



# برونى دارالسلام

## Brunei Darussalam

# Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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## Strengthen world order to battle global terrorism

**H**is Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam called for world order to be strengthened to battle global terrorism.

His Majesty said this at the General Debate of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 17.



His Majesty delivers a speech at the General Debate of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York

"In other words, a new, revitalised United Nations is called for – not for us as Heads of State; nor for our diplomats; nor for any of you who are privileged and have the means, the education and the opportunity to live in hope and confidence. A new United Nations is needed by the ordinary citizens we are privileged to represent here.

"If world order is indeed under attack, that means ordinary people and their families are also under attack and in far too many ways, it is not merely an attack. It is a full-out assault.

"It comes not merely from criminal terrorists. It comes from many aspects of globalisation from international crime; from new technology; from social and cultural disruption; from a rapidly degrading environment; and from the grave threats posed by the possible spread of fearful new diseases. In real,

immediate human terms, it comes from fear, injustice, a loss of absolute values and from sheer rage. It is revealed in feelings of hopefulness and an almost total loss of confidence," said His Majesty.

The sovereign also said that many of the small developing nations are convinced that world order must be dramatically strengthened.

"As I stated at the high level plenary meeting two days ago, there is no greater way to begin this process than for each of us to achieve the millennium development goals. For this reason, we in Brunei Darussalam will do whatever we can to achieve them in our own country and help our neighbours do likewise," said His Majesty.

The sovereign also said that in setting the millennium goals, root causes of anger, despair, injustice and hatred must be addressed in order to re-establish world order.

## Brunei introduces first 3G network

**B**runei Darussalam has taken a step towards modern technology in communications with the launching of its first 3G network, B-Mobile. B-Mobile Sdn Bhd was awarded a license of 3G Wideband CDMA (WCDMA) in February and had undergone trials from July 1 to September 1.

The official opening ceremony took place at The Mall in Gadong which was launched by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah on September 2.

Communications in Brunei Darussalam had been progressively evolving ever since its introduction in 1920. From wireless telegraph circuit, Very High Frequency (VHF) radio to fixed land lines, Brunei now has three telecommunications network namely; Telekom Brunei which provides fixed land lines services; Data Stream Technologies (DST) Communications Sdn Bhd which provides Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) and internet services; and B-Mobile as the first 3G network provider.



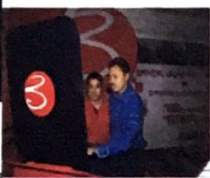
His Royal Highness officially launch B-Mobile, the first 3G telecommunication network in Brunei Darussalam



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## PALACE NEWSROUND



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

- ❶ His Excellency Haji Mohamed bin Omar Ahmed Aideed, outgoing Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman on September 5.
- ❷ His Excellency Mr. Paul S.H. Lau, outgoing Canadian High Commissioner to Brunei on September 5.
- ❸ His Excellency Kim Woong-nam, outgoing Ambassador of Korea to Brunei on September 5.

### CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

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

- His Excellency Tran Duc Luong, President of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Phan Van Khai in conjunction with the republic's National Day on September 2.
- His Excellency Junichiro Kiozumi, Prime Minister of Japan on his recent election victory on September 15.
- His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in conjunction of the National Day of Saudi Arabia on September 23.
- Her Excellency Michaelle Jean, Governor General of Canada on her election as the new Governor General of Canada on September 28.
- His Excellency Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt on his re-election as President of Egypt on September 28.

## Second phase of assistance for Aceh discussed

Second phase of assistance provided by the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation (YSHHB) for Aceh which was hit with a tsunami and earthquake in December 2004, would include a reconstruction of the library of the Raya Baitul Rahman Mosque, and the providing of stationery and books.

This was stated at a meeting held to discuss the second phase of the YSHHB's assistance, chaired by Pehin Dato Paduka Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin, Chairman of the YSHHB's Board of Directors, on September 19.

Other issues discussed included possible assistance in the reconstruction part of Raya Baitul Rahman Mosque, Banda Aceh; the construction of an orphanage; construction of a mosque which could accommodate 300 to 500 people; construction of 70 to 100 units of houses for victims; and a construction of a place for people to learn the Holy Book Al-Quran for the community of Teupin Rambot.

### Condolences Messages

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

- His Excellency George W. Bush, President of the United States of America following the loss of lives and destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina on September 3.
- His Excellency Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of Indonesia following the Mandala Airlines' plane crash in Medan, Northern Sumatra on September 6.



# PALACE NEWSROUND...



**H**er Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah received an audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from Mrs. Shirley Lau, spouse of the outgoing Canadian High Commissioner to Brunei on September 3.

**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 His Excellency Mr. Paul S.H. Lau, outgoing Canadian High Commissioner to Brunei on September 3.
- ② His Excellency Haji Mohammed bin Omar Ahmed Aideed, outgoing Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman on September 3.
- ③ The Honourable Mr. Dale Butler, Minister of Community Affairs and Sports of the Government of Bermuda on September 12.
- ④ The Honourable Adam Ingram MP, Minister of State for Armed Forces United Kingdom on September 13.
- ⑤ Her Excellency Madam Wu Yi, Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China on September 24.
- ⑥ General Chaisit Shinawatra, the Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces on September 28.



# Choose right path for positive outcome



Recipient of the Exemplary Religious School Award receives the award from His Majesty

In an effort to develop the society and the nation, we should not be carried away with modernity. We should be more cautious in selecting the path of progress which is in accordance with the guidelines set by Allah The Almighty.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said on September 1 at a ceremony celebrating *Israk Mikraj* held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The sovereign also said that it is important to choose the right path as it would produce a long-lasting positive outcome. He also said that we should not choose a path which seemed right when in reality it would produce negative consequences.

At the ceremony, awards were given to exemplary religious schools for the year 1426 Hijrah (Islamic calendar). Awards were given to Tumpuan Telisai Religious School as winner, Pengiran Anak Puteri Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah Religious School as first-runner up and Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Religious School as second-runner up.



His Majesty taking a closer look at the night stalls in Gadong



Members of the public took the opportunity to talk with the sovereign

## HM visits night stalls & the Mall

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on September 3 made unscheduled visits to night stalls and a shopping complex in Gadong.

The sovereign first went to the night stalls in Gadong. The night stall known as '*pasar malam*' only operates in the evening. It is an area where people sell various types of cooked food, and fresh fruits and

vegetables.

Later, His Majesty went to a shopping complex which is located near the night stall. The Mall, is one of the biggest shopping complexes in the country and offers a range of products and services under one roof.

At the Mall, the sovereign visited the B-Mobile Communications exhibition and other booths.



# Call for Islamic University



His Majesty presenting a graduate with a certificate

It is high time for Brunei Darussalam to have its own Islamic University. This university would serve as basis to fulfil the current and future needs and be national landmark. This was highlighted by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the 17<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of University Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

The sovereign also gave a strong emphasis on the need to have comparative analysis between UBD and other distinguished universities of this region. This is important for UBD as it would demonstrate the level of quality produced in terms of the quality of graduates, academic, research and services offered.

His Majesty also said that it is the nation's hope to see a high demand for graduates due to their quality.

The 17<sup>th</sup> convocation ceremony took place on September 6 at the Chancellor Hall of UBD. His Majesty awarded 54 graduates with their Masters Degree and 657 graduates with their First Degree. While His Royal Highness The Crown Prince awarded 357 graduates with their Diplomas and Certificates.



Exhibition at the National Summit on Information Society showcasing latest Info-communications technologies



## Country towards e-Brunei

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has implemented its e-government projects and is encouraging the implementation of e-business which enables the making of e-community and e-society. If run according to plan, this would realise the nation's ambition for an e-Brunei.

This was highlighted by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the official opening of the National Summit on Information Society on September 7 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The sovereign also said that it is important to create an information society. This is because it would assist the development of the economy and enhance the standard of living. He also said that the shift towards an information society is relevant as new opportunities are open in community affairs and activities. The use of info-communication technologies could simplify these activities.

The four-day summit involved 41 speakers discussing issues on information society. An e-Application Expo was also held where latest info-communications technologies were exhibited.

## Tougher immigration act imposed

Brunei Darussalam has toughened her immigration laws through the newly amended immigration act – Immigration Act (Amended) 2005.

Under the amended act, those who are found to harbour or employ immigration offenders would be sentenced to imprisonment of not more than two years, a fine of not less than \$3,000 not exceeding \$6,000 or both.

Second or subsequent offenders would be sentenced to imprisonment to not more than four years, a fine of \$6,000 but not more than \$12,000 or both.

Immigration Act (Amended) 2005 officially came into effect on July 2.

## Passport now uses digitised photo

National passport of Brunei Darussalam would now be using a digitised photo on its data page. The change is to enhance security features and avoid substitution of photos.

The Department of Immigration and National Registration, in a press release dated September 29, stated that those who still have valid passports do not need to change their passports yet. It was also informed that there are no changes to the fees.

However, those who wish to travel the United States of America are advised to change their passports using the digitised photo to avoid visa before entering the country.

This change comes into effect on October 1.





## Crown Prince attends UBD Convocation Fiesta

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office and Pro Chancellor of University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) launched the UBD Convocation Fiesta 2005 on September 3 at UBD's Chancellor Hall.

The fiesta was held in conjunction with the 17<sup>th</sup> Convocation of UBD.

A range of items were exhibited at the Convocation Fiesta

## Deputy Sultan visits more departments under PMO & Ministry of Defence

His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan, continued his series of working visit to the departments under Prime Minister's Office and Ministry of Defence.

His Royal Highness visited four departments under Prime Minister's Office on September 14. The departments were Attorney General Chamber, Judiciary Department including Supreme Court and Syariah Court, Department of Royal Custom and Traditions, and State Council.

On September 15, His Royal Highness visited the Directorate of Development and Work Services of Ministry of Defence.

The Deputy Sultan continued his series of working visit to two departments under Ministry of Defence by visiting the Directorate of Administration and Manpower and the Directorate of Finance and Acquisition on September 19 and 22 respectively.



His Royal Highness taking a closer look at an exhibition displayed at the Department of Royal Custom and Traditions

## Religious schools now under Ministry of Religious Affairs

Academic institutions which are of religious discipline are now under the administration of the Ministry of Religious Affairs. This is a move towards better academic quality in the religious field. The administration was formerly handled by the Ministry of Education.

The move was announced by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah at the 15<sup>th</sup> Teachers' Day celebration on September 24 held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Royal Highness also emphasised that the quality of education does not rely on infrastructure alone, it also lies on the studying environment.

The Crown Prince said that there are two factors which a school should possess – a conducive learning environment; and good and experienced tutors.

Tutors should also make the school be like a second home for students so that they would be able to have fun and feel proud of their school.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince consented to grace the Teachers' Day celebration on behalf of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. His Majesty was still abroad having attended the ASEAN-UN Leaders Meeting, High-Level Plenary Meeting and the General Debate



A recipient of a Teachers' Day Award receives his certificate from His Royal Highness

of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

At the 15<sup>th</sup> Teachers' Day celebration, there were 11 recipients of various awards, including the Meritorious Teacher Award, Retired Teachers Award and Special Teachers Award.





His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah at the Second ASEAN-UN Summit



His Majesty with His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussien, the King of Jordan



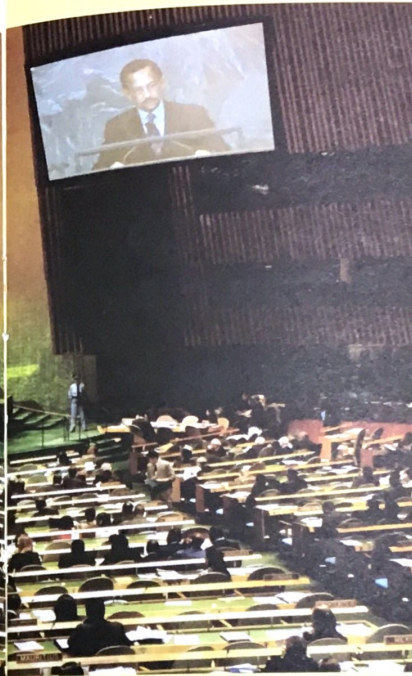
## HM attends luncheon, holds bilateral meetings

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on September 14 attended the United Nations (UN) High-Level Plenary Meeting.

His Majesty joined other world leaders at a luncheon hosted by His Excellency Kofi Annan, General Secretary of UN at the North Delegates' Lounge, UN Building.

His Majesty also held bilateral meetings with Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the President of Republic of Philippines; His Excellency Nambiar Enkhbayar, the President of Mongolia and His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussien, the King of Jordan.

The sovereign held bilateral meetings with His Excellency Nambiar Enkhbayar, the President of Mongolia (above) and Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the President of the Philippines (left)



## ASEAN vision complements UN's

ASEAN-UN relationship should be further developed rather than remain an old fashioned donor-recipient one.

This was outlined by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on September 13 at the Second ASEAN-UN Summit in New York.

According to His Majesty, this relationship has a far deeper dimension today where the ASEAN vision complements that of the United Nations.

"In our region, we may be directing our attention towards very technical long-term goals such as implementing the Vientiane Action Programme, achieving ASEAN Integration and building a sustainable ASEAN Economic Community.

"But behind all these efforts are the kinds of values we want to see in Southeast Asia. By these, I mean there are the ones you yourself have promoted, Secretary-General. The ones you have underlined very well indeed in your report on "larger freedom", mutual respect and understanding among all peoples no matter what their background or culture shared expertise and human resources. Recognition of our common humanity and common needs. And, perhaps most important of all the belief that dialogue and negotiation are the only acceptable basis on which to conduct International Affairs," said His Majesty.



His Majesty with world leaders at the ASEAN-UN Summit and UN General Assembly in New York





# His Majesty announces new members of Legislative Council

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to announce the appointment of new members of the State Legislative Council.

The new line-up took into effect on September 2. The previous line-up was dissolved on September 1.

The new appointments are in line with the amendment of the Constitution that was signed on September 29, 2004 at the Lapau in Bandar Seri Begawan.

The amended Constitution allows not more than 45 members where up to 30 persons shall be appointed by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

According to the amended Constitution, the appointed persons are from various categories such as; ex-officio members who comprise of the Prime Minister and all the Ministers appointed under Article (4) 3 of the Constitution; titled persons; persons who rendered distinguished public service or who in His Majesty's opinion will be capable of contributing to the deliberations of the Legislative Council; persons whom, in His Majesty's opinion, have achieved distinction in the field of religion, management, any profession, business, trade, agriculture, cultural arts or community activities, or who are representatives of particular communities; and up to 15 representatives, the exact number of which shall be determined by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan, from Brunei and Muara District, Belait District, Tutong District and Temburong District who shall be elected in accordance with the laws relating to elections in force in Brunei Darussalam.

Previously, His Majesty announced his consent to reactivate the State Legislative Council at his 58<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary on July 15, 2004. The first session of the State Legislative Council was held on September 25, 2004 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.



**His Majesty signs the amended Constitution on September 29, 2004 at the Lapau in Bandar Seri Begawan**



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



# MEMBERS OF THE NEW STATE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## SPEAKER

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Anak (Dr.) Haji Kemaludin ibni Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Mohd Yassin.

## MEMBERS

### A) Ex-officio Members (Prime Minister and Ministers) as provided for under sub-paragraph 1(a) (i) of the Second Schedule of Article 24 (1)

1. His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Prime Minister, Defence Minister and Finance Minister.

2. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office.

3. His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

4. Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohd Taib, Minister of Education

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

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

7. Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Communication.

8. Yang Berhormat 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.

9. Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Paduka Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Minister of Health.

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

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

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

13. Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim, Minister of Finance II

14. Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Dewa Dato Seri Paduka Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II.

### B) Titled Persons as provided for under sub-paragraph 1(a) (ii) of the Second Schedule of Article 24(1)

15. Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Setia Negara Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohd Yusof bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahim.

16. Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Dipa Negara Laila Diraja Pengiran Haji Abdul Momin bin Pengiran Haji Ismail.

17. Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (R) Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mohd Yasmin bin Haji Umar, Deputy Minister of Defence.

### C) Persons who have achieved distinction as provided for under sub-paragraph 1(a) (iv) of the Second Schedule of Article 24(1)

18. Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Damit bin Pengiran Sunggoh.

19. Yang Berhormat Pehin Kapitan Lela Diraja Goh King Chin.

20. Yang Berhormat Orang Kaya Maha Bijaya Awang Haji Othman bin Uking.

21. Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Idris bin Haji Abas.

22. Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Sulaiman bin Haji Ahai.

23. Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Puasa bin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan Tudin.

24. Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Yunos bin Mohd Noh.

### D) District Representatives as provided for under sub-paragraph 5(1) of the Second Schedule of Article 24(1)

25. Yang Mulia Major (R) Awang Haji Abu Bakar bin Haji Ibrahim, Penghulu of Mukim Kota Batu, Brunei Muara District.

26. Yang Mulia Awang Haji Bakar bin Mansor, Penghulu of Mukim Lumapas, Brunei Muara District.

27. Yang Mulia Awang Haji Mohd Shafiee bin Ahmad, Head of Kampong Lumut 1, Mukim Liang, Belait District.

28. Yang Mulia Orang Kaya Jaya Putera Awang Haji Mohd Taha bin Abd Rauf, Penghulu of Mukim Keriam, Tutong District.

29. Yang Mulia Awang Haji Sulaiman bin Haji Ahad, Head of Kampong Belingos, Mukim Bangar, Temburong District.

### E) Clerk to Legislative Council

Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Jaya Dato Paduka Awang Haji Judin bin Haji Asar.





A wide angle view of the 12<sup>th</sup> Civil Service Day celebration



Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hazair, the Deputy Minister of Health receives his certificate from His Royal Highness

## Civil service should be adaptive

Civil service's various policies, procedures, systems and process should be proactively adapted to meet current and future needs and requirements. This is because today's communities are better informed and knowledgeable.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan said on September 29 at the 12<sup>th</sup> Civil Service Day held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

He also said that with the implementation of e-Government, the computerised system at the very least should reduce the burdens of work that have been borne up till now.

However, he reminded that although there are advanced infrastructure, technology systems and equipments, success would not be guaranteed without a positive attitude and mindset within the civil service.

With this, His Royal Highness

urged the management to provide opportunities for subordinates to share their views and suggestions for improvements. This is to generate a productive and competitive workforce.

At the 12<sup>th</sup> Civil Service Day, His Royal Highness presented the Quality Control Circle (KQC) award. The award was won by Orchid Group from the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources. A certificate presentation was also held for 90 newly retired government officers.



Her Royal Highness presented a trophy to the winner of the Quran reading competition organised by Girl Guide Association

## Girl Guide Association hosts Quran reading competition

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah attended a prize giving ceremony for Brunei Darussalam Girl Guide Association's Al-Quran Reading Competition.

The ceremony was held on September 30 at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Jerudong Park Country Club.

Also present was His Majesty's granddaughter, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Raheemah Sanaul Bolkiah representing *Tunas Puteri* from the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation School.



## Prince Mohamed Bolkiah hosts dinner for China's Vice Premier

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade hosted a dinner for Her Excellency Wu Yi, Vice Premier of the People's Republic of China on September 24 at the Balai Penghadapan of Bukit Kayangan.

Prior to the dinner, His Royal Highness and Her Excellency had a discussion on bilateral relations between both countries and exchanged views on regional and international matters.

Her Excellency Wu Yi was on a three-day official visit to Brunei.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Excellency Wu Yi prior to dinner hosted in honour of Her Excellency's working visit to Brunei

## Brunei directory OPTS electronic application

Brunei Darussalam has introduced a more advanced directory system with the launch of e-directory.

The first ever e-application of the land line directory of Brunei Darussalam was launched at the National Summit of Information Society (NASIS) e-applications expo on September 7 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

The project was organised by GTE Directories (B) Sdn Bhd with the support of Verizon (a US-based company), and in collaboration with JTB.

According to Mr James Lee, General Manager of GTE Directories (B), the introduction of the CD-Rom is one of the value added services offered by Yellow Pages.

He further informed that the new application is a formulated tool of the 2005/06 issue of the Brunei Telephone Directory that offers an excellent search metaphor for extensive information and a wider range of innovative specialty which include "hyper links" to valuable customers who have e-mails or websites listed.



An audience between His Royal Highness and His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Salem Al-Wahishi at Balai Penghadapan

## Farewell audience to Yemeni Envoy

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah received an audience from His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Salem Al-Wahishi, the outgoing non-resident Ambassador of Yemen to Brunei on September 29 at the Balai Penghadapan of Bukit Kayangan.

## Positive indicators for Brunei's ICT industry

Brunei Darussalam has experienced a 30 per cent increase on internet usage in 2004 compared to only six per cent in 2000.

In terms of digital access, this country has been ranked 21 among APEC members and third among ASEAN countries.

These statistics were highlighted by the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar, on September 7 at the opening of the National Summit for Information Society at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

He also said that Brunei is now on par with Singapore and Germany in terms of internet access for schools.

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar, Minister of Communications at the opening of NASIS





## Cutting edge accomplishment for oil and gas

Brunei Darussalam's oil and gas industry has stepped into the global front with the recent success of the Champion West Project.

According to a BSP press release dated September 9, the project by Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn Bhd includes the installation of one of the world's advanced smart field platforms 'Champion West' in 70 metres of water off Brunei's coastal areas.

The key project demonstrator has also been a challenging accomplishment in BSP engineering developments that is considered an

effective way in developing oil and gas in the 21st century.

The oil reservoir under the project will also be one of the largest undeveloped resources in Brunei is expected to support the country's oil and gas production for the next 20 years and more.

According to the Managing Director of BSP, Dr Grahaeme Henderson, the development brings together a number of cutting edge technologies including very long horizontal 'snake wells', down hole fibre-optic pressure and temperature sensors and remote control use of

high bandwidth connections to the shoreline.

The Champion West platform which only needs to be checked a few times each month may also be checked remotely through a computer controlled system on the platform that allows remote well testing.

Such key developments will also provide a more reduced development cost for this key asset, says BSP Managing Director.

The platform and topsides were successfully installed at the end of July this year while drilling of the well is expected to commence in October 2005.

## Foreign Minister attends meeting in New York



ASEAN Foreign Ministers in a meeting with United States' State Secretary

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade was in New York, United States of America to attend an ASEAN Foreign Ministers Informal Meeting at the United Nations Headquarters on September 12.

His Royal Highness also attended a meeting between ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the United States' State Secretary, Her Excellency, Dr. Condoleezza Rice held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers discussed various issues on regional and international issues including on enhancing ASEAN-United States cooperation.

## New City Hall Building

Brunei Darussalam will soon have a new City Hall Building which will be built on a three acre land at Jalan Kumbang Pasang, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Adnan, Minister of Home Affairs attended the foundation laying ceremony for the new City Hall Building on September 8. The new building under the 8<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan is estimated at \$10 million. Construction commenced on May 10 and expected to be ready by May, 2007.

The new building will enable varieties of cultural and traditional activities to take place. It will also house the Municipal Department.



A replica design of the new City Hall Building



## Brunei Darussalam concern over illegal fishing

**B**runei Darussalam raised its concern over illegal fishing issues specifically on the use of explosives and cyanides in fishing activities.

In order to upgrade the current development of maritime eco-tourism, the country has urged all APEC member economies to cooperate in preventing such activities.

This issue was raised by Deputy Minister of Industry and Primary Resources during the APEC Ministerial Meeting on Maritime held from September 16 to 17 in Bali, Indonesia.

The meeting attended by Ministers from APEC member economies was chaired by His Excellency Freddy Numberi, Maritime and Fishery Minister of Indonesia, and His Excellency Geoff Regan Minister of Fishery and Maritime of Canada.

The meeting resulted in the "Bali Action Plan" with the theme "Towards Healthy Oceans and Coasts for Sustainable Growth and Prosperity of Asia Pacific Community".

The action plan stresses three elements which aim to ensure the competitiveness of maritime resources and surroundings; to ensure a continuous healthy economy from maritime resources; and to enable the development and progress of coastal communities.

## Brunei hosts rifle's meet

**B**runei Darussalam hosted the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Armies Rifle Meet (AARM) and the 8<sup>th</sup> Brunei International Skills at Arms Meet (BISAM) at the Binturan Range in Penanjong Garrison in Tutong.

The 15<sup>th</sup> AARM was held from September 5 to 11. All ASEAN member countries took part in the annual event. This is the third time for RBLF to host the event.

The 8<sup>th</sup> BISAM was held from September 21 to 29. This event involved shooting teams from British Forces, Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, Indonesian National Armed Forces, Lao People's Army, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Malaysian Armed Forces, and the Singapore Armed Forces. Brunei was represented by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and Royal Brunei Police Force.

## Brunei sends missions abroad

**M**inistry of Defence continues to play an important role in providing assistance in this region.

On September 8, 20 of Royal Brunei Armed Forces personnel left for Republic of Indonesia for the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM).

While 10 members of RBAF personnel left for the Republic of Philippines for the International Monitoring Team (IMT) on September 15. They would be taking over the tasks and duties of the first group which has been in the Philippines since October 2004.

The first IMT group from Brunei arrived in Bandar Seri Begawan on September 16.

## RBPF to implement Interpol Resolution

**R**oyal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) through the Interpol National Central Bureau (NCB Brunei) would be responsible in implementing the approved Interpol Resolutions of the 74<sup>th</sup> General Interpol Assembly.

This was stated in a press release by RBPF dated September 26. According to the press release, the Police Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam, Pehin Dato Paduka Seri Zainuddin attended the 74<sup>th</sup> General Interpol Assembly held in Berlin from September 19 to 22.

More than 600 police personnel from 154 countries attended the assembly.

The main agenda and issues discussed were to enhance cooperation of law enforcement agencies among Interpol member countries. Main discussion was focused on how Interpol would be able to play a more important role in assisting Interpol member countries in preventing and combating against worldwide transborder crime.

## Relief Fund for Victims of Hurricane Katrina

**T**o ease the burden of hurricane victims in the United States of America, Brunei officially launched the Relief Fund for Victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Public are welcome to give financial donation to the fund beginning September 13 until the next three months. Donations can be made to the fund's secretariat at Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports building or the fund box located at various banks and commercial complex.

## Honorary Wing for Philippines Air Force Chief

**P**hilippines Air Force Chief, Lieutenant General Jose L. Reyes received the Royal Brunei Air Force Honorary Pilot Wing from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The Honorary Pilot Wing was presented by Pehin Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces on September 26 in a ceremony held at Rimba Air Base.

Lieutenant General Jose L. Reyes was in Brunei on an official visit from September 25 to 27.



# LNG cargo reaches 5000<sup>th</sup> mark



**Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Yahya, Minister of Energy at a reception to mark the 5000<sup>th</sup> cargo delivery of BLNG to Japan**

A significant milestone in the history of Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) was achieved with the delivery of the 5000<sup>th</sup> cargo to Japan. The cargo was sent on June 15 this year.

This was highlighted by the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Yahya at a reception commemorating the delivery of the 5000<sup>th</sup> LNG cargo to Japan. It was held at one of the leading hotels in Japan.

Japan's partnership with Brunei Darussalam plays an important role in the growth of Brunei's LNG industry. The first of Brunei's LNG cargo was sent to Japan on December 15, 1972

to Semboku Terminal 1 in Osaka. Today, the partnership remains strong. In 2003, Brunei LNG delivered a record-breaking total of 214 B class cargoes.

Natural gas is mostly supplied by Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) which operates three major offshore fields. The largest is South-West Ampa field, about 10 kilometres off Kuala Belait. The other producing fields are Fairley and Gannet. In 1999, natural gas was also supplied to BLNG by TotalFinaElf (a BBJV company) from Jamalul Alam and Maharaja Lela fields. In August 2003, BSP has a new gas field (Egret) supplying to BLNG.

## Strategic Alignment for efficient services



**Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Suyoi, Minister of Health at the launching of Alignment Workshop**

Main referral hospital of this country, Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital, as the frontline agency in the medical field, should ensure that all of her divisions are operating efficiently. The divisions should help one another and work in unity.

This is to realise the vision of the hospital where it wants to excel in providing dedicated health care services to all. It is also to make her meet her mission in providing integrated health care services.

Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Suyoi said at the launching of Alignment Workshop for Ministry of Health at the Penghayatan Hall of the Institute of Public Services on September 26.

The Minister also said that it is appropriate that RIPAS Hospital is used as a 'pilot project' for the Ministry's Strategic Alignment. This is because despite the Ministry claiming her vision and mission, if the health services are not satisfactory, the success and existence of the agency that is responsible in public health care would be questioned and challenged.

Islamic Bank of Brunei Berhad (IBB) has introduced two new products – *Akaun Alaiku* and SMS Banking Services.

The new products were introduced on September 30 at the opening of its new branch at the Hua Ho Mall in Kampong Manggis.

The *Akaun Alaiku* is a special savings account for those aged 18 years and below. To open the account, a minimum deposit savings of \$50.00 is required.

While the SMS Banking Services enables customers easy access to check their balance, transfer of funds, chequebook application, bill payments, account statements, transaction lists, rate enquiries and promotions.

Present to officially open the new branch was Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar, the Minister of Communications who is the Chairman of IBB.

## New products for Islamic Banking



**Two latest products of IBB launched at the newly opened IBB branch**



## Brunei 9-Ball Invitational Cup 2005

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee attended the prize giving ceremony of Brunei 9-Ball Invitational Cup 2005 on September 11 at the Orchid Garden Hotel in Berakas.

A participant from Chinese Taipei, Chao Fong Pang, emerged as champion after defeating compatriot Wu Chia Ching. The Champion received a cash prize of US\$10,000 while runner-up received US\$5,000. Third place winner, Kuo Po Cheng, also from Chinese Taipei, received US\$2,500.

The second Brunei 9-Ball Invitational Cup was officiated in September 9 by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malek at the Indoor Stadium, Hassanal Bolkiah National Sport Complex.

The three-day championship attracted 32 Asian pool players including His Royal Highness the Crown Prince. It was organised by the Billiard and Snooker Association Brunei Darussalam and supported by Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The tournament was aimed at fostering friendship among participants and as a platform to enhance participants improvements and competitiveness.

The Brunei Trick Shot Masters 2005 was also held as side activity of the championship on September 9 at GHK Motors showroom in Beribi.

Officiated by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Brunei Trick Shot Masters 2005 witnessed Efren Reyes from the Philippines emerge as champion receiving US\$1,000 cash prize.



Champion of the Brunei 9-Ball Invitational Cup 2005, Chao Fong Pang from Chinese Taipei



His Royal Highness taking part in the tournament

## PAPRSB Nursing College celebrates 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Brunei Darussalam's sole nursing college, Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Saa'datul Bolkiah Nursing College celebrated its 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 5.

Since its establishment, it has produced more than 1,057 graduates. More than 63 per cent of the nurses are currently working under the Ministry of Health and 725 nurses are expected to work for the ministry by 2009.

Guest-of-honor, Datin Paduka Dr Hajah Intan Binti Haji Md Salleh, the Director-General of Health Services, said that nurses should enhance their skills and knowledge by fully utilising the educational tools through e-education, e-learning, e-health and simulators.

Also present at the ceremony was the Deputy Principal, Haji Julaini Bin Haji Abd Latip and teaching staff.

## IDBB, BLNG to launch first Islamic Bond

The Islamic Development Bank of Brunei (IDBB) and Brunei LNG Sendirian Berhad had signed an agreement for an issuance of the Brunei's First Islamic bond under the Islamic concept of *Sukuk Al-Ijarah*.

The signing ceremony took place at the Empire Hotel and Country Club on September 26.

The *Sukuk Al-Ijarah* is a means of providing funds to finance major capital investment projects under the company's Asset Reference Plan and this can act as an alternative to utilising the shareholder's fund.

It is hoped that by rising finance locally, the local bank's expertise in issuing Islamic bonds could be

developed further. It could also provide greater public awareness on Islamic fund investments. At the same time, the project would facilitate the groundwork for future external financing requirements that are *syariah* compliant.

*Sukuk* or Islamic Bond is an instrument that meets all the economics objectives of fixed income securities without breaching the fundamental principles of the *syariah* because it is interest free, marketable and liquid, easily transferred and traded, asset-backed, collateralised and versatile that allows for structuring across legal and tax domains for diverse financing needs.

## Brunei Grand Sale kicks off

Participants of Brunei Grand sale (BGS) have been recommended to offer attractive discounts and do their own promotion.

Three hundred and forty two shops, departmental stores and supermarkets are participating in the 11<sup>th</sup> BGS which is held for 52 days from September 23 to November 13.

The 11<sup>th</sup> BGS carries the theme "cheap rates, extravagant sale, enhance economy".

According to Deputy Director of the Department of Economic Planning and Development, Awang Haji Razali, BGS is expected to encourage the public to shop locally. They also hope that Brunei Grand Sale will enhance local economic activities and reduced the outflow of money outside the country.

Participating department stores will offer a discount of 20 to 40 per cent. Other shops will offer not less than 10 per cent discount on all items. Food items are encouraged to be sold at discounted prices.





Air crash exercise at the Brunei International Airport

## More e-govt projects launched

Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam continue to move forward with its e-government projects. Latest development is with the official launching of four e-government projects by the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

The four new projects are Infrastructure Networking and Data Centre, Zakat Management System (SPZ), e-Islam Information Kiosk, and the Islamic Information System (SisMi).

The Infrastructure Networking and Data Centre would undergo two phases. First phase would focus on preparing the network's infrastructure and data centre based at the second floor of the Ministry's building.

While SPZ would be a web-based system which has four modules – collection, report, statistics, and *amil* modules.

For the e-Islam Information Kiosk, a number of 18 kiosks would be made available at various strategic locations. Eleven mosques would be equipped with the kiosk while the rest would be distributed at public places such as the University of Brunei Darussalam, hospital, airport, and shopping complex.

While SisMi is a system which develops the database and e-Islam application.

These e-government projects were launched by the Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd Zain on September 27.

The ceremony took place at Teratai Hall of the Ministry in Berakas.

## Air crash exercise to determine problems

To be fully prepared for any possible air crash incident, an exercise was held on September 28 at the Brunei International Airport in Berakas.

The exercise was a joint cooperation involving the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Health, Department of Internal Security, Department of Civil Aviation, Department of Custom and Excise, Department of Immigration and National Registration, Fire Services Department, Royal Brunei Police Force and the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

This exercise would assist in preparing any possible problems that may arise. It was also a method of identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the agencies involved.



Dato Paduka Haji Hamdillah, Acting Minister of Industry and Primary Resources said that the fishery sector has contributed to the economy

## Fishery Sector contribute to economy

Fishery sector has experienced production growth up to 28 per cent since 2001. Estimated value of captured fisheries for this year is B\$122 million compared to last year valued at B\$95.45 million.

Dato Paduka Haji Hamdillah Bin Haji Abd Wahab, the Acting Minister of Industry and Primary Resources highlighted these at the opening of Fisheries Carnival 2005 held at the Fish Landing Complex in Serasa, Muara on September 30.

The Acting Minister also said that to maintain the growth of fishery sector for future generation is by monitoring the activities of fish capturing at the Brunei water's exclusive economic zone. He also urged the Fishery sector to take the opportunities that will bring profits to the country.



# School break full with activities

**B**runei Darussalam offers plenty to see and do that can be enjoyed by both adults and young children alike.

With one third of the country's population comprising of children below the age of 12, most places of interest in Brunei offers a family friendly environment.

Shopping centres which have mushroomed around bustling commercial areas such as Gadong, Kiulap, Serusop as well as Batu Bersurat, other places to visit include recreational parks, beaches, playgrounds and public swimming pools.

Beaches in Brunei Darussalam have recently introduced a variety of water sports to attract more visitors including beach bikes, banana boat rides, paragliding, Jet Ski tours, canoeing as well as scuba diving.

Such activities also helps encourage family members to indulge in a variety of sports activities in line with His Majesty's call for a healthy nation.

Other activities that are popular among children during school breaks include competitions such as colouring competitions, that have seen an overwhelming response from participants.

Such events encourage

participation and provide positive activities during the holidays, while encouraging children to enhance their creative and artistic skills.

For young adults, a number of on line internet cafes have marked their territory around commercial areas in Brunei Darussalam.

These cafes offer high speed internet access to users between 80 cents to a dollar per hour. It is popular with teenagers who prefer chatting and playing on line games to relax.

However, other options are available for those who prefer a more relaxing atmosphere as a number of cafes now offer free wireless internet access.



## 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.



A member of  
*The Leading Hotels of the World*



Photo credit to The Empire Hotel & Country Club



# THE EMPIRE

## Hotel & Country Club

### BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

**T**he Empire Hotel & Country Club is Brunei's premier hotel and only beachside resort. It was voted as Asia's Leading resort and honoured for the World's Leading Presidential Suite by the World Travel Awards. She was also voted as Best Resort Hotel in Asia-Pacific by TTG Asia.

The hotel has palatial surroundings with white marble, gold accents, luminous and breathtaking architecture. The hotel provides endless activities for both young and adults. Healing massage in the "East Meets West" fusion spa, ocean kayaking, jet skiing, scuba diving, a 11.000 sq.m swimming pool, 50 metre wet edge pool, river pool, 17 metre indoor spa pool and a royal standard golf course are among the fun activities that are available for you to indulged in.

She is situated about 15 minutes drive from the Brunei International Airport and about 20 minutes from the capital Bandar Seri Begawan.