



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to present the donated meat to one of the recipients.

## Religious education protect us from devious teachings

**ISTANA NURUL IMAN, December 31** – The best effort in safeguarding the nation from devious teachings is through religious education. His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said at the eve of Aidil Adha.

Earlier in the *titah* (royal speech), His Majesty touched on the *aqidah*, that is to ensure that our soul is always akin to Islam or in others words, always hold firmly to our *aqidah* or beliefs. His Majesty also called on the citizens of Brunei Darussalam to be vigilant on the possibility of revival of devious teachings.

"Therefore I would like to remind that all of our borders should be supervised, so the dangerous virus could not penetrate to our country," said the sovereign.

Brunei Darussalam joined other Muslims in the world celebrating Aidil Adha, a religious festival marking the culmination of the Haj. The celebration falls on every 10 Zulhijjah of the Islamic calendar.



## Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque

Built to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's reign. Located in Kampung Kiarong, the mosque is the largest in Brunei Darussalam. Its intricately decorated minarets and shimmering golden domes are clearly visible along the main route into town from the airport.

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## Palace Newsround.....



**His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granted audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman for:**

1. His Royal Highness Prince Muqrin bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia on November 6. His Royal Highness was in the country for a two-day visit.
2. The outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Abbas Talebifar on December 16.



**Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha granted audience at the Istana Nurul Iman for the spouse of the new Canadian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, Mrs Gievanna Lucia Battel on December 18.**

## Palace Newsround.....



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Abbas Talebifar on December 14.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, received a farewell audience from the outgoing Iranian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Abbas Talebifar. He had been in the country since February 2005. The audience took place at the Ministry.

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

- His Excellency Choummaly Savasone, the President of Lao People's Democratic Republic and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Bouasone Bouphavanh in conjunction with the republic's 31<sup>st</sup> National Day on December 2.
- His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi and Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and the Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, in conjunction with the country's 35<sup>th</sup> National day on December 2.
- His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the King of Thailand and his Prime Minister, General Surayud Chulanont on the occasion of the 79<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on December 5.
- His Majesty Al-Wathiqu Billah Al-Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Mahmud Al-Muktafi Billah Shah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Terengganu Darul Iman on the occasion of His Majesty's proclamation as the 13<sup>th</sup> Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia on December 12.
- His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa the King of Bahrain and His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister of Bahrain, on the occasion of the 35<sup>th</sup> National Day of Bahrain on December 16.
- His Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Shinzo Abe on the occasion of the 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday anniversary of His Majesty emperor Akihito on December 23.

## His Majesty sends condolences to the Philippines

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 4** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent his condolences to the President of the Republic of the Philippines, Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, following the great loss of lives and destruction caused by Typhoon Durian on December 1.

In the message, His Majesty as well as the Government and people of Brunei Darussalam expressed their heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the government and people of the Republic of the Philippines, especially to the bereaved families of the victims of the disaster.



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness at the BSLA get-together.

## Royalty at BSLA gathering

**GADONG, December 16** – Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar consented to grace the Brunei Shell Ladies Association (BSLA) get-together function at the Songket Ballroom of Rizqun International Hotel.

Also present were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam. The function was highlighted with colourful performances from local and foreign artistes.



One of the performances during the event.

## Crown Prince launches Baiduri's platinum card

**JERUDONG, December 11** – His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office officiated the launching of Baiduri Bank's platinum card. The event was held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

The card is the first Visa platinum credit card in the country based on the cutting edge EMV (Europay, Mastercard and Visa) technology that offers the highest level of security, giving card members added peace of mind as well as limitless flexibility and global prestige.



His Royal Highness tours an exhibition soon after the launching of Baiduri Bank's platinum card.



His Royal Highness greeted by the citizens of Kampung Telisai.



Touring the cooperative shop.



Visit to chicken breeding farm.



His Royal Highness is briefed on the equipment in prawn breeding.

## Crown Prince on work visit to industrial sites

**BELAIT, December 21** - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office continued his working visits to the industrial sites under the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) including a number of private sectors in Belait and Tutong districts.

The Crown Prince's working visit started at the Brunei Forestry Centre in Sungai Liang, Belait. At the centre, His Royal Highness was given a briefing on the centre by Forestry Director, Haji Saidin bin Salleh.

His Royal Highness later toured around the library and training section including National Herbarium (BRUN) located within the

centre's complex. At the Herbarium, the Crown Prince viewed various collections and specimens of nation's plant made as centre's reference.

From Brunei Forestry Centre in Sungai Liang, His Royal Highness proceeded to the Persatuan Ikatan Melayu Telisai (PRIMET), a cooperative company in Kampung Telisai, Tutong. Among others, the operation conducted by the company was bus transportation service, retail shop and a restaurant.

Later, His Royal Highness visited the 495-hectre Phase II Telisai site for prawn breeding under the Fisheries Department and Integrated Aquaculture International

Company.

He then toured to Sabli Food Industries Sdn. Bhd and ATH Garments Sdn. Bhd in Tutong Serembangun Industrial Complex. Sabli Food Industries is one of the major food product processor established since 1985. While ATH Garments is company specialising in producing garments meant for export.

His Royal Highness' working visit continued to a chicken rearing farm in Kampong Luangan Timbaran, Mukim Kiudang in Tutong District. The 12-hectare farm with eight chicken coops is conducted by Harapan Baru group. The farm manages to produce some 25,000 chicken for the local market.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade at a dinner in honour of His Royal Highness Prince Muqrin's visit to Brunei Darussalam.

## Dinner for Saudi's Prince

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 5** - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade hosted a dinner for His Royal Highness Prince Muqrin bin Abdul

Aziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia at the Balai Penghadapan in Bukit Kayangan.

Also present at the dinner were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs and Trade, and His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Aziz.

His Royal Highness Prince Muqrin bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud was in the country for a two-day visit.

## Nurses and midwives represent the leaders in patient care

**GADONG, November 4** – Healthcare will always be a top priority in our national development goal. This is perhaps best reflected in an infant mortality rate that is considered low, even by the standards of a developed country.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah made the *sabda* (royal speech) at the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Nursing Conference at the Rizqun International Hotel.

Her Royal Highness said nurses and midwives represent the leaders in patient care. Their ability to find new solutions to increase patients' level of comfort and care has a direct impact upon the success of any healthcare system.

Her Royal Highness also said that



Her Royal Highness presents the innovation award to Jainah Musa, an education officer at the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Nursing College.

the resources brought about from the advances in technology provide a basis for lifelong learning process for healthcare professionals. "This process is instrumental to innovation, allowing new ideas to be rapidly communicated, discussed and explored by a worldwide community of healthcare professionals," said Her Royal Highness.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of innovation award by Her Royal Highness. Jainah Musa, an education officer at the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah

Sa'adatul Bolkiah Nursing College, received the award for her dedication in the nursing profession.

The three-day 7<sup>th</sup> International Nursing Conference carried the theme "Innovation in Nursing and Midwifery: Practice, Education, Management and Research."

It was organised by the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Nursing College. More than 30 local and foreign speakers delivered speeches while over 300 participants including students took part at the conference.

## Health care needs comprehensive data set

**GADONG, December 6** – A specific and comprehensive data set for the health care sector is needed by the nation. This is relevant for nursing in its effort to implement the future planning of its workforce.

This was outlined by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Suyoi at the closing ceremony of the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Nursing Conference at the Rizqun International Hotel.

The minister said that the world today is witnessing a shortage of workforce in

the health field where almost four million people are nurses. Hence, the minister urged the relevant agency especially the Minister of Health to set up the National Nursing and Midwifery Human Resource Minimum Dataset.

According to the minister, the dataset is a critical element to the successful implementation of workforce planning. However, the system must be supported by accessible dynamic information systems providing timely and accurate data.



The Minister of Health delivers a speech at the closing ceremony of the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Nursing Conference

## Brunei-Thailand Photo Exchange Exhibition

**CHIANG MAI, December 7** - Brunei Darussalam and Thailand held a photo exhibition called 'Harmony between the Two Kingdoms: Thailand and Brunei Darussalam'. The five-day exhibition took place at the site of the Royal Ratchaphruek (International Horticultural Exposition for His Majesty the King) 2006 in Chiang Mai, northern Thailand. This was the second time the photo exhibition exchange program was held. The first was on July 20 to 27 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas, Bandar Seri Begawan.

The exhibition was jointly opened by Acting Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, Haji Ahmad bin Haji Abdul Rahman and Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office of Thailand, Jadul Apichatabutra. It was held to commemorate the double occasions that are His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's accession to the throne.

The visitors to the exhibition were provided with knowledge and understanding about Brunei Darussalam, in addition to the institution of monarchy in both countries, and Thailand-Brunei bilateral relations. The photo exchange exhibition was a project launched under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on Cooperation in the Field of Information and Broadcasting.



The Acting Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office Brunei and Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office of Thailand views the exhibition.



The opening of the exhibition by Acting Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei and Deputy Permanent Secretary of Prime Minister's Office of Thailand.



Some of the visitors to the Brunei-Thailand Photo Exchange Exhibition (left and right).





## 21<sup>st</sup> century education system to be introduced

**JERUDONG, November 28** – The Ministry of Education will be introducing the 21<sup>st</sup> century education system to ensure that the nation's education system has the ability to provide the best for her nation's development amid challenges brought about by the process of globalisation.

This was highlighted by Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman during the second dialogue session with the leaders of secondary and primary schools throughout the country. The dialog was held at the Royal Berkshire, Jerudong Polo and Country Club.

The minister said the new system will put forward an idea of change in the assessment system, create various pathways, strengthen an English language

acquisition, upgrade performances in Mathematics and Science and maintain and enhance students performance in Malay.

In this regard, the Minister of Education said the ministry will getting advise service for Australia Council Education Research (ACER) to do research on achievement of students in the country in the subjects of an English Language, Mathematic and Science from primary level to secondary level.

The minister added channelisation under this system gives opportunities to students to improve based on their varied capabilities, interest and ability. The system also has a flexibility to allow students to pursue other directions. The dialogue was a follow-up to the first session held on April 25, this year.



The Minister of Education attends the second dialogue session with the leaders of secondary and primary schools throughout the country.

## Low number of people with HIV/AIDS in Brunei

**BERAKAS, November 30** – Brunei Darussalam is categorised as one of the lowest country infected with HIV/AIDS. To date, Brunei Darussalam recorded 30 locals including nine women infected with HIV/AIDS. Seventeen people died because of the disease.

This was stated by the Minister of

Health, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Suyoi marking World AIDS Day 2006 at the International Convention Centre.

According to a report issued by UNAIDS/WHO on November 21 this year entitled '2006 AIDS Epidemic Update', 39.5 million people in the world were infected by the

disease. It estimated that 2.9 million people died with AIDS this year.

The minister said among other measures and commitment which had been taken were by conducting activities related to health education and awareness on HIV/AIDS through campaigns at the national level.

## Brunei products at Oman's Women Expo

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 10** – Several Bruneian companies joined other foreign exhibitors from Saudi Arabia, Syria, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom at the Women Expo 2006 in Oman.

The Women Expo 2006 was held at the Oman International Exhibition Centre in Muscat. The exhibition was held from December 9 to 15 that featured over 65

local and international companies dealing with products and services for women.

Since Women Expo 2006 catered to the needs and interests of women, entry to the six-day event was restricted to ladies and families only. This year's edition of the event is bigger than the first one in 2005. The products and services offered were beauty and health, jewellery and wedding concepts, fashion and lifestyle, education

and finance, home improvement products as well as food and child care.

Among the products on display in the exhibition were home appliances, cosmetics, leather products, kitchen equipment, garments, jewellery, and fashion accessories. Women Expo 2006 also featured new car models, baby products, health information and services, perfumes, food products, and educational opportunities for women.

## UBD signs MoU with Kagawa University

**TUNGKU, December 11** – The Institute of Medicine, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Faculty of Medicine, Kagawa University, Japan. The signing ceremony was held at the Senate Room of the UBD Chancellor Hall.

Signing on behalf of UBD was Dr Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi, Dean of Institute of Medicine while his counterpart was Dr Tomohiko Taminato, Dean of Kagawa University's Faculty of Medicine.

The agreement is aimed at seeking ways of working together towards a relationship that contributes to the joint activities between the two institutions. With the memorandum, it is hoped that UBD will strive to fulfil its vision by being 'a world class international university, a distinctive national identity'.

## Technology methods needed in education processes

**RIMBA, December 12** – The Ministry of Education encourage the use of technology in the classrooms to improve the teaching and learning processes.

Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Haji Mohd Daud bin Haji Mahmud stated the matter at the launching of the Brunei Darussalam-UNESCO Science and Technology Camp at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam's (UBD) Multi-purpose hall.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary said this is in line with the ministry's strategic themes of teaching and learning excellence through the use of appropriate and state of the art technology and instruments, and in providing quality education.

The event was organised by the Science, Technology and Environment Partnership (STEP) Centre, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation and Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

Carrying the theme 'Science and Technology for Sustainable Development,' the camp was participated by 19 students from the hosting nation, two students from Malaysia and eight students from Japan. All of them were aged between 13 to 16



The Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education welcomes the participants of UNESCO Science and Technology Camp.

years. Additionally, 15 UBD and Institute Technology Brunei (ITB) students were also involved in the event.

Among other objectives of the camp were to raise social awareness on the importance of Science and Technology through interactive science education,

and to promote collaboration and cultural exchange between students of Brunei Darussalam and other countries like Japan.

The camp was held from December 11 to 17. Throughout the week, participants were involved in lectures, robot building, research activities, field trips and presentations.

## Digital answer by Housing Development Department

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 16** - As an effort to integrate information digitally and enable members of the public to communicate through the Housing Development Department website, the Housing Development Department implemented e-SIKAP project, a Housing Development Information System under e-Government projects.

In this regard, a three-million-dollar contract was signed between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and HAD Technologies. Signing on behalf of His Majesty's Government was the Director of Housing Development, Awang Haji Mat Salleh bin Haji Matusin and representing HAD Technologies was its Chief Executive Officer, Haji Awang bin Haji Mohamad Daud.

On hand to witness the signing was the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Development, Awang Haji Brahim bin Haji Ismail.

The project is expected to be complete



The signing contract between His Majesty's Government and HAD Technologies witness by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Development.

by the third quarter of 2007. It aimed to update application data, an application process until the time of paying back the

housing loan process for the Housing Scheme, conducted by the Housing Development Department.



## Minister attends reception celebrate King Thailand's birthday

Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adnan and wife, with His Excellency Sornsilp Polteja, Thailand's Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam with his spouse were at a reception to celebrate the 79<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of the King of Thailand, His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej on December 5 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.



## Reception celebrate Japanese emperor's birthday

Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Seri Pahlawan Retired Major General Awang Haji Mohammad and wife, with His Excellency Hashimoto Itsuo, Japanese Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam with his spouse attended a reception celebrating the 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday anniversary of His Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan, on December 6 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

## ASEAN delegate meet on prepared foodstuff

**GADONG, December 4** - The progress on the implementation of work programmes on prepared foodstuff was discussed at the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Asean Consultative Committee on Standard and Quality (ACCSQ) Product Working Group on Prepared Foodstuff.

Some 30 delegates from ASEAN member countries and also representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat were in Brunei

Darussalam to attend the meeting. It was held at the Centrepont Hotel in Gadong for two consecutive days.

The meeting was officially opened by the Acting Director of Agriculture, Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati.

The main aim of the meeting was to harmonise technical requirements of specific areas related to prepared foodstuff and the

implementation of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for prepared foodstuff.

The Transparency of Prepared Foodstuff Regulatory Regime among member countries; regulations and mandatory requirements related to Prepared Foodstuff and Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of Prepared Foodstuff were also discussed at the meeting.

## Bruneian companies join food expo in Oman

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 4** – A total of 10 companies from Brunei Darussalam represent the country to promote their product at the Food Expo 2006 in Oman. The expo, an international exhibition on food and beverages was held from December 3 to 5, at the Oman International Exhibition Centre.

The three-day expo was organised by Omanexpo LLC, Food Expo 2006. It featured over 55 local and international companies that directly serve the food and beverage as well as the hospitality industries in Oman. Its main objective is to contribute to the continued growth of

Oman's food industry by presenting the latest products and equipment that are available in the market.

More than 25 exhibitors from other parts of the world also took part to present their high quality products to potential clients and distributors in Oman.



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports takes a closer look at the exhibition.

## Business etiquette important

**BERAKAS, December 19** – All small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) are urged to give more priority to their business etiquette and customers interest for their own success.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Seri Pahlawan Major General (Rtd) Awang Haji Mohammad stated the matter at the official opening of

the Small Medium Entrepreneurs Year End Sales Carnival 2006 and Back-To-School Promotion.

The minister said for some individuals, the phrase 'year end sale' brings to mind an assortment of low-end goods that entrepreneurs are unable to get rid of throughout the year. Therefore, he urged

entrepreneurs to change such a negative perception by selling genuine articles of high quality as business etiquette is much valued by customers.

More than 50 booths joined the carnival held at the Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex. The carnival started from December 20 to 29.

## Elderly attend a celebration

**MUARA, December 19** - A total of 600 elderly people throughout the country attended the 'International Day for the Elderly 2007' held at the Hua Ho Manggis. The function was organised by the Department of Community Development, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The celebration allowed the elders a chance to demonstrate their vast capabilities, and also reminisce on their efforts and services contributed towards the development of the country. Besides that, it also gave them the chance to foster stronger relations with families, community members and various government agencies.

Present as guest of honour was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Seri Pahlawan Major General (Rtd) Awang Haji Mohammad.

The International Day for the Elderly is marked on every October 1, as declared by the United Nations.



One of the elder people receives a souvenir.

## French film festival show five popular films

**JERUDONG, November 30** – The 7<sup>th</sup> French film festival was launched on November 29 at the Empire Theatre, The Empire Hotel & Country Club by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Seri Pahlawan Retired Major General Awang Haji Mohammad.

Also present were Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of France, His Excellency Patrick Bonneville.

A total of five most popular French films were shown from November 30 until December 3. Three films were also showed at the Oil & Gas Discovery Centre started from December 2 to 3.

The festival was jointly conducted by the France's Embassy in Brunei Darussalam and Alliance Francaise Brunei aimed to promote various world cultural.

The films chosen were Princes et Princesses, Mon Idole, L'Homme du train, Le Role de Sa Vie and Jene Suis Pas La pour Etre Aime.



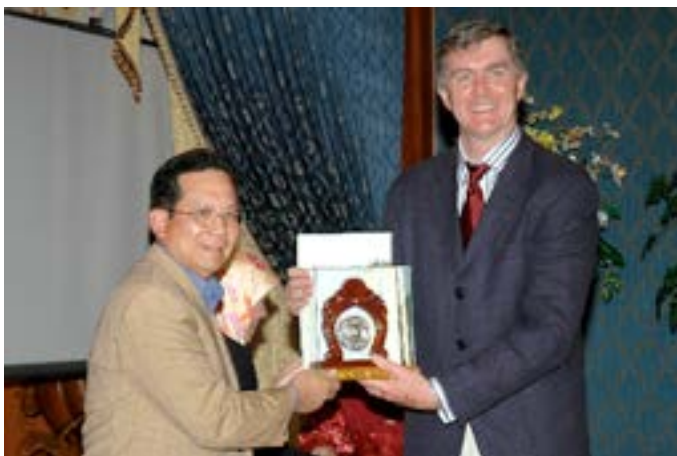
The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports at the launching of French film festival.

## Committed towards quality health care

**JERUDONG, December 9** – The Ministry of Health always supports the Government of His Majesty's commitment to having a knowledgeable and efficient workforce capable of providing the highest quality of healthcare.

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Suyoi stressed the matter at the official welcoming ceremony of the Second International Nephrology Conference at Royal Berkshire Hall, Jerudong Polo Club.

The minister said the conference is vital in providing medical personnel with updates in healthcare management. The Second International Nephrology Conference was attended by some 87 doctors, 224 nurses and 70 registered committee members. Six international speakers shared their experiences at the conference.



Minister of Health presents a token of appreciation to one of the speakers at the conference.

## Consumer Price Index for October 2006

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in October 2006 decreased by 0.3 per cent from the previous month with an index of 102.0. The decrease was partly attributed to the Brunei Grand Sales from September 15 until October 29, 2006.

The cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages increased by 0.1 per cent due to higher prices of fresh prawn and other seafood, canned fish, milk, eggs, vegetables and fruits.

Lower prices of ready-made clothing and accessories, materials for male and female, and footwear led to a 3.4 per cent decrease in the cost of clothing and footwear.

While the cost of housing, water, electricity and maintenance, and education remained unchanged.

The cost of household goods, services and operation decreased by 0.2 per cent due to cheaper prices of floor covering, household furnishings, kitchen appliances and utensils, crockery and cutlery and household operation.

The cost of transport, however, increased by 0.1 per cent resulting from the higher prices of certain air fares.

Meanwhile, the cost of communication dropped by 0.1 per cent due to cheaper prices of instruments including accessories.

The cost of medical and health increased by 0.1 per cent due to higher prices of proprietary medicines and supplies.

While the costs of miscellaneous goods and services dropped by 0.7 per cent as a result of lower prices of personal effects and other personal goods.

The cost of recreation and entertainment declined 0.9 per cent resulting from lower prices of holiday packages.

CPI in October 2006 was 0.4 per cent higher than that of the same month in 2005.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Trick Shot tournament held

**GADONG, December 22** – Trick Shot enthusiasts were given the opportunity to witness two world ranked players vying the Brunei Trick Shot Masters 2006 title.

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

The Brunei Trick Shot Masters 2006 was participated by Tom Rossman or "Dr Cue" and Bruce Barthelette or "The Big Guy".

The competition was the second staged in the Sultanate.



His Royal Highness greets the two participants in the competition.



His Royal Highness presents a cheque with a total of US\$3,000.00 to Tom Rossman, the champion in the Brunei Trick Shot Masters 2006.



The Crown Prince launches the Brunei Trick Shot Masters 2006.



Both participants at the Brunei Trick Shot Masters 2006.

## Brunei host Special Olympics

**BERAKAS, December 2** – Kalimantan from Indonesia won the first Borneo Cup Special Olympics 5-a-side soccer tournament after beating Sabah "A" in the final by three goals to nil.

The Deputy Minister of Education, Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Doctor Haji Mohammad presented the prizes to the champion. The title holder received the Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah Borneo Cup.

A total of seven teams, Brunei Darussalam (Brunei A and Brunei B), Sabah (Beaufort, Kota Kinabalu and Tawau), Sarawak (Kuching) and Indonesia (Kalimantan) took part in the two-day Special Olympics Borneo Cup 5-a-side soccer tournament from December 1 to 2. The event was officiated by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Suyoi at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Berakas on December 1.

Special Olympics is an international organisation dedicated to empower individuals with intellectual disabilities to be



The Deputy Minister of Education presents the prizes to the winner.

physically fit. Brunei Darussalam officially registered as a Special Olympics member in 2003, with the cooperation between various government agencies and Pusat Ehsan.

And this year marks another milestone

of achievements for Special Olympics Brunei Darussalam, as this was the nation's first time to host the Special Olympics Borneo Cup 5- a-side soccer tournament.

## Brunei attends ASEAN schools sports council

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 4** - With aims to encourage cooperation and understanding among the students of the Asean members through sports activities, the 43<sup>rd</sup> Management Committee Meeting and 54<sup>th</sup> Technical Committee Meeting of Asean Schools Sports Council was held in Kuala Lumpur,

Malaysia.

The three day meeting starting from December 4 to 7 also aimed to foster the relation through students exchange programme and educational visits. Brunei Darussalam was represented by two senior officials from the Education Co-curriculum Department of Ministry of Education.

Among the agenda discussed in the meeting were the 2006 Sports Activities report and voting for host country for the 2007-2008 sports events. Brunei Darussalam became a member of the Sports Council since 1984. The Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam hosted the Asean Schools Sports events in 2004-2005.

## Brunei to host BIMP-EAGA Games 2008

**MACASSAR, November 26** – Brunei Darussalam will be hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> BIMP-EAGA Games in 2008.

The handing over of the official flag for the BIMP-EAGA Games to Brunei Darussalam as a host country in 2008 was held during the closing ceremony of the 5<sup>th</sup> BIMP-EAGA Games in Sulawesi.

The flag was handed over by the Philippine's BIMP-EAGA Committee, Leon Montomayor to Brunei's Chief-De-Mission, Pengiran Sabri bin Pengiran Haji Mohammad who is the Deputy Director at the Youth and Sports Department.

BIMP-EAGA is the Brunei Darussalam- Indonesia-Malaysia- Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area.

BIMP-EAGA was found in March 1994 where its desire is to enable this area to fully participate in the ASEAN development process.



Brunei's Chef-De-Mission, Pengiran Sabri receives official flag of BIMP-EAGA Games from Philippine's BIMP-EAGA Committee, Leon Montomayor.

# Convenient transportations in Brunei Darussalam

**B**runei Darussalam has one of the best road infrastructure built which has made communicating very convenient and comfortable. The infrastructure is well spread reaching from the capital to the further hinterlands.

To ensure good roads, billions of dollars had been invested by the government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. In the eighth National Development Plan (NDP), a total of \$817.9 million, equivalent to 11.20 per cent of the total eighth NDP's expenditure was allocated. A total of \$433.1 million from the said total was specifically for the development of the roads.

Looking back, in the early 1900, the footpath was built between Jalan Residency and Brunei Town at Jalan Subok. The development showed another progress in 1914 with the construction of a 60-mile distance pilot scheme to communicate Brunei Town and Kuala Belait.

Today, tar road were constructed along the country connecting Bandar Seri Begawan to Tutong Town and Kuala Belait, except for Bangar Town that have to be reached by boat (if using road, you will have to cross the Malaysian border). Roads leading to the rural areas like Mukim Labi in Belait District are also almost 100 per cent asphalt. The latest addition to Brunei's road development is the three lane roundabout located in Kiarong.

With the progress in the infrastructure,

it was only right to introduce the Road Traffic Regulations first introduced under Chapter 68 of Brunei Laws called 'Traction Engines and Motor Cars Enactment 1924' in 1924. The registrations of vehicles were commenced in 1926 which recorded only 21 units of vehicles. Besides that, the bus services were introduced in 1928. The services covered a journey from Tutong District and Belait District at a distance of 35 miles. In 1929, the Police Department issued 58 driving licences; and 45 units of vehicles had been registered.

In 1954, 'Traction Engine and Motor Cars Enactment 1924' was amended and later known as 'The Road Traffic Enactment 1954'. It was administrated by Chief Police Officer the Controller of Land Transport. By 1960, a total of 7,922 vehicles were registered and 7,519 driving licenses were issued with a total income of \$294, 212.

Later, a Land Transport Department was established on January 1, 1962. The responsibility was administrated by Royal Brunei Police. On January 1, 1963, the registration of bicycles was discontinued.

Now, the Land Transport Department (LTD) is under the Ministry of Communication. Among the responsibilities of the department are the registration of vehicles, issuance of driving licence and road tax.

Due to the progress of the nation's economy and the development of roads facility, the numbers of vehicles registered

are increasing from year to year. Another factor contributing to the increase in the number of vehicles is the availability of car loan facility and hire purchase scheme where the normal maximum years for payment periods are seven years.

New vehicle registration statistic for year 2005 showed that 16,175 vehicles were registered for that year compared to 14,368 units in 2004. Meanwhile statistics for quarter year of 2006 (January to April) has shown that 3,705 vehicles were registered.

LTD issue three types of driving licences that are; Provisional Driving Licence - 1 year, Full Driving Licence - 1 year or 3 years, and International Driving Permits - 1 year. Holders of foreign driving licences are permitted to drive in Brunei Darussalam for 90 days only (otherwise endorsed to Brunei Darussalam diving licence at any LTD offices). For obtaining the driving license; one has to be minimum of 18 years old; passes written test on road regulations, undergoes 10-hour driving practises and passes the driving test. All the tests are conducted by LTD and driving practises should be supervised by registered driving school.

There are 12 class of driving license available in Brunei, namely; Autocycle and Motorcycle (Class 1), Articulated Vehicle (Class 2), Private and Commercial Vehicles not exceeding 4480 pounds (Class 3), Commercial Vehicles net weight



Well structured highways ensure good transportation



not exceeding 6720 pounds (Class 4), Commercial Vehicles net weight exceeding 6720 pounds (Class 5), Motor Omnibus Single Deck (Class 6), Invalid Carriage and Pedestrian Controlled Vehicle (Class 7), Road Roller (Class 8), Steam Driven Vehicle (Class 9), Track Laying Vehicle (Class 10), Wheeled Tractor (Class 11) and Taxicab (Class 12).

Public transports are also available in the country. In Bandar Seri Begawan, there are six bus routes servicing within the Brunei Muara District area, namely; Central Line, Eastern Line, Southern Line, Western Line and Northern Line. These bus services are called 'Purple Buses' by local people and the fares start from \$1.00. There are also buses travel to Tutong and Kuala Belait. These buses depart from the bus terminal located at the multi-storey car park in the capital. Beside buses, taxis are also available. If you wish to travel by yourself, you can rent a car. Brunei follows international approved road signs; and road signs (indicating places) posted are in Malay medium and drives following the British driving system which is on the left side.

For places in the water villages, some are connected by jetty and some have to be

reached by boat so water taxis are the main mode of transportation. The fares starts from \$1.00 depending on the distance. For journey to Temburong, boat services are available from 7.45 am to 4.00 pm daily.



The new Land Transport Department's building.

The famous 'purple bus' provides transportation at an affordable fare.



Excellent planning on the roads makes commuting convenient and comfortable.



## 3,000 join 2<sup>nd</sup> Brunei Marathon

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 10** - Now in its second year, the Brunei Marathon once again attracted enthusiastic participation from both domestic and foreign runners.

Some 3,000 runners registered for the run, a 40 per cent increase than in 2005. The B\$300,000 Brunei Marathon is the richest marathon race in Asia. The marathon was flagged off at exactly 6 am at the entrance of Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien.

Wilson Chepwonky of Kenya emerged champion in the full marathon open men category where he won a cash prize worth B\$25,000. Second place was Kipkosgei Bitok also from Kenya with B\$12,000 and third place was Disdery Lucian of Tanzania with B\$8,000.

In the open women full marathon was won by Marry Akor of United States. She won a cash prize worth B\$25,000, followed by Emyl Samoei of Kenya with B\$12,000 in second place and Susan Teimet also from Kenya with B\$8,000 in third place.



The participants in the Brunei Marathon 2006.

In Brunei men full marathon category, Sefli Anak Ahar emerged champion and won B\$7,000. Second place was Chung Kwei Ming with B\$5,000 and Shamsul Haji Saman in third place with B\$2,500.

Meanwhile in Brunei women full marathon was won by Tan Siew King with cash prize B\$7,000. Followed by Jenny Tan Feng Ling in the second place with B\$5,000 and third place was Dk.Hajah

## UBD students join 13<sup>th</sup> Asean University Games

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 16** - A number of students from Universiti of Brunei Darussalam took part at the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEAN University Games.

It is the biggest sports tournament for university undergraduates in ASEAN. It was, held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from December 16 to 22.

Almost 1,100 young athletes from nine countries, namely Brunei Darussalam, Thailand, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines and host country Vietnam joined the tournament. Brunei was represented by more than 50 athletes and officers from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

A total of 12 sport athletics, badminton, basketball, chess, football, karate, pencak silat, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis and volleyball were competed at the biennial tournament. Malaysia is scheduled to host the 14<sup>th</sup> edition in 2008.

## New currency notes revealed

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 27** - The Brunei Currency and Monetary Board issued two new polymer currency notes. The notes in the denomination of \$500 and \$10,000 were circulated throughout the nation effective on December 28. These new notes will circulate side by side with the present notes, which will remain legal tender in Brunei Darussalam and in countries, which accept them.

The introduction of the new polymer currency notes was in conjunction with His Majesty's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. The new \$10,000 currency note portrays the picture of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam while the \$500 notes shows the portrait of the late Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien.



The new polymer currency notes issued by the Brunei Currency and Monetary Board.

# Briefly

## Brunei's contingent for FESPIC Games returns home

**BERAKAS, December 2** – Brunei special athletes returned home from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia after participating in the 9<sup>th</sup> Far East and South Pacific (FESPIC) Games.

The contingent won one bronze from event javelin throw by Awang Sibuang bin Haji Kalong.

## BASMIDA to host Asean workshop

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 3** - The Narcotics Eradication Association of Brunei Darussalam (BASMIDA) will be hosting the 17<sup>th</sup> International Federation of Non-Government Organisation (NGO) for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse (IFNGO) Asean NGO Workshop in December next year.

BASMIDA received the approval to host the workshop at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> IFNGO Asean NGO Workshop held in Bangkok, Thailand.

BASMIDA is a member of the IFNGO that comprise 87 non-governmental organisations engaging in anti-drug and substance abuse activities from 40 nations.

It will be BASMIDA's third time to host the IFNGO Asean NGO's Workshop. The first was in the 1990's and the second in 2001.

The objectives of the 17<sup>th</sup> IFNGO Asean NGOs Workshop is not only to share knowledge and experiences and best practices but also to highlight to our decision makers the relationship between unemployed ex-drug addicts/ poverty/crime and economic growth of the region.



The types of recalled traditional medicines.

## Recall on slimming pills and cosmetics products

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 14** – The Ministry of Health is recalling two types of traditional medicine manufactured by Malaysian companies. The recall medicines are based on the report from the Drug Control Authority of Malaysia. They are Kintop Capsules and Qmax Capsules 350mg which are found to contain Sibutramine and Acetildenafil, Sildenafil analogue respectively.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Health also advised the public not to purchase or use the cosmetics products which are banned in Malaysia. A total of five cosmetics products had been banned in Malaysia due to adulterations with Tretinoin and Hydroquinone poisons. They are De' Wajah Night Cream; Dr's Seagar Skin Recon; GP Lotion; Natural Lightening Cream and Sri Mutiara Krim Kecantikan Malam.

## 700 join Walk-A-Hunt

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 17** - More than 700 people of all ages participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Walk-a-Hunt [Helix@Discover.BSB](mailto:Helix@Discover.BSB) organised by Brunei Shell Marketing Company Sdn. Bhd. The event was held at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddin in conjunction with the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the renaming of Bandar Brunei to Bandar Seri Begawan .

The Walk-a-Hunt [Helix@Discover.BSB](mailto:Helix@Discover.BSB) was flagged off by Awang Haji Nairul Anuar, the chairman of the Brunei/Muara Municipal Board. The event was part of the company's contribution to community development in line with its business principles.

## Website for hotels launched

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, December 19** -The Brunei Association of Hotels (BAH) marked its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with the launching of its official website.

The website, [www.hotelsofbrunei.com](http://www.hotelsofbrunei.com), was launched by the Director of Industrial Promotions and Tourism Development, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Sheikh Jamaluddin. The function was held at the Mutiara Ballroom of the Sheraton Utama Hotel in the capital.

Among others, the website contains a list of hotels that are available in Brunei Darussalam.

## Brunei In Brief

Official name: Negara Brunei Darussalam  
 Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan  
 Land size: 5765 sq.km  
 Geographical Position: North-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia  
 Population: 370,100 (2005 estimate)  
 National Carrier: Royal Brunei Airlines

Official Language: Malay  
 Official Religion: Islam  
 Official Website: [www.brunei.gov.bn](http://www.brunei.gov.bn)



## ***Ambuyat***, a delicious traditional food

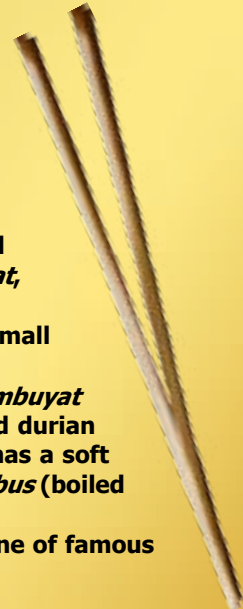
**I**f you plan to visit Brunei, do not forget to give the traditional local dish, '*ambuyat*' a try. *Ambuyat* is made from *ambulong*, a starch made from sago yielded by a type of palm tree known as *rumbia*.

So how do we make this *ambuyat*? The starch (*Ambulong*), is mixed with hot water, stirred thoroughly and it then transforms into *ambuyat*, which is gluey and tasteless by itself.

You can easily find *ambulong* sold at the market usually at \$1 per small packet. For this small packet, it could serve about four to five persons.

*Ambuyat* is eaten using *candas*, a kind of a v-shaped chopstick. The *ambuyat* is rolled with the *candas* and dipped in a sauce usually *tempoyak* (salted durian paste). Do not chew the *ambuyat* as you could directly swallow it as it has a soft texture. *Ambuyat* is also eaten with variety of side dishes such as *ikan rebus* (boiled fish), *lalap daging* (smoked meat) and vegetables like *paku pakis* (fern).

In Brunei, there are a few restaurants specialising in serving *ambuyat*; one of famous joints is the Aminah Arif Restaurant.



Brunei End Sale  
&  
Back To School  
01 December 2006 - 1 January 2007

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