private sector for implementing mutual and sustainable animal disease control programmes in ASEAN.

The 15<sup>th</sup> ASWGL was attended by veterinary officials from ASEAN countries Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), AUSAID, South East Asia Food and Mouth Regional Coordinating Unit (SEAFMD ROU) were also invited to join the meeting.

The agendas among other things were to update the progress of the cooperation programs among ASEAN member countries for the Regulation of Products and Utilisation of Animal Vaccines, Promotion of International Trade in Livestock and Livestock Products and Strengthening of Animal Disease Control Programmes.

Other agendas include Animal Health and Production Information System for ASEAN (AHPISA), Progress on Implementation of ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA), Joint ASEAN Position and Approach on Regional and International Livestock issues and issues of Veterinary Drug Residue in Food.

## Brunei join international community celebrate Labour Day

**BERAKAS, May 5** - The Labour Department is in the process of preparing the 'Safety and Health Standards' in their bid to protect the labour force sufficiently.

This was disclosed by the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Adanan at Labour Day celebration held at the International Convention Centre.

The Minister outlined several measures that emphasised strongly on the need for employers to look after the welfare of their employees and abide to the regulations such as the Labour Act and Workers Compensation Act; along with the provision of proper accommodation; conducive working environment; and payment of wages.

According to the Minister, safety and health among employers and employees

should be instilled through awareness programs such as through manuals and guidelines, briefings, sharing of experience through hands on and practical demonstrations.

Safety and health are important elements that should be taken into serious account as it was stated in the International Labour Organisation (ILO) that about 2.2 million people died because of accidents at work or work-related illnesses. The statistics have shown that 270 million workers were injured also injured due to accidents at work and 160 employees bear work related illnesses.

Brunei Darussalam celebrated its inaugural Labour Day as Brunei was accepted as the 180<sup>th</sup> member of ILO this year.

## Brunei Premium Halal enters global market

**KUALA LUMPUR, May 8** – Brunei Darussalam is determine in becoming the key player of the *halal* industry, particularly in the international market – an industry that has a huge economic potential.

A clear indication is through Brunei's recent participation at the World *Halal* Forum 2007 and the 4<sup>th</sup> Malaysia International *Halal* Showcase (MIHAS) held in Kuala Lumpur where Brunei showcased its local *halal* products. Through these mediums, Brunei Darussalam promoted its Brunei Premium *Halal* brand – an internationally recognised *halal* clarification.

Nine local companies from Brunei took part at MIHAS 2007 namely; G Salam's Food Industry; Halaqah Sdn Bhd; HKH Fastfoods & Takeaways; Mulaut Abatoir

Sdn Bhd; Sabli Food Industries (B) Sdn Bhd; Samahada Corporation Sdn Bhd; Seri Pakatan Sdn Bhd; SPHI Food and TMM Processing Sdn Bhd.

Brunei Darussalam is one of the 27 countries who took part in the showcase.

The Brunei Premium *Halal* Brand is an initiative by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam that aims to contribute towards efforts by other Muslim nations to ensure that foods consumed by the Muslim Ummah are *halal*.

The *halal* industry is said to be worth US\$560 billion with the food sector worth around US\$160 billion. *Halal* is a term used which reflects an act that is permitted by Islamic laws such as the preparation of food.

## ASEAN Economic Ministers – EU launch FTA negotiations

**JERUDONG, May 4** – The launching of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations, agreed upon by ASEAN economic ministers, gives an opportunity for a comprehensive trade and liberalised investments in the region.

This was reached at the 8<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers – European Union Trade Commissioner Consultation held in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Through the meeting, the Ministers confirmed their shared desire to enhance economic relations by establishing FTA providing for comprehensive trade and investment liberalisation. A joint committee comprising of senior officials from all ASEAN member countries and EU will be established to develop the details of the modalities, work programmes and time schedule for negotiating the ASEAN-EU FTA.

In a joint statement, it stated that throughout the negotiating process, measures will be considered to support and strengthen the process of ASEAN economic integration, including through activities of the Trans-Regional EU-ASEAN Trade Initiative (TREATI).

In addition to reaching the agreement on the launch of FTA negotiations, the Ministers discussed bilateral and regional economic developments and economic co-operation and reiterated their full support for an early, ambitious conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations.

Chairing the meeting were Malaysia's Minister of International Trade and Industry, Her Excellency Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz and EU's Trade Commissioner, His Excellency Peter Mendelson.

## \$9.5 million for National Spatial Data Infrastructure

**BERAKAS, April 21** - An amount of \$9.5 million for the implementation of the 'National Spatial Data Infrastructure' (NSDI) has been approved by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

A project under NSDI is e-Map where the components include framework data comprising of vector, raster and grid; products; metadata; NSDI catalogue; data warehouse; and online business applications. It is a system which is able to disseminate information among others on geography, survey, and town planning.

Thus, a signing ceremony for the implementation of the project was held between the Ministry of Development and a local company, Selective Powertech Consulting.

Present to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on behalf of the ministry were Awang Haji Jamil bin Haji Mohd Ali, the Surveyor General of the Survey Department and Dayang Hajah Salmawati binti Haji Mohsin, the Acting Deputy Surveyor General. While their counterparts from Selectiv Powertech Consulting were Lai Hock Nam and Awang Mohd Taib bin Dato Haji Mohd Din.

## Did you know that...

- The Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque, named after the 28<sup>th</sup> Sultan of Brunei, Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien, is a symbol of the strong Islamic faith of the people. Completed in 1958, its refined design reflects the use of the world's most elegant materials and remains a highlight of Bandar Seri Begawan's architecture.
- The Royal Regalia Building commemorates the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty's ascension to the throne in 1992. It houses a collection of Royal Regalia.
- The Ceremonial Hall (Lapau) was where the present Sultan was crowned on August 1, 1968. A golden dome highlights this hall where royal traditional ceremonies continue to be held. Inside is the Sultan's beautifully detailed golden throne. Adjoining the Lapau is the Parliament House (Dewan Majlis).

## >> 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 <sup>rd</sup> National Day
March 31	-	Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary
May 31	-	Royal Brunei Armed Forces 46 <sup>th</sup> anniversary
July 15	-	His Majesty's 61 <sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.bruneiair.com))

International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, 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.

# Belait District



We have come to the final edition of In Brunei featuring the Belait District.

Our last stops will be at Silver Jubilee Park; Bukit Teraja; a visit to Iban's longhouses; Labi's paddy fields; and the main town of the Belait District.

Silver Jubilee Park situated in Jalan Maulana is facing the South China

Sea which is about 1km from the town of Kuala Belait. With an area of 12,679 hectares, the park was built to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan's accession to the throne - a gift from the people of Kuala Belait. Strolling around the park, you will be able to see an arch and a monument along with exhibition huts, shelters and a children's playground.

Another place not to be missed is Bukit Teraja or Teraja Hill. It is one of the tallest hills in Labi. From here, climbers

can get beautiful views of the Baram valley and Sarawak's famous Mount Mulu. The path to the summit is well marked and maintained, and the journey shall not take more than two hours at brisk pace.

The upper end of the open clearing, also known as 'Clear of The Wind', has a picnic spot with covered benches and a small brook. There are also several species of pitcher plants, characteristics of higher forest cones. Animals commonly seen or heard in the forest include barking deer, bearded pigs,



The long houses seen here are among the most beautiful structures you will find in this region.



Among the craftwork done by the residents of longhouse.



The main paddy area in Belait District.

squirrels, tree shrews and macaques.

Meanwhile, further down the Labi Road, past Kampung Labi itself, the forest gives way to several examples of a form of dwelling unique to the island of Borneo which is the unique Iban longhouse. A village under one roof, a longhouse consists of a single shed-like structure divided along its length into separate family lodgings, each of which is accessed via a communal area running the length of the building. This communal area is the venue for the village population's social and daily indoor work activities.

The nearest longhouse to the elevated viewing areas. The walks are relatively undemanding and guides are not necessary, but for safety reasons, local advice should be sought.

Not to be missed while you are in Labi is the paddy field. Labi is fast becoming Brunei's rice bowl, producing nearly 261,000 kilogrammes of paddy annually. More than 100 farmers with a total area of 550 hectares are developing the paddy field in Mukim Labi with plans to widen their paddy plantation project. The main paddy area, which is being communally developed, is situated at Lot Sengkuang.

The highest paddy production ever recorded at Lot Sengkuang was nearly 100,000 kilogrammes.

There are two types of commercially-

potential paddy planted here. They are *pusu* and *bario*.

Kuala Belait Town is another place to visit while you are in Belait. Kuala Belait, which merges with the oil town of Seria, is 70 km from Tutong and about 120 km from Bandar Seri Begawan. A few kilometers beyond the town is the border with Sarawak. Only about 17 km from Seria, town of Labi is Rampayoh Longhouse which is divided into 16 lodgings. Others include Mendaram Besar Longhouse, Mendaram Kecil Longhouse and, at the end of the road, Teraja Longhouse. The longhouses seen here are among the most beautiful structures you will find in

this region.

Several trails head off into the jungle along this stretch of the road. They are clearly marked and signposted, and direct hikers through tracts of primary rainforest to various waterfalls and Kuala Belait can be reached either by the Seria by-pass or along the old coast road from Seria. Visitors are recommended to use the old road, along which one can see the Istana Mangelela, the Sultan's residence during his visits to the town. The road runs parallel to a long stretch of beach up to the Belait River where there is a ferry available for commuting to Kampong Sungai Teraban.



There are two types of commercially-potential paddy planted here. They are *pusu* and *bario*.

# Bukit Markucing Recreational Park

**B**ukit Markucing Recreation Park is based in Kampung Belimbing, Subuk about five kilometres away from the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Approximately 165 meters high from sea level, the park offers jungle trekking activities where you will have to hike two kilometres of multiple hills before reaching the peak of Bukit Markucing.

The multiple hills are Bukit Nenas, Bukit Cerangin, Bukit Raban Ambok, Bukit Karmunting, Bukit Jati, Bukit Luba and finally, Bukit Markucing.

Another hills are Bukit Sumboi-Sumboi, Bukit Lua, Bukit Jibus and Bukit Sipinang.

So where did the name 'Markucing'

derived from? It is believed that the early settlers who wished to travel to Berakas and the capital would travel across Bukit Markucing, the easiest route.

Since the journey consumed an amount of time, the villages would normally rest and they would build little huts to rest. While resting, they would normally tuck in the foods which they brought with them.

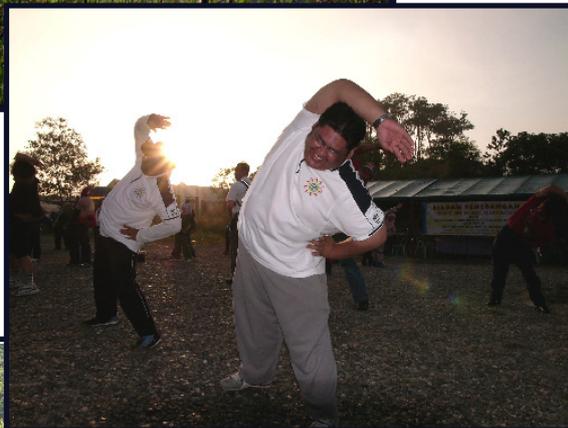
Leftovers which were normally thrown away attracted a number of wild cats that lived in the hills. The word 'kucing' means cat in Malay.

Today, Bukit Markucing has become one of the sought recreational park as a result of the close cooperation

between the Consultative Council of Kampung Belimbing and the Brunei Muara District Office which provided basic necessities to accommodate the visitors while the Royal Brunei Armed Forces built three huts for resting.

What is unique with this park is that the olden route used remains until today and used as the main track for trekkers to climb the hill.

Reaching the peak, you will feel a sense of admiration and satisfaction as you will be greeted with breathtaking view overlooking Brunei River. A variety of flora and fauna and sceneries of tropical rain forest will definitely swept you away.





The process of making one boat will take about two weeks.

## *Memburis Perahu, a valuable skill inherited*

Boat-making or *memburis perahu*, is one of the valuable skills inherited by our ancestors. With Kampong Ayer, or water village, as the one of the earliest and largest settlements in the old Brunei, it is only natural that the skills of boat making was widely adapted, as using *perahu* or a boat was the only means of communications from the water village to dry land.

Though generations had passed, the art of boat-making still exist, particularly among the residents of the water village.

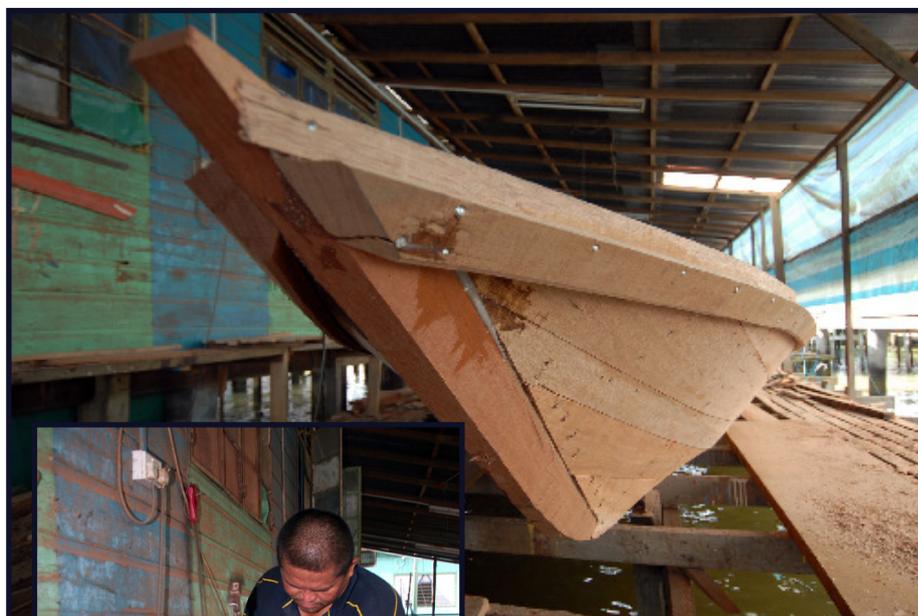
Nowadays, the *perahu* is still the main mode of transportation from the water village to dryland. Hence, the demands for boats still exist. Besides the demand for *perahu tambang* (water-taxi) and *temuai* (long boat), boat makers also produce fisherman's boat, and traditional boat for race.

According to Awang Haji Hasnan bin Haji Ramli, a boat-maker from Kampong Pekilong Muara, the most requested boat nowadays is for water-taxi.

"I received around three orders for water taxi boats monthly. For any order, I will ask for deposit as I need some cash for purchasing the materials. Besides making new boat, I also do boat-repairing," said Awang Haji Hasnan.

He further added that the process of making one boat will take about two weeks. The process includes purchasing the materials, *mengetam kayu* (to plane the wood into plank), construction, painting and polishing.

The main materials (woods) used is Kayu Meraka Merah or Meranti Merah (light hardwood belong to



The boat almost done.



Haji Hasnan works full time making boats.

**D**ipterocarpa ceae species), while Kayu Kapor is used as the *tajuk biak* (the place to hang the boat engine).

“Usually, I purchased the woods from a regular supplier in Temburong District. If any problem occurs like transportation problem, I will seek for another supplier in Lamunin of Tutong District,” he said.

The cost of the water taxi boat varies depending on the size and the boat-makers itself. The boat with size of 6” x 22” (six feet wide by 22 feet long) usually cost around B\$1,800 to B\$1,850. The boat can accommodate about eight to ten people.

Meanwhile, a smaller one which can accommodate around six people, cost about B\$1,700 to B\$1,750. While boat-repairing including painting cost around B\$700 or less, depending on the damage.

Even fibreglass boats are available in the country but water taxi operators favour to choose wooden boats. This is because wooden boat has knock-resistance compared to fibreglass boat. Each wood boat can be used up to seven years and can be easily repaired.

The design of the olden day’s boat and current boats are almost the same, said Awang Haji Hasnan. He further added that even the design is the same but each boat will have different characteristics depending on the makers. He is able to recognise which boat was made by him or by others boat-makers.

“My best memory was in 1998 where I received two orders from France,” he said happily.

He said that boat-making industry is quiet profitable. He started as a part-time boat-maker in his younger days but beginning year 2002, he chose it as a full time profession. He is assisted by his sons and relatives.

Besides customers, his boat-making workshop also receives visits from students and undergraduates who wish to know the boat-making process for write-up or assignment.

“I learnt the boat-making skill from senior boat-makers during my teenage years. Now, I also teach several youngsters who have interest in the activity. By teaching them the skills, it helps to preserve the traditional art and contribute to the nation’s economy,” he said.



The cost of the water taxi boat varies depending on the size.



‘Perahu’ is still the main mode of transportation from the water village to dryland.

# Co-curriculum establish culture of lifelong learning

Co-curriculum as part of the education system is vital in the bid to produce individuals to succeed in both formal and informal education.

Active involvement of students in co-curriculum activities enables the establishment of quality human resources. The effectiveness of its implementation by the teachers will enable to compete at the national, regional, and international level along with academic achievements.

With that, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through the Ministry of Education had and will continuously allocate a huge amount of budget for the implementation of its co-curricular activities.

The Department of Co-curriculum is responsible in delivering this where they aim to produce youths with charisma, discipline, high-spirit, vision, vision and resilience besides the inculcation of love to the community and country.

The department will teach the students basic survival and leadership skills such that they will develop such skills for their excellence in their career and life and to teach the students to organise their own ways and means of recreation in a healthy manner, and hence towards a healthy life style.

Another of their aim is to train students in academic excellence as well as areas which can develop their spiritual, cognitive and physical which then in turn helps in their responsibility towards the country, nation and religion

Towards this, the Department of Co-curriculum with cooperation from other government agencies and the private sector, in the bid to promote innovation; creativity; and commitment; continuous trainings will be provided to teachers who are actively involved in the co-curriculum activities. Through their active involvement and experiences gained, the teachers will be able to disseminate the principles of discipline, creative leadership, innovation and dynamic to their students.

To date, the Department of Co-Curriculum have organised more than 40 activities that covers the aspect of spiritual, physical, and uniformed

activities where every students are required to participate at least in one activity.

Among the physical activities are exercise, sports and games. While other activities comprise of art and academic such as debate competition; essay writing; traditional dance; and gulingtangan. Meanwhile religious activities are Al-Quran reading, nasyid, hadrah, azan and dikir competition.

While the uniformed organisations handled by the Department consist of the Red Crescent Society; Scout; Girl Guide; Army Cadet; and Police Cadet.

Today, the bid to develop these

informal skills has come to fruition with a number of representations from Brunei Darussalam participating in international competitions and forums such as Bahasa Dunia; Program Titian Minda; Bridging Minds; arts exhibitions and more.

Hence, the Department will always be on the go to analyse and arrange strategies as well as effective approaches to alleviate the achievements of the students who are involved in the co-curricular activities.

What is clear is that the Ministry of Education had and will continuously prepare an integrated curriculum and enact a more comprehensive Research Law.



# Pangananan Cincin

## Ingredients:

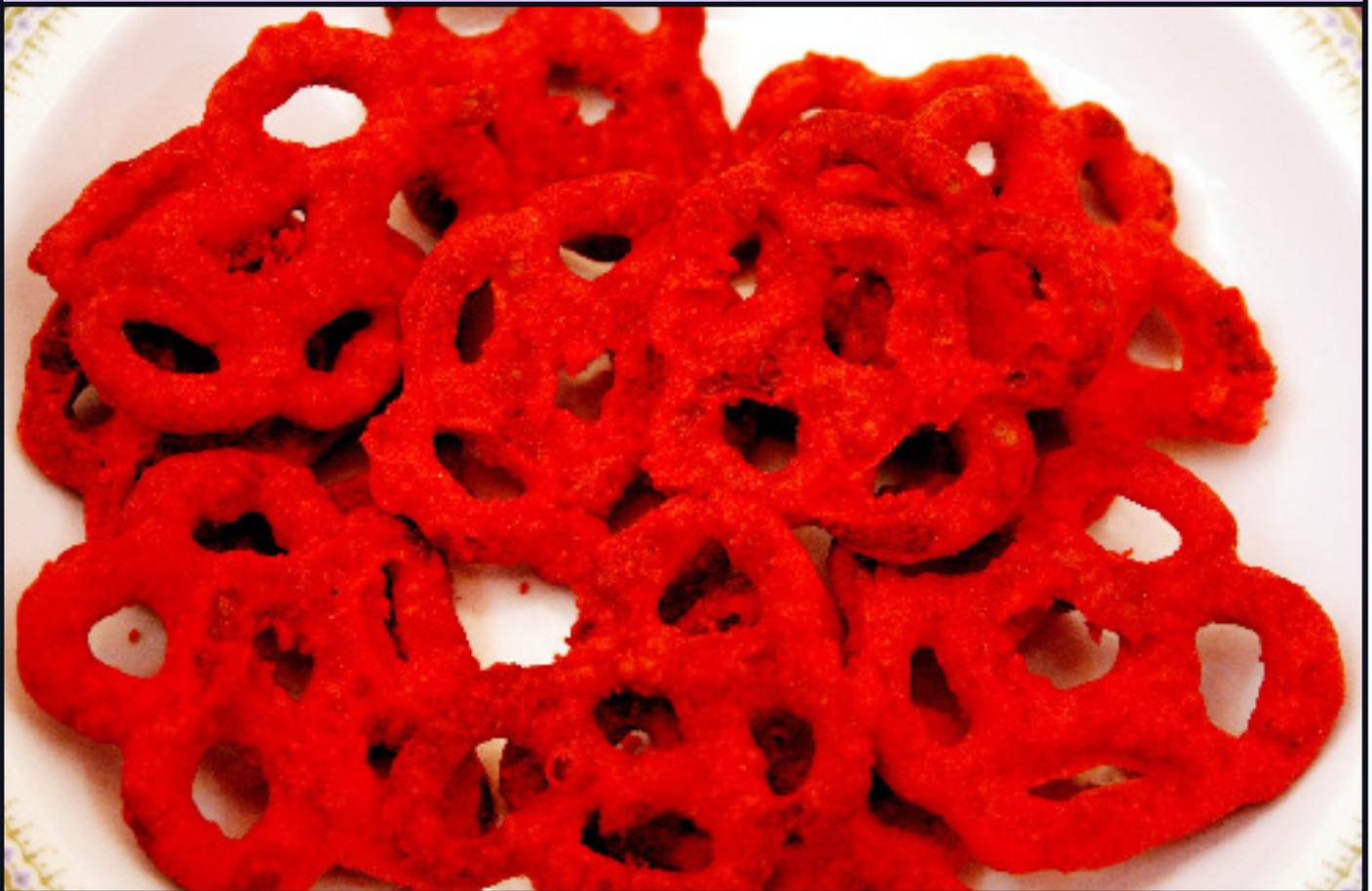
454 gm rice  
605 gm plam sugar  
A little lime  
A little tumeric powder

## Making raw cincin:

Mix brown sugar with a little rice flour and cook with a little water until moderately solid and remove. Then roll lengthwise and at the same time shape it round into five rings. Then join the rings. Heat oil in the pan and fry until dry.

## Method:

Wash rice, soak for 2 hours and drip away. Then grind and sieve. Mix rice flour with turmeric powder lime and water until moderately thick. Heat oil in pan then dip the raw cincin into the flour dough, lift and fry until done.



## Moratorium enforced next year

**KUALA BELAIT, April 12** – A moratorium on fishing activities in zone 1, equivalent to between zero to three nautical miles from the shoreline to Brunei Cape will be enforced by January 1, 2008.

This is one of the programmes to encounter the declining or extinction of fish resources in Brunei Darussalam in the affected areas.

The moratorium is enforced because of the declining fish resources to as much as 43 per cent in that particular area.

A research was done since 1982 until today where it showed that the tools used for fishing such as ancau, andang, bubu, lintau, fishing net, selambau and tugu exceeded the maximum limit.

## TAIB record increase in net profit

**GADONG, April 21** – Perbadanan Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei (TAIB), a leading local Islamic bank, recorded an increase in net profit of 62 per cent compared to 2005, an increase of 18 per cent in total income.

This was disclosed by TAIB's chairman, Dato Paduka Dr Haji Mat Suny at the 'Lailatul Mahabah TAIB' appreciation dinner held at Songket Ballroom, The Rizqun International Hotel.

According to the chairman, the total amount of deposit by end of 2006 amounted to \$1.19 billion. While TAIB had also paid an additional bonus of 0.25 per cent for all Simanja and Remaja accounts that have not had any withdrawal transactions for three consecutive years – making it the only financial institution in the country to offer such bonus.

TAIB was officially launched by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on September 29, 1991. The launching of TAIB marked a new beginning for Brunei Darussalam's financial sector as TAIB was then the first financial institution that conducted all of its activities in accordance with the Islamic faith.

More information on TAIB are available at [www.taib.com.bn](http://www.taib.com.bn).

## More local companies implement BLNG projects

**LUMUT, April 23** – As a show of support towards the development of the local business sector, Brunei's Liquefied Natural Gas (BLNG) awarded two local companies to carry out two ongoing projects – Power Project and the Cooling Water System Rejuvenation (CWSR) project.

Adinin Works and Engineering Sdn Bhd (AWE) signed a contract for the execution of electrical and instrumentation work required for the projects. Signing on behalf BLNG was its Acting Managing Director, Awang Haji Matsatejo Sokiaw while AWE was represented by its Chairman, Awang Haji Adinin Haji Ibrahim.

Whereas Tendrill Company covers modification works for BLNG's existing 11KV switchboard to feed new transformers for the CWSR project. Signing on behalf of BLNG was Pengiran Noralim Pengiran Haji Ahmad, the head of ARP projects and his counterpart was Dayang Hayati Haji Ramlee, the Managing Director of Tendrill Company.

The awarding of contracts to local companies reflects BLNG's continuous commitment in extending the plant life to ensure the reliable supply of LNG to its buyers.

To date, seven local companies have been awarded contracts by BLNG to facilitate the execution of the projects.

## Minister on work visit to Seoul

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 20** – The Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar was in Seoul for a two-day working visit from April 17 to 19. While in Seoul, the Minister also attended the IT Ministerial Conference and IT Korea Show. A bilateral meeting also took place between the minister and Korea's Minister of Information and Communications with the objective to strengthen the relations and cooperation between both nation-states.

The meeting also discussed the follow-up to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of Information and Communication of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in the Field of Information and Communications Technologies signed in Bandar Seri Begawan last September.

The minister also led Brunei Darussalam's contingent to the IT Ministerial Conference 2007 held on April 19 and visited the Korea IT Show, the first integrated IT exhibition in Korea.

## Service portal for Ministry of Education

**JERUDONG, April 28** – Teachers, staff members of the Ministry of Education (MoE), students and their parents, and members of the public will soon have access to the services provided by the Ministry of Education through its service portal.

This was made feasible with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Education and TechnoNet Sdn Bhd where the latter will soon implement the 'Enterprise Service Portal'.

Through the contract signing, TechnoNet will be preparing the design, supply, delivery, installation, integration, testing, training, commissioning, software and hardware maintenance and other services dealing with the implementation of the MoE Portal.

Signing the MoU on behalf of the Ministry were its Director of ICT, Lim Jock Cheng and Project Manager, Ekhwan Haji Abdul Salam. While their counterparts were Abdul Ghani bin Pengiran Haji Metussin, the Executive Officer of TechnoNet, and Nicky Zahrah Nabilah Abdullah.

## BRIDEX 2007

**GADONG, May 10** – Brunei Darussalam will host Brunei Darussalam International Defence Exhibition and Forum (BRIDEX) 2007 from May 31 to June 2 at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas.

The Contract Agreement Signing Ceremony for seven participating companies was held at one of the leading hotel in Gadong. The companies are BAG Networks Sendirian Berhad, Defence Equipment Services Organisation (DESO), MMS Tekad Engineering Company, Royal Brunei Technical Services, Singapore Technologies Group, Sri Sentosa Sendirian Berhad and Thales International (B) Sendirian Berhad.

The ceremony was witnessed by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat.

Organised by the Ministry of Defence, Brunei Darussalam; BRIDEX 2007 is the first Defence Exhibition ever organised in the nation. More than 90 companies will participate in the exhibition including leading manufactures from around the world.

Besides Brunei, BRIDEX 2007 will also participated by Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America.

Main aims of the exhibition is to provide a venue for interaction for defence manufactures and suppliers, to exhibit and promote their latest product and to explore the potentials of establishing defence business venture and development of the local defence industry as well as an opening to establish networks among relevant defence counterparts.

BRIDEX is also held in conjunction with the 47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces which fall on every May 31<sup>st</sup>. For more information, log onto: <http://bridex.org>.

## Medals of honour for Brunei's Aceh Mission

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 11** – Twenty personnel from the Brunei Darussalam Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) received the "Satyalancana Dharma Nusa" honorary medal from the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

The honorary medal is a recognition given to former armies of Indonesian National Armed Forces, Republic of Indonesia Police Force, and civilian officers who has accomplished the relief peace operation duties in threatened areas in order to keep the sovereignty and unity of the Republic of Indonesia.

Brunei Darussalam sent a peace monitoring mission to Aceh from September 5, 2005 until September 15, 2006.

The AMM team comprised of 12 members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and eight members of the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF).

Brunei Darussalam's AMM team who participated in the mission accomplished its mission through the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Helsinki, Finland in August 2005.

Presenting the honorary medals to the 20 personnel held at the Pahlawan Hall in Berakas Garrison was the Commander of RBAF, Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi.



# Damuan Recreational Park

Clean and convenient, a popular venue for joggers.

A walking distance from the world's largest residential palace, the Istana Nurul Iman, is the popular Damuan Recreational Park, a one-kilometer long stretch of land sandwiched between the Bandar Seri Begawan – Tutong road and the Damuan River. It is based about 4 ½ km from the heart of the capital.

With it being next to the serene calm river of Damuan, the park is equipped with walkways, playground and adorned with six sculpture designs themed 'Harmony in Diversity', symbolising ASEAN's solidarity and the aspirations of its member countries who love peace, freedom and mutual respect. The designs were completed during the Fourth ASEAN Square Sculpture Symposium which lasted from January 11 to February 24, 1986.

It is popular among joggers and strollers. Other sports activities such as canoeing, boat cruise, and fishing are also widely popular here. The Damuan River is also a passage way for the big barge to transport rocks from Temburong to the local quarries in Brunei-Muara.

There are also several food stalls where patrons will enjoy their meal by the river. It is an ideal place to unwind and dine, open in the evenings. It is further ornamented with sundry flowers as well as palm and other trees, making it cool and shady.



Among the sculptures adorning the park.

