



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

JULY 2004

Royal 58th birthday anniversary speech

HM: MEASURES TO SUSTAIN NATIONAL PROGRESS

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said he gives priority to widen the opportunities of the public to engage and contribute to national progress.

Therefore, according to the sovereign, a more formal structure to engage the citizens should be established. As such, His Majesty

had decided to reactivate the *Majlis Mesyuarat Negara* (State Legislative Council).

His Majesty made this announcement on July 15 during his 58th birthday anniversary.

According to His Majesty, the legislative council would discuss matters that had been brought to its attention. These changes are exercised cautiously so as to secure peace and stability, in addition to

sustaining the dignity and prosperity enjoyed today.

"The involvement process of the legislative council marks the historical development of our nation-state. It will be carried out in accordance with the current needs and conditions. It is hoped that it gives motivation towards national development," said His Majesty.

* Continued on centrepage



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inspects guard-of-honour at Taman Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien in Bandar Seri Begawan.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

is published fortnightly by the Department of Information. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated. For free subscription (excluding postage) write to the Distribution Division, The Department of Information, Old Airport, Berakas BB 3510, Brunei Darussalam.

Editorial Staff

Editor

Sastra Sarini Haji Julaini

Reporter

Hajah Noorhijrah Haji Idris

Layout Designer

Hajah Zaianit Haji Noorkhan

Photographs

**Photography Division of
Department of Information**

General inquiries

(673) 2380 400/ext BDN Division
Fax (673) 2382 242

Information Gallery
<http://www.infofoto.org.bn>

Information Department
<http://www.information.gov.bn>

PALACE NEWSROUND... PALACE NEWSROUND... PALACE

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented diplomatic accreditation and received credentials from two newly appointed foreign envoys on July 8 at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

❶ His Excellency Mohd. Janin bin Erih, Brunei's ambassador to Russia.

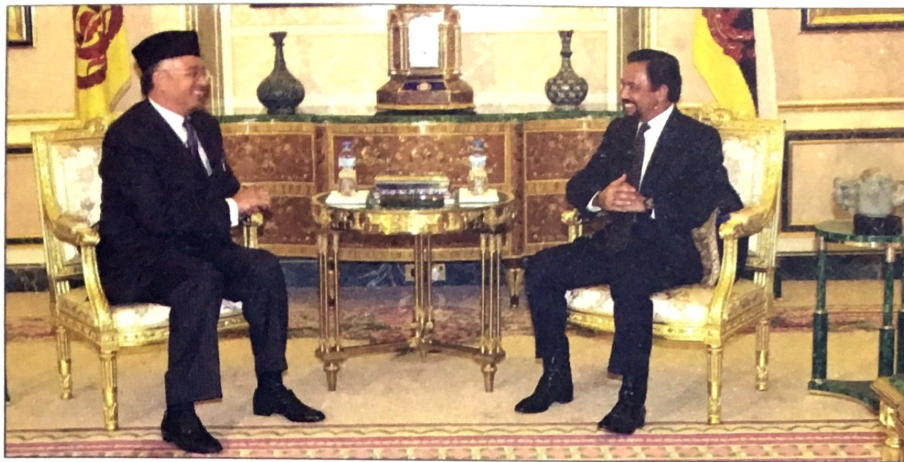
❷ His Excellency M.A. Hakim, the High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei.

❸ His Excellency Conrad Cappell, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei.



His Majesty received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from His Excellency Tan Sri Mohd. Jamil bin Johari, the outgoing High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei on July 28.





His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience, the Right Honourable Datuk Seri Mohd. Najib bin Tun Abd Razak, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia on July 12 at Istana Nurul Iman.



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

- ❶ Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, spouse of the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia on July 12.
- ❷ Dayang Jacqueline Erih, the spouse of the newly accredited Ambassador of Brunei to Russia on July 22.
- ❸ Nadia Hakim, the spouse of the newly appointed High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei on July 22.
- ❹ Lieselore Elisabeth Maria Cappell, the spouse of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Brunei on July 22.
- ❺ Puan Sri Zaharah binti Seruji, the spouse of the outgoing High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei on July 26.

LOG BOOK OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA IN BRUNEI

The Right Honourable Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia was in the country on July 12 for a two-day working visit.

Highlights of the Right Honourable visit includes:

On July 12

- ♦ Audience and one-to-one meeting with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman

- ♦ Hi-tea and get together reception with Malaysians residing in the country at the International Convention Centre in Berakas

- ♦ Attending a dinner hosted by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

On July 13

- ♦ Press conference at the residence of High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei.

- ♦ Attended briefing by Brunei Economic Development Board at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

- ♦ Audience to His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Balai Penghadapan of Bukit Kayangan.

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

❶ His Excellency Mohd Janin bin Erih, the newly accredited Ambassador of Brunei to Russia on July 15.

❷ His Excellency Tan Sri Mohd. Jamil bin Johari, the outgoing High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei on July 28.

❸ His Excellency M.A.Hakim, the newly High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei on July 29



CROWN PRINCE VISIT

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah was on a working visit to:

- *Mukim* Lumapas in Brunei-Muara District on July 10.
- *Mukim* Sungai Liang in Belait District on July 12.

Knowledge platform for excellence



Models of various mosques exhibited at the seminar

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said that knowledge oriented events are essential to be included in national celebrations.

The sovereign made the call at the opening ceremony for the '*Seminar Institusi Masjid*' (seminar on mosque institution) at the International Convention Centre, Berakas on July 19.

His Majesty said that knowledge oriented events are important to be featured in national celebrations because it provides a platform towards the excellence of the *Ummah*.

His Majesty further stated that a great nation is of those that have knowledge. A nation should not neglect knowledge as success and glory would be missed out.

Seminar on mosque institution was a three-day event commencing from 19 – 21 July. A number of 14 working papers were presented which focused on the roles of mosque towards the development of the nation-state. Besides the seminar, an exhibition was also held where artefacts and products for mosque were showcased. The seminar and exhibition was also participated by few ASEAN member-states.



His Majesty looks at an old tub where Muslims use the water to perform ablutions before prayer



An old printing machine used to print Quranic verses was also exhibited

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

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

- Her Excellency Adrienne Clarkson, the Governor-General of Canada and her Prime Minister, His Excellency Paul Martin in conjunction with Canada Day on July 1.
- His Excellency President George W. Bush of the United

States of America in conjunction with the states independence day on July 4.

- His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Sher Bahadur Deuba in conjunction with His Majesty the King of Nepal's birthday anniversary on July 7.

- His Excellency President Jacques Chirac of France and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Jean Pierre

Raffarin in conjunction with the Bastille Day on July 14.

- His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen, for his re-election as the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia on July 20.

- His Excellency President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and his Prime Minister, Dr. Ahmed Nazif in conjunction with the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt on July 23.

Health care responsibility for all



Responsibilities on health care do not solely rely on the Ministry of Health. In fact, it is the responsibility of every member of the society.

This was stated by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on July 24 at the opening ceremony of the National Health Promotion Convention at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

According to His Majesty, health care is the most important asset which enables a nation to develop and progress. Therefore, health problem

is not an individual problem but rather, it should be resolved together as a nation.

His Majesty also said that Brunei had signed the 'Framework Convention On Tobacco Control' on June 4. This framework is an international law which protects the present and future generation from the bad effects of tobacco and exposure to cigarette smoke.

The National Health Promotion Convention is hosted by the Ministry of Health. One of the main objectives of the convention is to promote health awareness among members of the public.



A health officer demonstrates how one of the health screening machine works



A health officer explains issues on obesity



An exercising machine showcased at the Health Expo



His Majesty tours the Health Expo where various health products are exhibited



Prayers to mark His Majesty's 58th birthday

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined scores of Muslims for the thanksgiving prayer in conjunction with His Majesty's 58th birthday anniversary at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque on July 14.

Generate a clean and healthy society

The issuance of *fatwa* on cigarette and smoking is a step towards creating a clean and healthy society from the ill effects of cigarette smoking.

This was highlighted by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah at the official opening ceremony for the Seminar on Health Promotion and launching of a book, '*Rokok dan Merokok*' (Cigarette and Smoking) on July 26 at the International Convention Centre.

According to His Royal Highness, the effects of cigarette and smoking are no longer seen as an individual problem. However, it is now a national and state problem. The government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had spent a large amount for the provision of medication to patients who suffered



His Royal Highness launches the Seminar on Health Promotion

from the ill effects of smoking habit.

The Health Convention was divided into two main segments; seminar and exhibition.

Brunei health standard commendable

Health statistics had shown that Brunei has a good health standard. This was made evident with Brunei positioning itself on the 40th place from 191 countries. Brunei is also the second best among ASEAN member countries and the fourth in the Western Pacific Region.

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Aziz,

the Minister of Education made the remark on July 29 at the closing ceremony for the National Health Promotion Convention Seminar at the International Convention Centre.

The minister also said that the death rate for young infants had decreased from 12.8 per cent

in 1984 to 8.3 per cent in 2002 for every 1,000 birth. Whereas the death rate for pregnant mothers had decreased to as low as 0.3 per cent.

For men, the life expectancy rate is 73.5 years and 76.1 years for women. This life expectancy rate is on par with the United Kingdom.



Nobilities and head of foreign diplomats are among the guests present at Balai Singghasana Indera Buana (throne chamber)

** from page one (HM's birthday anniversary speech)*

His Majesty also welcomes views and thoughts from all quarters through the upcoming opportunity provided by the legislative council.

In his birthday anniversary speech, His Majesty also said that a committee to study the 1959 Constitution had been formed. This was to identify any amendments required to enable us to protect the nation-state and the interest of its citizens by taking into account of the current and future condition.

"Through that study, the committee had identified matters that require amendments to the 1959 Constitution and other laws. These

amendments function to strengthen the monarchy institution and enhance the effectiveness of the state and society relationship. When approved, these amendments enable us, if necessary, to take immediate and firm action to protect Brunei Darussalam in addition to protecting the interests of the citizens in a bid to fulfil national and individual ambitions to higher levels," said His Majesty.

The sovereign also touched on national progress where he outlined that the Department of Economic Planning and Development and the Economic Development Board play an important role to secure progress.

According to His Majesty, the



His Majesty delivers a royal speech at the Royal dais of the Balai Singghasana (throne chamber) Indera Buana at Istana Nurul Iman

tangible progress should be employed to make Brunei Darussalam more developed and competitive. For this purpose, the Long-term National Development Planning Board had been established. This board is to prepare a vision which is clear, open and easily understood by all citizens in this nation-state. The board is also given the responsibility to prepare development plans to succeed the 8th National Development Plan.

"To fulfil this aim, a National Vision Working Committee had been formed, which had been tasked to hold consultations with stakeholders so as to identify issues concerning their future development," said His Majesty.

The sovereign also expressed his hope that this Committee would try its best to remind all members of the public service of their role in fulfilling the national development ambitions. The Committee is also expected to encourage the private sector to sense their involvement as partner to the dynamic nation building.



Prayer to mark His Majesty's 58th birthday anniversary



Members of the royal family at Balai Singghasana (throne chamber) Indera Buana





His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and His Royal Highness Crown Prince arrive for the State Banquet

HM attends State Banquet

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha attended the State Banquet on July 15 at the Istana Nurul Iman. The ceremony was hosted in conjunction with the sovereign's 58th birthday anniversary.

Prior to the banquet, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri received audiences from the invited foreign dignitaries.

Audience

Their Majesties receive in audience invited foreign dignitaries at the Istana Nurul Iman before the State Banquet. The Invited foreign dignitaries were:

- ❶ Her Royal Highness Princess Basma binti Talal and His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Al-Syed Walid Ismail Al-Kurdi of Jordan
- ❷ His Excellency Dato Paduka Seri General Endiartono Sutarto, the Commander of the Indonesian National Armed Forces and wife, Datin Andy Widayati
- ❸ The Honourable General Angelo T. Reyes, the head of the Anti-Kidnapping Task Force and the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government of the Republic of the Philippines and wife, Madam Teresita P. Reyes
- ❹ Singapore's Police Commissioner, Dato Seri Pahlawan Khoo Boon Hui and wife, Datin Betty Au
- ❺ The Right Honourable Datuk Haji Musa bin Haji Aman, Sabah's Chief Minister and spouse, Datin Faidah





Royal entourage at the dinner for uniformed personnel



His Majesty greets members of the uniformed organisations

Uniformed personnel celebrate His Majesty's 58th birthday

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha attended a banquet for uniformed personnel of government departments and civilian organisations on July 17. It was held at the Istana Nurul Iman in conjunction with the sovereign's 58th birthday anniversary.



His Majesty receives a 'pesambah' (token of appreciation) from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces



Cake-cutting ceremony as the highlight of the evening

RBAF celebrates His Majesty's 58th birthday

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah attended a dinner hosted by Royal Brunei Armed Forces on July 24.

Their Majesties were greeted upon arrival by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (R) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith, Defence's Deputy Minister and Pehin Dato Major General Haji Halbi, the Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

Police Force celebrates His Majesty's 58th birthday

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri attended a dinner hosted by the Royal Brunei Police Force on July 31 at Assarraa Hall.

The dinner was in conjunction with His Majesty's 58th birthday.

Their Majesties were greeted on arrival by the Police's Commissioner, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Johan.



His Majesty receives greeting by a member of the Royal Brunei Police Force



Foreign envoys celebrate the 58th birthday anniversary of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

Foreign envoys

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty The Raja Isteri attended a dinner hosted by the Brunei-based heads of diplomatic missions in conjunction with His Majesty's 58th birthday.

The dinner took place at the Jerudong Park Polo and Country Club on July 27.

Their Majesties were greeted on arrival by Pakistan's High Commissioner to Brunei, His Excellency Badr-ud-Deen as leader of foreign corps; and wife, Madam Salihah Farhat.



Their Majesties in a group photo with Brunei-based heads of diplomatic missions

Record high for money remittance

Remittance of money to overseas had increased by more than 636 per cent since license for remittance and money exchange was introduced in 1996.

This was stated by the Deputy Minister of Finance, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Yakub bin Abu Bakar at the official opening ceremony of the one-day seminar for Foreign Currency

Exchange held for licensed money exchangers and remittance agencies on July 3.

According to the deputy minister, in 2003, an amount of BND306.85 million had been recorded for the selling of Brunei dollars compared to only BND14.71 million in 1996.

While BND34.71 million dollars for purchasing of Brunei dollars had been

recorded in 2003 compared to BND16.11 million in 1996.

Dato Paduka Haji Yakub also reminded licensed holders for money exchange and remittance agencies to hand in their statement account to the Ministry of Finance in accordance with Brunei's membership to the Asia Pacific Groups on Money Laundering (APG) in 2002.



His Majesty awards Singapore's Police Commissioner, Khoo Boon Hui with the first class category of 'The Most Gallant Order of Pahlawan Negara Brunei' award which carries the title 'Dato Seri Pahlawan'



His Majesty awards The Honourable Chief Justice Mohammed Saied with the first class category of 'The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei' which carries the title 'Dato Seri Paduka'

HM issues state award

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam institutionalise the issuing of state decorations. Orders and medals are given to recipients, local and foreign, in conjunction with the sovereign's birthday anniversary – usually in separate days.

Thirty-eight recipients received theirs on July 15 at the *Balai Singgahsana* (throne chamber) *Indera Buana* of the Istana Nurul Iman.

One hundred and twenty nine received theirs on July 31.



His Majesty awards the Director of Anti-Corruption, Hajah Intan binti Haji Md Kassim with the second class category of the 'The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei' which carries the title 'Datin Paduka'



Eighty four people received the fourth class category of 'The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei' award



A number of 129 recipients receive their Order or medals on a separate day. Thirty one people received the third class category of 'The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei' award

Defence White Paper and MINDEF'S website launched

Ministry of Defence had launched its 'Defence White Paper' and the ministry's official website.

Present at the launching ceremony was the Deputy Minister of Defence, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (R) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith on July 9 at Berakas Garrison.

According to a statement in the 'Defence White Paper', publishing this paper is strengthened with complex and rapidly changing trends

that have affected both regional and international security in recent years. The dimensions of security have broadened with the emergence of new trans-national challenges including terrorism, illegal movement of drugs, finance and weapons.

The paper would provide a framework giving coherence and direction to the policies and activities within the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

Within the framework, more specific plans could be developed to pursue the nation's security objectives in particular areas and to enhance the progressively balanced defence capabilities well attuned to the nation's priority security needs.

Ministry of Defence also launched its website where it aims to provide relevant information for members of the public.

Ministry's website is <http://www.mindef.gov.bn>

Meet-The-People



Belait District

His Majesty's birthday celebration's itinerary included meet-the-people sessions in each district:

- Belait District on July 17 at Brunei Shell Recreation Club field.
- Brunei Muara District on July 18 at the Jerudong Park Amphitheatre.
- Temburong District on July 20 at Temburong Civil Hall.
- Tutong District on July 22 at Muda Hashim Primary School.



Brunei Muara District



Temburong District



Tutong District

Brunei-Canada ties strengthened

Brunei and Canada share a strong relationship in various fields such as education, defence, trade and investment, human capacity building and Info-Communications Technology (ICT).

This was stated by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Hussein at the reception for the 137th anniversary of Canada Day on July 1.

The minister also said that Brunei encourages more partnership and cooperation between the two nation-states.

His Excellency Paul S. H. Lau, the High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei in his welcoming speech said that Brunei and Canada enjoy peace and prosperity due to excellent management and leadership.



Brunei-Canada shares strong bilateral relationship

RBA expands network and partnership

Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) announced that it would be expanding its network to Sydney effective October 31.

The flight from Brunei to Sydney would depart every Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. Return flight would depart from Sydney every Thursday, Friday and the next Monday.

RBA's Area Manager of Australia and New Zealand, Awang Aji Puteh said that the establishment of the Sydney service is a major milestone for the airline.

RBA had also announced its new partnership to The Dorchester Group.

The Dorchester Group was established in 1996 as an independent registered company in

the United Kingdom. It manages international collection of luxury hotels across Europe and the United States.

With the newly established partnership, Royal Skies members have the privilege of earning Royal Skies miles at any of the five hotels listed under the flagship of The Dorchester Group. This privilege is effective by August 1.

IDBB launch new branch and product

Islamic banking in Brunei continues to expand with the latest official opening ceremony of Islamic Development Bank of Brunei's (IDBB) branch at Gadong.

The bank also had introduced its new investment product, *Sijil Pelaburan Wafri* (Wafri Investment Certificate). This is a large portfolio of securities managed by IDBB.

On hand to open the new branch and launch the latest product of IDBB was the Deputy

Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi bin Haji Osman on June 24.

IDBB is one of the striving Islamic banks in Brunei. It has five branches and eight automated-teller machines throughout the nation-state. IDBB is a fully owned entity of the government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

NEW \$50 AND \$100 CURRENCY NOTES

Brunei Currency and Monetary Board (BCMB) had issued a safer, smarter and more secure new \$50 and \$100 polymer currency notes in conjunction with His Majesty's 58th birthday anniversary.

These newly redesigned polymer notes feature subtle background colours of red and gold, images of flower and a small transparent window to a point of light source.

The new currency notes would co-circulate with the existing notes. The BCMB had distributed the new notes to the public through commercial banks on July 15.



His Majesty upon arrival at Taman Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien

Honour parade marks His Majesty's 58th birthday anniversary

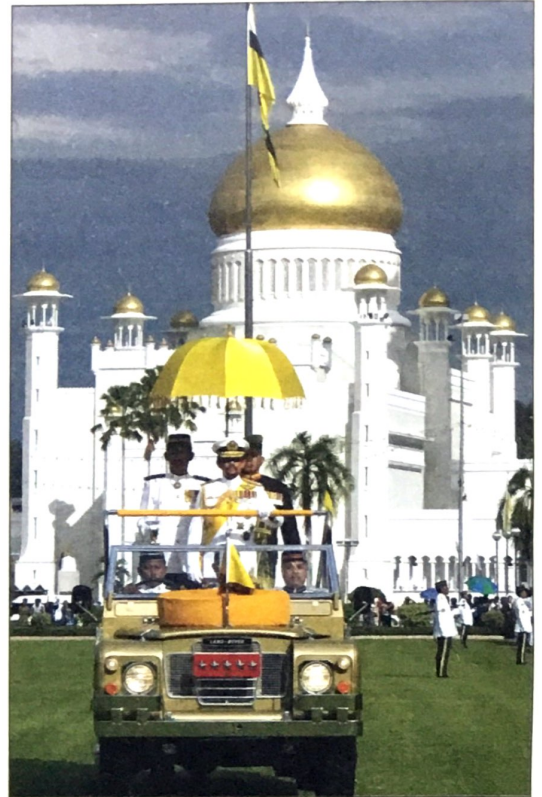


His Majesty inspects guard-of-honour at the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on July 15 attended honour parade in conjunction with his 58th birthday anniversary at the Taman Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien in the capital.

The sovereign's arrival was received with the military guard of honour and 21-gun salute.

His Majesty inspected the guard of honour and the contingents comprising of uniformed personnel from various organisations.



Taman Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien became centre of attention as His Majesty inspects guard-of-honour



His Majesty shares a light moment with His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and His Royal Highness Prince Sufri Bolkiah among members of royal family present at the honour parade

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

National Carrier: Royal Brunei Airlines

Official Language: Malay

Official Religion: Islam

Official Website: www.brunei.gov.bn

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

Printed by BORNEO PRINTERS & TRADING SDN.BHD. Simpang 636, No.5,6,7, Block B, Ong Keh Beng Building, Jalan Tutong, Bandar Seri Begawan BF 1320, Negara Brunei Darussalam.