



# برونى دارالسلام

## Brunei Darussalam

# Brunei Darussalam

## newsletter

Published by the Department of Information, Prime Minister's Office

MAY, 2005  
VOLUME 20 ISSUE 5

## Brunei has new cabinet line-up

**H**is Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam announced a new line-up of ministers and deputy ministers on May 24.

According to His Majesty, the appointment of new cabinet ministers and deputy ministers is to sustain previous achievements and to give opportunities to certain individuals.

With the new line-up, there are now 14 ministers and 10 deputy ministers. These newly appointed ministers and deputy ministers would hold office for the next five years.

It was also announced that the offices of State Mufti and the Attorney General now hold ministerial ranks.

Meanwhile, a swearing-in ceremony for the newly appointed ministers and deputy ministers was held on May 30 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

## Brunei-Pakistan shares valuable cooperation

**B**runei and Pakistan bilateral ties are gradually building up an extremely valuable amount of formal cooperation in many areas. These cover a wide spectrum of cooperation from social, cultural and religious affairs to economics, education, health and defence.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said this on May 7 at a dinner banquet at Istana Nurul Iman, given in honour of the visit of His Excellency Shaukat Aziz, The Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam.

The sovereign also expressed his gratitude for the contribution of Pakistan government which was evident through their generous response to the desperate situation faced by the victims of December's tsunami.

"This was a moving and powerful statement of compassion and common humanity. It made us very happy to have been a strong supporter of Pakistan's wish to play an active role in ASEAN's efforts to build a strong, stable and prosperous South East Asia,

"In this demonstration of your people's desire to share our aims and challenges, we were very pleased indeed that you signed the Treat of Amity and Cooperation and we warmly welcome your participation in the ASEAN Regional Forum," said His Majesty.

The sovereign also expressed his appreciation towards Pakistan nationals who have contributed to Brunei's own development.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Shaukat Aziz, the Prime Minister of Pakistan





# CONTENTS

Volume 20 Issue 5 MAY, 2005

Brunei has new cabinet line-up	1
Brunei-Pakistan shares valuable cooperation	1
Crown Prince appointed Deputy Inspector General of Police	3
Prime Minister of Pakistan's Official Visit to Brunei	3
Congratulatory Messages	3
Palace Newsround	4
Royal visit to Brunei International Airport	6
HM tours Rimba Health Centre	6
RBAF 44 <sup>th</sup> anniversary	7
New cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers	8
Crown Prince visits Royal Brunei Police Force	10
ITB's 14th Convocation Ceremony	10
Logo for healthier choice of food	10
Crown Prince's Work Visits	11
PDS School wins PRYNSA 7	11
Agricultural sector opens up for private enterprises	11
Temburong: Potential 'rice bowl' for the nation	12
Local Agriculture entrepreneurs under 8 <sup>th</sup> NDP	12
e-Aseanpol Database System to crack transnational crime	12
Brunei contingent shines in Arafura Games 2005	13
MOE on the move to continuously improve education	13
Health Development in Brunei Darussalam	14
Snippets	15
Bandar Seri Begawan	16



## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

is published monthly 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**

sarini.julaini@information.gov.bn

Reporters

**Hajah Noorhijrah Haji Idris**

noorhijrah.idris@information.gov.bn

**Huraizah Ahmad**

Layout Designer

**Hajah Zaianit Haji Noorkhan**

zaianit.noorkhan@information.gov.bn

Photographs

**Photography Division of  
Department of Information**

## General inquiries

(673) 2380 400/ext BDN Division

Fax (673) 2382 012

Information Department

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

Information Gallery

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



# Crown Prince appointed Deputy Inspector General of Police

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferred His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah with the rank Deputy Inspector General of Police on May 5.

The ceremony took place during His Majesty's visit to the Police Headquarter in Gadong. Prior to ceremony, His Majesty also awarded insignia and beret to the Special Operation Squad.

The Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) was established on January 1, 1921 after the approval of Police Laws in 1920 and known as Brunei Police Force. His Majesty became the Inspector General of RBPF on August 14, 1971.

Within the 84 years of establishment, RBPF had made great strides towards excellence. RBPF introduced the first intake of Women Police on August 4, 1971. In 1984, RBPF became a member of INTERPOL and ASEANAPOL. RBPF also participated in UNTAC mission in Cambodia and COMSA mission in South Africa in 1992 and 1993 respectively. Currently, RBPF have seven Police Districts; four located in Brunei Muara District and one each at the other three districts.



His Royal Highness receives the rank of Deputy Inspector General of Police



Their Majesties, His Excellency The Prime Minister of Pakistan and consort at a dinner banquet

## Prime Minister of Pakistan's Official Visit to Brunei

His Excellency Shaukat Aziz, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and his consort, Madam Begum Rukhsana Aziz were in the country for a two-day official visit from May 7.

His Excellency and entourage attended an audience with Their Majesties at the Istana Nurul Iman. His Excellency then had a meeting with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. His Excellency also attended a banquet hosted by His Majesty.

During the visit, His Excellency attended a meeting with Brunei business community. Madam Begum Rukhsana Aziz had a separate programme which include visits to the Royal Regalia and Brunei Museum.

Brunei - Pakistan diplomatic relation was established in February 1984. This was further strengthened with exchange visits made by both country leaders and senior officials.

His Excellency's visit to Brunei also witnessed the signing of two Memorandums of Understanding (MoU). The signing ceremony was held

at the Empire Hotel and Country Club in Jerudong.

The MoU on Joint Investment was signed by the Managing Director of Brunei Investment Agency (BIA), Dr. Haji Mohd. Amin who represented Brunei and his counterpart Pakistan Investment Director, Waseem Haqqie.

Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Haji Jemat represented Brunei in signing the MoU on Culture. His counterpart was Pakistan's Foreign Ministry's Permanent Secretary, Riaz M.Khan.

### CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

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

- The Right Honourable Tony Blair, the Prime Minister of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on his Labour Party's victory in the country's general election on May 6.
- His Majesty King Harald V of Norway and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Kjell Magne Bondevik in conjunction with the Kingdom of Norway's Constitution Day on May 17.



# PALACE NEWSROUND...

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

- ① His Excellency U Thet Win, the outgoing Ambassador of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam on May 10.
- ② His Excellency General Efren L Abu, Chief of Staff for the Philippines' Armed Forces on May 16.
- ③ His Excellency Dr. Kantathi Suphamongkhon, Thailand's Foreign Minister on May 18.
- ④ Yang Mulia Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Khoo Boo Hui, Singapore's Police Commissioner on May 24.



## Chief of the Singapore Armed Forces & Commander of Malaysian Armed Forces receive honours

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to award The Most Exalted Order Paduka Keberanian Laila Terbilang, 1<sup>st</sup> Class (D.P.K.T) which conferred the title of *Dato Paduka Seri* to:

- ① His Excellency Lieutenant General Ng Yat Chung, Chief of Singapore Armed Forces on May 24.
- ② Yang Berbahagia Laksamana Dato' Sri Mohd. Anwar Haji Mohd. Nor, Commander of the Malaysian Armed Forces on May 28.



# PALACE NEWSROUND...



## His Majesty receives & presents credentials

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

- ❶ His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adam bin Haji Ahmad, the newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei to the Sultanate of Oman on May 26.
- ❷ His Excellency John Donald William Saville, the newly-appointed British High Commissioner to Brunei on May 26.
- ❸ His Excellency Patricio Torres, the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of Chile to Brunei on May 26.
- ❹ His Excellency Alexander Alexeevich Karchava, the newly-appointed non-resident Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Brunei on May 26.



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

- ❶ Madam Judie Ng, spouse of the Chief of Singapore Armed Forces on May 24.
- ❷ Datin Seri Siti Hapsah binti Omar, spouse of Malaysia's Armed Forces Commander on May 28.



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

- ❶ His Excellency U Thet Win, the outgoing Ambassador of Myanmar to Brunei on May 4.
- ❷ Yang Mulia Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Khoo Boo Pui, Singapore's Police Commissioner on May 24.
- ❸ His Excellency Lieutenant General Ng Yat Chung, Singapore's Armed Forces Chief on May 25.



# Royal visit to Brunei International Airport



**His Majesty visits the departure lounging area at the Brunei International Airport**



**An immigration official explains briefly to His Majesty at the Custom and Immigration booth**

Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) and Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) received a visit by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on May 12.

Among the places visited were the various divisions of DCA, the airport terminal and Air Traffic Control Tower.

Commercial air transport in Brunei began in 1953, with the establishment of air service link connecting Bandar Seri Begawan with Anduki in Belait District. Airport services were operated from Brunei Airport located in Berakas (now an area for government agencies complex, known as Old Airport, Berakas).

In 1970's, air travel gained popularity and resulted a significant increased in the civil aviation movement. The Brunei Airport was swamped with activities, operating beyond its capability. This prompted the Government to build a new airport to cater the needs of growing number of users.

Brunei International Airport became operational in 1974. The airport's inauguration marked an important date in the history of civil aviation in Brunei. The airport is operating until now and further development projects were done to improve its standard as the gateway to Brunei.



**Staff members of the Royal Brunei Airlines receive a visit from His Majesty**



**A patient at the Rimba Health Centre talks with His Majesty**



**Pharmacy area was also under Royal scrutiny**

## Sovereign tours Rimba Health Centre

Rimba Health Centre also received a visit from His Majesty on May 24.

Rimba Health Centre is one of 15 health centres under the Ministry of Health. The Centre consists of dialysis centre, health clinic, maternal and child health clinic.

Dialysis service in Brunei started on September 18, 1968. Rimba Dialysis Centre was one of the four dialysis centres in Brunei. Currently there are 200 kidney-patients who are undergoing the treatment at the centre which is divided into three sessions; morning, afternoon and night.



## RBAF 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary

# Armed Forces urged to be citizen-friendly

Members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) are urged to be citizen-friendly, a criteria which acquires high moral and discipline. However, this criterion is only complete when one established a close relationship with Allah The Almighty so that we are continuously under His guidance and protection.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said on the 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces on May 31 at Penanjong Camp at Tutong.

The sovereign also said that RBAF need to be transformed not only through its structure, technique and capability but also through leadership and mindset. This transformation is needed so that RBAF would not be a victim of rapid changes which are taking place around us.

RBAF celebrates its anniversary every May 31. This year's celebration carries the theme "Together We Strengthen Armed Forces' Self Reliance".



His Majesty officially opens the 44th anniversary of Royal Brunei Armed Forces



Guard-of-honour to welcome the arrival of the sovereign



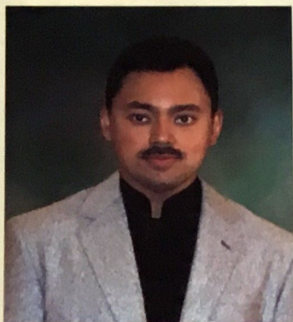
Token of appreciations were presented to commemorate the presence of His Majesty and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince at the celebration



His Majesty meets members of the Women's Company



## New cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers



His Royal Highness Pengiran Muda Haji-Ai Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince as the Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Minister of Finance.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs.



YB Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Minister of Education.



YB Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr Ustaz Haji Mohd Zain bin Haji Serudin, Minister of Religious Affairs.



YB Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Dr Awang Haji Ahmad bin Haji Jumat, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.



YB Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Communications.



YB Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Paduka Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Mohd Yusof, Minister of Home Affairs.



YB Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Paduka Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Health.



YB Pehin Orang Kaya Hamzah Pahlawan Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Development.



YB Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Dewa Major General (R) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Mohammad bin Haji Daud, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.



YB Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office.



YB Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Paduka Haji Abd Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Minister of Finance II.



YB Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Paduka Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs II.



YM Dato Paduka Haji Eusoff Agaki bin Haji Ismail, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.



YB Pehin Datu Singamenterri colonel (N) Dato Paduka Haji Mohamad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Deputy Minister of Defence.



YM Pengiran Dato Seri Setia DrHaji Mohammad bin Pengiran Haji Abd Rahman, Deputy Minister of Education.



YB Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs.



YM Dato Paduka Haji Hamdilah bin Haji Abdul Wahab, Deputy Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.



YM Dato Paduka Haji Yusof bin Haji Abdul Hamid, Deputy Minister of Communications.



YDM Pehin Orang Kaya Dewa Pahlawan Dato Paduka Awang Haji Dani bin Haji Ibrahim, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs.



YB Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Lela Diraja Dato Paduka Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, Deputy Minister of Health.



YM Dr Haji Mat Suny bin Haji Mohd Hussein, Deputy Minister of Development.



YM Dato Paduka Awang Haji Yakub bin AbuBakar, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.





The Police Commissioner briefs His Royal Highness during a work-visit

## Crown Prince visits Royal Brunei Police Force

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Inspector General of Police was on a working visit to Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPf) Headquarters in Gadong and Police District Headquarters in Temburong and Muara on May 9 and 11 respectively.

His Royal Highness received briefings and toured various divisions at both headquarters.

The visits were his first since his appointment as Deputy Inspector General of Police on May 5.

### ITB's 14th Convocation Ceremony

## Exercise opportunities to increase knowledge and skills

Info-communications technology and academic opportunities should be used to its fullest by graduates to increase their level of knowledge and skills. This is in line with the current need for a life-long learning to ensure that we are not left behind. It is also to sustain our competitiveness in today's knowledge-based global and economic era.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah said on May 14 at Institute of Technology Brunei (ITB)'s 14<sup>th</sup> convocation ceremony at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Royal Highness urged job-seeking graduates to not be dependent on the public sector for job opportunities. He said that there are graduates who embarked their careers in the private sector but the number is still few to open up their own business enterprises.

With that in mind, ITB is now in the process of setting up a Business Incubation Centre to guide graduates who are interested to participate in the business sector. It is also for graduates who are interested to open up their own business enterprises.

"I believe the setting up of the centre would give a source of inspiration for graduates to participate in entrepreneurship after they have completed their course in this institute," said His Royal Highness.

ITB is one of the higher academic institutions in Brunei Darussalam where Higher National Diploma courses are offered. The first intake was recruited in 1986. Currently, the institute is divided into two schools; School of Engineering and School of Business Management.



A graduate receives his award from His Royal Highness



Proud and happy graduates show off their certificates

## Logo for healthier choice of food

Ministry of Health in its effort to promote healthier lifestyle has introduced a logo which acts as an identifier for healthier foodstuffs.

The logo, *Pilihan Lebih Sihat* (A Healthier Choice) would make it easier for consumers to identify and choose healthy foodstuffs.

This was stated by the acting

Director-General of Health Services, Dr. Hajah Rahmah binti Haji Mohd Said at a briefing for the logo at the Institute of Public Services at Rimba on May 14.

According to Dr. Hajah Rahmah, the first stage of its implementation would be applied only for cooking oil. It would soon be applied for other

foodstuff according to the stipulated criteria.

Dayang Hajah Masni binti Haji Ibrahim, the Head of Community Nutrition Unit said that the logo is open for all food suppliers or vendors. Interested parties must send their applications to the Health Services Department.



## Crown Prince's Work Visits

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah was on a working visit to *Mukim Melilas* and *Mukim Sukang* in Belait District on May 21. Among the places visited were long houses, schools, health clinics, police control post, *balai ibadat*, rest house and multi-purpose hall.



HRH Princess Hajah Rashidah (standing, 2<sup>nd</sup> right) with Winners of the PRYNSA 7.

## PDS School wins PRYNSA 7

The project title 'Longitudinal Changes in Macroinvertebrate Communities in the Tropical Forest Stream of Ulu Temburong National Park' by PDS School won the seventh Princess Rashidah Young Nature Scientists Award (PRYNSA).

The Royal Patron of PRYNSA, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah presented the prizes to the winners. The ceremony was held on May 5 at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources in Berakas.

PRYNSA was introduced by Forestry Department in 1997 and supported by the Brunei Shell Petroleum Company. The aim is to nurture excellence among the young, particularly in the area of natural science.

## Agricultural sector opens up for private enterprises

Agricultural sector was given a boost with recent participation of private companies to develop the sector commercially.

An agreement was reached between the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and 13 companies where they are now eligible to lease land lots for agricultural developments.

The companies are given leases to land lots available at Batatumpu of Kampong Bengkurong-Masin, Sungai Tajau of Kampong wasan-Bebuoh, Sungai Liang Agricultural Station, Mentiri Agricultural Station and Si Bongkok of Kampong Parit Masin.

The Government of His Majesty had given a number of incentives to promote the agricultural sector. Various facilities such as water and electricity, and low rates for land leases are among the incentives given.



Director of Agriculture (center) signs an agreement which allows selected companies to lease lands lots for agricultural purposes



# Temburong: Potential 'rice bowl' for the nation

**T**emburong district has the potential to become the 'rice bowl' of the nation. One thousand hectare of land has been allocated in the district for paddy production.

Today, *padi* plantation in the Temburong district has already shown positive developments as it has significantly increased production to about 500 metric tonnes of *padi* last year compared to 2002 where only 202 metric tonnes was produced.

Temburong is also currently the largest producer of *padi* in Brunei as its paddy fields is 273 hectare wide and has 303 farmers.

These was stated by the Director of Agriculture, Dr Haji Mohammad Yussof bin Haji Mohiddin at the opening of Temburong-based Agricultural Development Station and Agro-business Information Centre on May 4.



**Director of Agriculture opens the Temburong-based Agricultural Development Station and Agro-business Information Centre**

## Local Agriculture entrepreneurs under 8<sup>th</sup> NDP

**H**is Majesty's Government through the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources is set to carry out a number of projects involving the agricultural sector development under the Eighth National Development Plan (8th NDP).

The project that plans to raise the competitive level in the agricultural sector will be implemented by local company Sahamaya Industries and Trading that will be teaming with Universiti Putra Malaysia.

This was confirmed at the signing of agreement held recently between the Director of Agriculture Dr Mohamad Yussof bin Haji Mohiddin and manager of Sahamaya

Industries and Trading Awang Haji Sabli bin Haji Mat Yassin.

Their witnesses were Deputy Director of Agriculture Hjh Normah Suria Hayati bte PJDSMDSU (DR) Awang Hj Mohd Jamil Al Sufri and Head of Agribusiness and Information Technology Dr Zainal Abidin Mohamed.

The aim of the project is to provide guidance to local agriculture entrepreneurs so the sector can be transformed into a market-driven agribusiness and overcome the problems leading to lack of exposure to business techniques and agribusiness management; insufficient business knowledge on

how to start up a business; lack of market focus; and poor cash flow management.

Among the topics that will be covered during the project include concepts and practices related to agribusiness, motivation building, capabilities and professionalism, identify qualities and weaknesses through field studies, and establishment of a business network.

The one year programme tailored for local agriculture entrepreneurs will provide them with a competitive vision both domestically and overseas in the hope to contribute to the sector's gross domestic product in the long run.

## e-Aseanapol Database System to crack transnational crime

**R**oyal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) announced plans to go online with e-ADS, electronic Aseanapol Database System, scheduled for trial this December in cracking down transnational crime.

The move was confirmed by Pehin Datu Awang Zainuddin bin Jalani, Acting Commissioner of Police on May 21. Brunei and other Aseanapol member countries have signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the e-database system during the 25th Aseanapol conference in Bali, Indonesia.

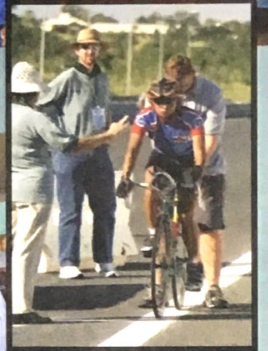
According to Pehin Zainuddin, the upgraded system that is connected to the Interpol database system will help the Sultanate in the long run in

reducing crime rates as it would enhance police efficiency in handling cases.

The 25th conference of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Police Chiefs which aim to exchange information for a rapid crack down on regional crimes concluded with the adoption of a joint communiqué on co-operation to fight drug trafficking, terrorism, arms smuggling, human trafficking; maritime crime, commercial crime, credit card fraud and cyber crime.

Subsequent meeting is expected to be held in Indonesia in the near future to plan out the Aseanapol Secretariat to ensure all co-operation agreements are monitored systematically.





## Brunei contingent shines in Arafura Games 2005

**B**runei Darussalam had taken part in the bi-annual Arafura Games 2005 which took place in Darwin, Australia.

Brunei's contingent comprised of 131 athletes taking part in 13 events.

This year's participation witnessed an impressive display from the contingent as it had won 14 gold, 12 silver and 24 bronze medals.

The games were held from May 14 until 21.

## MOE on the move to continuously improve education

**G**overnment of His Majesty in its bid to provide quality education would be building more schools.

Six secondary schools, two form six centres, one sports academy and four primary schools would be built. Today, a few secondary, primary, vocational and technical schools are in the process of completion.

Newly built school buildings and renovated existing schools would be equipped with new and modern

facilities to meet the current needs of education. Among others, these schools would be equipped with information communications technology.

Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Aziz said at the signing ceremony for e-government projects under the Ministry of Education. The signing ceremony took place on May 21 at Royal Berkshire at Jerudong Park Polo Club.

The signing ceremony witness four signings of e-government projects where the projects would touch on training and assessments on computer skills, the implementation of e-Library for University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD), Reliance Network Project for PCs and Peripherals as well as campus project for Resource Planning System for UBD.



# Health Development In Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam has over the past two decades experienced major changes in its health development.

Among notable improvements in the development of health is the introduction of a more sophisticated networking system which has been successfully implemented in the early 1990's.

Other recent significant initiative undertaken by the ministry is the launch of its first strategic health plan, 'The National Health Care Plan 2000-2010'. It is to be used as a guiding principle for current and future implementation of programmes and projects designed to meet the challenges of the new millennium.

These include the study on changing disease patterns, lifestyles, population demography, escalating cost of healthcare and public expectations for better quality health care.

## HEALTH CARE FACILITIES



The Public Health Services sector is the main division in the Ministry of Health that is responsible for providing community-based preventive and promotional primary health care services in the country.

Various medical care facilities are available in the country which includes the four government run hospitals and two private hospitals.

The largest and the main referral hospital in the country is the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital (RIPAS) which is situated on a 32 acre site about 0.8 kilometres from the heart of the capital.

Officially opened on August

28, 1984 with a total cost of over B\$162 million, RIPAS Hospital is equipped with modern and latest advances available in medical technology.

However, patients that require a more extensive specialist treatment are also sent abroad where medical expenses for Brunei citizens are borne by the Government.

Main Government hospitals in the country include the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital (RIPAS), Suri Seri Begawan Hospital in Kuala Belait district, Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah Hospital in Tutong district and the Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam Hospital in Temburong district.

Meanwhile the Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) and the Gleneagles JPMC Cardiac Centre is listed under the private hospitals available in the country.

Other than that, other health centres under the Ministry of Health in Brunei Darussalam includes some 13 health centres, 10 health clinics, 15 maternal and child health clinics, 13 travelling health clinics and five flying medical services to remote areas in the country.

Meanwhile centres for dental health totals up to 12 health centres, four health clinics, 72 schools providing dental care clinics, 16 travelling dental health clinics and four flying dental services.

The wide range of specialists' services available in RIPAS hospital that has evolved from a primary health care provider to a referral centre and a multi-disciplinary institution offers patients with various medical services namely; surgical services, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Paediatric services, critical care services, diagnostic services, clinical support services, pharmacy services, laboratory services and infection control units.

Through its monitoring and surveillance activities and various preventive programmes such as the immunisation programme, the country is free from various major communicable diseases.

Under the World Health Organisation (WHO) International Health Regulations, those entering Brunei Darussalam are required to obtain International Vaccination Certificate for yellow fever vaccination for travellers coming from infected areas.

## HEALTH PROMOTIONS / ACTIVITIES

In an effort to enhance public awareness on health, the Ministry of Health recently launched the 'Healthy Brunei' or 'Brunei Sihat' Newsletter that is issued every two months both in Malay and English language.

Apart from providing vital information on local health promotions and international health issues, the Newsletter also includes profiles of individuals or organisations that are actively promoting health through practicing a healthy lifestyle such as physical exercises, sports and others.

Brunei Darussalam also recently celebrated World Health Day 2005 which carries the theme 'Make Every Mother and Child Count'.

The government of Brunei Darussalam under the Ministry of Health takes serious attention in the well-being of mothers and children that has been safeguarded through a comprehensive and effective healthcare system.

In the year 2003, two cases of deaths caused by complication of pregnancy were reported which is a ratio of 0.3 deaths for every 1000 births.

During that period, a total of 67 deaths of babies under the age of one were also reported a rate of 9.5 deaths for every 1,000 births.

## HEALTH COSTS

All healthcare services provided to citizens and permanent residents are primarily funded by the government and administered by the Ministry of Health.

According to resources from the ministry, the development plan budget for medical and health has increased from B\$52.6 million (1.4%) for the Fifth Plan (1986 - 1990) to B\$103.2 million (1.9%) for the Sixth Plan (1991 - 1995) and to B\$211.7 million (2.9%) for the Seventh Plan (1996 - 2000).

The Health status of the population of Brunei Darussalam has improved remarkably over the last 20 years as measured by global health indicators such as the infant mortality rate and life expectancy and compares favourably with other countries within and outside the Western Pacific Region.

According to a WHO study in 2003/2004, Brunei is ranked 40 out of 191 countries around the world in terms of health achievements, fourth in the Western Pacific region and second in the ASEAN region.

The Ministry of Health will continue to improve and expand the existing health services to match the demand of modern health care delivery at present and into the next millennium in line with its mission to improve the health and well being of the people of Brunei Darussalam through a high quality and comprehensive health care system which is effective, responsive, affordable, equitable and accessible to all in the country.



## Snippets...

### Centre of information on agriculture opens

As part of its strategy to promote agriculture and corporate governance, the Department of Agriculture has officially opened two new buildings which house the Agricultural Development Station and Agro-business Information Centre.

The Temburong and Tutong-based centres were officially opened by the Director of Agriculture, Dr Awang Haji Mohammad Yussof bin Haji Mohiddin on May 4 and 12 respectively.

The Tutong-based centre is officially known as Birau Agricultural Development Station and Agro-business Information Centre. While, the centre in the Temburong district is based at Kampong Puni.

### Brunei Tourism partakes Bahrain International Travel Expo

In the bid to promote Brunei Darussalam as a travelling destination, Brunei Darussalam participated in the Bahrain International Travel Expo.

The expo was a three-day event which started on May 9. It was held at the Gulf International Convention Centre, Gulf Hotel in Bahrain.

### Conference to discuss directions of Science, Maths & Technical Education

University of Brunei Darussalam recently organised a conference which discussed the 'Future Directions in Science, Mathematics and Technical Education'.

The Tenth Annual International Conference was organised by the Department of Science and Mathematics Education, Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah Institute of Education.

It was held from May 23 to 26.

### Robotech 2005 Competition

One hundred and twenty eight teams from more than 30 schools, colleges and institutions took part in the Robotech 2005 Competition held from May 21- 22.

It was organised by Science, Technology and Environment Partnership (STEP) Centre of the Ministry of Education and supported by the Physics Department of University of Brunei Darussalam with the cooperation from Brunei Shell. The competition was hoped to encourage students to be more interested in subjects like Science and Mathematics besides enhancing their creativity and skills.

## 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:** 349,600 (2003 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.





# Bandar Seri Begawan

Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB) was formerly known as Bandar Brunei (Brunei Town). The change of name took place on October 4, 1970 which was to honour the contribution of the 28<sup>th</sup> Sultan of Brunei, His Majesty Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien in developing the nation-state. In 1999, Asiaweek Magazine had placed Bandar Seri Begawan on sixth place for 'Asia Best Cities' due to its environmental cleanliness.

