



Brunei-Jordan share warm bilateral relations



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty The King of Jordan in one-to-one meeting.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 13 – Brunei Darussalam and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan bilateral relations have been further strengthened through the state visit of His Majesty King Abdullah II and Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan to Brunei Darussalam.

During the state visit, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam held a one-to-one meeting with His Majesty King Abdullah II at the Istana Nurul Iman. Both leaders discussed on current bilateral matters and exchanged ideas on several regional and international issues.

Their Majesties the King and Queen of Jordan were received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah at the Brunei International Airport.

Also present to greet Their Majesties were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah. Their Majesties were in the sultanate for a three-day state visit.

Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Amman was formally established on February 18, 1985. Various cooperation have also been established between both nation-states such as in the areas of defence, education, trade and investments.

MUARA, April 16 – In line with the nation's aspiration to provide better welfare and good homes to its citizens, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam continue to provide homes to its citizens at a heavily subsidised costs.

The latest series of house recipients saw 112 people reserving keys to their new homes under the National Housing Scheme in Kampong Rimba, Gadong and Kampong Mentiri Terrace Housing Scheme in the Brunei Muara District.

Present to personally award the house keys was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. The ceremony took place at the Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Secondary School in Mentiri.

From the 112 recipients; 20 received type 'D' houses residing at the National Housing Scheme of Kampong Rimba; 92 were recipients of terrace houses in Kampong Mentiri where each terrace house is 90 sq metres big and costs \$42,000 for the middle unit and \$45,000 for the corner unit.

Shortly after the presentation, His Majesty toured around the Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Secondary School and visited several homes of the recipients in Kampong Mentiri, Lambak Kanan and National Housing Scheme of Kampong Rimba and in Kampong Tungku.

His Majesty also visited Seri Pekatan Sdn Bhd in Lambak Kanan's industrial site; Aneka Ria stall in Rimba; Giant Hypermarket, Tasik Rimba and Hama Supermarket in Kampong Tungku.

More homes for deserving citizens



His Majesty receives greeting from the residents of the Kampong Mentiri Terrace Housing Scheme.



Various items are sold at a very attractive prices during the sales period.

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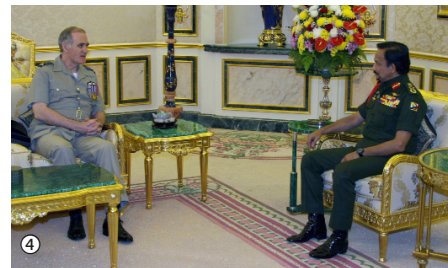
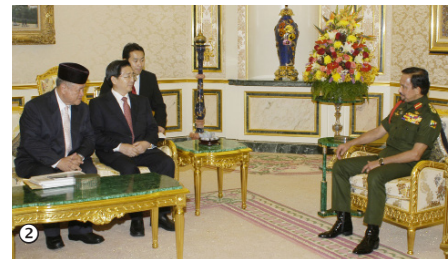
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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Minister of Defence and Supreme Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman:

- ❶ The Commander of the United States Pacific Command (U.S. PACOM), Admiral Timothy J. Keating on April 9.
- ❷ The General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, His Excellency Guo Shengkun on April 9.
- ❸ The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, The Honourable Datuk Seri Utama Dr. Rais Yatim on April 26.
- ❹ The Chief of the Defence Staff of the United Kingdom, Air Chief Marshal Sir Jack Stirrup on April 28.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented diplomatic credentials at the Istana Nurul Iman for:

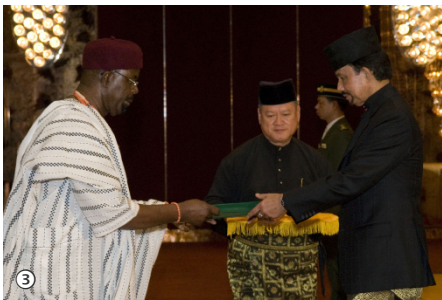
- ❶ Her Excellency Datin Tan Bee Yong, Brunei's newly-appointed Ambassador to New Zealand on April 2.
- ❷ His Excellency Haji Sidek bin Ali, Brunei's newly-appointed Ambassador to India on April 2.
- ❸ His Excellency Johan Thani bin Haji Abdullah, Brunei's newly-appointed Ambassador to Laos on April 2.
- ❹ His Excellency Pengiran Haji Yunus Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Brunei's newly-appointed Ambassador to Nordic on April 15.
- ❺ His Excellency Awang Md. Janin bin Jerih, Brunei newly-appointed Permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on April 15.
- ❻ Her Excellency Dayang Rakiah binti Haji Abdul Lamit@Hamid, Brunei's newly appointed High Commissioner to Canada on April 15.



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

- ❶ His Excellency Abdelaziz Abdelrahman Abuqutaish, Ambassador of Palestine to Brunei Darussalam on April 2.
- ❷ His Excellency Mohamad Yunus Farman, Ambassador of Afghanistan to Brunei Darussalam on April 2.





③ His Excellency Peter Jonathan Ethasor Anegebeh, High Commissioner of Nigeria to Brunei Darussalam on April 2.



④ His Excellency Pavel Rezac, the Czech Republic ambassador to Brunei Darussalam on April 15.



⑤ His Excellency Wasswa Rocky Biriggwa, Uganda's High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam on April 15.

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received audiences at Istana Nurul Iman from:



①



②



③



④



⑤



⑥



⑦

- ① The spouse of Ambassador of Iran to Brunei Darussalam, Dr Farkhondeh Khazaei Torshizi on April 1.
- ② The wife of U.S Commander PACOM, Mrs Wandalee Keating on April 9.
- ③ Mrs. Dorothea Skodon, the spouse of the outgoing Ambassador of United States to Brunei Darussalam on April 15.
- ④ Her Excellency Datin Tan Bee Yong, the newly appointed Brunei Darussalam High Commissioner to New Zealand; Mrs. Mariaratnah binti Haji Mohd. Apang, the spouse of the newly appointed Brunei Darussalam High Commissioner to India; Mrs. Latifah binti Thabrani, the wife of the newly-appointed Brunei envoy to Laos People's Democratic Republic on April 15.
- ⑤ The spouse of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, Yang Berbahagia Datin Seri Masna Rais on April 26.
- ⑥ The wife of the Chief of the Defence Staff of the United Kingdom, Lady Stirrup on April 28.
- ⑦ Brunei's High Commissioner to United Nations, Her Excellency Rakiah binti Haji Abdul Hamid; the wife of the Brunei's permanent representative to United Nations, Geneva and Switzerland, Mrs Jacqueline Erieh on April 28.

His Majesty bestows title on Indonesian Police Chief

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to bestow the title of Darjah Pahlawan Negara Brunei Yang Amat Perkasa Darjah Pertama (First Class P.S.P.N.B) on Chief of Police, Republic of Indonesia, Police General Drs. Soetanto on April 7.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:



① Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner to New Zealand, Her Excellency Datin Tan Bee Yong; Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner to the Republic of India, His Excellency Awang Haji Sidek bin Ali; Brunei Darussalam's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the People's Democratic Republic of Lao, His Excellency Awang Johan Thani bin Haji Abdullah on April 9.

② The Commander of the United States Pacific Command (U.S. PACOM), Admiral Timothy J. Keating on April 9.

③ The General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, His Excellency Guo Shengkun on April 9.



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

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

Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II, The Queen of Denmark and her Prime Minister, His Excellency Anders Fogh Rasmussen in conjunction with the birthday of Queen Margrethe II on April 16.

His Majesty King Carl Gustaf XIV of Sweden and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Goran Persson in conjunction with the birthday of King of Sweden on April 30.

Her Majesty Queen Koningin Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgrad of Netherlands and her Prime Minister, His Excellency Jan Peter Balkenende in conjunction with Queen Days on April 30.

His Excellency Dmitry Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation, on the occasion of his appointment as the new President of the Russian Federation and to His Excellency Vladimir Putin on the occasion of Putin's appointment as the new Prime Minister of the Russian Federation on May 9.

The Ruler of Jordan, His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussien, and His Excellency Nader Dahabi, the Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Jordan, on the occasion on the country's Independence Day anniversary on May 25.

Sovereign sends condolence message

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent his condolences to China's President, His Excellency Hu Jintao and Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Wen Jiabao following the devastating earthquake that struck Sichuan Province on May 14.

In the message, His Majesty expressed great sadness at the loss of life and destruction that occurred in many parts of China as a result of the earthquake in Sichuan Province.

The monarch also conveyed the Brunei government and its people's sympathy to those affected by the natural disaster, as well as their support for efforts to overcome the difficulties faced by the Chinese people.

The people of Brunei also share the sadness experienced by the people of China, and offer their deepest condolences to all who have been affected.

Brunei committed to maintain regional peace



His Majesty delivers a titah (royal speech) at the banquet hosted by the President Republic of Indonesia in honour with His Majesty's state visit to the Indonesia.

JAKARTA, April 22 - Brunei Darussalam will continue to cooperate with the Republic of Indonesia and also other

ASEAN countries to maintain peace and increase prosperity as the basis to stability in this region.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated the matter in his *titah* (royal speech) at the banquet hosted by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in honour with His Majesty's state visit to Indonesia.

His Majesty said that it is Brunei Darussalam's policy to cooperate in maintaining peace and prosperity because it has become an important factor towards economic growth.

His Majesty also touched on the leadership of the President of Indonesia where the political stability of Indonesia and its economic growth reached 6.2 per cent last year.

In the regional level, His Majesty also touched on the 'Heart of Borneo' Declaration, signed last year, which is important not only for the current generation but also for the future generation.

The Indonesian President in his

remarks meanwhile highlighted the strong relationship between the two countries. He noted that the personal relationship between His Majesty and him has grown closer and that they both on occasions have always discussed on the strengthening of cooperation between both countries.

This cooperation he said does not only develop in the bilateral context but also through different regional and international forum.

Touching on the MoU that was signed, the Indonesian President said that they have agreed to improve economic relations especially in the field of business and investments. He further welcomed investment in the agro business and industries in Indonesia.

Also on the Heart of Borneo, President Yudhoyono said that both countries are committed on the issue of global climate change and towards preservation of the tropical rain forests of Borneo.

Their Majesties on state visit to Indonesia

JAKARTA, April 22 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha were on a three-day state visit to the Republic of Indonesia.

During the state visit, Their Majesties attended a courtesy call with the President of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Mrs Hajah Ani Bambang Yudhoyono at Ruang Jepara, Istana Negara.

On the same day, a signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was held between both nations where it is hoped that it will foster closer bilateral relations. Signing on behalf of Brunei Darussalam was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Major General (RTD) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Awang Mohammad. While his counterpart was His Excellency Ir. Jero Wacik SE.

In a separate itinerary, Her Majesty visited the Yayasan Pembinaan Anak Cacat (YPAC) at Kebayoran Bar in South Jakarta; and the Pusat Kesenian at Wisma Negara.

In the evening, both Their Majesties attended a state banquet hosted by the Indonesian President at Istana Negara.

On the second day of the state visit, His Majesty had a brisk walk with the Indonesia President held at Markas Besar Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI) Angkatan Udara (Mabes TNI-AU) at Cilangkap. Later in the day, His Majesty was awarded the 'Honorary Pilot Wing' and 'Honorary Member of the Special Air Force Corps of the Indonesian Air

Force' by His Excellency Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. The award was in recognising His Majestys roles in promoting a closer bilateral relation of both countries particularly among the air forces of both countries. This was held at Stadium Denma Markas Besar Angkatan Tentera Udara Indonesia.

On a separate itinerary, her Majesty visited the Pusat Ternakan Ikan Arowana based at Joglo, Kembangan at north Jakarta.

Their Majesties ended their state visit on April 24. Present as part of the royal entourage to Indonesia were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bulqiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi-Kalthum Al-Islam and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Setia Diraja Sahibul karib Pengiran Anak Haji Idris.

Her Majesty visits the handicraft exhibition and a fashion show.



His Majesty and Indonesian President entourage for a 2.7 kilometre morning walk at the Indonesia Air Force HQ in Cilangkap, Jakarta.



His Majesty receives "Honorary Pilot Wing" and made an "Honorary Member of the Special Air Forces Corps of the Indonesian Air Force" by Indonesian President.



Brunei-Malaysia foster closer harmonious relation

KUALA LUMPUR, May 7 – Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia fostered closer and harmonious relation through His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan's recent work visit to Kuala Lumpur.

While in Kuala Lumpur, His Majesty received in audience The Right Honourable Datuk Seri Haji Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the Prime Minister of Malaysia. During the audience, both leaders discussed bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest and renewed the closer and excellent relations that exist between Brunei and Malaysia.

His Majesty also went for a horse riding exercise with His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin. It took place at the Putrajaya Equestrian Park in Kuala Lumpur.

His Majesty also attended a dinner banquet organised by Malaysia's



His Majesty and Malaysia's Prime Minister discussed bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest between Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam.

Deputy Prime Minister, The Honourable Datuk Seri Mohd. Najib Tun Razak to commemorate His Majesty's two-day work visit to Malaysia.

On the second day of the work visit, His Majesty visited one of the states of

Malaysia, Johor Darul Ta'zim. In Johor, His Majesty visited Camp Iskandar who was accompanied by the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister.



His Majesty and His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia at a banquet hosted by the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia at one of the leading hotels in Kuala Lumpur.



His Majesty and His Majesty Yang Di-Pertuan Agong during the sport horse-riding at the environment of Putrajaya Equestrian Park.



His Majesty at the hanger of Special Boat's Squadron made a closer look at the weapons used by the member of Special Squadron.

Consumer Price Index, January 2008

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in January 2008 rose by 0.9 per cent to 104.6 over December 2007.

The cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages rose by 0.8 per cent due to higher prices of noodle, biscuits, fresh & frozen chicken, fresh & frozen buffalo meat, butter, vegetable and corn oils, sweet potatoes, ginger, shallot, apples, grapes and cocoa-based beverages.

Some food items which recorded notable price increases in January 2008 compared with the previous month were butter, ginger, shallot, grapes, vegetables oil, dried prawns, apples, Red Snapper (Ikan Merah), squid (medium), fresh water prawn (Udang Galah), and sweet potatoes. The increases in prices change ranges from 3.9 per cent to 19.1 per cent.

But some items also recorded notable price decreases. The items were prawn (small and large), cucumber, Grouper (Kerapu), Sardinella (Tamban), chillies, Trevalley (Ikan Puteh), round cabbage, limau kasturi, bean curd, and bean sprout. The decreases in prices change ranges from 11.2 per cent to 2.9 per cent.

Higher prices of ready-made clothing, material for male & female and footwear led to a 4.1 per cent increase in the cost of clothing and footwear.

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

Transport cost fell by 0.2 per cent due to lower prices of air fares.

Higher prices of computer accessories and school fees led to an increase in the cost of education by 0.2 per cent.

The cost of medical and health went up by 0.2 per cent due to higher prices of medical treatment and proprietary medicines and supplies.

The cost of recreation and entertainment rose by 2.0 per cent as a result of higher prices of toys and holiday packages.

The cost of miscellaneous goods and services increased by 0.6 per cent due to higher prices of ladies personal care, infant care and ladies personal effects.

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

The CPI in January 2008 was 2.3 per cent higher than that of the same month in 2007.

Their Majesties laud close ties

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, May 13 – Brunei Darussalam and Jordan have close ties and mutually respect especially once when meet in the international arena. The relationship dimension increasingly glowing during Extraordinary Summit of Islamic Organization Countries (OIC) in Mecca in year 2005. The Summit in Mecca trigger commitment among OIC members to fight the fate, not only hundreds million of muslim people but also other countries.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated the matter in his titah (royal speech) during the State Banquet at the Istana Nurul Iman in conjunction with the state visit of the King of Jordan to the sultanate.

His Majesty King Abdullah II in his return speech said today, nations across the world look for Brunei as a leader on cooperation for development. In Asean, in the relationship between Asia and the Middle East, and in the global Islamic community, Brunei have promoted the close, effective partnerships that are so necessary today.

His Majesty The King of Jordan said that both countries, Brunei Darussalam and Jordan recognise



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty King Abdullah during the State Banquet at the Istana Nurul Iman.

the critical need to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. If we are to grasp this opportunity to end humanitarian suffering in Palestine to curb extremist maneuvering: we need a settlement between Israel and Palestine this year. Brunei has a worldwide role in peace and justice. Together, we must continue to press forward.

Present at the banquet were Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, Her Majesty Queen

Rania of Jordan, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah, His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Mateen, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah and other members of the royal family.

Brunei-Jordan ties strengthen

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 13 – Bilateral relation between Brunei Darussalam and Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has been further strengthen through the three-day state visit of the King and Queen of Jordan, His Majesty Raja Abdullah II Ibni Al Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah to Brunei Darussalam.

While in Brunei Darussalam, Their Majesties made a courtesy call to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri and members of the royal family at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty The Sultan of Brunei

Darussalam and His Majesty the King of Jordan held a four eyes meeting where Their Majesties discussed bilateral issues; and exchanged views on regional and international matters. A state banquet was held in honour of the state visit at the Istana Nurul Iman on May 13.

Prior to the state banquet, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to bestow His Majesty King of Jordan with a 'Darjah Kerabat Mahkota Brunei' (D.K.M.B) – The Royal Family Order of the Crown of Brunei; and the 'Darjah Kerabat Laila Utama Yang Amat Dihormati' (D.K) – The Most Esteemed Family Order Laila Utama to Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri consented to receive 'The Bejewelled Grand Cordon of Renaissance' and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri consented to receive 'The Order of the Renaissance (First Degree)' from His Majesty the King of Jordan.

On the first day of the state visit, His Majesty The King of Jordan and Her Majesty the Queen of Jordan visited the Brunei Museum based

at Jalan Kota Batu.

The second day of the official visit saw His Majesty The King of Jordan and Her Majesty the Queen of Jordan visiting the Balai Pameran Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Islamic Gallery) based in DarulIfta.

Next on the itinerary was a visit by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Majesty The King of Jordan to the Temburong District and Pulau Baru-Baru on May 14 to witness a jungle and maritime warfare demonstration. On a separate itinerary, Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah visited the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation School (YSHHB) based in Jalan Kebangsaan.

Their Majesties the King and Queen of Jordan ended their state visit to Brunei Darussalam on May 15. Prior to departing, Their Majesties bid farewell to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri and members of the royal family at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Present to bid farewell at the Brunei International Airport were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah.



His Majesty the Sultan and His Majesty King Abdullah II while witnessing a special jungle demonstration by the Special Force Regiment.

His Royal Highness official visit to United Arab Emirates

ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, April 25 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office was on a series of official visits to four states of the United Arab Emirates - Manama, Bahrain; Fujairah, Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

The visit started from April 11 to 25 where His Royal Highness first arrived in Bahrain on April 11. In Bahrain, His Royal Highness visited the Bait Al-Quran where it houses a collection of Al-Quran manuscripts gathered from Islamic countries worldwide.

His Royal Highness also attended a dinner banquet and luncheon hosted by His highness Sheikh Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, the Crown Prince of Bahrain, Deputy Supreme Commander of the Bahrain Defence Force held at the Sahiya Palace; and His Excellency Sheikh Fawaz bin Mohammed bin Khalifa, the President of the General Organisation for Youth and Sports respectively.

His Royal Highness also had a courtesy call with His highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, the Prime Minister of Bahrain at gudaibiya Palace on April 13. He later visited the King Fahd causeway that connects Bahrain and the Saudi Arabia.

The official visit to Bahrain ended on April on 14 where His Royal Highness continued his series of official visit to Fujairah.

A dinner banquet was held on April 14 organised by His Highness Sheikh Saleh bin Mohammad Al Sharqi, the Chairman of Fujairah's Department

of Industry and Economy in honour of His Royal Highness' official visit.

In Fujairah, His Royal Highness also took oart in the Men's World 8 Ball Pool Championship 2008 where Fujairah was the hosting state.

This was His Royal Highness' first time to participate in this championship where it was participated by 64 world class players from 33 countries worldwide.

His Royal Highness continued his official visit to Abu Dhabi on April 21. In Abu Dhabi, His Royal Highness had a courtesy visit to His Highness Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi on April 22. he also paid homage to the late His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan where the burial site was based at the Sheikh Zayed Mosque on April 23.

His Royal Highness ended his official visit in Dubai. In Dubai, His Royal Highness had a courtesy visit to His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashi Al-Maktoum, the Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dibai's Executive Council on April 24.

His Royal Highness ended his official visit on April 25.



His Royal Highness had a courtesy visit to His Highness Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi.



His Royal Highness gives violent rival to German player, Marcus Westen.

Brunei affirms support for Asia-Mid East cooperation



His Royal Highness at the opening ceremony of the Second Ministerial meeting of Asia-Middle East Dialog.

SHARM EL SHEIKH, EGYPT, April 5 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade attended the opening ceremony for the Second Ministerial Meeting of Asia-Middle East Dialogue (AMED II) at the Maritime International Congress Centre, Sharm El Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt.

a statement affirming Brunei Darussalam's support for cooperation between Asia and the Middle East, especially in dealing with natural disasters and communicable diseases.

In the evening, His Royal highness joined other AMED Ministers and Head of Delegations at a dinner hosted by the Egyptian Foreign Minister.

The dialog was comprised of pelnary sessions and panel discussion covering political, economic and cultural affairs. It was opened by Egypt's Foreign Minister, His Excellency Ahmed Aboul Gheit.

During the first plenary session of the Political and Security Working Group, His Royal highness delivered

Istiadat Bersiram at royal palace

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, May 1 - An Istiadat Bersiram ceremony was held at Istana Nurul Iman following the recent birth of Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Abdul Hafeez, the first born to Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bulqiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Khairul Khalil.

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Abdul Hafeez was born on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at 10.26am corresponding to Rabiulawal 10, 1429. Following the birth, a 17 cannon blast was fired at the compound of the Istana Nurul Iman.

KOTA BATU

Mukim Kota Batu believed to be once the royal residing areas during ancient Brunei, is located in Brunei Muara District. This is been proven with the existence of two royal mausoleums that belonged to the late Sultans of Brunei; Sultan Sharif Ali and Sultan Bolkiah, the third and fifth ruler. Just several minutes drive from the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, Mukim Kota Batu is undoubtedly of the historic 'mukims in this country.

With an area of 54.276 square kilometres, Kota Batu has more than 10 villages. This mukim is unique as it is based by the riverside of Brunei River which cover both land and water.

The villages under Mukim Kota Batu are Sungai Belukut, Serdang, Subok, Sungai Matan, Pelambayan, Pudak, Kota Batu, Pintu Malim and Sungai Lampai, Sungai Bunga and Tanjong Kindana, Dato Gandi, Belimbing, Sungai Besar and Menunggol Roing.

The mukim is a home for more than 13,000 people whom live at about 1,500 houses which are mostly privately owned.

Equally developed as other mukims in the country, Kota Batu is equipped with basic necessities such as government and private schools, water and electricity, landlines, roads and other conveniences like; mosque,

1. A mukim is a cluster of villages which is administrated by a *penghulu* or chief village.

petrol, police and fire and rescue stations and few shops.

As mentioned earlier regarding the discovery of the Sultans mausoleums; Kota Batu has become a popular tourists attractions as apart from the mausoleums, Kota Batu also houses the Brunei Museum and the Malay Technology Museum.

The museums are opened for the public daily from 9.00am except on Saturday where it opens from 9.45am. Visiting hours may differ during the month of Ramadhan (fasting month).

Located about five kilometres from the capital, the Brunei Museum was officially opened on February 29, 1972 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of United Kingdom. It was also the headquarters for Brunei Museum Department. The museum has few galleries depicting the Islamic arts, oil and gas industry, natural history, Brunei traditional culture and Brunei Darussalam archaeology history. One of the interesting galleries to be visited is the ship wreck exhibition.

The Malay Technology Museum is located next to the Brunei Museum at Kota Batu. The building was donated by the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's independence in 1984.

Officially opened by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on February 29, 1988, the Malay Technology Museum has three main exhibition

halls. The halls are concentrating on the traditional homes and traditional technology of the water village and inland traditional technology.

Other interesting places to visit are the Brunei Arts and Handicraft Centre and the Bubungan Duabelas.

The Brunei Arts and Handicrafts Centre was formed in 1975 in Berakas and moved to the current building along Jalan Residency in 1984. With the objective to preserve the skills of producing local handicrafts such as cloth weaving, silver-crafting, fine arts such as kris-making (traditional dagger), brasswork, and plating and songkok-making (traditional headgear), the centre have successfully produced many graduates that are now involved in producing these commercially in the form of small medium enterprises (SMEs).

The centre has a gallery that displays various types of handicrafts made by the students and some exhibits are also for sale. As a token of remembrance, this is the best place to purchase these high quality products.

Bubungan Duabelas or the House of Twelve Roofs is also located along Jalan Residency. Built in 1906, it is one of the oldest buildings left in the nation. The House of Twelve Roofs used to be a home for the British Residence (1907 to 1941, and from 1946 to 1959) and High Commissioner in Brunei (1960 to 1984). A total of 25 British Residents and High Commissioners were recorded to have lived here. The building is now under the purview of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. This building is now used as a gallery that showcased the bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and the United Kingdom.

As part of the mukim's total land area also covers the waters of Brunei River, the aquaculture industry is one of the main attractions for not only to invest but also as a popular venue for fishing or casting net especially during weekend. Among the commercial activities carried out are the floating fish cages or fish hatchery and crab breeding farm.



There are also few jetties with a roof built along the area for the people to wait for water taxis. Strong walls were built along the river banks to avoid erosion; and this provides a comfortable and safe feeling to the fishermen.

Beside the historical sites and commercial activity, Mukim Kota Batu is also popular for its recreational park. Bukit Markucing Recreational Park which is situated in Kampung Belimbing, Subok is among a local favourite spot for hiking, trekking and outing. Approximately 165 metres high from the sea level, hikers are required to walk for two kilometres and conquer five hills before reaching the top.

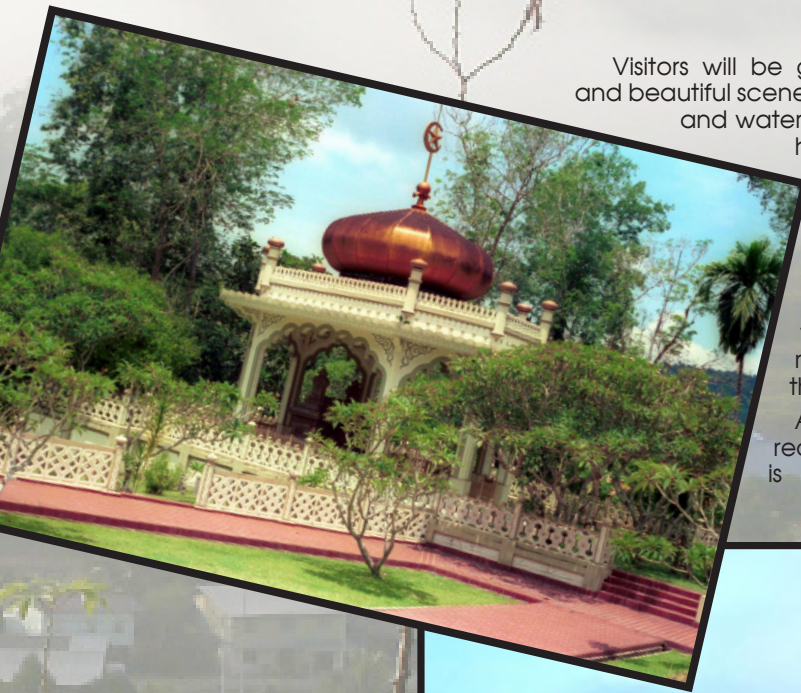


Visitors will be given spectacular and beautiful scenery of the rainforest and water village once they have reached the top. For those who only wish for sight seeing or outing, there are several huts available at various points on route to the top of the park.

Another place for recreational activity is the Bukit Subok

Recreational Park in Kampung Subok. Similar to Bukit Markucing, this park is also one of the local favourites for activities like hiking and trekking. This park is popular spot for shutterbugs as it is one of the most ideal place to capture the sunset and good view of the water village. Huts are also available for visitors' convenience.

As an overall, Mukim Kota Batu is not only a home for most of Brunei historical buildings but also a great area for recreational and aquaculture activities.



Did you know that...

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was formally established upon the resumption of Brunei Darussalam's full independence on January 1, 1984. His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah was appointed as the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Later on August 1, 2005; the Ministry was renamed as Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It was renamed due to the merging of the International Relations and Trade Department (which was under the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources) into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Before the independence, Brunei Darussalam had three missions overseas, namely; Brunei Darussalam Commission in Kuala Lumpur, London and Singapore. All these missions were upgraded to High Commission in 1984.

Currently Brunei Darussalam had set up 25 Embassies, nine High Commissions, two Permanent Missions and four Consulate General.

More information on the Ministry is available at www.mfa.gov.bn.

>> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

- Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.
- Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.
- It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.
- Land size is 5765 sq. km
- Population is estimated at 383,000 people (2006)
- It is divided into four districts – Brunei Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.
- Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.
- Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.
- National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.
- It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

Public Warning: The trafficking of controlled drugs carries the death penalty in Brunei Darussalam

>> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.

- By air - Brunei's national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines travels to more than 20 destinations around the world. The airline also has worldwide office for you to book a return flight to Brunei (to know the nearest RBA's office at your place, please log to: www.brunelair.com)

International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, the Malaysia's lowest airfare carrier also has direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Brunei.

Arrival by plane would land you to Brunei International Airport (BWN), the sole airport of the nation.

- For those who enjoy journey by sea, you can reach Brunei by boat or ferry. The main ferry terminal in Brunei is the Serasa Ferry Terminal at Muara. You can catch a ferry from Labuan, Sabah or Lawas and Sundar, both in Sarawak, a state of the neighbouring country, Malaysia. Another option is via a boat from Limbang, Sarawak which will arrive at the jetty around Jalan Residency area in the Capital.
- You would have two options of entry point to Brunei by land transport. You can enter through the Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait District or the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post in Brunei Muara District. The Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait is the entry point for those from Miri, Sarawak. While the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post is the entrance for those coming from Limbang, Sarawak; Kota Kinabalu; and Kalimantan.

National Housing Programmes

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in implementing its policy in providing all its citizen with proper accommodation in pleasant environment, with the citizen households owning their own houses., various housing schemes had been introduced as early as the 1950's.

One particular department that has been assigned to handle the various housing schemes such as the National Resettlement Programs is the Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Development. This department was formerly known as the Department of Resettlement Water Village Residents to Land.

The main objectives of the Department, among other things are;

- To upgrade the living standard of the people of Brunei Darussalam by resettling them in comfortable accommodation and environment replete with such facilities such as a school, mosque, clinic, sport arena and so forth.
- Prevent the growth of disorderly construction of houses.
- Provide housing to meet population growth involved in government schemes.
- Harmonise the development national housing with the country's surroundings.
- Unite and give opportunity as well as guidance to all especially those without the means to build their own houses.
- Improve social condition or influence among the population.

The resettlement programs began as early as 1951 when the residents of Kampong Bendahara Lama from the Kampong Ayer or Water Village were resettled to Bunut Resettlement Area in Mukim Kilanas. Two years later, in 1953, similar resettlement program was also carried out for residents of Kampong Burong Pingai Berakas, Kampong Pancha Delima, Kampong Pengiran SiRaja Muda, Kampong Anggerek Desa and Kampong Orang Kaya Besar Imas, all of which were in Mukim Berakas. In 1954, this department was also involved in the resettlement of Kampong Jaya Setia and Kampong Jaya Bakti, both in Mukim Berakas and is also known as Kampong Perpindahan Berakas.

In the 1960's, the Government built two-housing estates in Berakas, namely Kampong Setia Bakti and Kampong Jaya Setia for some of the Kampong Ayer residents who accepted government offers to resettle them to the mainland.

A nationwide survey was conducted in 1970's to identify the people's housing needs. Hence as a result, the first of many housing schemes, the Lambak Kanan National Housing Scheme was introduced covering a site of about 810 hectares where 84 houses under Phase One had been completed and allocated to the successful applicants in early 1986. Two years later another 162 houses under Phase Two were ready and subsequently handed over to the lucky applicants. Applicants only need to pay their new homes at subsidised rates and paid over a period of 20 to 30 years.

In 1984, another housing scheme was introduced which is the Landless Indigenous Housing Scheme where citizens can own a plot of land and a house at subsidised prices which are payable monthly at low rates.

By 1984, two resettlement projects were completed based in Kampong Mata-mata and Kampong Serasa comprising of 172 houses and 70 houses respectively.

More housing schemes at new sites which cover all districts have been introduced until today. Besides these privately owned houses, the Government has also been providing houses, flats and barracks for its civil servants where the rents are at a very minimal cost. The responses for such housing schemes both for private homes or government housings have received overwhelming response even until today.

Currently, the National Housing Programme is still an on-going project where a huge sum of budget has been allocated through the National Development Plan. The programme consists of the National Housing Development Scheme (RPN), the Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme (STKRJ), Temporary Occupation-of-land License (TOL) and Infill Scheme (IS).

The latest National Development Plan 2007-2012 have allocated a total of \$1,556 million or 16.4 per cent of the total RKN 2007-2012 budget. It is for the

construction of around 9,300 housing units, earthworks, infrastructural works and developing new residential sites. The construction of around 9,300 houses will be located at 11 sites where some of the earthworks and basic infrastructural works have been completed. A total of 717 hectares will also be developed as new residential sites in six locations.

Whilst the development of government housing have received a total of \$23 million to finance the implementation of 16 projects including the construction of flats and barracks for the staffs of the Departments of Forestry, Agriculture, Fire Services and Rescue, Tutong Municipal Board, Temburong and Tutong District Offices.

To apply for the National Housing Schemes;

- Applicant must be a citizen of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Dipertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam
- Applicant must be 18 years old and above.
- Applicant or spouse does have registered land OR have registered land that cannot be developed based on the government criteria and upon approval.
- Applicant must be a government employee and is entitle for a housing loan that enables him/her to develop his/her own house according to a circular that has been/ will be enforced from time to time.
- For a government employee who is not entitle for a housing loan and a non-government employee applicant, must have an income of not less than B\$445.00 and not more than B\$3030.00 a month.

GAMBAR PERUMAHAN SCHEME KERAJAAN

Specialisation in key areas of law vital

JERUDONG, April, 26 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, called for a specialisation in key areas of law and continuous training to address challenges in human resource development and provide quality legal advice for the government.

There is also a need to provide sufficient exposure in all areas of the law to ensure that members of the Attorney General's Chambers can develop their knowledge and broaden their understanding of international legal perspectives.

His Royal Highness stated the matter at the opening of the Third Annual Event of the Attorney General's Chambers of Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore held at the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta-Wakillah Hayatul Bolkiah.

The Crown Prince noted that chambers from the three countries are sharing their experiences and extending assistance to one another in the training of their legal draftsmen.

The Crown Prince remarked that

a common legal foundation among the three countries presents unique opportunities to address concerns in assisting governments in developing legal systems to meet people's needs.

The changes brought about by the signing of the Asean charter will further require the countries to address issues with regards to legal compliance, implementation and common legislative measures, the senior minister said.

The 3rd Annual Event of the Attorney-General's Chambers of Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore was run for five days.

The participants of the event includes 50 officers from the Attorney-General's Chamber of Malaysia led by its Attorney-General, Tan Sri



His Royal Highness delivers a *sabda* at the opening of the Third Annual Event of the Attorney General's Chambers of Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore.

Abdul Gani Patail and 37 participants from Singapore Attorney-General Chambers led by Attorney-General Professor Walter Koon.

The Honorable Chief Justice of Singapore, Chan Sek Keong is also invited as a state guest.

Last year, the event was held in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, and was attended by 137 participants from the three countries.

GO! Broadband launched



His Royal Highness launch DST's GO! broadband service.

JERUDONG, May 1 - One of the leading mobile communications service providers in Brunei Darussalam, DST Communications Sdn. Bhd. has launched its latest services, GO! Broadband.

Present to officially launch the product was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

GO! broadband utilises the latest 3.5G mobile technology, also known

as Wideband Code Division multiple Access High-speed Downlink Packet Access (WCDMA HSDPA), which allows access to the Internet wirelessly, with download speeds of up to 7.2Mbps.

Installation works began in November 2007 where DST Group have worked together with Ericsson who is the biggest supplier of the WCDMA HSDPA system that are used in over 90 networks worldwide.

More details of the product is available at www.dst-group.com.

Royal visit to Jerudong Prison

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 8 - Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah along with 18 students from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) conducted a visit to the Jerudong Prison.

The objective of the visit was to take a closer look at the functions of the prison, including the rehabilitation programme for its residents.

A briefing was also delivered by Senior Officer-in-Charge, Prison Controller Haji Ismail bin Haji Murat, and a canning demonstration by Head Officer of Jemdong Prison Safety Section Zakaria bin Salleh.

During the visit, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah and the delegation also viewed the Prison Gallery as well as toured other facilities, led by Acting Prison Officer in Charge Salwa @ Megawati binti Haji Salleh.

Her Royal Highness at BLGA award ceremony

JERUDONG, April 9 - A reception in celebration of Her Royal Highness' Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah was held by the Brunei Ladies Golf Association (BLGA) and held at the Royal Berkshire Hall of Jerudong Park Country Club.

At the event, her Royal Highness cut a birthday cake and presented prizes to the winners of the Charity Golf 2008 tournament organised by BLGA.

A mock cheque of B\$16,000 was also received by Her Royal Highness for the Her Royal Highness' charity fund.



Her Royal Highness cuts the birthday cake in conjunction with Her Royal Highness' birthday anniversary organised by BSLA.

Nursing college to merge with UBD



Her Royal Highness presents a diploma to one of the graduates.

RIMBA, April 17 – A plan is underway to merge the college of nursing with the medicine institute of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

This was said by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah at the 14th Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah College of Nursing's convocation ceremony.

Her Royal Highness believed that this is a positive step by the Ministry of Education in its bid to produce a high quality tertiary education. With this, the Nursing College will be able to expand further and become a more quality and competitive institute. This will also enable the College to enhance its role in fulfilling the demands for quality, committed and professional nurses, midwives and health officers.

A total of 106 students received their Diploma in Nursing and Midwifery. Six students received special awards in recognition of their ability to sustain excellent achievement in their academic, clinical practice and professional behaviour.

Stamp not required for Bruneian passports

TEMBURONG, April 12 – Bruneian holding passports comprising of diplomat, official and General Certificate of Identity (GCI) are no longer required to get their passports stamped upon exiting and entering the nation-states's immigration control post.

This regulation took into effect starting April 14, 2008.

These were disclosed by the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Adanan at a dialogue session with Chiefs and Heads of Villages, and Heads of Long Houses at the Dewan Utama Kompleks, Community Hall.

The Minister however said that despite the exemption, passport holders are still required to bring along their passports as immigration officers need to check on the passports as carried out previously.

He further said that the passports shown upon exiting and entering the immigration control post will be scanned using a passport scanner where the information will be stored in the Department of Immigration and National Registration's database.

With the new system, it is hoped that it will be beneficial such as enhancing a more efficient services and ease congestion at the immigration control posts.

Brunei Heart of Borneo Council established

JERUDONG, April 25 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam have consented to establish the Brunei Heart of Borneo Council, and the Brunei Heart of Borneo Centre.

This was disclosed by the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdillah at a dinner to celebrate Earth Day.

The Heart of Borneo is an initiative by Borneo's 3 nations (Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia) to conserve the area known as the Heart of Borneo – a total of 220,000 km² of equatorial rainforest - through a network of protected areas and sustainably-managed forests, and through international co-operation led by the Bornean governments, supported by a global effort.

The Council's operation took into effect as of April 21, 2008.

ICT to boost the economy

JALAN MENTERI BESAR, April 28 – The Info-Communications Technology (ICT) has been identified as an economic booster. It is the vision of Brunei Darussalam to produce an information society where the information obtained can be used as a source of the economy, in line with the development of knowledge-based economy.

These were said by the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar at the official launching of the Ministry's book on Strategic Planning 2008-2017.

According to the Minister, a key factor towards producing an information society depends hugely on the society's ability to change. As a sample, even though the penetration rate of fixed line to homes in Brunei Darussalam is nearly 100 per cent, the internet usage per 100 persons is at 46.6 per cent. In this context, we should be more responsible in ensuring that the investments on these projects will be beneficial.

The Ministry of Communications have produced a Strategic Plan 2008-

2017 which is a continuity of the Road Map 2004-2024. The book has 13 main sections which include the vision, mission, current situation, trend, development and challenges, strategic objective of the Ministry and its departments, benchmarking and many more.

Domestic violence, victims should take actions

BERAKAS - April 25 - Victims of domestic are urged not to stay silent and take proper actions.

The call was made by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi at the official opening of a symposium entitled "Domestic Violence; Don't Be Silent, Take Action".

According to the Minister, health centres plays an important role as most of the victims will seek for medical attention there. Hence, the Minister urged for the medical professionals to advise the victims not to keep silent and take actions. Most of the victims are women.

Six working papers were tabled at the

symposium where speakers were from the Ministry of Health, Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) and the Ministry of Culture and Sports.

One of the speakers, Datin Hajah Adina who is the Director of Community of Developments from the Ministry of Culture, Youths and Sports said that the department provides shelter for victims - Taman Nor Hidayah and Taman Darussakinah. Victims are given counselling and other various welfare services. For further assistance, a hotline has also been set up.



Barut



For this edition, Lifestyle introduces 'barut', a traditional material used to wrap around a baby or mother's stomach or abdominal area. *Barut* is a piece of rectangular cloth with a strap (horizontal) made of cloth. *Barut* is term as a long bandage for an infant or woman in confinement.

Barut is used to help prevent an infant from flatulent meanwhile the mother used *barut* to deflate the abdominal area/stomach to normal shape after giving birth.

Before the *barut* is wrapped, herbal medicine or oil will be smeared on the abdominal area/stomach. This is done to assist the healing or deflating process.

But for a growing baby (beginning from baby who is already able to crawl), *barut bergantung* (hanged) is used to replace *barut berikat* (tied) so the baby can move comfortably. In Brunei, *barut berikat* (hanged) is known as 'utau'. The shape of *utau* is triangle with a flat end and looks similarly like an apron. When in used, the strap must be tied behind the neck and around the waist). The role of *utau* is to prevent the chest of child from exposure which can caused cold.

Today, the use of *barut* is a still preferred as a medium to treat their baby's stomachache. Beside its cheap and affordable price, *barut* is also reusable. It can be re-washed and re-used.

Moving along with time, some modifications had been made onto the *barut*. Instead of using a strap, a Velcro which is faster consisting of two strips, one with a dense layer of tiny nylon hooks and the other of looks that interlock them is used to join the *barut*. This helps to reduce the time consumed for tying the strap.

Other than the use of Velcro, other modification includes a *barut* called *Barut Berherba*. It is a package of *barut* with herbal medicine attached to it. This *barut* was introduced to save time preparing the medicine.

The most convenient place to purchase the *barut* is from the country's famous Tamu Kianggeh, a one-stop market based in the capital. Prices for baby size is \$5 per packet and for adult is \$ 20 per packet.

Bubur Kacang Berdurian

Ingredients:

Green beans	1 kg
Durian (yellow)	4 nos
Durian (white)	3 nos
Sugar	200 g
Coconut milk	200ml
Pandan leaves, knotted	12pcs
Sweet corn	1 can

Method

Wash green beans and soak for a day. Cook green beans with pandan leaves. Add the coconut milk. And lastly put durian, sweet corn and sugar.



5th BIMP-EAGA meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 1 – BIMP-EAGA members state were urged to play an important role in promoting trade, tourism and regional programmes.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Awang Haji Alaihuddin stated the matter during the 5th BIMP-EAGA held in Gadong.

The two-day meeting discussed on Transport, Infrastructure and ICT Development (TIICTD).

The meeting deliberated the development of the transport sectors within BIMP-EAGA and related sectors such as infrastructure, construction materials and information communication technology.

The discussion also focused on the support mechanism for the initiatives identified in the 2008 BIMP-EAGA action plan and the ongoing implementation of the three memoranda of understanding on issuing permits to operate buses across borders between Brunei Darussalam, the state of Kalimantan, Indonesia, and the states of Sabah and Sarawak, Malaysia, promoting airlines to service the EAGA designated routes with Fifth Freedom Traffic rights and encouraging shipping activities within the region.

The meeting was participated by the representative from the government sector of the four BIMP-EAGA countries, BIMP-EAGA Facilitation Centre, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) as BIMP+EAGA development partners, the Asean Secretariat and the private sector.

The meeting discussed cross-cutting issues and concerns and exchanged views to attain a more conducive business environment within the BIMP-EAGA region.

National service program implemented soon

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 3 - The government has approved for the implementation of national service for youths.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Dewa Major General (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Mohammad announced the matter at the last day of National Youth Congress held in International Convention Centre.

The minister was responding to resolutions made by a panel of five youths after three days of discussions were held over five core topics - Youth and Leadership, Youth and Society, Work and Training, role of NGOs in youth and nation development and entrepreneur opportunities among youths.

The minister also had discussions with Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) on creating a micro modal facility to enable entrepreneurs or students of the Youth Development Centre who aspire to start up businesses on a small scale.

He also said that the ministry is aware and has made efforts to identify what the youths want and will make an action plan to fulfill their needs.

He also highlighted on the huge allocation provided for youth development programmes, and Youth Development Centre in terms of allowances and for students taking up courses at the centre.

Health Minister awarded Honorary Fellowship

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 6 - In recognition of the excellent progress and achievements in primary health care in Brunei Darussalam, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi, the Minister of Health, has been conferred the Honorary Fellowship by the Academy of Family Physicians of Malaysia.

The ceremony was held in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia on April 5.

In ensuring a high standard for its primary health care services in Brunei Darussalam, the Ministry of Health recognise the needs to focus on improving the clinical skills and knowledge of all levels of its staff.

In February 2004, training was taken over by the Institute of Medicine, Universiti Brunei Darussalam and a qualification have been changed to Masters in Primary Health Care (MScPHC). In 2005, Brunei Darussalam became the accredited centre for the Membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners examinations for the Asean region.

Prince Sufri attends Olympics Meet

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 7 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council will be in Beijing to attend the 14th Association of National Olympic Committee General Assembly in Beijing, People's Republic of China.

The General Assembly will be held for four days starting from April 8 to 11.

Olympic Games will be held in Beijing in August.

Ministry of Health – University of Otago sign Training Agreement

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 16 – Brunei Darussalam is collaborating with New Zealand to train local health professionals in various areas including doctors, nurse, health experts and professional areas.

The collaboration was following the signing of an agreement between the Ministry of Health and University of Otago on April 11 during Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Laila Diraja Dato Paduka Haji Hazair, the Deputy Minister of Health's visit to New Zealand from April 8 to 12.

The University of Otago will "play the role as a strong focal point to future linkages" between the Health Ministry to other training institutions in New Zealand.

The university's long history of milestone achievements, in terms of quality training, education and as a leading institution in clinical researching, will be able to offer Brunei the required niche.

71 Bruneian students world's top ten

JALAN MUARA, April 22 - Seventy one Bruneian comprising of secondary five and six students are world's top ten in their respective subjects particularly in Brunei's Vovember Cambridge GCE 'O'; 'AS' and 'A' Level 2007 examinations.

In honour of these excellent achievements, a Brilliance Award ceremony was organised by the Ministry of Education and University of Cambridge International Examinations.

The Brilliance Award were for those who had been identified as top ten in the world, top in the world and in Brunei Darussalam.

As many as 35 students were those who sat for their 'O' level examinations; and 36 were 'AS' and 'A' level students.

Present as guest of honour was the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Rahman.

The ceremony took place at Mangggis Ballroom, Hua Ho Mall in Berakas.

Prince for SEA Games meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 23 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of the Brunei Darussalam Olympic Council was in Laos for the 25th SEA Games meeting in Vientiane.

Laos will be hosting the biennial sport events. The 25th SEAN Games meetings was held starting from April 21 to 25 in Vientiane. It was attended by the Presidents of Olympic from every ASEAN members states and would discussing matters related with the 25th SEA Games.

International cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Univerlity of Otago already exists a decade ago.



Woman squadron at the 47th Anniversary of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces at the 3rd Battalion Royal Brunei Land Force camp in Lumut. The 3rd Battalion Royal Brunei Land Force camp moved into the new location on June 21, 2007 with over 800 members. Before, the 3rd Battalion accommodated at Penanjong Garrison, Tutong.



Giant parade which involves as many as 1,547 members of RBAF at 47th Anniversary of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces at the 3rd Battalion Royal Brunei Land Force camp in Lumut.