



# برونى دارالسلام

## Brunei Darussalam

# Brunei Darussalam

# newsletter

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## Brunei-Qatar ties strengthen through state visit

**DOHA, April 16** - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was on a two-day state visit to the State of Qatar. The highlight of His Majesty's visit was the bilateral meeting with His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar. The meeting was held at the Emiri Hall.

His Majesty and His Highness discussed on the ways and means of enhancing cooperation between both countries. His Majesty also expressed his desire to further develop and strengthen these relations especially in the field of trade, economy, culture, communication, education, health, tourism and sports.

His Majesty and His Highness also expressed satisfaction with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of the bilateral consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar.

The two leaders also encouraged the public and private sectors to further explore opportunities in respective countries, particularly in the areas of investment and oil and gas activities. Both leaders also welcomed the discussions on the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement and Bilateral Investment Treaties to be held in the near future.

The sovereign also invited the State of Qatar to open its mission in Bandar Seri Begawan. Currently, Qatar has a non-resident ambassador to Brunei residing in Jakarta.

After the meeting, His Majesty attended a State Luncheon hosted by His Highness the Emir of Qatar in honour of His Majesty's visit.



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**His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam greets His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar.**



**The sovereign receives a token of appreciation from the Head of Directors of Aspire Academy, Dr. Thomas Flock.**



**Presentation on the economic and development projects by representative from Ashghal Company and the Qatar Diar Real Estate Investment Company.**



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## Palace Newsround...

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on April 12 presented diplomatic accreditations for and received credentials from newly appointed foreign envoys at the Istana Nurul Iman:

① His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Ali bin Haji Hassan, Brunei's newly appointed Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany.

② His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd Daud, Brunei's newly appointed Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

③ His Excellency Haji Mohammad Mahdi bin Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Abdul Rahman, Brunei's newly appointed Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

④ His Excellency Pengiran Haji Yunus bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Brunei's newly appointed Ambassador to Belgium.

⑤ His Excellency Pehin Datu Harimau Padang Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Husin bin Ahmad, Brunei's newly appointed Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia.

⑥ His Excellency German Bejarano Garcia, newly appointed non-resident Ambassador of Spain to Brunei.

⑦ His Excellency Klavs Arnoldi Holm, newly appointed non-resident Ambassador of Denmark to Brunei.

⑧ His Excellency Ahmed Amaziane, newly appointed non-resident Ambassador of Kingdom of Morocco to Brunei.



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

① The group of Singapore's officials attending the 12th Brunei Darussalam - Singapore Exchange Visits Programme led by His Excellency George Yeo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore on April 1.

② His Excellency Lu Bing, the Governor of Autonomy Guangxi Zhuang Province, People's Republic of China on April 3.

③ His Excellency Somsavat Lengsavad, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao People's Democratic Republic on April 22.





## Palace Newsround...



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

① Madam Bounkangmany Lengsavad, spouse of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao People's Democratic Republic on April 22.

② From left: Datin Hajah Zalina binti Haji Omar, spouse of Brunei's newly-appointed Ambassador to Jordan, Pengiran Datin Hajah Noriah binti Pengiran Haji Md Said, spouse of Brunei's newly appointed Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, Dayang Hajah Rashidah binti Haji Md Zain, spouse of Brunei's Ambassador to Vietnam on April 26.



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

① From left: His Excellency Haji Mohammad Mahdi bin Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Abdul Rahman, Brunei's newly appointed Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Pengiran Haji Yunus bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Brunei's newly appointed Ambassador to Belgium, His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Mokti bin Haji Mohd Daud, Brunei's newly appointed Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on April 20.

② His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Ali bin Haji Hassan, Brunei's newly appointed Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany on April 27.



**Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:**

From left: Datin Hajah Mastura binti Haji Mohsin, spouse of Brunei's Ambassador to Myanmar, Datin Hajah Sunah binti Abdul Hamid, spouse of Brunei's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Her Excellency Pengiran Hajah Basmillah bin Pengiran Haji Abbas, Brunei's Ambassador to Cambodia on April 4.



• From frontpage (Brunei-Qatar ties strengthen through state visit)

During the state visit, His Majesty visited the Ras Laffan Industrial City located at the centre of the Arabian Gulf on Qatar's North Gas Field. The Industrial City is a centre for the production and supply of natural gas for the State of Qatar. It accommodates a large number of gas-based industries including liquefaction, processing and export, petrochemicals, refining of condensate and also Ras Laftan Port, the largest Liquefied Natural Gas exporting facility in the World.

Also visited was the Aspire Academy, a sports education institute developing young athletes into Olympic champions using high-tech methods and equipment. Its campus hosts the largest sports dome in the world, the venue for the coming Asian Games.

His Majesty also attended a presentation by the Ashghal Company and the Qatar Diar Real Estate Investment Company on the development projects of the State of Qatar held at the Al Mirqab Ballroom, Four Seasons Hotel.

The Ashgal, also known as Qatar's Public Works Authority, is an autonomous body set up to oversee all projects related to infrastructure and public amenities.

The Qatar Diar is a real estate investment company owned by the State of Qatar's High Supreme Council for Economic Affairs and Investment and founded to foster property development and



**His Majesty receives briefing on activities and organisation structure of Ras Laffan Industrial City from the Director of Ras Laffan Industrial City, Mr. Misnad Al-Misnad.**

investment opportunities in Qatar.

This is the first state visit of His Majesty to the State of Qatar since the establishment of diplomatic relations on October 2, 1991. In June 2005, His Majesty was in Qatar to attend the Second South Summit of the G77 and China.

## His Majesty visits UAE

**DUBAI, April 19** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was in the United Arab Emirates for a three-day state visit. During the visit, His Majesty went to Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

The highlight of the State Visit was the private meeting between His Majesty and His Highness Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi in the search for closer political, economic and social

cooperation between both countries. The meeting took place at Za'abeel Palace on April 18.

Prior to meeting, His Majesty visited the Emirates Office Towers, where he received a briefing on the on-going mega projects in information technology, media, entertainment, healthcare, real estate and construction undertaken by the Dubai Government. Also visited was the Dubai Police Academy located in the Al Towar area established on June 1, 1956. Unlike other police departments in the Emirates,

the Dubai Police Academy is under the control and management of the Dubai Government. It trains local and foreign students especially from the Gulf Cooperation Council and other Muslim countries.

On April 17, His Majesty was in Abu Dhabi where he attended a State Luncheon hosted by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Deputy Supreme Commander of Armed Forces and Executive Chairman of Diwan in honour of His Majesty's state visit to the United Arab Emirates. The State Luncheon was held at the Armed Forces Officers Club.

His Majesty then left for Dubai. On the way to Dubai, His Majesty stopped over at the Royal Mausoleum to pay respect to His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the late President of the United Arab Emirates.

Brunei Darussalam and the United Arab Emirates established diplomatic relations on May 28, 1992. This is His Majesty's first state visit since the relations were established. His Majesty made a working visit to Abu Dhabi and Dubai in April 2000.



**His Majesty with His Majesty Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Abu Dhabi.**



**His Majesty visits one of lecture room at the Dubai Police Academy.**



**At the Royal Mausoleum, His Majesty and entourage pay respect to the late President of the United Arab Emirates.**





The sovereign together with more than two thousand people taking part in the charity walk .

## Charity walk to raise welfare funds

**JERUDONG, April 2** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to launch and joined a Charity Walk organised by the Royal Brunei Police Force at Field 1 of Jerudong Polo Club.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the

Prime Minister's Office and His Royal Highness Prince Abdul 'Malik.

Prior to the walk, His Majesty and the entire participants had a 15-minute warming up session.

This is one of the activities to collect donations for the Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphan and other welfare funds in the country. It also

aims to encourage public to practise healthy life-style in conjunction with the 85<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Royal Brunei Police Force.

More than two thousand people from various government and private agencies and also the public participated in the Charity Walk.

## Brunei – Iceland established diplomatic relations

**NEW YORK, April 27** - The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with the Government of the Republic of Iceland effective April 27, 2006.

The signing of the joint communiqué that established the diplomatic relations between both countries was held at the office of the Permanent Mission of Brunei to the United Nations in New York.

Brunei was represented by His

Excellency Dr. Haji Emran bin Bahar, Brunei's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. His counterpart was His Excellency Hjalmar W. Hannesson, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iceland to the United Nations.

## 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 Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II birthday on April 16.
- Her Majesty Queen Koningin Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgrad of Netherlands and her Prime Minister, His Excellency Jan Peter Balkenende in conjunction with Queen's Day on April 30.
- His Majesty King Carl Gustaf XVI of Sweden and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Goran Persson in conjunction with the birthday of King of Sweden on April 30.





**Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, Yang Teramat Mulia Azrinaz Mazhar and other members of the royal family join the recital of *dzikir*.**

# **Women Gathering in conjunction with the Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary**

**BERAKAS, April 18** - Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Yang Teramat Mulia Azrinaz Mazhar attended a special gathering for women in conjunction with the celebration of Prophet Muhammad's birthday. The ceremony was held at the International Convention Centre. The highlight of the event was the presentation of Hijrah Meritorious Award to two recipients.

**BERAKAS, April 4** - 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 attended the Guangxi Cultural Show at the Indoor Stadium Complex of Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

On arrival, Their Royal Highnesses were greeted by Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Awang Ahmad and His Excellency Lu Bing, the Governor of Guang Xi Zhuang Province, the People's Republic of China.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince also consented to officiate the show 'The Charm of Guang Xi'. The Guangxi cultural show was held for the first time in Brunei.

# **Showcase of 'The Charm of Guang Xi' in Brunei**



**Their Royal Highnesses introduced to the members of Guang Xi Cultural troupe.**



**Colourful cultural performance entitled 'The Charm of Guang Xi' held at the Indoor Stadium Complex**



# Corruption could cripple the nation

**JERUDONG, April 2** - Corruption could cripple the nation if it is left uncontrolled. It is prohibited in Islam and it could tarnish the nation's integrity, authority of the public services and an individual's standing in the eyes of the society.

These were stated by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah at the launching of the second season of a local drama series entitled 'KOD 486'. It is a drama based on the tasks of Anti Corruption Bureau in fighting against corruption.

Her Royal Highness also said that with 41 per cent of Brunei's population are youth, the youth are not spared from exposure on

unhealthy elements like drugs abuse, loitering and corruption. These could effect the future of the youth and their family as well as the nation.

Her Royal Highness also advised the youth to focus on their future, while instilling a sense of patriotism and to avoid anti-social behaviour by being involved in beneficial activities that would increase the value of life for the community, religion and nation.

"The involvement of more youths in the drama is a good sign that they could easily be involved in activities that would benefit the community," said Her Royal Highness.



**Her Royal Highness delivers a sabda at the ceremony.**

## Nursing College 12<sup>th</sup> Convocation: Nurses hold big responsibility for safety of people

**BERAKAS, April 8** - History had shown that threats like bird flu could cause a million fatality worldwide; and this showed that nurses have to endure a big responsibility for the safety and importance of the people.

Therefore, nursing graduates are called to equip themselves in fulfilling their responsibility particularly as a nurse, and community member in general in facing the new challenges such as bird flu.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah made the call at the 12<sup>th</sup> Convocation of Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah (PAPRSB) College of Nursing at the International Convention Centre.

At the ceremony, His Royal Highness presented diplomas to 215 recipients.

The PAPRSB College of Nursing was established in 1986 to provide professional education for nurses in Brunei Darussalam in response to the increasing demand of manpower in the expanding health sector. It is also to accommodate the social and cultural changes that are taking place in relation to the changes in the disease patterns and life styles of the population.

Since its establishment 20 years ago, the college had produced more than 1000 nurses. Upon completion of the Diploma in Nursing; most of the nurses are working with the government hospitals and medical centres. Besides the general nursing programme, the College also provides a postgraduate Diploma in advanced nursing.

Courses that are organised and conducted by the college are accredited internationally through external moderation and linkages with institutions abroad. The college also offers its students many opportunities to study for degrees and

advanced courses abroad.

In order to enhance the quality of nursing and performance and also to provide effective and high quality of health service for the people, the college encourage school leavers to choose nursing as their career. To accommodate the increase in numbers of student and courses offered, the government under the Eighth National Development Plan had

renovated the old campus of University of Brunei Darussalam to become the permanent campus for the PAPRSB College of Nursing.

The PAPRSB College of Nursing not only receive local students but also offers courses for overseas students. Since 1995, Commonwealth Scholarships have also been offered to students from Commonwealth countries to study at the college to pursue the Diploma in Nursing programme.



**Her Royal Highness presents an award to one of the outstanding students.**



## Sayyidina Hasan Secondary School wins Prynsa 8

**BERAKAS, April 13** - The project titled 'Invasion of Exotic Species: The Study on Acacia spp. in Berakas Forest Reserve' by Sayyidina Hasan Secondary School won the eighth Princess Rashidah Young Nature Scientist Award (PRYNsa). The ceremony was held at the International Convention Centre (ICC).

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah, the Patron of PRYNsa presented the prizes to the winners.

Twenty-three secondary schools throughout Brunei participated in the competition but only five schools qualified to the final. PRYNsa was first introduced in 1997 with the objective to nurture excellence among the young, particularly in the area of natural science.



**Her Royal Highness views an exhibition by one of the participating schools.**

## Secondary school building for SHHB Foundation

**JALAN KEBANGSAAN, April 6** - The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation has stepped further as it will soon have its own building for its secondary school.

A foundation laying ceremony led by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik was held to mark the beginning of the construction work for the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (SHHB) Foundation Secondary School Building at Jalan Kebangsaan.

The construction cost \$9,833,330 and expected to be complete by early January 2007. It will accommodate 42 classrooms, 12 science labs, three computer labs, language lab, lecture room and library.

According to the Chairman of the SHHB Foundation's School Administrative Board, Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar; on realising the importance of education, the Foundation has been involved with offering private educational services as one of their contributions to the development of education and human resources to this country.

The SHHB Foundation started their private school services with the establishment of a nursery in 1998, followed by primary school in 2000 and secondary school in 2005. At present, there are 53 students studying in Secondary One and Two; using one of the primary school building blocks.



**His Royal Highness officiates the foundation laying ceremony of new secondary school.**



## Cleanliness as a priority



His Majesty delivers royal speech (titah) in conjunction with the birthday of Prophet Muhammad.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 11** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam called for the residents and people of the nation to regard cleanliness as a priority. His Majesty made the call in a royal speech marking the birthday of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihi Wassalam, 1427 Hijrah/2006.

"There might be parties that consider this as an unimportant matter and should not be exaggerated. However, in my opinion, it is not unimportant but it is basic, and one of the pressing criterias of social revolution," said His Majesty.

The sovereign further stated that Islam not only labels cleanliness for health and safety, but also as part of the faith.

Normally, cleanliness said His Majesty, is strongly emphasised at public domains like markets, pedestrian areas, roads, shopping centres including restaurants and dining outlets. He also expressed his satisfaction with the relevant authorities over their stern actions in ensuring the cleanliness of restaurants and dining outlets.

He also urged the relevant authorities to scrutinise the cleanliness according to *syaria* such as identifying restaurants that are suitable for Muslims. This, according to His Majesty should be handled properly.

His Majesty further added that it is closely linked to the welfare of *ummah* as clean eateries outlets also contribute to health and safety. Particularly, cleanliness from *syara* also ascertains the effectiveness of Muslim's religious obligations and also the development of the blessed, physical health.



Dzikir performance at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin.



Among the participants at the Maulud procession.



His Majesty meets participants of the Maulud procession.



The Maulud procession lead by His Majesty.

## Sovereign leads Maulud procession

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 11** - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined scores of Muslim attending the gathering and procession held to mark the birthday of Prophet Muhammad or the year 1427 Hijrah / 2006.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul Azim; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

About 25,000 people from various government and private agencies, learning institutions and schools; and also from *mukims* and villages in Brunei Muara District gathered at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin to participate in the religious event.

His Majesty also led the 4.3 kilometres *Maulud* procession around the capital. *Maulud* is an event held on the 12th day in the month of *Rabiulawal* in Islamic calendar (year of *Hijrah*) to mark the birth of Prophet Muhammad. The *Maulud* gathering and procession were also held at three other districts in the country.



Group photo of ASEAN Foreign Ministers with President of Indonesia and ASEAN Secretary General.

## ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Bali

**BALI, April 20** - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, together with fellow ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the ASEAN Secretary General held discussions at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat at the Presidential Villa, Maya Ubud Resort and Spa.

The ASEAN Ministers exchanged views on a wide range of concerns to ASEAN and assessed current progress in ASEAN's major cooperation programs.

Later, the ASEAN Ministers then proceeded to Tampak Siring Palace for luncheon hosted by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, for ASEAN Foreign Ministers and Members of the Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) on the ASEAN Charter.

His Royal Highness arrived in Ubud, Indonesia for the ASEAN Foreign Minister' Retreat on April 19. In the evening, His Royal Highness attended a meeting between the ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the EPG on the ASEAN Charter.

The meeting was followed by Working Dinner hosted by His Excellency Dr. N. Hassan Wirayuda, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia. At the ceremony, the ASEAN Ministers discussed matters of concern to ASEAN and exchanged views on current regional and international developments.



His Royal Highness greeted by President of Indonesia upon arrival at Tampak Siring Palace.



## \$200,000 donated to Pusat Ehsan



**Her Royal Highness on behalf of Pusat Ehsan receives donation from Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation's Chairman of Board of Directors.**

**BENGKURONG, April 9** - A sum of \$200,000.00 was donated to the Pusat Ehsan Kampong Bengkurong by the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (SHHB) Foundation.

Present to receive the donation was Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah as the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Pusat Ehsan Kampong Bengkurong. SHHB Foundation was represented by its Board of Directors, the Chairman, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Badaruddin.

Pusat Ehsan is one of the non-governmental charitable organisations in Brunei Darussalam that functions to provide training and services to individuals with special needs, physically challenged, and also those with psychological problems. These are to ensure that these individuals would reach their maximum potentials.

Meanwhile, the SHHB Foundation is a foundation owned by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family. The Foundation is a channel of charitable endowment by His Majesty and the royal family. The purpose of the foundation is to further develop the nation by providing supporting programs that promotes religion, education and welfare of the people, and other fields of the social life.

## Ambassador-at-Large visits People's Republic of China

**NANJING, April 7-** Brunei's Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, was on a six-day official visit to the People's Republic of China. The visit was upon an invitation by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

During the visit, Her Royal Highness met the Mayor of Yangzhou, Madam Wang Yanwen where both discussed on the existing bilateral relations. Her Royal Highness also met the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Wu Dawei where both exchanged views on Brunei-China bilateral relations, particularly on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations and trade and tourism cooperation.

In Beijing, Her Royal Highness also had a meeting and exchanged views on Brunei-China's economic relations particularly on energy with the President and Chief Executive Officer of National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), Mr Fu Chengyu.

Her Royal Highness also attended several luncheons and dinners: a luncheon hosted by Vice Mayor of Yangzhou, Mr Chen Weiqing at Yangzhou State Guest House; dinner hosted by Madam Xu Huiling, the Vice Mayor of Nanjing; a banquet hosted by the Vice Governor of Jiangsu Province, Her Excellency Huang

Lixin; a luncheon by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Wu Dawei at Diaoyutai State Guest House; luncheon by Mr Fu Chengyu, the President and Chief Executive Officer of China National Offshore Oil Corporation; and also a dinner hosted by China's State Councillor, His Excellency Tang Jiaxuan at the Great Hall of People.

In Nanjing, the Ambassador-at-Large visited several places of interests such as the Jingjue Mosque, the urban and construction exhibition hall and toured an exhibition on Nanjing's history and culture. Her Royal Highness also visited the Yunjing Brocade Research Centre.

In Beijing, Her Royal Highness visited the Xiaotangshan Beijing Modern Agriculture Demonstration Garden.

During the visit, Her Royal Highness officially opened the China-Brunei Friendship Hall, an exhibition hall of Brunei's culture and heritage, located in the Brunei Heritage Garden. The Garden is a historical site surrounding the tomb of an ancient Ruler of Brunei, Maharaja Karna, who passed away while visiting China in the 1400's.

In her speech, Her Royal Highness expressed her gratitude to the people of Jiangsu for their effort in restoring and maintaining the valuable historic site that signified the bilateral relations.



**Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.**



## Charity concert for 'Save Our Children'



**Their Royal Highnesses at the Charity Concert.**

**BERAKAS, April 15** - A charity concert organised by the Women Graduates Association (WGA) was recently held with the theme 'My Dream For You'.

This concert was one of the means to collect funds for a project 'Save Our Children' undertaken by the association.

The fund collected from the concert would be used to provide assistance to students who need assistance in the form of either cash or schooling items.

WGA is an association where the membership comprises of women graduates from all kinds of specialisation and expertise. It is a pool of professional women who are willing to spare their time and share their knowledge towards the development of the nation-state.

Present at the charity concert was Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubatul Bolkiah and other members of the royal family.

## ICT & telecommunication industry expands

**BERAKAS, April 1**-The information technology (ICT) and telecommunication sector in Brunei Darussalam as a whole has expanded as it has exceeded to more than \$300 million, an increase by 10 per cent in annual average.

This was outlined by the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar at the launching ceremony for the corporatisation of Jabatan Telekom Brunei (JTB) to Telekom Brunei Berhad (TelBru).

"The revenue from the telecom sector, solely for the past two years, had achieved about \$100 million per annum. The corporatisation of JTB is hoped to encourage the growth of ICT and industry of telecommunication and attract foreign investors to participate in enhance the economy of the nation-state," said the Minister.

Corporatisation of JTB is aligned with the development of the telecom industry in this region and also in most of the member-countries of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

"Usually, corporatisation was implemented so to give private sector more roles in developing the country's economy. In the context of Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had stressed on the importance of the private sector in developing the nation's economy. Therefore, the corporatisation of JTB is aligned with the intention of the government to strengthen the role of the private sector," said the Minister.

He further added that in the period of the Eighth National Development Plan, the ICT and telecommunication sector had recorded a visible



**Minister of Communication at the launching ceremony.**

development particularly in the number of subscribers. The growth rate for fixed line was 99 per cent while mobile phone was 55 per cent.

With the establishment of TelBru, all the regulation, development and licensing services for all ICT and telecommunication services in Brunei would be full administered by the Authority for Info-Communication Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AiTi). TelBru would become the provider for information-communication services.

TelBru was established and registered on May 2002 under the Companies Act owned by the Prime Minister Corporation' (golden share owner) with Brooketwon Sendirian Berhad.

Further information on the products and services of TelBru could be obtained at <http://www.telbru.com.bn>

## New framework by AiTi

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 12** - The Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AiTi) hosted a one-day workshop to introduce its licensing and regulatory framework to the industry and affected parties of the telecommunications and information-communications technology sector.

More than 140 participants attended the first AiTi workshop since the new licensing and regulatory function for the telecommunications industry came into effect on April 1.

From April 1 this year, Enforcement of the Telecommunication Successor Company Order 2001 and Telecommunications Order 2001 came into force.

The enforcement of the Telecommunication Successor Company Order signalled the corporatisation of the Telecommunication Department and all of JTB's assets and employees transferred to Telekom Brunei Berhad (TelBru).

By May 2006, AiTi plans to conduct seminars targeted at individual organisations to build on knowledge disseminated at the workshop and to give them the opportunity to put forward queries specific to their requirements.

AiTi, established in January 2003 by the AiTi Order, is mainly responsible to regulate, license and promote the local ICT industry as well as to manage the national radio frequency spectrum.

The workshop was conducted by Mr Rajesh Sreenivasan, -Partner, Intellectual Property, Technology, Entertainment & Communications (iTec) Oractice Group of Rajah & Tann.

The appointed consultant, Rajah & Tann is involved in the crafting of AiTi's Licensing & Regulatory Framework.



## Future Entrepreneurs must be proactive

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN April 3-** Prospective entrepreneurs should be proactive and have a strong business mind-set in order to venture into the increasingly competitive and consumer demands in which Brunei faces new opportunities and challenges.

This was stated by Entrepreneurship Programme Coordinator Halimahtun Saadiah binti Pehin Dato Haji Sulaiman during the opening of the Phase 1 Entrepreneurship Development Trading Programme, organised by the Business School, Department of Technical Education.

Twenty-six participants who have acquired the skills and competencies in

various technical and vocational fields took part in Phase 1 of the programme from April 3 to April 15.

Present as chief guest at the opening ceremony was KPMG Managing Director Shazali bin Dato Sulaiman.

"It is important for prospective entrepreneurs to understand the world of entrepreneurship by studying the market, competitors and be informed on current issues affecting the market," he informs.

'Small Medium Enterprise (SME) has been one of the major contributors towards local economic activities and is the main source of employment. SMEs account for more than 95 per cent of companies incorporated in Brunei

Darussalam', he added.

The aim of the programme is to promote self-employment amongst Vocational Technical Institution graduates and maximise the contribution towards the country's economic development.

The programme is divided into three phases where Phase 1 accommodates the foundations on starting-up a business and Phase 2 involves preparing a business plan.

The Business Incubation Programme in Phase 3 provides hands on management assistance as well as mentoring, advice, office space and other relevant facilities provided by the school.

## Balanced scorecard for good governance

**BERAKAS, April 3 -** A successful development of the national project that could attract foreign direct investments are in the hands of good governance.

It is important for every ministry to materialise the national industrial projects and one particular tactic is by using 'Balanced Scorecard'.

This was stated by the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar in his opening address at the Asean EC International Seminar 2006.

The event held at the International Convention Centre featured a one-day international seminar on "Managing for Results: Using Balanced Scorecard to Achieve Breakthrough Performance and Good Governance" by Dr Robert Kaplan.

Dr Robert Kaplan, co-creator of the 'Balanced Scorecard' is the world's leading authority on executing business strategy.

The event was attended by more than 300 participants including permanent secretaries, head of departments, policy makers and personnel from the private sector and overseas organisations.

According to the Minister, Dr Kaplan's ideas and his principal of implementation methods and its development in particular the alignment processes, can bring individual organisations, departments and ministries into focus and deliver the right decisive results.

He added that the most important benefit in using a scorecard is the ability to make strategy operational and to achieve operational commitment where

individuals are committed to achieving the strategic outcomes outlined in the scorecard.

The ideas, in line with His Majesty's *titah*, will prepare the participants to go beyond the concept of the art of leadership to the practical techniques of strategic thinking and action to plan and develop a better future for the organisation and country.

The Minister added that, "As the world is moving towards globalisation and our

country towards regionalisation, the country faces uncertainties of foreseen and unforeseen forces and challenges.

"The rapid development in information technology, competition and complex environments demand leaders to look for innovative approaches in managing their organisations. Thus, the leaders and relevant policy makers will have to create their own visions and missions, and to implement planned strategies to address certain and uncertain issues," he said.



**Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar receives token of appreciation from Dr. Robert S. Kaplan.**



# Centre to innovate SME

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 6 -**

An SME Innovation Centre, initiated by the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) will be fully operational by August in Kampong Anggerek Desa.

It is part of BEDB's ongoing effort to support and develop the local small and medium enterprises (SMEs), in a particularly growing number of techno-preneurs in Brunei.

The establishment of the centre is expected to assist techno-preneurs and companies relation to info-communication technology (ICT) to develop their innovative ideas from inception to realisation through the provision of physical facilities.

Facilities available at the centre include individual offices for the incubates, conference room, meeting rooms, exhibition area, as well as soft support services in the form of business advisory, management guidance, market access programme, technical expertise and mentoring programme.

The project is based on BEDB's vision to develop a culture of innovation and creativity while at the same time nurturing research and development activities within the centre.

The selection of the management company that will be providing other support services will be announced in June this year and will be responsible in ensuring the successful delivery of the centre and its objectives.

The elected management company will also be responsible in designing and implementing an incubation programme, to

establish networks and linkages with relevant local and regional institutions, as well as to manage the operations of the centre and its tenants on behalf of BEDB.

The management company is also expected to have the necessary expertise, relevant experience and existing networks together with an established and proven incubation programme.

According to Timothy Ong, Acting Chairperson of BEDB, "The SME Innovation Centre is more than just a concept. With the programme, we expect that the generation of technopreneurs and ICT

companies graduating from the centre will mark the beginning of an era towards a more innovative and knowledge focused economy in Brunei Darussalam."

"The SME Innovation Centre ties in well with the BEDB's strategy to provide opportunities for the local SMEs to further develop and progress especially in this rapidly changing and evolving ICT industry. The state-of-the-art centre will play an integral role in the development of ICT in the country," said John Perry, Chief Executive Officer BEDB.



**The signing of Memorandum of Understanding witnessed by Minister of Communications.**

# Fishery industry worth \$100 million



**Dato Paduka Haji Hamdilah delivers opening remark.**

**GADONG, April 18 -** The fishery industry of Brunei Darussalam had progressed tremendously, significantly after the announcement of 200 nautical-mile Brunei fishery limits and the Exclusive Economic Zone.

In 2005 alone, the fishery industry collected almost \$100 million. Although this could be considered as small compared to other members of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC), the figure had shown that there are potentials for development and investment in the mentioned sector.

These were disclosed by the Acting Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Haji Hamdilah at the official opening of the 38<sup>th</sup> SEAFDEC Consultative Meeting.

The Acting Minister further stated that at present, Brunei still imports 40 per cent of its sea food products. He also said that the fishery industry has the potential to achieve \$400 million by 2023, an increase of 17 per cent per annum.

He further stated that Brunei Darussalam wish to see SEAFDEC to continuously assist and implement various fishery development programmes for the safety of food in the ASEAN region.

Brunei Darussalam joined SEAFDEC since 1995. SEAFDEC was established since 1967 with the objectives to promote fisheries development in Southeast Asia.



## Brunei marks World Health Day

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN April 17-** A declining health workforce will have an enormous impact on health services provided in many countries especially in developing countries.

Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi, said this in his message in conjunction with the World Health Day.

This year's World Health Day focuses on the health workforce with the slogan "Working Together for Health".

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) international communities and governments around the world should place an utmost importance on the problems of diminishing health workforce.

Such problems will also increase the burden of governments in facing health challenges like the threat of pandemic influenza and the controlling and monitoring of major disease outbreaks, he said.

According to the Ministry of Health,

Brunei Darussalam accounts more than 5,600 health workforce which includes 360 professionals.

From that statistic, at least 473 are specialists and doctors, 1,800 nurses, 800 allied health professionals and 2,527 in support services where a majority of the recorded health professionals are locals.

However, Brunei's healthcare services which are as good as any other country in the region is not excluded from the lacking of health workforce like doctors, specialists and nurses in various specialised fields.

The Ministry of Health has also taken in a number of specialists to work with the ministry in order to provide more comprehensive and effective services for the public.

With an increase in health workforce and better skills and expertise, the Ministry of Health could provide the necessary services towards achieving a high standard of health.



**Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi.**

## Various steps taken to prevent HIV/AIDS

**GADONG, April 19-** Various measures are taken by the Ministry of Health to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Among measures taken are; carrying out surveys and tests known as 'serosurveillance' on blood that were donated by the public and imported blood. This is to ensure that these blood are free from HIV/AIDS virus.

Another step taken is by carrying out screening every two years on foreign workers and employees before renewing their work permit by the Ministry of Health.

These were stated by the Deputy Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hazair at the official handing-over ceremony of the new premise for Brunei Darussalam AIDS Council at Wisma Haji Taha's building.

Brunei Darussalam recorded 675 cases of HIV/AIDS from the year 1986 to 2005 which is relatively low compared to over 40 million people globally, according to a World Health Organisation (WHO) statistic.

Twenty-eight out of the total number of 675 HIV/AIDS cases recorded in the country, comprised locals while 17 out of the 23 dead from HIV/AIDS are locals between the ages of 20-49 years old, he added.

The Deputy Minister of Health said that support and cooperation are needed from the general public, non-governmental bodies as well as the private sector in raising awareness of a healthy lifestyle preventing the spread of deadly contagious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, SARS, bird flu and dengue fever.

Issues on healthy lifestyle changes



**The Deputy Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hazair.**

were also touched by the Minister which is an effective front-line defense in preventing the spread of contagious diseases as well as chronic diseases among the population.

He added that the regulation is in line with His Majesty's *titah* recently to mark the Maulidur Rasul Nabi Muhammad SAW celebration this year to enhance self-hygiene and environmental cleanliness in order to prevent any disease outbreak.

With the new centre, the Brunei Darussalam AIDS Council will be able to carry out its objectives more effectively and efficiently particularly in educating the general public on the importance of social and moral support for those infected with HIV/AIDS and their family members.

## Brunei now member of ADB

**MANILA, April 27 -** Brunei has become the 65<sup>th</sup> member of Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The official ceremony of Brunei's admission to the ADB was attended by Finance Minister II, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Abdul Rahman. At the ceremony, the Finance Minister II submitted the document 'Instrument of Acceptance' to President Haruhiko Kuroda, President of ADB and received Brunei Darussalam Membership Certificate.

The Finance Minister II also holds the post as ADB Governor for Brunei and joined by Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Finance, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali who holds the post as Alternate Governor.

The Asian Development Bank is a multi-lateral finance development institution which was established in 1966 with 31 member-countries. The main objective of ADB is to abolish poverty and to improve the living quality in Asia Pacific region. Currently, ADB's headquarters is located in Manila.



## Australian Organisation to study Brunei's soil

**BERAKAS, April 12** - The government of His Majesty through the Department of Agriculture has taken the initiative to develop Agricultural Department Areas (ADA) and Rural Agricultural Development Areas (RADA), setting aside an area of 700 hectares for cultivation of paddy, vegetables and fruit crops with the emphasis on indigenous fruits.

This was informed in a signing ceremony between the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia.

Signing on behalf of the Department of Agriculture was Pengiran Hajah Mariana, Director of Agriculture, while representing CSIRO was Dr Christopher Smith, Theme Leader, Agriculture, Water and Environment, CSIRO Land & Water.

The Department of Agriculture of Brunei appointed CSIRO, Australia, for a consultancy project entitled "Soil Fertility Evaluation/ Advisory Service in Brunei Darussalam".

The agreement also aimed to upgrade the production of local agricultural commodities and to increase the percentage of contribution from the

agricultural sector towards Brunei's Gross Domestic Products (GDP) as well as to achieve self sufficiency in food production.

The project will also cover a detailed soil fertility evaluation to enhance soil advisory services, upgrade and document the scientific information on soil's fertility and suitability as well as recommendation on fertiliser for crops being cultivated in project areas.

The project will be carried out within a two-year period and will involve two phases including activities such as soil survey and mapping, soil properties and soil identification key, documenting soil fertility information, identification of soil properties limiting cultivation, crop suitability

assessment and management as well as fertiliser and nutrient management.

The project will facilitate the department in developing existing ADA lands towards high yield agriculture production on a sustainable basis.

Consultation services provided to local farmers on allocation of suitable land for different crops, improvement on soil fertility management and fertiliser recommendation to increase the contribution of the agriculture sector towards national GDP will also be provided by the department.



**The signing ceremony between Director of Agriculture and Dr.Christopher, Team Leader, Agriculture, Water and Environment,CSIRO Lands and Water, Australia.**

## Bukit Markucing, additional park for places of interest

**SUBOK, April 9** - A new recreational area was opened recently which is the latest addition to the places of interest in Brunei. The new park - 'Bukit Markucing Recreational Park' is located in Kampong Belimbing in *Mukim* Kota Batu. The launching ceremony was held in the presence of the Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Adanan.

Bukit Markucing Recreational Park is 165 metres (3.5 kilometres) above sea level that covers eight hills. The park is envisioned to be an attraction for both locals and tourists.



**Minister of Home Affairs launches 'Bukit Markucing Recreational Park'**



**Hiking activities at Bukit Markucing after the launching ceremony.**

Besides Bukit Markucing, Brunei has several recreational areas which mostly serves as a best place for brisk walking, jogging, family outings and leisure.

In the Brunei Muara District, Bukit Shahbandar Forest Recreational Park located in Jerudong has become synonym with sports lovers as it has nine hills for adventurous hikes. It also offers a spot for picnics for families and friends. In 2005, it was the starting point of the inaugural Brunei Marathon.

Another recreational park is the Tasek Lama Recreational Park conveniently located in the capital. It not only offers a relaxing ambiance for jogging or briskwalking but also situated is the unique waterfall.

Another venue is the Berakas Forest Reserve, situated along a beach and visitors are offered cooling shades as it is mostly covered with green trees.

In the Belait District, Sungai Liang Forest Recreational Park and Luagan Lalak Recreational Park are among the main attractions. Like other parks, these parks offer the rich green flora and fauna of Brunei and it is suitable for picnics and brisk walks. Not forgotten is the Anduki Recreational Park which was opened in 1992, commemorating the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Tutong District also has its own unique park known as Sungai Basong Recreational Park. Located near the Tutong Town centre, this park is a popular spot for picnic and jogging for the residence in the Tutong district.

For more tastes of flora and fauna, the Peradayan Forest Recreational Park in the Temburong District is the best choice. Located within the Peradayan Forest Reserve; this park is best for hiking and jungle trekking as it also includes twin hills of Bukit Peradayan and Bukit Patoi.

The development of recreational park particularly the forest recreation park in Brunei is not only a response to the local demand for outdoor recreational areas. But the parks are also used as a tool to promote awareness on, and appreciation of, nature and forests among the members of the public.



## ROYAL REGALIA BUILDING- A SHOWCASE OF ROYAL HERITAGE

Since the beginning of the Brunei Sultanate, royal insignias were placed in the safe keep of the Istana (palace). It was only by October 1992 that members of the common public had the first glimpse of the priceless and unique ceremonial artefacts which reflects the glory of the rich customs of the royal figures.

The building that houses such regalia is called the Royal Regalia Building and stands in the heart of the capital of Bandar Seri Begawan, a spot where the Churchill Memorial Complex once stood.

Construction works began in the early 1992 for the major construction project, completed in a period of eight months.

The completion of the project was well in time for the Silver Jubilee celebration to mark the ascension of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to the throne.

Various characteristics or symbols have been incorporated into the rich Islamic architectural designs of the Royal Regalia Building.

The building that features a white dome, signifies the strength of the Malay Islamic Monarchy in the Islamic architecture.

The dome's dimension is a strong feature of the main exhibit area that provides a magnificent perspective inside as well as outside the building that creates a huge prime exhibition at least two stories high.

The exterior of the dome design is covered in gold designs of the 'Bunga Putar' or spinning flowers.

These floral designs were replicated from the fabric design worn by His Majesty during the sovereign's coronation in early August 1968.

Meanwhile, the base of the dome is surrounded by the 'Rawai Lidah' which resembles red tongue like motifs.

This design was also inspired from a decorative royal fabric.

The white colour of the dome and building is chosen in particular of the white coloured cloth normally used in ceremonies.

This colour has also been chosen for the 'Dewan Pamanjangan' where court musicians presented their performances in ceremonial halls at the palace.

The main area of the building directly underneath the white dome showcases the 'Usongan Diraja' or Royal Carriage during His Majesty's coronation in 1968.

This huge exhibition hall is surrounded with custom made woven carpet which shows the traditional Brunei designs- 'Ayer Mulih' besides a green background and 'Pucuk Rabong' design with dark background.

All items exhibited in the building are mostly handed down from generations of royalties to the other.

These artefacts include those dated from the ruling of the third monarch and first Brunei Islamic ruler, Sultan Muhammad Shah during his reign from 1363 to 1402.

Items from the days of Sultan Sharif Ali who is also the direct descendant of Prophet Muhammad during his reign from 1425 to 1432 is also exhibited in the exhibition halls.

These items are found in four exhibition areas in the building including Gallery A, A1, A2 and D.

The Royal Chariot which is kept in Gallery A along with shields, spears and royal musical instruments in a vehicle used by His Majesty in a traditional procession that was pulled by 40 members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces along the capital.

Swords and spears, flagged spears, giant ceremonial candles and colourful umbrellas which accompany the royal chariot in the ceremonial procession is kept in Gallery A1.

Meanwhile Gallery A2 houses colourful chequered umbrellas, brass spears and shields, silver spears and shields, government spear and shield, and government sword and shield.

Various significant artefacts are found in Gallery D including the Kucing Mas, a solid gold lion sculpture regalia presented by Emperor Yung Lo to Sultan Abdul Majid who visited China in 1408.

This area also displays the crown of His Majesty that was worn during His Majesty's coronation alongside the crown of Her Majesty The Raja Isteri.

Keris Si Naga which is a royal *keris* (dagger) that has been handed down from Sultan to Sultan to formalise the handing over of power is also kept in this gallery.

The two 'Kucing Mas' which is in the form of solid gold lions found in the gallery is believed to be originally from China and were part of national emblems of the Ming Emperors.

Replicas of the Pantarama or the throne used by His Majesty during coronation and other major events at the Lapau or Royal ceremonial hall is also found in this area.

The Singgahsana, a throne chamber used by the monarch during the obeisance and reverence ceremony and the podium of the Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque is also exhibited in Gallery D.

Royal attires worn by Their Majesties during the coronation are kept in a glass showcase

beside the uniforms of His Majesty during His Majesty's days at the Sandhurst Royal Military Academy in England.

A number of royal insignias are kept under tight security at the exhibition halls where visitors have the opportunity to understand and see for themselves the significance of the royal customs and traditions which are influenced by the strong Islamic teachings and traditional customs.





## Snippets...

### Local Agri-food and Handicraft Market

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, APRIL 2** - Tourists in the country as well as other visitors had a great opportunity to explore the wide variety of traditional food and other locally manufactured products in the country.

The recent Local Agri-food and Handicraft Market at the Horticulture Business Centre in Rimba, Gadong showcased a variety of locally made products as well as traditional cultural handicrafts.

The event organised by the Agriculture Department, with cooperation from the Tourism Development Department, the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports provided a unique platform to show the public on the variety of local cultural products and encourage new entrepreneurs to be more competitive in promoting their products.

Over 30 local entrepreneurs participated in the event showcased their products ranging from processed agri-food to frozen and chilled food items.

Other products such as woven mats, baskets as well as traditional weaves such as 'kain tenunan' were also on display.

Traditional performances comprising of songs and dances were also presented at the event.

### RBA reduces flight to Darwin

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 3** - Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) has announced that flight frequencies to Darwin in Australia will be reduced from three to two times weekly.

The temporary suspension on the Sunday flights from Brunei will take effect from June 4, 2006 until further notice.

Flights in April and May including BI177, leaving Bandar Seri Begawan on Sundays April 23 and 30 and May 7, 21 and 28 this year will also be cancelled.

This will also affect all the returning flights on the next day as well.

However, RBA will advise on the re-instatement of the flight when it comes into force.

'This suspension is only a temporary measure as Australia is a significant contributor in the network', informs RBA's Acting Head of Corporate Communications, Hj Rozman Junaidi.

### Asean Delegates Attend 2nd Task Force Meeting On Tsunami Early Warning Systems

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 4** - Representatives from Asean member countries including Brunei Darussalam as the host country, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore

and Thailand attended the "Second Task Force Meeting On The Establishment Of Monitoring Networks of Tsunami Early Warning Systems in Asean".

The two day event was held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas from April 4 to 5.

The two-day meeting was also attended by representatives from the Asean Secretariat and the World Meteorological Organisation as well as delegates from the fields of meteorology, seismology and sea-level monitoring.

The Technical Task Force for the Establishment of Monitoring Networks of the Tsunami Early Warning System in Asean is responsible to look into the issues of tsunami data and information exchange arrangements, including means of communications, data format and testing arrangements.

Among the issues discussed in the meeting included means of data exchange such as Short Messaging System (SMS), Global Telecommunications, e-mail, fax, internet and telephone.

Other issues on training and capacity building needs on disaster management, tsunami modelling, seismological training, data exchange software, on-the-job training and risk management were also discussed.

### JPMC introduces new MRI System

**JERUDONG, April 7**-The Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) introduces the new 1.5 tesla "Avanto" MRI System as an addition to the range of its medical facilities. The new MRI system which costs \$3 million was officially launched by Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health, Dato Paduka Awang Serbini.

Magnetic Resonance Image (MRI) is an advanced diagnostic imaging procedure which is radiation-free that creates detailed images of internal body structures and assists physicians in detecting and diagnosing diseases and other abnormalities in their early stages.

### Two Traditional Medicines Banned

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 26** - The Ministry of Health of Brunei Darussalam has banned two traditional medicines namely 'Trebest Plus Capsules' and 'Han Palace Capsules'. Both medicines were supplied by Unifier Sendirian Berhad from Malaysia. The announcement was made based on the exchange of information by Drug Control Authorities of ASEAN Countries.

Both medicines were found to contain 'Acetildenafil' and 'Sildenafil analog', a drug used in treatment of impotency that could be harmful. This drug can interact with other medicines resulting in serious adverse effects such as the lowering of blood pressure if used together with some anti-hypertension drugs.

## 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.brunel.gov.bn](http://www.brunel.gov.bn)

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





Olympic-sized swimming pools



Tennis courts available to be used by members of the public

## SPORTS COMPLEXES IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

### Sports Complex, Tutong

**A**ligned with the National Sports Policy – to develop excellent quality of sports and sports for all, the Youth and Sports Department of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports continues to upgrade and construct more sports complexes and fields for the national athletes and for public utilisation.

Currently, there are 17 sports complexes throughout the nation administered by the Youth and Sports Department. Most of the sports complexes are located in Brunei Muara District, the most populated district. For the convenience of residents in other districts, two sports complexes in Belait, one in Tutong and one in Temburong are available. More sports complexes will be available under the ongoing eighth national development plan.

The largest sports complex in Brunei is the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium located in Berakas. The complex among others consists of football field, track, lecture theatre and a grand stand with a capacity of more than 15,000 seats.

Also available is the Sports Medicine and Research Centre. This centre provides professional medical assistance particularly for national athletes which is equipped with latest

medical technology.

The Stadium is also the venue for Brunei-hosted regional sporting events like when the 20<sup>th</sup> Southeast Asian (SEA) Games and the Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy for ASEAN Youth Under-21 Football tournament were held.

The Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium was also used for national events like National Day celebration and the four districts sporting event, Pesta Sukan Kebangsaan. This upcoming July will witness the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium to be the host for the Brunei International Tattoo 2006 held in conjunction with His Majesty's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.

Apart from the track and field, the stadium also host a gymnasium where members of the public are allowed to use the facilities provided such as treadmills and weight-liftings.

Also located within the Berakas area is the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex. Under the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex, there are several complexes offered to the public to use such as the Indoor Stadium, Sports Village, Swimming Pools, Tennis Courts, Track and Field, Multi-purposes Hall, Hockey Stadium, Squash Centre, and Lawn Ball Centre. All of these

complexes are available for the use of national athletes and the public. But some complexes will require the public to pay at minimum charges.

These sports complexes are also popular venues for regional and international sporting events and shows. For example, the Indoor Stadium is not only used for sports events but it also functions as venues for musical concerts and exhibitions.

For the water sports lover, a water sports complex is also available in Serasa, namely the Serasa Water Sports Complex. Besides becoming the centre for yacht enthusiasts in the country, the Serasa Water Sports Complex also becomes a regular venue for regatta competition.

Other sports complexes in the Brunei Muara District are the Berakas Sports Complex, Mengail Sports Complex, Anggerek Desa Swimming Pool, and Menjalim, Sungai Kebun Recreational Sports Complex.

Besides government-owned sports complexes, there are also several sports complexes under the management of certain government departments and private organisations.



Aerial view of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium



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