



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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## State Legislative Council reconvenes



Revival of the State Legislative Council will not jeopardise the peace and prosperity that prevails in Brunei. Its existence is also not designed to spark chaos and apprehension among the community.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of

Brunei Darussalam said at the opening of the first session of the State Legislative Council on September 25 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The sovereign also said that this process would be carried out with caution. He would see the work and effects of the State Legislative Council and decide whether to continue the process by adding more Members.

His Majesty also said that Members are responsible for upholding the dignity of the State Legislative Council so that it becomes a respectable institution that functions as a constructive deliberating forum.

"Members are role models who show that Bruneians appreciate the attributes of statehood, the special characteristics of their government system, the habits of consultation and selflessness," said His Majesty.

The sovereign also said that Bruneians are opposed to strife and animosity, trivia and bigotry.

His Majesty also said that all Members should be aware that they are being watched by those at home and abroad. Everything they do is being studied, including their dispositions. As such, they are in no position to discard morality.

Lead a life that shows a paragon of virtue by reflecting a cultured and religious upbringing, said His Majesty.

His Majesty also expressed his confidence that all Members would exercise their duties responsibly in the interest of the citizens.



*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the opening of the State Legislative Council*

His Majesty said that he and the citizens would be waiting for the results of the deliberation. His Majesty believes that this institution would bring him and the government closer to the citizens in addition to helping us all to fulfil our hopes and ambitions.



## **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER**

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## **PALACE NEWSROUND... PALACE NEWSROUND... PALACE**

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

❶ His Excellency Dr. Lee Boon Yang, the Minister of Information, Communication and Culture of the Republic of Singapore on September 18.

❷ His Excellency Lieutenant Sunthon Niyomyath, the outgoing Ambassador of Thailand on September 27.

❸ Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abu Bakar bin Pengiran Seri Indera Pengiran Haji Ismail, the newly appointed Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office on September 27.

❹ Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Yussof bin Haji Ismail, the newly appointed Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs on September 27.





Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha granted audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman for:

- ① Her Excellency Yap Mee Mee, the spouse of Minister of Information, Communication and Culture of the Republic of Singapore on September 18.
- ② Madam Sunanta Niyomyath, the spouse of outgoing Ambassador of Thailand on September 27.



## Royal couple receives audience

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah received audiences from His Excellency Daniel Worker, the Ambassador of Switzerland to Brunei and spouse, Madam Myriam Worker on September 11 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Excellency was representing the Republic of Switzerland government to congratulate His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness on the recent Royal Wedding.



## His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah received audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

His Excellency Lieutenant Sunthon Niyomyath, the outgoing Ambassador of Thailand on September 16.

## CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

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

- His Excellency President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Phan Van Khai in conjunction with the republic's national day on September 2.
- His Majesty King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia in conjunction with the country's national day on September 23.



# HM visits Kuala Lumpur

## Logbook:

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was on a three-day working visit to Kuala Lumpur. The visit was for the Annual Consultations of the Heads of Government of Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. This year marked the Eighth Annual Consultation.

### September 14:

- His Majesty arrived at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang.

### September 15:

- His Majesty attended a luncheon hosted by His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, Tuanku Syed Sirajudddin at the Istana Negara.
- A one-to-one meeting between His Majesty and The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, the Prime Minister of Malaysia at the Prime Minister's Office in Putrajaya.
- His Majesty attended a dinner hosted by The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi at the Prime Minister's resident in Putrajaya.

### September 16:

- Left Kuala Lumpur for Bandar Seri Begawan.



*His Majesty upon arrival at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang*



*His Majesty shares a light moment with His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia*



*His Majesty and the Prime Minister of Malaysia held a one-to-one meeting*



*His Majesty signs the guestbook at Wisma Putra*



*Prime Minister of Malaysia hosts a dinner for His Majesty in conjunction with the three-day work visit*



*His Majesty upon departure*



## His Majesty on work visit to China

### LOG BOOK

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was on a three-day working visit to the People's Republic of China.

#### September 20:

- His Majesty arrived at the Zhoushuizi International Airport in Liaoning, China.

- A visit by His Majesty to Dalian Naval Academy, Dayao Bay's Cargo and Dalian Model Arts School.

- His Majesty received audience from His Excellency Zhang Xu Weiguo, the First Vice Governor of Liaoning and His Excellency Xia Deren, the Mayor of Dalian.

- His Majesty attended a dinner hosted by the First Vice Governor of Liaoning.

#### September 21:

- His Majesty visited Rhythm of the Sea Square Park and Dalian New Shipbuilding Heavy Industries Company.

- Left Dalian for Beijing.

- A visit by His Majesty to the Automobile Research Institute, North Industry Corporation (NORINCO).

- Meeting with His Excellency Hu Jintao, the President of the People's Republic of China at the Great Hall of the People.

- His Majesty attended a welcoming banquet hosted by the President of China.

#### September 22:

- Meeting with His Excellency Wu Bangguo, the Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee.

- A visit by His Majesty to the Research and Development Centre of China National Petroleum Corporation (C-N-P-C) in Xicheng District.



*His Majesty inspects guard-of-honour at the Dalian Naval Academy*

*His Majesty received in audience from His Excellency Zhang Xu Weiguo, the First Vice-Governor of Liaoning Province*



*His Majesty at a dinner hosted by the First Vice-Governor of Liaoning Province*



*His Majesty at the Dalian Model Arts School*



*His Majesty with the President of People's Republic of China, His Excellency Hu Jintao*



*Bilateral meeting between the two nation-states*





*His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah at the signing ceremony of the '2004 Constitution Amendment'*



*His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah as one of signatories of the new amended constitution*



*His Majesty signs the '2004 Constitutional Amendment'*



*Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Maharaja Setia Laila Diraja Sahibul Irshad Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahman signs the new amended constitution*



*Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Anak (Dr) Haji Kemaludin signs the '2004 Constitutional Amendment'*



*Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Md. Zain, Religious Adviser as one of the signatories*



**H**is Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam reminded citizens that there are still plenty to do despite achieving progress.

The sovereign said at the signing of the 2004 Constitutional Amendment on September 29 at the Lapau in Bandar Seri Begawan.

"This constitution helps us to get there. At the same time, the constitution provides more

## Council provides citizens opportunities contribute to nation-building

opportunities for the citizens to engage in consultation and contribute constructively to nation building. Such attributes strengthen the government system and national unity," said His Majesty.

His Majesty also expressed his hope in the Council becoming a formidable and loyal institution for the sake of the nation-state's future. He also reminded everyone to exercise more caution in interest of the citizens and the future of the nation-state.

No doubt it calls for thorough research and an infrastructure for the representative selection process so that such exercise could be done properly and peacefully, said His Majesty.

His Majesty is also convinced that Brunei citizens are pinning high hopes on the government on anything that concerns their future.

"As such, let us all sustain peace and enhance tranquillity, in addition to securing the prevalence of stability that we enjoy all this time," said His Majesty.



## Mosque: Proper schedule for effective knowledge dissemination

Mosque has a significant role in the work of significance carried out by Muslims. This is evident during the *Israk Mikraj* event where two mosques were mentioned – Al-Haram Mosque in Mecca and Al-Aqsa Mosque in Palestine.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said at a ceremony celebrating the *Israk Mikraj* and the new year of Hijrah 1425 (Islamic calendar) on September 14 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The sovereign also said that performing religious activities in the mosque brings lucrative rewards by Allah S.W.T. Greater rewards are given when carrying out religious activities at the Al-Haram Mosque and Al-Aqsa Mosque.

His Majesty also touched on the award given for best mosque in conjunction with the *Israk Mikraj* celebration.

The sovereign said that the function and role of a mosque should be diversified through religious and community activities.

“One of the roles that should be

filled is to spread knowledge and provide charitable services through advisory services for the community,” said His Majesty.

Disseminating of knowledge could not be done effectively if it is carried out randomly or during leisure time. Hence, according to the sovereign, it is high time for mosques to have fixed schedules. For example, religious teachings or talks could be carried out five times a week with different religious academic subjects taught everyday.

His Majesty also understood that to carry out this program requires qualified manpower. Thus, His Majesty urged the relevant authority to plan beforehand so that every mosque has degree holder officers or better, a degree holder from the Arabic stream.

*Israk Mikraj* is a significant event in Islam. This is when Prophet Muhammad travelled from Mecca to Jerusalem, ascended into heaven and returned to Mecca on the same night. It is celebrated every 27<sup>th</sup> of Rajab of the Islamic calendar.

Award is given to the best mosque



## UBD a centre of excellence

University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) has shown impressive academic record. It has produced its first PhD graduate in Mathematics. UBD has also been acknowledged through its Institute of Medicine, being the Examination Centre for the “Membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners (MRCGP) (International)” for the ASEAN region.

His Majesty outlined the achievements at the 16<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of UBD on September 18 at the Chancellor Hall of UBD.

The sovereign also said that he is happy with the progress that has been made in the education field. Education should develop and not remained static. It should move in line with the flow of time.

Higher institutions, according to His Majesty, are created because of the current need. When there is a

need, more institutions would be set up. Thus, in His Majesty’s opinion, it is high time for Brunei to have its second university.

This year’s graduation saw more

than 600 students graduating with various degrees and diplomas. UBD was built in 1984 and has eight faculties.



A graduate receives her certificate from His Majesty



# Education to uphold credibility

**R**ole of education is to uphold our credibility so that our nation could not be easily disturbed, and not easily deceived with dazzling colours.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said at the Teachers' Day celebration on September 23 at the International Convention Centre at Berakas.

The sovereign further said that it is a good sign if our students could uphold their self-identity. It shows that the educational system is on the threshold of excellence. This is because, according to His Majesty, it is not easy to get hold of a nation with strong values if the system does not help us.

Brunei celebrates Teachers' Day every September 23. Awards are given each year to teachers who had contributed remarkably in the education field.



*A recipient receives his award at the Teachers' Day celebration*



*A female recipient receives her award*



*Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness at the Israk Mikraj celebration*

## Her Majesty to Israk Mikraj celebration

**H**er Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha attended the *Israk Mikraj* celebration for women on September 14 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present at the ceremony were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah and other members of the royal family.

The ceremony was highlighted with a religious talk.





*His Royal Highness awards a graduate with her diploma*

## Crown Prince to UBD 16<sup>th</sup> Convocation

**H**is Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Pro-Chancellor of University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) on September 18 attended the afternoon session of UBD's 16<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony at the UBD Chancellor Hall.

At the session, 200 recipients received diplomas and certificates from His Royal Highness.



*Graduates of the 16<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremony of UBD*

## UBD convocation Fiesta 2004 to mark 16<sup>th</sup> convocation ceremony

**H**is Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Pro Chancellor of University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) on September 16 launched UBD

Convocation Fiesta 2004 at the university's multi-purpose hall.

His Royal Highness also launched the project named 'Brunei Longest Coin Chain @ UBD 2004' by

placing the first coin. Later, His Royal Highness toured the exhibition booths.

The four-day fiesta was held in conjunction with the 16<sup>th</sup> convocation of UBD.



*His Royal Highness tours the exhibition books at UBD convocation Fiesta 2004*



*His Royal Highness in a group photo with students at the Fiesta*





*His Royal Highness distributes dates, a personal gift from His Majesty to Muslims of this country*

## Distribution of Dates for Ramadan

His Royal Highness Prince Abdul 'Abdul Malik on September 30 attended the launching ceremony of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Personal Gift Dates Distribution in conjunction with month of Ramadan year 1425 Hijrah.

One hundred and thirteen metric tonne of dates would be distributed to Muslims throughout the country. This year marked the 12<sup>th</sup> year since Muslims of this country received dates from His Majesty.

## 30<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Of Women Police Establishment

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna on September 18 attended and officiated the shooting competition held in conjunction with the 30<sup>th</sup> years anniversary of women police establishment. The competition took place at the shooting range in Jalan Muara.

Her Royal Highness, the Commandant of Women Police also participated in one of the two categories of the competition.

Later in the evening, Her Royal Highness attended the banquet to celebrate the anniversary. The prize presentation for the shooting competition was also held at the ceremony.

The anniversary of women police establishment is celebrated every August 4. The Women Police Force was established in August 1976 with the first recruitment of 30 women.



*Cake-cutting ceremony as the highlight of the ceremony*

## Strong and effective body to face challenges

There is a need for a strong and effective United Nations (UN) in facing the challenges and current threat that prevails today.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Brunei Darussalam's Special Envoy to the UN made the call at the 59<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly on September 28 in New York.

Her Royal Highness also said that for the world body to become effective, it is vital that overall improvement is made including a Safety Committee comprising of more representatives. She further added that the UN should have a wider range of role besides a better coordination.

## 'Online directory for ICT Companies'

The Authority for Info-Communications Technology Industry (AiTi) had launched an online directory for Brunei's ICT companies.

Present at the launching ceremony was the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Abdullah on September 15 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The Brunei ICT Business Online Directory is a database consisting of information on local ICT companies. Registration and updating could be done online. Website could be accessed at <http://www.aiti.gov.bn> or <http://www.bruictbiz.com.bn>



# Brunei-China: Cooperation on health issues

Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar was on an official visit to Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China from September 18 to 21.

Prior to this, the Minister of Health attended the 55th World Health Organisation Meeting for West Pacific Region from

September 13 to 17, held in China.

Objective of the visit was to strengthen the bilateral relation shared between the two ministries. It was also to discuss the implementation of the Plan of Action signed by both nation-states in 2002.

Areas of cooperation include the

exchange of information and health regulation, exchange of expertise and work visit, cooperation with health institutions, training, research and the recruitment of workforces.

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar also held a bilateral meeting with his counterpart, His Excellency Gao Qiang, the Executive Minister of

## World Peace Day

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna on September 5 attended the World Peace Day celebration held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

Her Royal Highness also joined Brunei Darussalam Girl Guide Association members for a walkathon.

Among the objectives of World Peace Day is to support efforts by world bodies such as the United Nation (UN) and world

Association girl guide and Scout (WAGGS) in promoting world peace. It is also to strengthen the significance of peace as without peace, comfortable style of living would not prevail.

Brunei Darussalam Girl Guide Association had celebrated the World Peace Day annually since 1991 with activities such as environmental and community project and collecting financial assistance for humanitarian fund.

## Brunei hosts 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-SOMTC

A wider regional communication is a significant component for ASEAN in its efforts to combat international crime and terrorism.

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Isa, the Minister of Home Affairs said at the official opening ceremony of the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (ASEAN-SOMTC) on September 27 at Orchid Garden Hotel in Berakas.

The Minister who is also His Majesty's Adviser at the Prime Minister's Office said that SOMTC is an opportunity for ASEAN to enhance and strengthen its efforts in ensuring the security of its citizens.

ASEAN-SOMTC convenes at least once a year before the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC). The objective of ASEAN-SOMTC is to implement the policies and plans agreed by AMMTC. It is also to prepare a working program in its bid to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action dealing with transnational crime.

The third ASEAN-SOMTC was held in Hanoi, Viet Nam.



Pehin Dato Haji Awang Isa at the opening ceremony of the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-SOMTC

## Department of Agriculture launch logo and book

The Department of Agriculture has launched a Veterinary Inspection logo. This logo signifies that the goods has been examined and has complied with measures given by the department.

A book was also launched entitled '*Sains dan Teknolgi bagi Pembangunan Agribisnis Ayam Pedaging: Penggerak Ekonomi Pertanian, Brunei Darussalam*'. The

book is as a guideline for entrepreneurs to increase their level of productivity and quality as a step towards modernising the agricultural sector of this nation-state.

On hand to launch the logo and book was the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Idris bin Haji Belaman on

September 9 at Setia Pahlawan Hall.

The permanent secretary, in his speech, said that international recognition for local products is important to enable it to be exported. It is also important as it would no longer be limited to the local market only. With international recognition, the products could venture into regional and international market.





*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with members of the State Legislative Council*

## Snippets...

### JPKE conducts research

Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE) would be conducting a research for family expenses 2005 – ‘Kajian Perbelanjaan Keluarga’ in October.

This was stated by the Deputy Director General of JPKE, Dayang Hajah Rosni binti Haji Tungkat at a press conference on September 29.

She said the research would be conducted in two phases – selected areas on October 2-9 and selected families from January to December of next year.

Objective of the research is to obtain the latest information on the patterns of expenditure and level of income of families in Brunei. It is also to update the necessity of items and services for the Consumer Price Index.

### RBA: Four-star airline and more destination for Royal Skies miles

Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) has been upgraded from a three to four-star airline by Skytrax, a leading research Advisors to the world airline and air transport industry.

A four-star ranking signifies that the airline provides a good standard of product and services. Royal Brunei's four-star ranking places it in the same category as British Airways, Emirates, Malaysia Airlines, Qantas and Virgin Atlantic.

RBA has also added a new destination for its frequent flyers program – Royal Skies. As of September 1, members of Royal Skies may now earn 500 Royal Skies miles at Angkor Century Resort & Spa based in Siem Reap town of Cambodia.

### 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:** 340,800 (2002 estimate)

**National Carrier:** Royal Brunei Airlines

**Official Language:** Malay

**Official Religion:** Islam

**Official Website:** [www.brunei.gov.bn](http://www.brunei.gov.bn)

**PUBLIC WARNING.** The trafficking of **controlled drugs** carries the **death penalty** in Brunei Darussalam.

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