



Royal address in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1428: Gratitude a step to contentment

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 12 - Everyone, regardless rich or poor must be thankful. Furthermore, gratitude is a step towards contentment.

This was stated by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkuah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1428.

His Majesty said that a rich person who is thankful is a happy person. A symbol and way of gratitude is by using his riches for good deeds, where among others that is asked is through *zakat* or tithe. He added, Allah has guaranteed more and protected possessions for those who give out tithe. In this context, the possessions given out as tithe are not diminishing but growing instead.

Meanwhile for those who are not rich, the way to be thankful is by possessing an attitude who is always satisfied with what had been bestowed by Allah. With this attitude, the person is the most grateful and the happiest.

His Majesty further said that what is vital here is our attitude. It is the attitude that determines the happiness or misery of a person.

The sovereign also talked on tithe where according to a statement by the relevant agency, the collection of tithe until August 31, 2007 had shown a decline.

"Why did it decline? Is it referring to a decline in the economy, or is it due to a change in our attitude in giving out tithe?"

"If it is really due to a change in the attitude, why did it change?," said His Majesty.

"To me, there must be a factor that caused the change, whether it is internal factors from within the society itself, or other factors. The internal factor, it may be caused by the society's confidence towards the tithe mechanism which is not yet stolid, which has become one of the causes for the tithe collection to be unsteady, or its visible fluctuation," said His Majesty.

"As an example, the statistics shown, in 2006, the Division of Tithe Collection and Distribution had collected only \$8.8 million, compared to 2005 which collected \$18.9 million, a large and obvious decline," said His Majesty.

The sovereign said that if this is caused by internal factor called confidence, we would be worried that it would be continued if it is ignored. Therefore he called for the proper agency to not only disclose facts and data but what is important is to overcome it with detailed studies on why there is a reduction on the collection of tithe.

This would give us useful information, and open ways towards tightening the



His Majesty delivers the *titah* on eve of 1st Syawal 1428.

methods of handling tithe, and thus handling the problem, said His Majesty.

At the end of his royal speech, His Majesty and the royal family wished all Muslim citizens and residents Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

Brunei Darussalam celebrates Hari Raya Aidilfitri on October 13 corresponding with first of Syawal (Islamic calendar) after a month of fasting in the month of Ramadhan.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkuah addressed the 62nd Session of the United Nations (UN) Assembly.

62nd United Nations General Assembly Session

Brunei Darussalam voice concerns on climate change

NEW YORK, September 24 - Brunei Darussalam, like other countries are concerned with climate change. Steps had been taken on this issue based on legislations, longstanding conservation policy and measures to protect the environment. However, the biggest problem is to get more understanding and awareness among its people.

These were highlighted by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkuah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade at a high-level event on climate change at the United Nations (UN).

"This is not surprising, of course. Climate change is very complex and



Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque, one of Brunei's landmarks is located in the capital. Completed in 1958, the mosque has become a landmark and venue for the nation's many historic events.

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Diplomats, VIPs greet royal family

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, October 13 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar received Hari Raya Aidilfitri greetings from state dignitaries, senior government officers and foreign diplomats at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah and other members of the royal family.



His Majesty, His Royal Highness Crown Prince and other members of royal family received greetings from state dignitaries, senior government officers and Brunei-based foreign diplomats.



His Majesty with Brunei-based foreign diplomats.



Female guests greet Her Majesty, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri.

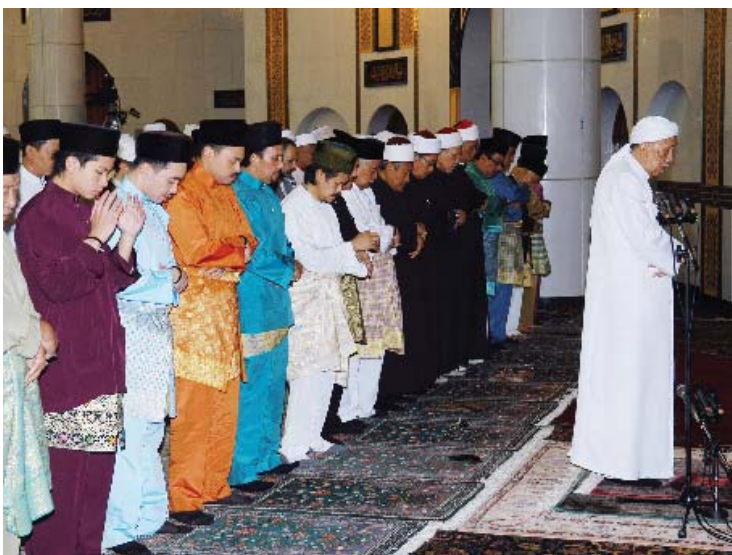


Her Majesty, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri with Her Excellency Virginia H. Benavidez the Ambassador of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam and spouses of Brunei-based ambassadors and diplomats.



Female members of the royal family at the joyous occasion.

Photo credit: David Kirkland



His Majesty and male members of royal family perform the Sunat prayer.

His Majesty joins citizens perform Sunat Aidilfitri prayer

GADONG, October 13 - Brunei Darussalam celebrated the first of Syawal by performing the Sunat Hari Raya Aidilfitri prayer held at all mosques and *suraus* (place of worship) in the country.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined citizens in performing the prayer at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and other members of the royal family.

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

- His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on the occasion of the 77th National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on September 22.
- His Excellency Yasuo Fukuda on the occasion of His Excellency's appointment as the new Prime Minister of Japan on September 26.
- President Hu Jintao of the People's Republic of China and His Excellency Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China in conjunction with the republic's 58th National Day on October 1.
- His Excellency Roh Moo-Hyun, President of the Republic of Korea and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Han Duck-o in conjunction with the republic's 59th National Foundation Day on October 3.
- His Excellency Horst Kohler, President of Federal Republic of Germany and His Excellency Angela Merkel, the Federal Republic of Germany's Chancellor in conjunction with the Republic's 16th Reunification Day on October 3.
- His Majesty King Juan Carlos I, the King of the Kingdom of Spain and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero in conjunction with the kingdom's 515th National Day on October 12.



The recital of holy Quran as part of the ceremony to commemorate 40 years of His Majesty's accession to the throne.

Thanksgiving prayer commemorate 40 years HM's accession to the throne

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 4 – A thanksgiving prayer was held at all mosques throughout the nation to commemorate 40 years of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's accession to the throne.

The focal point were at the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque and Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.

Brunei Darussalam commemorates the 40th anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne on October 5, 2007. His Majesty ascended the throne on October 5, 1967, following the voluntary abdication of his father, the late Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien.

Another event to commemorate the anniversary was held at the Istana Nurul Iman for the *Majlis Khatam Al-Quran*. The special *tadarus* ceremony (reciting of the Al-Quran) began on September 25, where 40 selected individuals completed the recital of the Holy Quran.

HM sends condolences

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent a message of condolence to General Surayud Chulanont (Rtd), Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand on September 19, following the plane crash in Phuket on September 16.

In the message, His Majesty expressed his sadness at the loss of lives as a result of the plane crash.

His Majesty also sent a message of condolence to the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, Senior General Than Shwe, on the passing away of the Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, General Soe Win on October 14.

In the message, His Majesty, the government and people of Brunei Darussalam expressed their deepest condolences to the government and people of the Union of Myanmar, together with their sympathies to the members of the family of the late General Soe Win.



His Majesty delivers the *titah* at the ceremony.

Royal speech on national Nuzul Al-Quran celebration

Al-Quran a map towards the path to excellence

BERAKAS, September 28 - The significance of Al-Quran as a map towards the path to excellence was highlighted at the recent national Nuzul Al-Quran celebration.

This was highlighted by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam where he also said that the important source of knowledge for the Islamic *ummah* is the Al-Quran. Excellence cannot be separated from Al-

Quran and it is the guide towards it.

"The path towards excellence, success and security needs a complete map. Al-Quran is the map meant. No serpentine exist inside. It is the light that illuminates all the paths," said His Majesty.

According to His Majesty, the Arabs during the pre-Islamic days were an uncivilised group. However, after they embraced the Islamic religion, their lifestyle changed and enabled them to

build a glorious civilisation. This change is undoubtedly stimulated by Al-Quran.

"Therefore, when we want to achieve excellence today, Al-Quran is the correct path," said His Majesty.

The sovereign added that the Islamic *ummah* will not be able to achieve excellence if they leave their religious duties behind since excellence wholly comes from Allah The Almighty.

Champions receive awards and prizes

BERAKAS, September 28 - Champions of the 'Memorising and Understanding of Verses from the Al-Quran Competition' received their awards and prizes from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Also present at this ceremony was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince' Abdul Mateen.

The winner for Category A for children aged 10 years old and below was Mujibatunn Nuhaa binti Haji Sadini, followed by Afiq Haririe bin Haji Md. Daud and Nur Nadhirah binti Sh'minan in second and third place respectively.

In Category B, for participants aged between 10 and 15 years old, the winner was Nor Azriah binti Haji Abdul Aziz, followed by Siti Musfirah binti Misli in second place and Siti Hafizah Al-Haziqah binti Aripin@Ariffin in third place.

While Category C for those aged 30 years old and below, Mohammad Huzailan bin Haji Kassim, Aqilah binti Haji Ayop and Awangku Khairul Ikhwan bin Pengiran Alit came in first, second and third respectively.

Meanwhile Category D, an open category, was won by Md Khairul Anuar bin Haji Ahmad.

This competition was organised in conjunction with the national Nuzul Al-Quran celebration where the date commemorates the revelation of the first verse of the Al-Quran to Prophet Mohammad.



Winners of category 'A' receive presents from His Majesty (above and below).



17 receive RBAF's Scholarship

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, September 20 – Seventeen students received the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) scholarship - 14 for the RBAF Supreme Commander Scholarship; and three recipients for the RBAF Scholarship.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-

Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam who is the Supreme Commander of RBAF received a *junjung ziarah* and *ramah mesra* (get-together) from all of the scholarship recipients at the Istana Nurul Iman.

As the challenges and opportunities in global security and defence become

more complex, the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) with the release of 2004 Defence White Paper and Defence White Paper Update 2007 had identified the importance of maintaining operational readiness for national defence, and also the need for transformation, not only in force structure, but in the development of the nation's human resources.

Realising this vision, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam introduced the Supreme Commander of RBAF Scholarship Scheme in August 2005, followed by the RBAF Scholarship Scheme in February 2006.

The scheme aims to attract and groom exceptional young leaders to contribute in areas of defence and security with the Ministry of Defence in particular, and with Brunei society as a whole.

Since the introduction of the schemes from 2005 -2007, the ministry had awarded a number of 39 outstanding Brunei students. Currently, 28 students had been awarded the Supreme Commander of the RBAF Scholarship and 11 were awarded the RBAF Scholarship.



His Majesty mingles with the recipients.

Halal industry: Enhance internal capacity to succeed

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 15 – Enhancing internal capacity is vital in the bid to succeed venturing into the export of *halal* products to the international arena.

This was highlighted by the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR), Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdillah at a reception to launch the 2nd International *Halal* Expo and Brunei Halal Brand 2007.

It was also highlighted that the country could achieve a good position in the *halal* industry by implementing firm monitoring and issuance of *halal* certificates on *halal* products.

According to the Deputy Minister, Brunei Darussalam offers *halal* certificates for local and imported *halal* products. However, the products should comply with the guidelines and standard

for Brunei *Halal* Brand.

The 2nd International *Halal* Expo features an assembly of *halal* products produced locally and internationally. This year's expo promise more vibrant and exciting products where participation from abroad doubled from those of last year. Twenty companies will be signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the MIPR as part of Brunei *Halal* initiatives.

Penalties for errant employers

TUTONG, August 5 –Penalties will be imposed for employers who failed to pay their employees' wagers. As stated in the Labour Act, it is the responsibility of the employer to look after their employees' welfare and to pay their wagers within a set of given period.

This was highlighted by the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Adanan at the official opening of Hua Ho

Superstore in Tutong District.

According to the Minister, the Labour Department will not hesitate to take actions on employers who have neglected their responsibilities.

He further added that employers should be committed in giving exposure to their employees by providing training programmes. This is one of the effort

to enhance their knowledge and skill particularly in their related field.

Hua Ho Superstore is one of the leading business entities in Brunei Darussalam. It does not only concentrate on their superstores but they are also involved with farming and agricultural activities. A large number of its employees are locals.

* From frontpage
(62nd Session of the UN General Assembly)

sometimes very confusing but, even so, we badly need our people to become involved in finding solutions and that is much easier said than done,

“To put it simply, our people do not know enough about the subject and they need to learn it very quickly indeed because it gives them knowledge and, from that, they developed understanding and then, in the end, everyone is involved,” said His Royal Highness.

This, according to His Royal Highness, is how ideas and best approach are found.

At the moment, in the bid to build up the confidence, everyone is involved, from schools to public, private sector and the young people.

“This is what I think is really meant by ‘adaptation’ and that is where we need help,” said His Royal Highness.

He further said that Brunei Darussalam welcome outside experts especially if they can teach new skills and share their modern technology.

“So to sum up, Co-Chairmen, we certainly want to adapt but it has to be a joint effort and the biggest need we have is to get the people at home fully on our side. That means outside help. After all, there are no big countries and small countries in this. We’re all in it together,” said His Royal Highness.

Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister attends 62nd UN General Assembly Session

NEW YORK, September 29 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade was in New York to attend the 62nd United Nations (UN) General Assembly Session.

On September 25, His Royal Highness attended a high-level event on climate change. His Royal Highness also held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Abdallah Mohamed Sambi, President of the Union of Comoros at the UN Headquarters.

On September 26, His Royal Highness attended the opening session of the general debate of the 62nd UN Assembly at the UN Headquarters in New York. In the evening, His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak



His Royal Highness and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Mansurah Izzul Bolkiah at one of the session.



His Royal Highness in conversation with Prime Minister of Malaysia, the Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi.

Hajah Zariah attended a reception hosted by His Excellency President George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, and Lady Laura Bush at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York. The reception was held in recognition of the 62nd Session of the UN General Assembly.

His Royal Highness then attended a State Dinner hosted by His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the UN, at the UN Headquarters in New York. The State Dinner was held

* Continue on page 8



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (second right) in a group photo with other ASEAN leaders after witnessing the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding on ASEAN – United Nations Cooperation.

HRH and other foreign ministers of Asean later witnessed the signing ceremony of the MoU on Asean-UN Cooperation by the Secretary Generals of ASEAN and the UN.



* From page 7 (62nd Session of the UN General Assembly)

in honour of the Heads of State and Government attending the General Assembly.

While an Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (IAMM) was held at the UN Headquarters on September 27. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers discussed the third progress report of the High Level Task Force on the ASEAN Charter. The Ministers also discussed outstanding ASEAN matters and agreed that the Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee would issue a statement on the current situation in Myanmar. His Royal Highness and other Foreign Ministers of ASEAN later witnessed the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on ASEAN-UN Cooperation by the Secretary-Generals and the UN.

An ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting with Her Excellency Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State of the United States of America was also held on the same day. The ministers discussed progress in ASEAN-US dialogue relations and reviewed regional and international affairs.

A reception was later held by The Honourable Datuk Seri Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia at the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the UN in New York. The Reception was held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Malaysia's membership to the UN, and in honour of The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Haji Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

His Royal Highness, on September 28, addressed the 62nd Session of the UN General Assembly at the UN Headquarters in New York.

His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah left New York on September 29.



His Royal Highness receives audience from the President of Comoros, His Excellency Ahmed Abdullah Sambri.

His Royal Highness delivers UN General Assembly statement

NEW YORK, September 28 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade addressed the 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York.

In his statement, His Royal Highness welcomed the idea to place the UN at the heart of the global multilateral system through a consensus of member states, the private sector, non-government organisations and civil society.

His Royal Highness earlier attended the Foreign Ministers' Annual Coordination Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement at the UN Headquarters in New York and reiterated the importance of multilateralism through mutual understanding, respect, tolerance and goodwill in achieving a united movement.

His Royal Highness followed this meeting by attending the 6th Commonwealth Foreign Ministers' Meeting at the UN where he expressed hope for a successful conclusion to the Doha Development Agenda, and stressed the need for member countries to work together in addressing climate change.



Prior to departure, Their Royal Highnesses receive greeting from the officers of Brunei's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Private sector contribute to 'Heart of Borneo'

BERAKAS, September 18 – The 'Heart of Borneo' initiative received financial boost from the private sector. A total of \$10,000 was contributed by Petrokon-EWI.

According to its Managing Director and Policy Consultant, Steward Olney, the contribution was part of their effort towards promoting the initiative. Their company have a mission to assist the industry in minimising the negative impacts towards the health and safety of the public and the environment.

P-EWI (Petrokon-EWI) is a company of industrial Health, Safety and Environment Risk Assessment Consultants, based in Brunei Darussalam. The company provide a range of services primarily aimed at the oil and gas, chemical, and transportation industries, to small and multinational clients based around the world. They assist clients to reduce the risks that their facilities and operations present to the health and safety of employees and the public and to the natural environment. By doing this, they also help to safeguard their clients' businesses and prevent accidental losses.

The 'Heart of Borneo' (HOB) initiative is a conservation area comprising of forest and natural habitats involving three nation-states; Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdillah, Deputy Minister of Industry and Primary Resources receives a mock cheque from Petrokon-EWI.



Indonesia. The HOB covers a total area of 220,000 km² of equatorial rainforest - through a network of protected areas and sustainably-managed forests, and through international co-operation led by the Bornean governments, supported by a global effort.

The future of this transboundary area depends on the collaboration of all three governments as no one country can protect these unique uplands alone.

The Heart of Borneo presents a unique opportunity to conserve pristine tropical rainforest on a huge scale - almost 30% of

the world's third largest island. Its forests have some of the most biologically diverse habitats on earth, possessing staggeringly high numbers of unique plant and animal species. Its forest area is one of the only two places on earth where orang-utans, elephants and rhinoceros still co-exist and where forests are currently large enough to maintain viable populations.

Present to receive the cheque was the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdillah.

Brunei observes World Mental Health Day

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 10 – Brunei Darussalam's Mental Health Services is on par with countries in this region. While effective medicines which are free are also available for members of the public.

This was highlighted by Health

Minister, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi in conjunction with World Mental Health Day 2007.

In his address, the Minister mentioned that World Mental Health Day is celebrated annually on October 10, since 1999 which aims to bring to the attention

of the community on the importance of maintaining good mental health in our daily lives.

This year's theme is 'Mental Health In A Changing World: The Impact of Culture & Diversity' which focused on several main aspects of mental health and illness.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, JULY 2007

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in July 2007 fell by 0.4 per cent over June 2007 with an index of 102.5. The fall in the overall index was partly attributed to the Mid-Year Sales which started from June 24 to 29, 2007.

The cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages went up by 0.7 per cent due to higher prices of flour, noodles, fresh fish, fresh prawn and other seafood, evaporated milk, condensed milk, eggs, butter, vegetables oil, palm oil, ginger, shallot and carbonated drink.

Some food items which recorded notable price increases in June 2007 compared with the previous month were; shallot, canned mushroom, Kuasi, Rumahan Laki, salted egg, cauliflower, palm oil, vegetable oil, Ikan Merah (Red Snapper) and condensed milk. The increases in prices change ranges from 6.3 per cent to 26.0 per cent.

But some items also recorded notable price decreases. The items durian (Monthong), kangkong, chillies, sawi putih, Duai hitam, carrot, sawi hijau (Choy Sam), dried prawns, oyster sauce and potatoes. The decreases in prices change ranges from 2.3 per cent to 14.3 per cent.

Cheaper prices of ready-made clothing and accessories, materials for male and female, tailoring charges and footwear led to 6.2 per cent decrease in the cost of clothing and footwear.

The cost of household goods, services and operation fell by 1.9 per cent due to lower prices of furniture, floor covering, household furnishings, audio and video equipments, household equipments and electrical appliances, kitchen appliances and utensils and crockery and cutlery.

Transportation cost went down by 0.3 per cent due to lower prices of air fares after high season period.

As a result of higher prices of computer and accessories, the cost of education increased by 0.1 per cent

Lower prices of some toy items led to a decrease in the cost of recreation and entertainment by 0.1 per cent.

The cost of miscellaneous goods and services declined by 0.2 per cent due to lower prices of men and ladies' personal care and infant care items.

The cost of housing, water, electricity and maintenance; communication; and medical and health remained unchanged.

The CPI in July 2007 was 0.3 per cent higher than that of the same month in 2006. For the first seven months of this year (January – July 2007), the CPI decreased by 0.1 per cent compared to the same period last year.



Group photo of the outgoing monitoring team with Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and Ambassador of the Philippines to Brunei.

RBAF join monitoring team in Mindanao

RIMBA, September 25 – Six members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) will be in Mindanao, Philippines as part of the International Monitoring Team (IMT).

A farewell ceremony was held at the air base. Present at the ceremony was the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Halbi and the Ambassador of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam, Her

Excellency Virginia H. Benavidez.

All six RBAF IMT personnel are responsible for observing and monitoring the implementation of cessation of hostilities as well as the socio-economic development aspects of agreements signed between the Government of the Philippines and the MILF.

The fourth contingent will take over the duties from the third contingent that

will be returning to Brunei Darussalam on September 26. The third contingent was in Cotabato, Mindanao for 12 months since September 2006.

As a symbol of appreciation, the government of the Republic of Philippines awarded the RBAF personnel with the Gawad Sa Kaunlaran medal, Military Civic Action medal and Basic Parachutist badge.

Brunei International Airport impose restriction on liquids, aerosols and gels

BERAKAS, October 1 - Brunei's Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) has introduced new security rules for cabin baggage for all international and transit passengers departing from Brunei International Airport (BIA). The new regulations will take effect by October 4, 2007.

The new regulations require security screening for carrying liquids, gels or aerosols and items with similar consistency on board an aircraft. All liquids, gels, aerosols and items with similar consistency should be carried in containers with a capacity not greater than 100ml.

Containers should be placed in a transparent and re-sealable plastic bag of a maximum capacity not exceeding 1 litre. The containers must fit comfortably within the transparent plastic bag, which should be sealed.

The plastic bag should be presented for visual examination at the screening point. Only one transparent plastic bag per passenger is permitted.

Exemptions should be made for liquids, gels and aerosols used for medication, baby milk/foods and special dietary requirements. Passengers may be requested to verify the nature of such liquids, gels and aerosols.

The new security measures are in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) dated March 30, 2007 and recommended for implementation by all of the ICAO contracting states.

Better facilities for Belait District underway

KUALA BELAIT, August 15 –Better infrastructures are currently underway for the Belait District which includes a new health centre; water treatment plant; and a marketplace.

One of the new facilities is the Sungai Liang Health Centre. With an estimated \$3 million, this health centre will be replacing the old clinic that was built in 1952. The old clinic is based at the same location as the new one. This health centre acquires a land area of 0.74 hectare with a huge parking lot that can accommodate nearly 60 vehicles. This building will be two-storey high and expected to be completed by end of next year.

Among the services expected to be provided at this health centre are outpatient services; accident and emergency; maternal and child health services; pharmaceutical and a laboratory.

While more supply of clean water will be made available through the new Sungai Liang Water Treatment Plant. This new plant which involved \$67.43 million for construction will be able to process 36.4 million litres of water per day. This is the third water treatment plant in the Belait District. With the latest water treatment plant, a total of 90.5 million litre of water will be supplied to the residents of this district, comprising of 116,000 people. At the moment, the total population of this district is about 60,000 people which indicate that the water supply to this area from the available water plants will be enough until 2025.

The construction of this plant is expected to be complete by this year.

Meanwhile residents of this district will have a new market – Pasar Baru Kuala Belait based at Jalan Sungai. The construction of this new market is estimated to cost around \$4.1 million spread over three hectare of land.

Did you know that...

- Located in Kampong Sumbiling, Istana Darussalam is the old wooden palace where His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was born.
- His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam's official residence and seat of Government is the largest residential palace in the world today. On the banks of the Brunei River, it is a stunning sight with its Islamic-style architecture, long sweeping Southeast Asian roofs and glistening domes, tiled with 22-carat gold leaf. The palace has 1788 rooms and a banquet hall that can seat 4,000 people. In addition there is a ceremonial dining hall seating for 500 people. A *surau* or prayer hall and state religious functions can accommodate 1,500 worshippers.
- Jame'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah is the largest and one of the most magnificent looking mosque in Brunei. It was built to commemorate the 25th anniversary of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's reign. It is locally known as the Kiarong Mosque.

>> 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 Aidilfitri
December 20	-	Hari Raya Aidiladha
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.

BRUNEI-MUARA DISTRICT

In the last two editions, several interesting places in Brunei-Muara District were featured. The last edition of In Brunei's 'Brunei-Muara District' will portray more interesting places worth visiting.

Gadong

Gadong is one of the capital's premier commercial and shopping area. This area is regarded as a popular shopping paradise among the foreign visitors.

Gadong's 'The Mall' is Brunei's first, largest and most sophisticated shopping complex catering for more than 150 shops, a five-star hotel and cineplex.

From the hotel, you can just walk down to Tamu Malam (night market) where varieties of local delicacies are available at an affordable cheap price with fresh vegetables and fruits also available.

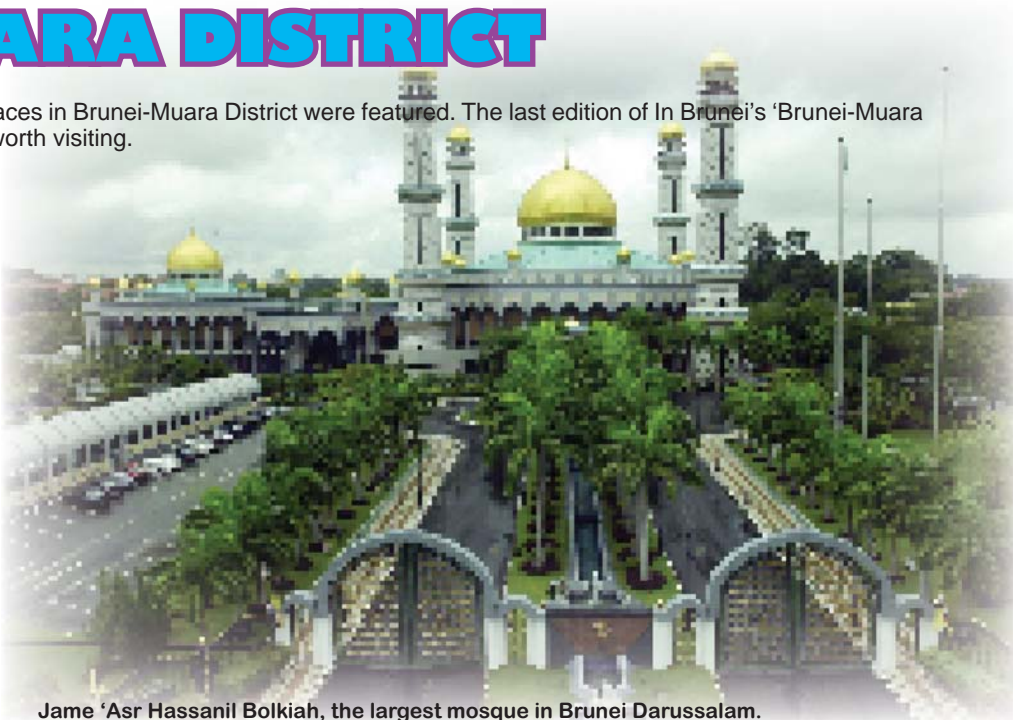
Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah

Jame 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah is a mosque built to commemorate the 25th anniversary or Silver Jubilee of His Majesty, the 29th Sultan reign on the throne. Jame 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah is the largest mosque and arguably the most magnificent in Brunei Darussalam. With its intricately ornamented minarets and shimmering golden domes clearly visible along the main route into town from the airport, the towers over landscaped terrain dotted with fountains. This mosque, located at the Gadong area, has become one of the most famous tourists' attractions in Brunei.

Jerudong

Another interesting place is Jerudong where existing landmarks such as the famous Jerudong Park Playground; Bukit Shahbandar Forest Recreational Park; and the world famous Empire Hotel & Country Club are located.

Jerudong Park Playground was officially opened in 1994. Bathed in breezes from the



Jame 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah, the largest mosque in Brunei Darussalam.

South China Sea, this state-of-the-art theme park was launched to coincide with His Majesty's 48th birthday celebration and has become a popular tourist spot. The games and rides available are catered for adults and children.

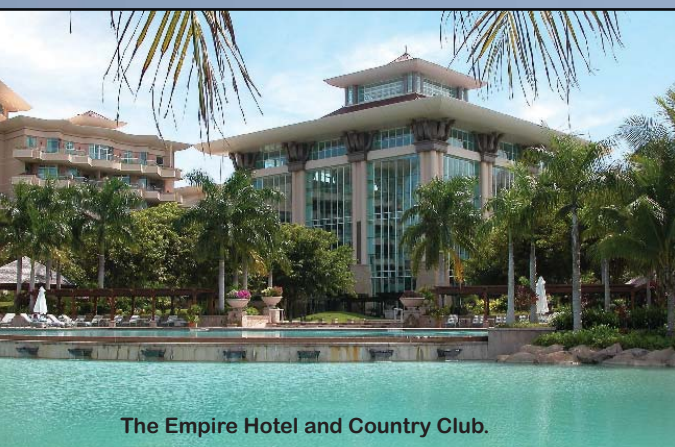
Jerudong Park Playground lies along Bandar Seri Begawan's Muara-Tutong Highway, about a 20-minute drive from the town centre.

The Empire Hotel & Country Club is Brunei's premier hotel and only beach resort. It was voted as Asia's leading resort and honoured for the World's

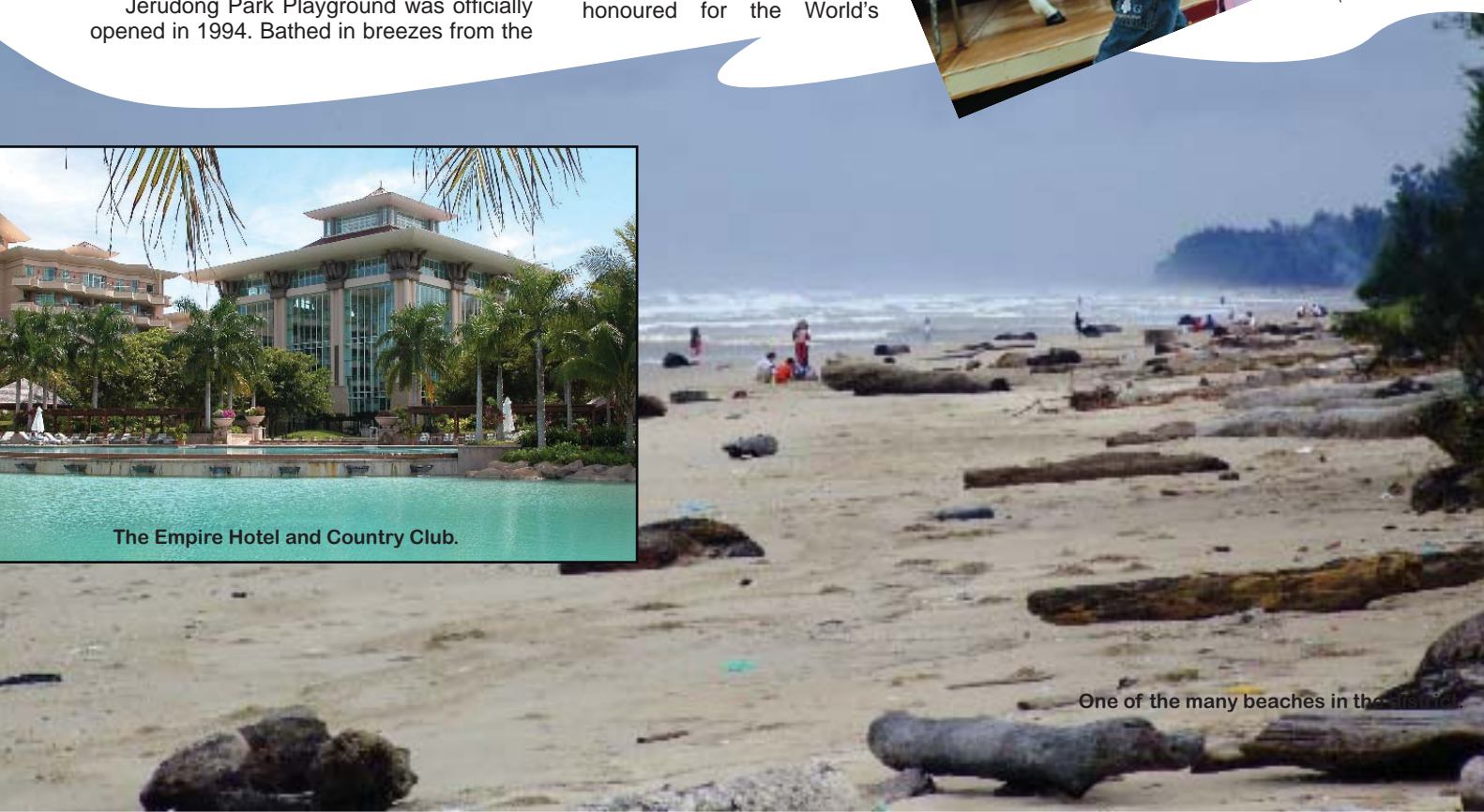


Jerudong Playground for kids and adults.

Photo Credit: Brunei Tourism



The Empire Hotel and Country Club.



One of the many beaches in the district.

leading Presidential Suite by the World Travel Awards. She was also voted as Best Resort hotel in Asia-Pacific by TTG Asia.

The hotel has palatial surroundings with white marble, gold accents, luminous and breathtaking architecture. She is situated about 15 minutes drive from the Brunei International Airport and about 20 minutes from the capital Bandar Seri Begawan.

Bukit Shahbandar Forest Recreational Park is another place not to be missed. This popular recreational park is located along the Muara-Tutong highway at the Jalan Tutong Area, is about 20 minutes drive from the capital. It is set in 70 hectares of undulating landscape providing a challenge for even the most dedicated joggers, hikers and bikers. An observation tower gives a bird's eye view over the whole terrain from this huge Bukit Shahbandar Park. Located in Jerudong, the park has become synonym with sports lovers as it has nine hills for adventurous hiking. It also offers a spot for picnics for families and friends. It was also the venue for the Brunei Marathon 2005.

Beaches

Located close to Bukit Shahbandar Recreational Park are two beaches, namely Tungku Beach and Jerudong Beach. Besides these two beaches, the other famous beaches are Muara and Serasa Beach. These are popular spots to hang out as the beaches are well equipped with picnic grounds, changing rooms, toilets, yacht club (Serasa) and food stalls.

Pulau Selirong

Pulau Selirong is another interesting place. From Muara, it takes about 45 minutes by boat to reach Pulau Selirong,



Gadong Night Market where you can find tasty dishes at good price.

Night view of Gadong commercial area, Brunei's hot spot for shopping.

a little mangrove island situated just near of Brunei Bay. Covering some 2,566 hectares in area, the island was the source of much of the timber used for piling in building homes. Charter tours to Pulau Selirong and its two kilometers wooden walkway and observation tower can be booked from tour operators.

Rimba Horticulture Centre

For nature lovers, a visit to the Rimba Horticulture Centre at Kampong Rimba in Gadong, will unveil a whole new world of tropical indoor and outdoor flowering garden plants. This popular tourist attraction is known to attract visitors from all over the world who come here to admire its various species of rare flowers

and plants. The Rimba Horticulture Business Centre is opened during regular working hours.

Berakas Forestry Recreational Park

Another place is Berakas Forestry Recreational Park. The 199 hectares Forestry Recreation Park is situated along the Muara-Tutong Highway which is just 10 kilometers from Bandar Seri Begawan, in Berakas. Here at the Berakas Park, you can witness the sun-dappled pathways meander past sheltered picnic spots and barbeque facilities towards the soaring observation tower, and the tang of salt air hovers in the shadowy green keranga and casuarina forest that tumbles to the edge of the nearby South China Sea.

Park
und,
and



Pulau Selirong, is acclaimed as the best mangrove island in the world. (Left) Two mammal species that can be seen here.

SELAMAT DATANG
KE KAMPONG
SABA DARAT 'B'



KAMPONG SABA DARAT 'B'

Water Village or Kampong Ayer is synonymous with Brunei Darussalam where it was once the centre of administration. It was also the centre for commercial activities as well as it was the biggest housing settlement area for thousands of citizens and residents.

Daily activities for the folks of Kampong Ayer were mostly as fishermen, black and silversmith. While the women were left at home carrying out household chores and part-time activities such as weaving, plaiting and domestic food process and manufacturing like *ikan masin* (salted fish), prawn crackers and *belacan* (prawn paste).

Today, there are six *mukims* of Kampong Ayer, namely; Mukim Peramu, Mukim Saba, Mukim Tamoi, Mukim Burong Pingai Ayer, Mukim Sungai Kebun and Mukim Sungai Kedayan.

About 100 years ago, the people slowly began to move inland, along with the administration. In early 1990's, a series of mass fire destroyed some parts of the village and this further led more people to move.

Though faced with these kinds of threats, the Kampong Ayer is still standing proud. Each village has its own uniqueness with some known to be excellent cloth weaver to small-and-medium enterprises manufactures.

Hence for this edition, the editorial team decided to visit Kampong Saba Darat 'B', a village under Mukim Saba.

Mukim Saba comprise of five villages namely Kampong Saba Tengah, Saba Ujong, Saba Darat 'A', Saba Darat 'B' and Saba Laut. It acquires an area of 0.2462 km² with a population of less than 1,500 people (2005 estimate).

Kampong Saba 'B' is not exempted from receiving basic amenities such as supply of clean water, electricity, fixed land lines, prayer hall, schools and garbage collecting services.

The government through Brunei-Muara District Office also supplied the woods for making the 'titian' (jetty), said Awang Mayalin bin Haji Saat, the 37-year-old village head of

Saba Darat 'A' and 'B' and Saba Laut.

"The government never neglect any needs of the population, even when the number of residents for the water village has reduced by about 40 per cent," said Awang Haji Saat, Awang Mayalin's father.

Awang Haji Saat who is 80 years old was the former village head of Saba Darat 'A' and 'B' and Saba Laut for 30 years.

Despite the fire rage, some people still prefer to live in Kampong Ayer and continue to carry their usual activities. The youth here also enjoy working out at the gym and playing Playstation games with their friends at their own-made centre.

"The youth here will conduct their own-activities particularly during the school holiday. The favourite is the 'labi-labi' competition. The competition usually attracts the participation from other villages too," said Awang Mayalin.

The competition (labi-labi) entails the rowing of a small boat and it is opened for children. For youth and elderly, the competition like casting the net is more popular.

To find ends meet, some of its population are working with the public and private sectors while some work on their own. Among the self-profession undertaken are boat-making and producing food products like prawn crackers, shrimp paste and traditional delicacies.

"The founder of 'Marimin' – the famous prawn crackers brand in Brunei originates from this village," said Awang Haji Saat.

Our trip to this village also brought us to one of the part-time producers of prawn crackers; Dayang Sanisah, a full-time housewife with three children.

According to her, she inherited the production of the prawn crackers from

her family. All of her siblings are also actively involved in similar line of business but she revealed that her technique is slightly different from them.

"The main raw material is prawn and usually I obtained them from my husband who is a fisherman. If his catches are not enough, I will buy some from the wet market," said Dayang Sanisah.

The assembly line in the bid to produce prawn crackers starts with removing the prawn's shell. The raw prawns are then blended and mixed with salt, pepper, monosodium glutamate and added with water. Colour can also be added. The blended prawn will then be moulded with starch (flour) made into shape and kept to chill in refrigerator for overnight.

"The mould is chilled to make the cutting process easier," added Dayang Sanisah.

The next day, the chilled mould can be cut into desired pieces. Once cut, the prawn crackers are then put to dry under the sunlight. The drying period can take about two to three days depending on the weather.

Dayang Sanisah sells her prawn crackers at \$5.00 per 300 gram. As she is only a part-timer producer, she only makes the crackers when there is request from customers. This also guarantees its freshness.

She received most orders during the fasting month of Ramadan as most people will be buying food stuff for celebrating Hari Raya Aidilfitri. Besides local customers, she also received orders from Singapore.

Photos by Haji Ariffin bin Mtd.





KITES

The kite is believed to be first popularised or invented in today's China nearly 3,000 years ago. Materials used were believed to be silk fabric for sail material, high-tensile-strength silk for flying line, and resilient bamboo for a strong, lightweight framework. The earliest known Chinese kites were flat (not bowed) and often rectangular.

Tailless kites were later used to incorporate a stabilising bowline. Kites were decorated with mythological motifs and legendary figures; some were fitted with strings and whistles to make musical sounds while flying. After its appearance in China, the kite migrated to Korea, Japan, Myanmar, India, Arabia, and North Africa, then further south into the Malay Peninsula, Indonesia, and the islands of Oceania as far as Easter Island. Since kites made of leaves have been flown in Malaya and the South Seas from the immemorial, the kite could also have been invented independently in that region.¹

Flying of kites has always been and still is a favourite pastime activity among Bruneians, especially among boys and men.

The locals refer to kites as *kikik* while the standard Malay language calls it *layang-layang*.

In the olden days, flying of kites was famous at the water village where it was often played from the *pantaran* (veranda) and *titian* (bridge connecting from one house to another). As time went by, with more people migrating to mainland, the flying of kites as a favourite pastime also shifted to the mainland.

The process of making a kite involved a *buluh temiang* (bamboo), paper, glue and thread. For making its frame, the bamboo is smoothened and designed to T-shape. The bamboo frame is tied with a string where a thin paper like grease or tracing paper is used to cover the frame. Thread is used as a string to fly the kite.

There are several names for kites

¹ Britannica Online Encyclopedi (www.britannica.com)

depending on the design. Among the well-known are *pucuk rebung*, *serbang* and *pangkah*. But nowadays, some youngsters like to put a famous logos or animation pictures such as Batman or Superman's logo to embellish their kites.

The flying of kites is made more exciting through a competition where the locals call it as *bepulut*

kikik. This is when the owner of the kite has to fly his kite across his opponents and cut them.

This will led to the kite being detached from the string.

When the person is successful with his attempt to cut the string, the detached kite will be blown away where most of the time, the person and his friends will start to chase the kite. Some will bring a long bamboo or stick to hook the kite where those who successfully caught the kite will claim ownership to this kite. This added much excitement to the game.

Because of this competition, the usage of normal thread as a string is rarely used. To give a more competitive edge to the game, most kite owners did some modification to their threads by wrapping shattered glass to the string. To enable the shattered glass to stick to the string, *tali tangsi* (catgut) is used instead of thread.

There is a proper method to stick the shattered glasses that is by mixing it with glue or home-made glue so that it will easily stick to the string. The string will then be left under the sun for drying.

The famous home-made glue is made from *ambuyat*. *Ambuyat* is made when *ambulong*, an extract of Rumbia tree, is mixed with hot boiling water. *Ambuyat* is, however, one of Brunei's well-known traditional delicacies. The idea of making *ambuyat* as glue arise as *ambuyat* is sticky and cheap so it is used as an alternative for glue.

The process of making the string sharp requires hard work and must be done cautiously. Fingers might be accidentally cut because of the shattered glass or the glass will not stick to the thread if too much water is added to the *ambulong*.

Looking at this, more options are looked into as alternatives. Some time in early nineties, catgut which is originally sharp was used. There are few brands of this sharp catgut available in the market and only frequent kite players know which brand is good.

An interview with Awang Haji Muhammad Bagol, 62 years old, a government servant pensioner, revealed the new trend of kites flying activities. Now he is a part-time entrepreneur selling kites and catguts.

The business is quite good as people

prefer to buy the kite than make their own. This is situation is similar with threads and catguts, said Awang Haji Muhammad Bagol.

When asked if the kites on sale were made by him, he replied that he is only a middleman. While the catguts he sold are imported from Indonesia.

"Time constraint and difficulty to find the raw material bamboo makes the people prefer to purchase instead of making their own," he added.

He further added that the trend of today's kite-flying is totally different. Before, kites flying are seasonal games where it is only played in selected months usually before the month of Ramadan (fasting month) and during school holiday.

But lately, people tend to turn it into a daily activity. Almost everyday, there will be people playing kites particularly after the office hours around 5.00 pm onwards.

Another new trend noticed is the kite players are mostly youth that is the working population whereas before, the activity was monopolised by children. The game, now is not only enjoyed by the Malays but also Chinese.

Referring to the place for kites flying, any beaches and open area is a preferable spot while at water village people will play from *pantaran* or *titian*. In Brunei, housing scheme areas is one of favourable spot for kites flying. Neighbours and friends who share the same interest usually play together.

But for about five to ten years back, relevant authority issued several advisories regarding the flying of kites. The kite-flying activity is no longer permitted to be played anywhere as there are few areas that are prohibited. A prohibited area includes common routes used by a helicopter and airplane.

Chasing a detached kite also raised concerns among motorist. During the olden time, chasing the kite did not imposed much danger as only fewer cars were present on the road. But now, where cars are almost everywhere, the activity is not advisable.

All these matters do concerned kites flying lovers but they did not take the advisory as threat to the game.

"The advisory is only to remind people to be more safety cautious. I do not think relevant authority will stop us from playing our traditional game," said one of the kites' players who is in his mid-thirties.

We also had several opportunities to ask few kites players why they chose this game compared to other traditional games.

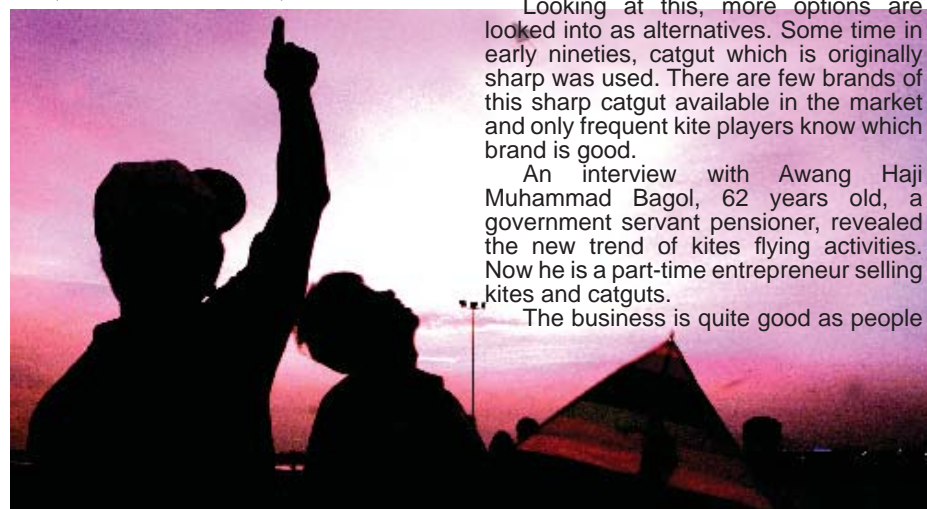
They simply answered because the game only required low cost, as with BND\$5 player can purchase a kite and catgut that can readily be played. This game can also be shared among family members.

"As many people have the same interest so it easy to find a place for flying the kites. You can just go to the area where you see many kites' players flocking. No entrance fees and memberships. If you are lucky, you can make new friends from various backgrounds," said one of the players.

Others answered playing the game is just for fun to relieve stress from daily work. Furthermore it is our traditional game so it our responsibility to sustain it.

Few steps also have been taken by relevant authority like Kites Association of Brunei to preserve this traditional game. Activity like kites flying competition is conducted once or twice a year usually in conjunction with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's birthday celebration.

Some school also conduct activity like kites-making and kites-flying competition among their students.



SME receives strong support

JALAN MENTERI BESAR, October 10 – The small-and-medium-enterprises (SME) in Brunei Darussalam continue to receive strong support from the government through the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) who is working hard to help nurture and develop SMEs in Brunei.

Several programmes were introduced to enhance this sector such as through those programmes provided by the Enterprise Development Centre in Sinaut and by working closely with Asia Inc. Forum.

Recent development in the local SME showed further progress with a signing agreement of 'Outsourcing Agreement' between G4S Security Services Sendirian Berhad and 24-7 Assist.

Present at the ceremony was the Permanent Secretary at MIPR, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Hamid.

Signing on behalf of G4S was its Director, Sulaiman bin Haji Ahai, while his counterpart from 24-7 Assist was its Director, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Idris and witnessed by Permanent Secretary.



Signing ceremony witnessed by Permanent Secretary, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Hamid.

Ministry sends five govt scholars to study overseas

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 23 - Five students from Sekolah Menengah Arab were sent to the United Kingdom for further studies under the government scholarships sponsored by the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs said for the first time, it granted the scholarships to students who had achieved academic excellence in 2006 to specialise in educational areas.

The students who received 'KHEU Special Scheme' scholarships this year are: Dayang Nur Ayuni binti Hj Ali Amat, who will be studying at Headington School; Dayang Hadijah binti Haji Shukri, Dayang Hjh Nur Majdina binti Haji Md Lot, Dayang Norhanisah binti Haji Abd Rani, registered at Oswestry School; and Awang Muhammad Nurul Haq bin Haji Johar, who is at Bedford School in London.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs said the 'KHEU Special Scheme' scholarship is different from the scheme offered by the Ministry of Education to students who excel in their studies in Sijil Pelajaran Ugama Brunei (SPUB) and Brunei Cambridge General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level (BC GCE 'O' Level).

The scholarship is part of the Ministry of Religious Affairs' aims and interests to give a challenging opportunity for students of the Arabic schools Sekolah Menengah Arab and Institut Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (ITQSHHB) to study at an advance level abroad.

The ministry said it hopes that there will be more specialists especially in subjects like the English Language, Mathematics, Economics, Accounting, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Geography and History.

Royal Brunei Air Force joins Asia Pacific Airforce Symposium

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 22 - Brunei Darussalam joined 17 other Pacific Region nations at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii for the Pacific Rim Airpower Symposium (PACRIM).

The PACRIM Airpower Symposium began on September 17 and concluded September 21, with a view to build and enhance cooperation amongst the air forces of Pacific nations.

During the course of four days, the symposium briefings and discussions also saw presentations from participating nations which allowed representatives to discuss their air force's unique circumstances, capabilities and challenges. It is hoped that through such exchanges, the air forces of the Asia-Pacific region can more efficiently collaborate towards mutually beneficial goals.

The delegation from Brunei Darussalam was led by the Commander of the Royal Brunei Air Force, Brigadier General Dato Paduka Haji Mahmud bin Haji Saidin.

Joining Brunei Darussalam in Hawaii were delegations from Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the United States.

Be cautious with unauthorised investment schemes

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 12 – Members of the public are reminded to be cautious with unrecognised investment schemes or business activities.

The call was made by the Ministry of Finance in a press release where it said financial products or investments offered should be approved or licensed by the Ministry before it was offered in Brunei Darussalam.

Members of the public are advised to seek for clarification from the Ministry before conducting business activities with any companies or individuals which offer various products related to investments, money foreign exchange, or commodities. This is because the products offered by the companies might not possess the appropriate license needed.

It was also stated by the Ministry of Finance that any person found to be receiving, taking or accepting deposits - except under and in accordance with a license granted under section 4(1) of the Banking Order, 2006 to carry on banking business - is therefore committing an offence punishable under section 93(1) Banking Order 2006 and liable on conviction to be a fine not exceeding of \$10,000.00, imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years or both.

Meanwhile, anyone found providing investment advice without a proper license is also committing an offence under the Securities Order 2001, which carries a maximum fine of up to \$500,000 or five years imprisonment or both.

The Rizqun International Hotel



Picture courtesy of Jennifer Mok

Lies within the heart of the busy bustling retail area of Gadong are the latest five-star international hotel, The Rizqun International Hotel. With just about 10 minutes away from the Brunei International Airport, this hotel in recent times had become a popular venue among business entrepreneurs, locals and for tourists.

The hotel was officially opened by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office in July 9, 2006.

This five-star hotel is owned by the Abdul Razak Holdings (ARH), a company that focuses on property development and hotel operation. ARH was established on October 5, 1978 by the family of the late Pehin Haji Awang Abdul Razak. In the field of property development, ARH is one of the biggest private property developers in Brunei Darussalam, having built commercial and residential properties totalling to an approximate of 2.2 million sq.ft.

The Rizqun International Hotel offers a choice of 168 rooms and suites with a view of Gadong and its surrounding. Each room and suite is elegantly equipped with individually controlled air-conditioning, broadband internet access, refrigerator

and mini bar, LCD television and DVD player, International Direct Dial, daily newspaper, satellite channel, electronic key system and others.

Besides offering comfort rooms and suites, the hotel also features a wide variety of different sized function rooms. The hotel is one of the favourite venue for hosting meeting or conference in Brunei. The Rizqun International Hotel also has the biggest pillar-less ballroom in the nation that comes with the state-of-art audio visual technology.

The Songket Ballroom is among the favourite venue for holding international conferences and seminars, gala night and also for wedding banquet. The ballroom can accommodate up to 1,500 delegates in theatre seating and up to 1,000 guests for banquets. For a smaller occasion, like private meeting or product launching, the ballroom is divisible into three separate soundproof sections.

Sutra Multi-Function Hall is another option for holding function like wedding banquet or annual dinner. The hall can accommodate up to 800 people in theatre seating and up to 500 guests for banquets. There are additional 10 meeting rooms which complements the existing two ballrooms. The hotel also

offers seminar packages and conference room rental for you to choose.

For dining and entertainment, Rizqun Coffee House can cater your need. The coffee house offers variety of dishes ranging from traditional to international cuisine. Every month, Rizqun Coffee House have the 'Gourmet Experience @ Rizqun Coffee House' promotion which serves different themes. Among the monthly offers are Seafood BBQ @ Poolside and Saturday Dip Hi-Tea @ Poolside.

Other facilities you can enjoy along your stay at the hotel are the business centre, swimming pool and fitness centre, wifi at lobby area, non-smoking floor, and surau (mini hall for prayer).

Shopping is made easy as the hotel is connected to The Mall, one of the biggest shopping arcades in the country. The Mall not only features wide ranges of shops but also a cineplex, food court and games' arcade. More departmental stores, restaurants and night market are located within a short-distance walk from the hotel.

Finding a parking is also easy with more than 700 parking bays provided.



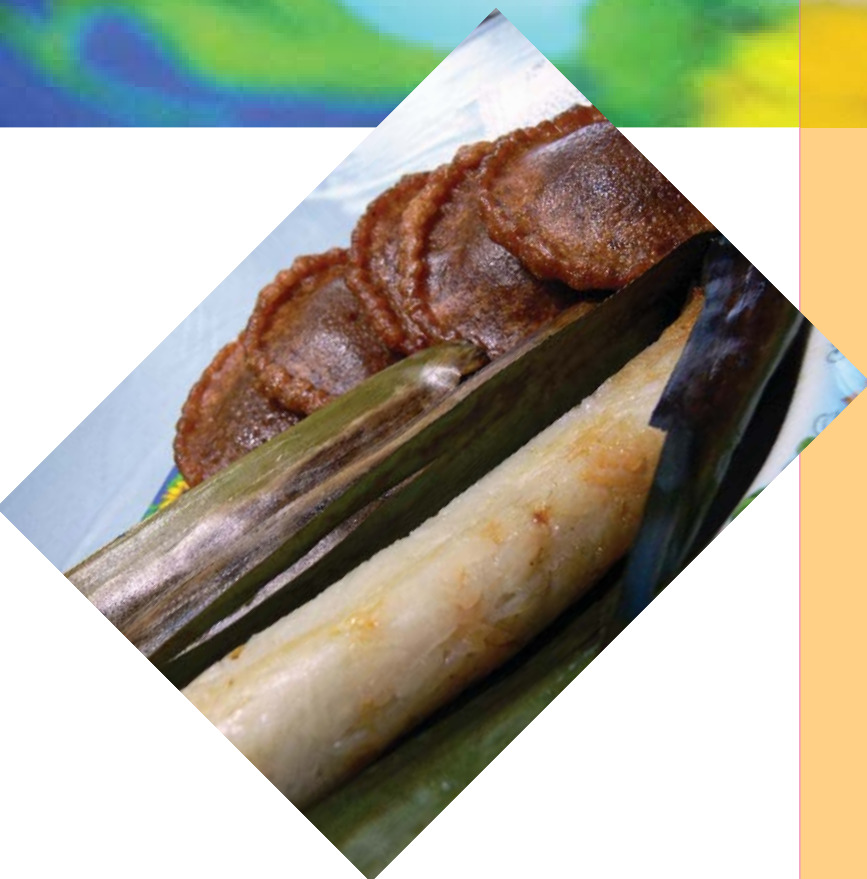
Penyaram

Ingredients

454 g rice
302 g brown palm sugar
½ large bottle cooking oil

Methods

Wash rice, soak for 2 hours and drip away. Then grind and sieve. Mix rice flour with brown sugar and stir thoroughly. Then ferment overnight. Then mix with a little water until moderately solid. Heat oil in a pan with moderate fire. Take a cup of dough and fry until rise. Remove when it turns yellowish.



Four runners represent Brunei in Marathon Greatest Race on Earth

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 17 - Four runners from Brunei Darussalam will be competing in the Marathon Greatest Race on Earth, Standard Chartered Bank in four countries starting in October.

The marathon race started in Nairobi on October 28. The runners are Roslani bin Hidop who started in Nairobi, Zilkifle bin Liman will start from Singapore, Sefli bin Ahar in Mumbai Marathon in January 2008 and Mohammad Rudin bin Takong in Hongkong.

Thanksgiving for Teacher's Day

TUNGKU, September 22 - A thanksgiving ceremony to mark Teacher's Day celebration was held at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam's mosque.

The ceremony that included a mass prayer and tahlil was attended by the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman.

The 17th Teacher's Day celebration will be held on October 27, 2007 at the International Convention Centre. This year's theme is *Guru Beriltizam Memperkasa Keupayaan Bangsa* or Committed Teachers Enhance the Capability of the Nation.

Brunei joins 6th BIMP-EAGA ICT Conference

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 22 - Brunei Darussalam and other members of the East Asian Growth Area will be focusing on the inaugural BIMP-EAGA Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Conference in Davao City, the Philippines on October 23, 2007 as a platform for prospective avenues of greater collaboration in ICT.

The first BIMP-EAGA, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines East Asean Growth Area, ICT Conference, which is being held in conjunction with the sixth Mindanao Information Communications Technology Congress, will carry the theme of 'ICT Beyond Border: People, Infrastructure, Innovation' with the aim of providing a venue in identifying areas for greater collaboration among Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Brunei Darussalam partake Special Olympic Games in Shanghai

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, September 28 - A total of 22 athletes and 10 officials will be taking part in the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Shanghai, China from September 28 to October 12.

Brunei's contingent is led by Awang Adanan bin Musim. Brunei will be taking part in three out of the 21 sports where four athletes will be competing in the Bocce event, eight in athletics and 10 in football.

Special Olympics World Games will feature 21 competitions with more than 10,000 Special Olympics from over 160 countries and regions expected to take part in the games.

12 sports nominated at the SEA Games

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 1 - A total of 61 athletes from 12 sport events have been nominated to represent Brunei Darussalam in the upcoming 24th SEA Games in Thailand from Dec 6 to 15.

This was revealed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Jemat during the 3rd Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council meeting with the sporting associations on the issue of participation for the games.

Present at the meeting was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council.

The sport event involved lawn bowl, karatedo, taekwondo, fencing, equestrian, sepak takraw, cue sport, athletics, pencak silat, traditional boat racing, cycling and golf.

Thanksgiving prayers for Her Majesty's 61st birthday

GADONG, October 6 - A number of thanksgiving prayers were held in conjunction with Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha's 61st birthday anniversary.

The welfare association of wives and families of Royal Brunei Police Force (PEKERTI) held a ceremony at Rumah Aman in Gadong. Present at the ceremony was PEKERTI's President, Datin Suriati and other members of the association.

The Brunei's Women Council also held a similar ceremony at Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah. More than 400 members from 13 women associations under the Brunei's Women Council attended the ceremony. Present at the event was the Brunei's Women Council President, Datin Hajah Fatimah.

Bruneian third place in Al-Quran competition

BERAKAS, October 10 - Ak. Khairul Ikhwan bin Pengiran Ali won third place in the 15th International Competition for Memorisation, Recital and Interpretation Al-Quran in Amman, Jordan.

The competition was held over a period of nine days, commencing on October 1. It consisted of four categories, which were the memorisation of 30 verses from Al-Quran with their interpretation, the memorisation of 30 verses from Al-Quran, 20 verses and 10 verses from Al-Quran.

Brunei's contingent only competed in one category, which was the memorisation of 10 verses from Al-Quran. A total of seven countries with eight participants took part in the category namely, Jordan, Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam; Arab Emirates, Turkey; Burkina Faso and Maldives.

Ak Khairul Ikhwan won 850 Jordanian dinars. This was the seventh time Brunei has participated in the competition since its first endeavour in 2000.

BEDUK

The *beduk* signifies the time to break the fast



In the olden days, when there was no radio and television, a *beduk* was used to inform fellow Muslims that prayer time has arrived. The *beduk* used would produce drum-like sound which could be heard from afar distance.

In the past too, the *beduk* was used as a device to provide announcements to the public on the affairs of respective village such as deaths or any adversities. People would gather to listen to the announcements made.

Although today with the advancement of technology, the call for prayers or any public announcements could be heard through the radio and seen from the television.

Today, the *beduk* is more synonym for a call to break the fast. In the month of Ramadan, the sound of the *beduk* could be heard on the radio while the sight of a man beating the *beduk* could be seen on the television. The *beduk* signifies the time to break the fast.

A *beduk* is made from wood or filtered *nibung*. It is made in various sizes and up to seven feet long. The skin of *beduk* is made from buffalo's skin, cattle and in the past, deer skin was favoured as it could produce a good sound quality.

Beduk is made in various sizes and up to seven feet long.



In the olden days, a *beduk* was used to inform fellow Muslims that prayer time has arrived.

Photos by: Hajjah Zalamit Hajji Noorkhan