



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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Representatives from various youth associations taking the oath in conjunction with the National Youth Day.



His Majesty presents the 'Prominent Dedicated Youth Leader' to one of the recipients, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Setia Negara Pengiran Dr. Haji Mohd Yusof.

National Youth Day: Youth leaders cautioned on exploitations

BERAKAS, August 1 – Youth leaders are cautioned on exploitations by certain parties on youths, particularly for their own interests. Exploitations in a form of using youth to sell various entertainment products and costumes that is contradictory to the nation's culture.

This was highlighted by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the inaugural National Youth Day.

According to the sovereign, youths are usually the target due to their attractive characteristics, and the physiological factor that make them easily influenced by trends that are hot and new.

This weakness is often exploited by certain parties without caring for what is good or bad. This exploitation, according to the ruler, should not be ignored. It should be handled seriously, especially by the youth leaders themselves.

Hence, before this social issue becomes more chronic, programmes promoting awareness should be organised including the parents and community.

His Majesty also said that he understood that the impact of products in the form of entertainment and costumes for youth is minimal, however, he believed that whatever that is nurtured, that would be the end results.

Therefore, we should take caution and

carry out a self evaluation for the excellence of the youth and everyone.

His Majesty also said that the youth are always seen as the pride of the nation and described them as a group that could shape the future and carry the nation's aspiration. The youths usually have their own programmes and agendas and they act and think with their own way. They are young and active, thus more activities could be carried out by them

However, His Majesty said that a society that is aware should not neglect its youth but look after them accordingly. We should not bow to the influence of money but take into account what would happen to our

* Continue on page 4



ROYAL REGALIA BUILDING HOUSES UNIQUE COLLECTION OF BRUNEI'S ROYAL ARTEFACTS. THE BUILDING WHICH IS SITUATED IN THE CAPITAL WAS ESTABLISHED TO COMMEMORATE THE 1992 SILVER JUBILEE OF HIS MAJESTY'S ACCESSION TO THE THRONE. (PICTURE: THE ROYAL CHARIOT, ONE OF ITEMS EXHIBITED AT THE BUILDING)

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Palace Newsround



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

- 1) The Honourable Clare Martin MLA, Chief Minister of The Northern Territory of Australia on August 9.
- 2) His Excellency Mr. Yoshinobu Nisaka, the outgoing Japan's Ambassador to Brunei on August 9.
- 3) His Excellency Mr. Butshikan Singh, the outgoing India's High Commissioner to Brunei on August 9.

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



- 1) Madam Hedayet Sabina Afroz, spouse of the newly appointed High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on August 8.
- 2) Madam Yoshiko Nisaka, spouse of the outgoing Japan's Ambassador to Brunei on August 8.



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

- 1) His Excellency Bader bin Hamad Al-Busaid, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman on August 7. His Excellency was in Brunei attending the 9th Bilateral Consultative Meeting between Brunei Darussalam and the Sultanate of Oman.
- 2) The Honourable Clare Martin MLA, the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory of Australia on August 9. The Honourable was on official tour to Brunei.
- 3) His Excellency Yoshinobu Nisaka, the outgoing Japan's Ambassador to Brunei on August 14.
- 4) His Excellency Nan SY, the newly appointed Cambodian Ambassador to Brunei on August 16.



* From page one
(National Youth Day)

youth if they are not guided properly. As the leader of the future, our youth should not show an image and attitude that is not inline with the national mould.

Besides that, our youth should also possess the necessary education and skills. This could be achieved through ordinary

and specialised trainings. With that in mind, the government has provided various educational institutions for attaining such knowledge and expertise to enable the country to achieve excellence for a long time to come.

His Majesty also stated that Brunei Darussalam would be celebrating every August 1 as a National Youth Day.

The National Youth Day is purposely celebrated on August 1 as the date holds a significant meaning where His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam ascended to the throne in 1967. This would also be a medium to celebrate youth leaders who contributed immensely to the development of the youth of this nation-state.

Continous efforts needed for youth development

BERAKAS, August 1 - All relevant agencies were urged to continue their efforts and be responsive on various matters pertaining to youth's affairs and development.

This was stated by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports in his welcoming address during the National Youth Day celebration.

Pehin Major General (R) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Mohammad said, this is especially in channeling youths' energy towards becoming individuals who are responsible towards one another. The Minister said this long-term requirement can hopefully be managed by agencies in youth development through quality programmes such as Diploma In Youth Development Work which will be implemented shortly in collaboration with the Commonwealth Youth Programme.

Eight awarded "Prominent Dedicated Youth Leader"

BERAKAS, August 1 - In conjunction with the National Youth Day, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present award of appreciation to eight "Prominent Dedicated Youth Leaders".

The awards were in recognition of their efforts and involvement in youth associations which contributed to the development of youth in the Sultanate.

They were Pengiran Setia Negara Pengiran Doctor Haji Mohd Yusuf; Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Mokhtar Puteh; Pehin Dato Seri Utama Doctor Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd Zain; Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz; Pehin Dato Seri Paduka Doctor Haji Awang Hussein; Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Jaya; Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Badaruddin and Pengiran Suhaimi.



His Majesty and the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia at the meeting.



The emergency meeting gathers 19 leaders from Islamic countries.

Brunei ready to provide assistance

PUTRAJAYA, August 3 - Brunei Darussalam is ready to provide any assistance to stop the conflict in Lebanon.

This was stated by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Meeting of the Friends of the Chair of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference at the Marriot Hotel in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

With that in mind, His Majesty urged the Organisation of Islamic Conference to take immediate measures so that the conflict would end in Lebanon.

At this emergency meeting, His Majesty also expressed that the people of Brunei

Darussalam were shocked with the latest incident. He said that what happened to Lebanon is dreadful and has shown that the international community has failed to unite.

The sovereign also reiterated that although he was uncertain of the actions to be taken by the United Nations, His Majesty assured OIC that Brunei Darussalam would join other OIC member countries in any ways possible, and would consider the request for humanitarian aid and peacekeeping activities.

Among the agendas discussed at the meeting were humanitarian aid and the

redevelopment of Lebanon; and to find solutions for immediate ceasefire on the conflict.

The meeting was chaired by The Right Honourable Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, the Prime Minister of Malaysia who was also the Chairman of the 10th Islamic Summit Conference. It was attended by 19 leaders from Islamic countries including the Secretary General of OIC, His Excellency Professor Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu.

Two declarations namely; Putrajaya Declaration on the situation in Lebanon; and Putrajaya Declaration on the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories were issued at the end of the meeting.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

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

- His Excellency Sellapan Rama Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong in conjunction with the republic's 41st National Day on August 9.
- His Excellency Bambang Susilo Yudhoyono, the President of the Republic of Indonesia in conjunction with the republic's 61st Independence Day anniversary on August 17.
- His Majesty Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin ibni Almarhum Syed Putra Jamalullail, Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and his Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Datuk Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi in conjunction with Malaysia's 49th Independence Day anniversary on August 31.

Boost for *Halal* products

BERAKAS, August 7 – Brunei Darussalam's industry of *halal* products received a boost as the first International *Halal* Products Expo 2006 was showcased in the country recently. It marked an important beginning for Brunei Darussalam in its efforts to venture into the lucrative market of *halal* products and services.

Present to grace the occasion was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

According to the sovereign, he has every confidence and belief that Brunei Darussalam, as an Islamic nation, is well equipped and has the comparative advantage to position itself to become one of the leading players in the global *halal* market.

"We are all aware of the vast opportunities in the US\$560 billion annual market for the whole *Halal* industry. The *Halal* food sector alone is estimated to be worth US\$150 billion annually. It is clear that there is plenty of room for everyone to work together and benefit from this huge potential,

"Brunei Darussalam is amongst those who are moving forward to tap



His Majesty receives a briefing on one of local products at the exhibition.

into this market. Not only is this in line with our strategy to establish a competitive niche in diversifying our economy, but also the making of *Halal* food more readily available for the Muslime consumers is a 'Fardhu Kifayah'. As Muslims, we undertake these efforts to seek, first and foremost, the blessings of Allah The Almighty for it is stated in the Surah Al-Baqarah (Verse 172): "O you who believe. Eat of the lawful things that We provided you with, and be grateful to Allah, if it is indeed He Whom you worship",

"All nations, in particular the Muslim nations, can and indeed, should work together to benefit from this. Through the exchange of views, knowledge and experiences, especially in the development of the *Halal* Standards, we can all enhance our own understanding of what is required to succeed in this business. By partnering with the more developed countries in investment and

technology transfer, we will be able to develop our own capacity in the production of *Halal* products and services," said His Majesty.

The International *Halal* Product Expo (IHPE) 2006 was held from August 7 to 11, in conjunction with His Majesty's 60th birthday celebration. Among the objectives of IHPE were to create awareness among the public on the commitment of the government regarding the production and certification of *Halal* food products; to promote the Brunei Premium *Halal* Brand; and to provide opportunities for foreign companies to invest in Brunei Darussalam.

A total of 100 booths were allocated to exhibit and sell *Halal* products by various companies from Australia; host country, Brunei; China; Indonesia; Malaysia, Philippines; Singapore; and Thailand. Their exhibits were classified to *Halal* Food Sector, *Halal* Certified Premises Sector, Non Food Category, Related Associations and Bodies and also Islamic Finance, Insurance and Investment Services.

A two-day seminar was also held as part of the IHPE. A total of five local speakers and 15 international speakers delivered five core topics on Brunei *Halal* Market Overview; Market Potential and Investment Opportunities for *Halal* Product; *Halal* Certification and Processes, *Halal* Science and Logistics and Islamic Baking and Finance. The IHPE seminar carried a theme 'Going Global with *Halal* Products.'

The IHPE also provides facilities and opportunities for entrepreneurs from Brunei and other countries to expand their business network on the production and trading of *Halal* certified food products.



Frozen foods are among the products on exhibit at the IHPE.

MoU to explore Brunei Premium *Halal* Brand



Deputy Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Hamdilah (centre) witnesses the signing of MoU to explore Brunei Premium *Halal* Brand.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 7 – The signing of Memorandum of Understanding, (MoU) between the Government of Brunei Darussalam with a number of companies from Australia was one of the initiatives that have been undertaken to make Brunei Darussalam as one of the leading player in the global *Halal* map.

The signing of this MoU is with the desire to explore mutual beneficial means for the commercial development of the Brunei Premium *Halal* Brand.

Signing on behalf of Government of Brunei Darussalam was the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Hamid.

Meanwhile on behalf of the companies from Australia was the companies' representatives.

Teaching Education with its own niche area

TUNGKU, August 10

— The teaching profession received strong prominence from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Golden Jubilee of the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education.

His Majesty expressed his hope to see the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education as truly a teaching centre with its own niche area known regionally and internationally. It is possible to achieve this vision, said His Majesty, given the human resource and expertise of the institute. What is needed is to strengthen the institute's authority, expand relations and its networking with the world's renown teaching education institutes as well as honing the knowledge and skills of its workforce.

"The success of these efforts will be seen when the teaching institute produces its own graduates who would not only be in demand to work at institutes in the public sector but also in private sector, locally or abroad," said His Majesty.

Earlier on, the sovereign also said now that the Teaching Education is fifty years



Group photo of His Majesty and members of royal family with former principals, directors, deans, deputy principals, deputy directors, and deputy deans who were involved in the teaching education between 1956 to 2006.

old, it is only appropriate that the teaching education institute to continue create top quality, stable trainings and provisions. The teachers and would-be teachers must be instilled with an all-round skill, be it in teaching or general knowledge.

"The teachers produced by the institution must be knowledgeable and possess the characteristics associated with the teaching profession. They must be authoritative, dedicated, caring and committed to their tasks and responsibilities. If we have skilled and quality teachers, then we can hope to produce quality students," added His

Majesty.

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

During the celebration, His Majesty consented to present souvenirs to 14 former principals, directors and deans, assistant principals, assistant director, and assistant dean who held the posts between 1976 and 2000.

More houses and land lots for citizens

MUARA, August 15 — One hundred and twenty one people received their land grants and key to their new homes held at the Kapok Primary School.

Present to grace the ceremony was His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

From the total recipients; 16 received land grants under Indigenous Landless Scheme based at Kampong Lambak Kiri; 24 received keys to 'Class E' house under the Indigenous Landless Scheme at Kampong Tungku (Katok 'A'); 15 received keys to 'Class E' house under the Indigenous Landless Scheme at Kampong Mata-Mata (Katok 'B'); and one received a key to 'Class C' house under the Indigenous Landless Scheme at Kampong Rimba.

Twenty-seven received their keys to semi-detached house based at Kampong Rimba, Gadong; while four received keys to houses built by developers under the Indigenous Landless Scheme based at Kampong Tungku (Katok 'A'), Kampong Rimba, and Kampong Madang; and 34 received land grants under the housing grants on the Temporary On Lease (TOL) Land based at the Brunei Muara District.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has always put the welfare of her citizens a priority, hence, these housing schemes handled by the Department of Housing Development, has a mission to provide safe, quality and affordable housing to Brunei citizens.

There are three types of housing schemes namely; National Housing Scheme Resettlement Scheme; and the Landless Indigenous Citizens Housing Scheme.

In the earlier phase of its introduction, there were five types of housings namely; Type 'A' with a 167 sq. m wide at a cost of \$95,000; Type 'B' with 144 sq. m at a cost of \$82,000. These two types of houses are no longer offered for applicants since 1985. While Type 'C', 'D' and 'E' with each measuring 115, 100 and 90 sq. m, costing at \$71,000, \$62,000 and \$52,000 respectively. Each model is a one-storey house.

Meanwhile four new models were also



One of the recipients receives the key to his new home from His Majesty.

introduced with the 'Deluxe', 'Standard', 'Basic' and 'Terrace' models designed as a two-storey house. The 'Deluxe' is 170 sq. m, the 'Standard' is 155 sq. m, the 'Basic' is 140 sq. m while the 'Terrace' is 90 sq. m, with the price ranging from \$43,000 to \$71,000.

While a Temporary on Lease (TOL) Land Scheme was introduced in 1985.

Utmost prominence for teachings from *Israk Mikraj*

TUTONG, August 21 - The teachings from *Israk Mikraj* should be given an utmost prominence and embraced in this era which is full with challenges and declining charitable acts.

This was highlighted by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the National *Israk Mikraj* celebration held at Tutong Civic Centre.

His Majesty said that as more progress is made, more religious and moral values are threatened. Lives and assets which are normally protected and cherished now seem valueless.

"Just look at the new warfare, where those who are powerful would simply drop bombs and guided missiles on targets that should not be targeted at such as homes, public buildings, market places, airports, bridges, highways and farms where people work for their livelihood,"

His Majesty urged the people to see what is happening with conscience and full realisation, and to take the perfect guidance provided by Islam.

Israk Mikraj taught Muslims to persevere and confident even in the face of the worst situations.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of awards to the winners of *Takmir* Mosque Awards for the year 1427 Hijrah (Islamic calendar) in various categories by His Majesty.



Representative from Sinaut Mosque in Tutong District receives an award from His Majesty after the mosque was announced as the winner for *Imarah* category.

The *Takmir* Mosque Awards for *Imarah* (activity to glorify mosque) category went to Kampung Sinaut Mosque in Tutong Districts; and the *Idarah* (proper and efficient management of mosque facilities) category won by Kampung Pintu Malim Mosque, Brunei Muara District.

Meanwhile Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque of Kampung Katimahar, Brunei Muara District won the *Ri'ayah* (maintaining the cleanliness of building in mosques and surroundings) category. The Youth Category was won by Kampung Tamoi Mosque, also from Brunei Muara District; the category is penalised by the formation of *belia masjid* (a group of youth) which arranges youth activities (religious, charitable and beneficial) efficiently and accordingly.

Royalty at *Israk Mikraj* celebration

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, August 21 - Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar attended a ceremony to mark the *Israk Mikraj* celebration at Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah and other members of royal family. The auspicious event was attended by over 6000 guests.

Royal visit to a school, government and private agencies

MUARA, August 13 - Following the presentation of house keys to new homes and land lots, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei visited a school, homes of recipients and various agencies.

Kapok Primary School, the venue for the event was the first place on the list. The school was built on 3.24 hectares of land on October 3, 1997 and completed by May, 1999. Currently, there are 300 students with 23 educators. The school is equipped with classrooms, science room, computer room, library and *surau* (praying area).

His Majesty's also visited Meragang Aquaculture Development Centre of Fishery Department, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources; and Hatchery Centre of Seiwa Corporation Sdn Bhd under the Semaun Holdings. The Aquaculture Development Centre was built under the 8th Development Plan by Fishery Department; with the aims to enhance the development of Brunei's aquaculture industry. The centre

functions to carry out researches and new verifications production technology; and breeding the species, which has potential for development of aquaculture industry. Among the facilities available at the \$3.7 million centre are hatchery block, fish breeding block and administration block.

Next, His Majesty visited the Youth Development Centre, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. The centre offers various skilled programs such as cakes and pastry-making, catering, and administrative works. His Majesty then proceeded to TIBA Cooperative Filling Station. The station is on a 0.75 hectare of land with a cost of almost \$500,000; commenced operation on July 22, 1999.

Also visited were several homes of recipients including home of village heads of Kampong Kapok and Kampong Sungai Hanching/Salambigar. The sovereign also went to Interline (B) Sdn Bhd and Setia Motors Sdn Bhd which is located in Beribi

Industrial Complex II in Gadong.

The Interline (B) Sdn Bhd was formerly known as Interline Roofing Co. Sdn. Bhd. established in 1990. The company is the first local company in Brunei Darussalam to manufacture quality metal roofing material. The main products are trapezoidal roofing profiles, roofing accessories including gutters, fascia, capping and flashing, as well as portable cabins. On July 14, 1992, the company became the first company to achieve the ISO 9000 quality accreditation in Brunei Darussalam (ISO 9002). In the mid second quarter of 2000, The Interline Roofing Co. Sdn. Bhd. was renamed Interline (B) Sdn Bhd, a move to go into regional and international market with more diversified products and services apart from just roofing material. Meanwhile, Setia Motors Sdn Bhd is a dealer of Hyundai cars.



Among the participants for the Malam Serumpun Seri 60.



Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri consent to attend the colourful celebration.

Malam Serumpun Seri 60, a 4-in-1 gala

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 5 – The much awaited Malam Serumpun Seri 60, a 4-in-1 gala was held as part of the celebration in honour of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 60th birthday anniversary.

The four-in-one celebration comprised of the final of ASEAN Invitational Tug-of-War Competition; floats procession; cultural performances and fireworks display.

These took place at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien where thousands came to watch the colourful event. The performances that night was not only participated by local artists but it also featured performances from several members of the ASEAN countries.

The evening started with floats procession involving 20 decorated vehicles comprising of government ministries, the private sector, individuals, villages as well as non-governmental organisations. Nine decorated bicycles also took part in the procession.

Besides these, a spectacular display of fireworks throughout the evening was visible, adding more vibrant to the festive mood.

Present at this gala were His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri, His Royal Highness The Crown Prince, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri and other members of the royal family.



One of the float processions taking part at the celebration.

The evening was made more special as the inaugural ASEAN tug-of-war competition was held where the hosting country emerged as champions, winning the Sultan's Trophy after defeating the team from Malaysia. Winner of the competition received \$10,000 in cash prize, a trophy and medals. Meanwhile teams representing Indonesia and Thailand came third and fourth respectively.

Konsert Dirgahayu Emas celebrate His Majesty's birthday

JERUDONG, August 12 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar attended the 'Konsert Dirgahayu Emas' at the Jerudong Park Amphitheatre. The concert was held in conjunction with His Majesty's 60th birthday celebration.

Also present at the concert were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah and other members of royal family.

The concert featured dances and singing from local artists and guest artists from Indonesia. His Majesty's grand daughter, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Hariisah Widadul Bolkihah also performed two English songs at the concert.



Their Majesties, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri and members of royal family in a group photo with the performers at the Konsert Dirgahayu Emas.



Group photo of Their Majesties, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri and members of the royal family with Chairman and Senior Management Officers of HSBC.



The Commissioner of Royal Brunei Police Force, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Zainuddin presents a souvenir on the occasion of His Majesty's 60th birthday anniversary.

More banquets hosted to celebrate HM's birthday

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 19 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri attended a banquet hosted by the Royal Brunei Police Force. The banquet was held on occasion of His Majesty's 60th birthday anniversary at the Assarraa Hall near the capital.

Meanwhile on August 15, Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri also had attended a banquet hosted by Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC). The banquet was held at the Empire Theatre of the Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong.

Society responsible for upkeep of environment

GADONG, AUGUST 10 – A clean and beautiful environment far from environmental pollution permits people of the nation to enjoy a healthy and prosperous life. The spirit of love for the environment should be instilled among all members of society especially the youths, and adults should be good role models by maintaining the cleanliness of their surroundings and also public areas. These was highlighted by Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha at the opening of the "Cleanliness and Landscape Competition" and "Live Flower Show" at The Rizqun International Hotel, The Mall, Gadong. Activities that generate support and participation from society to maintain the cleanliness and beauty of the country's environment should also be continued, said

Her Majesty.

The competition which was jointly conducted by the Women's Institute and Department of Environment, Park and Recreation was held in conjunction with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang-Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 60th birthday celebrations.

Present were Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Noor Ehsani.

A total of ten categories were competed in the contest. The winners from each category received their prizes from Her Majesty The Raja Isteri.



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri launches the Cleanliness and Landscape Competition and Live Flower Show.



His Majesty and the Malaysian Prime Minister in one-to-one meeting.

Brunei, Malaysia Minister Exchange Soon

MALAYSIA, August 23 — Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia are to exchange ministers annually. The proposed Ministerial annual exchange will enhance and upgrade ties even further. The implementation of the new programme will be made at the Ministerial Level and will be known as 'Brunei Darussalam-Malaysia Annual Ministerial Exchange Programme'. It is another step towards bringing members of both governments closer. That was among the outcome of current high level talks between the leaders of the two countries at the 10th Annual Consultation between Brunei and Malaysia.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia for a three-day working visit starting from August 23 to 25. His Majesty arrived in Malaysia on August 23.

During the three-day working visit, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Malaysian Prime

Minister, The Right Honourable Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi held a one-to-one meeting at Awana Kijal Golf, Beach & Spa Resort near Kemaman.

The two leaders discussed regional as well as international affairs of mutual interest encompassing the political, economic and security areas. At the meeting, Brunei Darussalam agreed to send a small contingent of about 100 troops together with the Malaysian contingent to Lebanon to participate in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Malaysia and Brunei also agreed to build the Trans-Borneo Highway to facilitate travel between the two countries in the future. The proposed highway will link Kuching (Sarawak) to Brunei and Sabah. Both governments also agreed to come up with traveling procedures without using the passport while traveling between Sabah and Brunei. However, issue on the petroleum involving both countries has yet to be resolved and is still discussed at the

officer's level.

During the visit, His Majesty also attended a dinner hosted by the Malaysian Prime Minister. His Majesty also visited Petronas Regional Office at Kertih, Terengganu.

On August 25, His Majesty consented to a horse riding session together with The Sultan of Terengganu, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin. His Majesty and The Sultan of Terengganu also consented to attend a breakfast hosted by the Prime Minister of Malaysia at the Window Steak House, Awana Kijal Golf, Beach and Spa Resort.

His Majesty and The Sultan of Terengganu also performed Friday prayers at the Beris Meraga Mosque in Kijal, Terengganu. Also in attendance was the Malaysian Prime Minister. His Majesty and The Right Honourable soon after attended a luncheon hosted by the Sultan of Terengganu, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin at the Awana Grand Ball Room, Awana Kijal Golf, Beach and Spa Resort.



His Majesty and His Majesty The Sultan of Terengganu during a horse riding session at the Awana Kijal Golf and Beach Resort.



In Terengganu, His Majesty visits the Petronas' Petroleum Industrial Complex.

Sovereign attends thanksgiving ceremony

BERAKAS, AUGUST 17 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to grace a thanksgiving ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty's 60th birthday celebrations at the International Convention Centre.

Present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

More than 8,000 people led by the Minister of Home Affairs along with his deputy; Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Offices; Permanent Secretaries from various ministries, Director-General of Public Services Department, and District Officers of Brunei-Muara, Tutong, Belait and Temburong, as well as *penghulus* of *mukims*, business associations, non-governmental organisations, higher learning institutions, colleges and schools participated in the ceremony.

This was one of the main events at the national level that was organised with the participation of all levels of the community throughout the nation both in the government and private sector.

The giant holy Al-Quran named "*Mushaf Nurul Iman*" as a token of appreciation was given to His Majesty.

The publication of the *Mushaf Nurul Iman* is an effort to glorify the greatness and purity of the Quran that serves as the guidance to all Muslims. It is handwritten by a group of writers from Universiti Sains Al-Quran Wonosobo in Central Java, Indonesia.



'Mushaf Nurul Iman' as a souvenir for His Majesty.

Brunei and Malaysia discuss FTC Project



Dato Haji Yusof, Permanent Secretary of Brunei's Ministry of Home Affairs and Tan Sri Aseh, Malaysian Secretary General of the Ministry of Home Affairs at the meeting.

BANDAR SER BEGAWAN, August 7 - Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia have achieved several objectives through cooperation and good working relationship. Currently, the success in improving and providing service to the public is with the use of the Frequent Travelers Cards, FTC. This was highlighted by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs at the 5th Technical Working Group Committee Meeting on FTC Project between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. Dato Seri Setia Haji Yusof said, through the implementation of the pilot project, both countries have gained knowledge and learned a lot from their experiences.

Meanwhile Malaysian Secretary General at the Ministry of Home Affairs, Tan Sri Aseh said FTC pilot project which have been implemented from July 1, 2005 to December 31 of the same year, had proved to be a success. Tan Sri said its purpose was to facilitate and automate immigration clearance for Malaysians and Bruneians who frequently cross the Brunei-Malaysia Border, without compromising both countries standards of security. The pilot project was carried out at the Sungai Tujoh Control Post in Kuala Belait and corresponding Control post in Miri, Sarawak for the Bruneian dan Malaysian with a record of at least five exits and entries in a month.

ASEAN Day Message from Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 8 - The founding of ASEAN nearly forty years ago set a remarkable challenge for Southeast Asia's future generations. It encouraged them to live together in peace and understanding in a region that had along been in fearful turmoil.

The matter was stated by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in a message on occasion with ASEAN Day.

His Royal Highness added that, the first of these generations is now able to look back on its efforts to meet that challenge. Its members have already become the leaders of our region in all walks of life and they have brought it greater respect that ever before in international affairs. The second generation is in the process of inheriting their work and building on that of their predecessors.

"We are now looking at our third ASEAN generation," said His Royal Highness.

The ASEAN Day theme for this year is "ASEAN and Young People". It is a theme that should give great pleasure and pride; as young people are the embodiment of ASEAN's Vision.

His Royal Highness further added that, in all ASEAN countries nowadays; young people had been given greater opportunities that any generations as they can expect to be more knowledgeable and be far more able to develop their talents both at home and in the world outside their country.

"In Brunei Darussalam, we regard this as our children's and grandchildren's birthright. It is a gift handed on to them by their own forefathers and by those who founded ASEAN. We hoped they will value it, respect it and strengthen it so that they, too, will pass it on to their own children and grandchildren," said His Royal Highness.

In the message, His Royal Highness also thanked the young people for the excellent contribution they have always made to the country and its development.

New headquarters for Ministry of Defence

BOLKIAH GARISSON, August 8 – His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at Prime Minister's Office consented to officiate the foundation-laying ceremony of the Ministry of Defence's new headquarters.

His Royal Highness also received a briefing on the construction's progress of the project and later viewed a mini exhibition of drawings and computer animation of the tower block.

The construction of the Ministry of Defence new headquarters commenced on January 26, 2006 on a site area of 31,000 sq. m. The new headquarters cost approximately \$41 million and expected to be complete by July 25, 2007. The building would consist of eight-storey tower block and five outer blocks at four-storey high. The conceptual design of the Ministry of Defence's headquarters was inspired by the Five-Star rank symbolising the leadership of the Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince General officiates the foundation-laying ceremony of the new Defence Ministry headquarters.

Ensure homes are safe for children



One of the winners of Healthy Baby Competition receives a prizes from Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah.

JALAN MUARA, August 11 - Parents are urged to ensure that their homes are safe for their children. Medicines and sharp tools should be kept at a safe place that could not be reached by the children. While domestic helpers who are given the responsibility to care for the children should be given proper instructions.

These were among the issues highlighted by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah at the Healthy Baby Competition. Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nurul Bolkiah.

Her Royal Highness also stated that parents need to take extra precaution and also to take a closer watch on the movement of their toddlers particularly in areas where they frequently play at. This is because most of the accidents happened at the toddlers' own home which should be a safe haven for them.

More than 370 toddlers in the Brunei Muara District took part in the Healthy Baby Show that was held in conjunction with His Majesty's 60th birthday anniversary. Her Royal Highness presented prizes to the winners of the competition.

Say 'NO' to drug abuse

GADONG, August 26 - Installing the sense of responsibility in their children and practicing an open attitude in discussing their children's problem is an important element in guiding the children away from the influence of drug dealers and users. This is the role that the family plays.

This is because children and youth are facing more personal problems and social pressure which led some of them to drug abuse. Many reasons were given by youth involved in this immoral conduct where among others included peer pressure and a way to enhance their physical and mental endurance.

This was stated by Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azamah Ni'matul Bolkiah at the final of BASMIDA's Anti-Drug Oratory Competition for form six students from secondary schools and colleges throughout the country.

Her Royal Highness also urged schools to play their role in protecting these youths from drug abuse and by being more alert on the drug dealers and users in the school's environment.

The anti-drug oratory competition was divided into two categories which are Malay and English.

Her Royal Highness consented to

present the prizes to the winners; Siti Khairunnisa binti Awang Rosli of Sayyiddina Ali Secondary School for the Malay category and overall winner; and Dayangku Mumtazah binti Pengirah Mohd Jaafar from the Hassanal Bolkiah Boys Arabic Secondary School for the English category.

BASMIDA is a non-governmental organisation which exist to assist and support government agencies to drug abuse problems in the country. She was formed in 1987.

The competition took place at the Civil Service Institute in Rimba.

Crown Prince Visits Directorate Of Training

BOLKIAH GARRISON, AUGUST 29 - His Royal Highness Prince General Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, The Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and General, Royal Brunei Armed Forces, made a working visit to one of the directorates at the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF).

During the working visit to the Directorate of Training, His Royal Highness was briefed on the structure and organisation of the directorate by Colonel (U) Hamid Haji Nayan, Director of Training, MINDEF.

His Royal Highness also consented to visit several departments under the directorate and interacted with the personnel.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office who is also the Pro-Chancellor of Universiti of Brunei Darussalam views the exhibition at the Convo Fiesta.

Crown Prince launches Pesta Konvo

GADONG, August 31- His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and UBD Pro-Chancellor, launched the Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) Convocation Festival 2006.

The week-long celebration was held in conjunction with the 18th convocation of UBD. His Royal Highness toured an exhibition held at the basement floor of Chancellor Hall, UBD which highlighted the university's education technology, information communication technology, library, students' association and university's welfare bodies. Books, computers and stationery were also for sale.

Among the activities organised by students during the festival were exhibitions and bazaars. Pesta Konvo is aimed at instilling a spirit of cooperation, dedication and commitment amongst UBD students in conducting activities in conjunction with the convocation festival.

Communiqué to enhance Malay language

JAKARTA, July 31 – Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Indonesia signed a joint communiqué at the Istana Bogor which enabled a further strengthening and an enhancing of the Malay/Indonesia language at both national and international level.

The three members of Majlis Bahasa Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia (MABBIM) signed the joint communiqué.

MABBIM, which is the Language Council of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia Conference, was established on December 29, 1972 with its original members comprising of Indonesia and Malaysia. Brunei Darussalam became the third member on November 4, 1985.

Present on behalf of Brunei Darussalam was the Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar.



Reception – Singapore

Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar with wife and His Excellency Joseph KH Koh, Singapore High Commissioner to Brunei with wife at the reception to celebrate the 41st National Day of Singapore on August 9 at the Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong.



Reception – Indonesia

Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Suyoi with wife and His Excellency Herijanto Soeprapto, Indonesian Ambassador to Brunei with wife at a reception to celebrate the 61st Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia on August 23 at the Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong.

ASEAN Journalist visit program

BERAKAS, August 14 – Twenty-two print media and electronic television journalists participated in the four-day ASEAN Journalist Visit Program (AJVP) which was held from August 13 to 17 in Brunei Darussalam.

The AJVP was one of the projects under Brunei Darussalam's ASEAN-COCI (Committee On Culture and Information) and organised by Sub-Committee on Information ASEAN-COCI Brunei Darussalam.

The program among others aims to give more understanding to the ASEAN journalists on the development, policies and related information about the country visited. The visit program also hopes to enhance the cooperation among the media associations. It is also aligned with the objective of ASEAN-COCI and Hanoi Plan of Action that promotes intra-ASEAN awareness among media and community.

The journalists attended talks on the development of Brunei's economy, trade, development and tourism from various government agencies and also visited the Kuala Belalong National Park located in Temburong.



Participants of ASEAN Journalist Visit Program greeted by Haji Ahmad bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Acting Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office.

RBA's General Advice to Customers

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 15 – Due to the recent incident at the London Heathrow Airport; governments around the world are imposing restrictions on the contents of cabin luggage in response to specific security threats and intelligence.

Brunei Darussalam's national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) has provided the following general advised in relations to above matters, that is; to be alert to developments and stay in touch with the news and other official sources for changes. Customers are advised not to pack any fluids, gel or toiletries in hand

luggage on flights to countries where they are prohibited, especially if it is an onward connection. Try to pack toiletries, contact lens solutions and other liquids or gels in the checked luggage, wherever you are travelling, as more countries may extend the restrictions with little or no notice.

Passengers are advised to arrive early at the airport. When returning from your destination, know the hand luggage restrictions and pack anything else not essential. For those who travelling with medicines (especially in gel, cream or liquid form), make sure they are properly labelled

and please carry copies of the prescriptions or certifications.

Other advices include; wearing light, comfortable shoes that can be easily removed for security checks. Be patient and cooperate with instructions from security staff and do not joke about the contents of your baggage. Buy duty free alcohol or perfumes on arrival not prior to departure, or in flight, to countries where cabin baggage restrictions now apply.

For more details on the advice, log on to www.brunelair.com

More benefits from Royal Skies

BERAKAS, August 25 – Members of the national carrier's, Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) frequent flyer programme will now enjoy more benefits as it has expanded its wings through a partnership with Cyberview Lodge Sdn Bhd (Cyberview Lodge Resort & Spa) and Pujaan Pasifik Sdn Bhd (Langkawi Lagoon Resort).

Present at the signing ceremony were Shaheen Shah Mohd Sidek, the General Manager of Cyberview Lodge Sdn Bhd and Annuar Yang Ghazali, the Senior General Manager of Pujaan Pasifik Sdn Bhd. Present on behalf of the airline were Captain Sheikh

Rashid Sheikh Haji Abdul Salam, the Senior Vice President Commercial and Haji Rozman Haji Junaidi, the Acting Head of Corporate Communications.

Royal Skies was introduced on May 2003 where members will earn actual miles on every Royal Brunei Airlines' flight. To date, it has expanded partnerships with 12 hotels across the region namely; Royal On The Park; The Empire Hotel & Country Club, Brunei Darussalam; The Centrepont Hotel, Brunei Darussalam; Hyatt Hotels & Resorts (Worldwide); Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces; Royal Plaza on Scotts, Singapore;

Angkor Century Resort and Spa, Cambodia; The Dorchester London; Le Meurice Paris; Plaza Athenee Paris; Hotel Principe di Savoia in Milan, Italy; and The Beverly Hills Hotel, USA.

Members will also receive benefits by dining at various local restaurants, renting cars at two of the local car rentals agencies, and if you are a credit card holder of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) that is issued in Brunei Darussalam.

More benefits are in store for RBA's Royal Skies. More information are available at the carrier's website: www.brunelair.com

Brunei Darussalam GDP for 2005 estimates at \$15.9 billion

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 14 – The Department of Economic Planning and Development (JPKE) has implemented the "Action Plan to Improve National Account Statistics in Brunei Darussalam" by revising the national account series, particularly the estimates of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

This was announced by the Acting Director General of the Department of Economic Planning and Development, Haji Awang bin Haji Mat Daud at the media conference on the Annual National Accounts for year 2000 to 2005.

The revision of any statistical series is a common procedure undertaken by countries in order to maintain a consistent time series. Based on the new series, GDP for Brunei Darussalam at current prices for year 2005 was estimated at \$15.9 billion, compared to \$9.8 billion based on the previous series, said the Acting Director General.

He further added that the series for year 2000 to 2005 would be released in the Annual National Accounts publications which present the annual GDP estimated with 2000 as base year. Gross Domestic Product estimates are prepared in current and constant prices by economic activity, that is using the 'production approach' and by final expenditure components known as the 'expenditure approach'. This is the

first time that the expenditure approach had been used in the GDP compilation for Brunei.

There were major findings from the GDP series for year 2000 to 2005. In year 2000, GDP for Brunei was estimated \$10.3 billion at current prices and it increased to \$15.9 billion in year 2005. From the total GDP, about 57 per cent was contributed by oil sector, while remaining 43 per cent was from non-oil sector comprised the government sector (15 per cent) and the private sector (28 per cent). Meanwhile

GDP by expenditure approach showed that exports of goods and services contributed 68 per cent to the total GDP.

It was also found that from year 2000 to 2005, the economy expanded in real terms at an average annual growth of two per cent. The oil sector grew by 0.8 per cent per annum, while the non-oil sector grew by 3.6 per cent per annum. The GDP per capita at current prices also showed an increased that is from \$31,800 in year 2000 to \$42,900 in year 2005.



Acting Director General of the Department of Economic Planning and Development, Haji Awang bin Haji Mat Daud and his officers at the press conference.

Yayasan Complex celebrate 10th anniversary

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 25 – The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation (Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah) celebrated the 10th anniversary of its shopping complex in the capital.

In conjunction with the anniversary, sale was conducted by every shops located within the complex building. Meanwhile, various activities were also organised to attract more people to join the celebration.

Among the activities held were ten-day Family Fun Day Bazaar, health and fitness show, Gleaneagles Clinic health screening and talk, car booth sale. Also held were anti-drug exhibition, cutie baby photo contest, burger eating contest, fruit salad contest, shoot that ball contest, search for a star contest, Datastream Technology (DST) showcase of latest products and services and public blood donation campaign.

Second Phase of Aceh Project

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 5 - The second phase of the humanitarian aid project in Aceh is expected to meet the completion deadline of September 10. The matter was revealed by Dato Paduka Haji Ali Hashim, the Managing Director of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation (YSHHB).

About 70 families who survived the devastating tsunami that hit Aceh, Indonesia on December 26, 2004 will be moved to a brand new village under the foundation's humanitarian aid project. The project that consists 70 housing units, a mosque, medical clinic, orphanage, school complete with hostels, library, classrooms and canteen will be completed before the fasting month of ramadhan.

According to the Managing Director, the funding of the second phase mainly came from donations from members of the public to two charity funds, namely YSHHB Initiative Humanitarian Fund for Tsunami Victims in Aceh and the Tsunami Victim Humanitarian Fund, under the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Consumer Price Index June 2006

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for June 2006 fell by 0.7 per cent over May 2006 with an index of 102.1. The fall was partly attributed to the Mid Year Sale which started from May 28 to June 30, 2006 (Table 1).

The cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages dropped by 0.3 per cent due to lower prices of noodle, milk, eggs, cooking oils, vegetables, fruits, coffee, tea, sauces and soup and snacks.

Lower price of ready-made clothing and accessories, materials for male and female and footwear led to the decreased of 8.4 per cent in the cost of clothing and footwear.

The cost of housing, water, electricity and maintenance fell by 0.2 per cent due to lower prices of accommodation.

The cost of household goods, services and operation declined by 2.6 per cent due to lower prices of furniture; floor covering; household furnishings; audio; video equipments and musical instrument, kitchen appliances and utensils, crockery and cutlery and household operation.

Lower price of certain computer accessories and magazines contributed to a 0.1 per cent reduction in education cost.

The cost of medical and health went down by 0.7 per cent due to lower prices of proprietary medicine and supplies and therapeutical appliances.

Higher prices of holiday packages led to a 0.1 per cent increase in the cost of recreation and entertainment.

The cost of miscellaneous goods and services rose by 1.2 per cent as a result of dearer prices of personnel effects and other personnel goods.

The cost of transport and communication remains the same.

The CPI in June 2006 was 0.5 per cent lower than that of the same month in 2005.

PetroleumBRUNEI signs MoU with Indonesian firm

JALAN MENTERI BESAR, August 24 - Brunei National Petroleum Company Sendirian Berhad (PetroleumBRUNEI) marked another milestone with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for mutual cooperation and strategic alliances with PT ELNUSA, a subsidiary of PT Pertamina (Persero), a distinguished player in the oil and gas services industry in Indonesia.

Signing on behalf of PetroleumBRUNEI was the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the company, Mohammad Reduan bin Haji

Mohd Yusof, while his counterpart was the President and Chief Executive Officer of PT ELNUSA, Mr. Rudy Radjab. The ceremony took place at PetroleumBRUNEI main office at the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Complex in the capital.

PetroleumBRUNEI is dedicated to the long-term socio-economic development of the country and hopes that the MoU with PT ELNUSA will create opportunities and broaden the company's operation in oil and gas industry, in line with its goal of securing a sustainable energy future for Brunei.

The MoU, according to Mr. Rudy Radjab also signifies a synergy between the two companies, which will help the development of the oil and gas industry in both countries. Furthermore, the MoU should also help to attract investment into both countries.

The MoU will provide both companies long-term mutual cooperation and assistance and also ensures collaboration to achieve a greater goal in the acquisition and management of oil fields within the Asian region.

World Breastfeeding Week 2006: Breastfeeding rooms open at shopping complex

GADONG, August 5 – The importance of breastfeeding was further emphasised with the launching of Breastfeeding Room at two major shopping complex in the country – The Mall and Hua Ho Mall.

The launching of the room coincided with the World Breastfeeding Week 2006 officially launched by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Suyoi, at The Mall.

In his speech, the minister said that the opening of the room at commercial areas is a good step towards supporting and

motivating the mother's effort to breastfeed. He further hoped that more rooms would be set up at shopping complexes, public buildings, government and private offices. The Ministry itself would provide the room at their ministry for breastfeeding.

The Minister also touched on the benefits of breastfeeding to the babies and mothers where colostrums (from breast milk) received by a baby, two to three days after birth would help to protect the child from diseases like asthma, allergy, and child cancer. If breastfeeding continues, it would

assist for faster development of sight, speech and intelligence. Meanwhile for mothers who do not breastfeed their baby, they would face higher risks of suffering from breast cancer, obesity, diabetes, heart attack and osteoporosis.

The Breastfeeding Room at Hua Ho Mall was launched in the afternoon by the Deputy Health Minister, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hazair and the Chairman of Hua Ho Departmental Store, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Lau Ah Kok.

Healthy Heart Month kicks off

JERUDONG, August 20 - Cardiovascular diseases are a leading medical problem in Brunei Darussalam. Amongst the heart diseases, coronary artery disease that leads to a heart attack is the most common. Heart disease accounts for 21.1 per cent of the total deaths in this country.

Therefore, members of the public are urged to pay more attention to their hearts.

These were highlighted by the Minister

of Health, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Suyoi at the official launching of the World Heart Month 2006 at Gleaneagles Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) in Jerudong.

According to the Minister, a healthy heart is vital for living life to the fullest, regardless of age and gender. Controlling major cardiovascular risk factors by choosing a healthy diet, being physically active and not smoking can prevent heart attacks and stroke and may help one to age more slowly.

Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Suyoi said that regular physical exercise can reduce the risk of stroke by over 25 per cent and the risk of coronary heart disease by over 40 per cent. The hearts of veteran athletes age 50 to 70 have been found to be strong and healthy as those of an inactive 20-year-old. The Minister pointed out that atherosclerosis complications are currently

the most deadly and disabling disease in affluent countries, and in the near future will be so in the entire world. Yet many individuals even those with severe atherosclerosis are unaware of the risk because they have no symptoms.

The Minister said in 30 to 50 per cent of patients, the first indicator of atherosclerosis is an acute heart attack which is often fatal. Every year about 15 million healthy looking people worldwide suddenly experience an unpredicted heart attack without prior symptoms leaving their families in shock. Cardiovascular disease, he said, is the single largest cause of death published.

Various activities were lined up to raise the awareness of heart diseases and preventive lifestyles to minimise heart disease. A public demonstration of Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) would be demonstrated at three schools as well as a mass exercise and aerobic session at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin in the capital in September.

Gleaneagles JPMC Sdn Bhd was invited by the Ministry of Health to co-organised with the campaign.



Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Suyoi views one of the exhibited items

Brunei Open 2006

JERUDONG, August 27 – Taiwan's Wang Ter-chang won the second edition of US\$300,000 Brunei Open after beating David Gleeson from Australia in a playoff. Wang walked away with prize money of US\$47,550. The 44 years old golfer now ranked seventh on the Asian Tour's UBS Order of Merit.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office consented to present the prizes for the winners of Brunei Open 2006 at the Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Brunei Open 2006, one of the major Brunei Tourism events in the Brunei's sporting events calendar officially teed off on August 24. Among the participants were last year Brunei Open's Champion, Australia's Terry Pilkadaris; Rahil Gangjee from India, Mardan Mamat from Singapore, and Lin Wen-Tang from Taiwan.

Representing Brunei at the events were the country's top players such as Pengiran Adam Pengiran Atan; Seruji Haji Setia; Suhaimi Ibrahim, Haji Arfian Haji Abdul Kadir, Haji Shahminan Haji Damit; and 15 years old reserve player, Young Tet Wee.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince presents the prize to Wang Ter-Chang, winner of Brunei Open 2006.

Asian Games Fun Run

BERAKAS, August 27 - Some 400 student from 11 primary and secondary schools throughout the country joined Asian Games Fun Run at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Berakas. Present to officiates the event was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council. Also present were Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Major General (R) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Awang Mohammad and officials from the ministry.

Organised by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council, the run involved children aged between 9 and 14, who were divided into three categories; 11 to 12-years-old boys category, 13 to 14-years-old girls category and 9 to 10 years-old boys category.

His Royal Highness also presented medals to the winners and certificates to participating schools. The 2km run was part of a series of official Asian Games Fun Runs, which were held in countries across Asia over the past two years. The runs aim to promote the 15th Asian Games Doha 2006, which will take place from December 1 to 15. It is the second largest multi-sport event in the world after the Summer Olympics Games.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah officiates the Asian Games Fun Run.

First Brunei Darussalam National Triathlon



One of the winners for the First Brunei Darussalam National Triathlon

SERASA, August 13 – One hundred and seventy people participated in the first-ever Brunei Darussalam National Triathlon. The event covered a course which involved 500 metres of open sea swimming, 42 kilometres of road cycling and 10 kilometres of road-run.

The event was divided into four categories; Men's Individual (19 years old and above); Men's Junior (18 years old and below); Men's Team Title; and Women's Team Title. The event was held in conjunction with His Majesty's 60th birthday celebration.

Men's Individual title went to Chung Kwei Ming; while Azmi bin Abdul Hadzid won the Men's Junior. Both champions received \$2,000 prize money. Meanwhile team Majlis Sukan ABDB 'A' (Sport Council of Royal Brunei Armed Forces 'A') grabbed the Men's Team Title and Women's Team Title went to team Newcomers. Both teams received \$1,500 prize money. Prizes were presented by Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Major General (R) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Mohammad.

Non-Governmental Youth Associations in Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam has a population of an estimated 357,800 people comprising of 186,200 male and 171,600 female of which 60 per cent of it is youth. Due to this significant percentage, the development of the youth particularly as the next generation to lead the country is given an ultimate concern by the government.



As such, the government, through the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports had established one department namely Youth and Sports Department with the mission to create and develop Brunei community towards excellence with youth and sports programmes. Besides that, Brunei also has its National Youth Policy with an objective to create an excellent Brunei Youth.

The declaration of every August 1 as the National Youth Day was positively received by youth in the country especially those in non-governmental youth associations. This serves as a platform of recognition for the contributions delivered by the youth in developing this country. It is further hoped that this celebration would inject fresh motivation in encouraging the youth towards an active involvement in their associations.

Currently, there are about 94 youth associations throughout the country; where 24 associations are based in Brunei Muara, 18 associations based in Tutong, 20 associations based in Belait and 11 associations based in Temburong. While out of this associations, there are nine national level non-governmental youth associations namely; the Brunei Youth Council; Council of Women of Brunei Darussalam (CWBD); The Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Programme (SSEAYP) Alumni Association of Brunei Darussalam (BERSATU); Alumni Society 21st Century (PERTAB 21); Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association (*Persatuan Pengakap Negara Brunei Darussalam*); Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association (*Persatuan Pandu Puteri Negara Brunei Darussalam*); Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society; Brunei Darussalam Anti Drug Association (BASMIDA); and AIDS/HIV Council.

Brunei Youth Council is established in 1959; it is the umbrella for youth associations in Brunei. The declaration of the National Youth Day is hoped to open up Brunei youths to the world and neighbouring countries, and will widen relations between Brunei Youth Council and the World Youth Council, the ASEAN Youth Council and others.

The Council of Women of Brunei Darussalam (CWBD) is the umbrella for women association in Brunei. The formation of CWBD was initiated by PERTWI and Women's Institute (WI) on November 7, 1985. This association strives to

improve the economic, cultural and social status of women. Besides social activities, CWBD is also actively involved in national level events such as National Day, His Majesty and Her Majesty Birthday celebration and national religious event.

One of the active women associations is the Women Graduates Association that was formed in October 1988 but only officially registered on February 5, 1990. The association comprise of women graduates from various kinds of specialisation and expertise. In year 2000, the association had launched a flagship project namely 'Save Our Children'. The project had four programmes that were Home for Underprivileged Children; Annual Education Assistant; Sponsor a Child and Child Assistance Centre.

The Ship for Southeast Asian Youth Programme (SSEAYP) Alumni Association of Brunei Darussalam (BERSATU) was set up by the ex-member of SSEAYP in June 28, 1987. The SSEAYP is an annual programme sponsored by the Japan government and supported by the member-countries of ASEAN. Brunei joined the program in 1985. Through SSEAYP, Brunei youths share and exchanges experiences with others participants besides becoming Brunei's small ambassador in promoting the country and culture to other participating countries. Recently, on April, 29, 2006; BERSATU hosted the 18th SSEAYP International General Assembly 2006 (SIGA 2006) in Brunei Darussalam. This was the third time Brunei Darussalam to host such event.

Meanwhile, Alumni Society 21st Century (PERTAB) is an association that is continuously promoting youth exchange and further fostering friendly relations between Japan and Brunei Darussalam.

The famous associations in the nation particularly among the youngsters are the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association (*Persatuan Pengakap Negara Brunei Darussalam*) and Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association (*Persatuan Pandu Puteri Negara Brunei Darussalam*). Both associations provide its members with opportunities for self training in the development of personal character and becoming responsible citizens.

Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association is the national scouting organisation of Brunei. It was founded in 1933, and became a member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement in 1981. The association only had 12 members during its early year and about 2,000 members as of year 2004. On July 3, 2005, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Honorary Patron of the World Organisation of Scouts Movement and Royal Patron of Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association officially opened the Scouts Headquarter at Jalan Beribi. The twenty-two million building among others consists of conference rooms, library, amateur radio club, prayer hall, multi-purpose hall, offices and shop lots. With the motto, 'Always be Prepared' (*Selalu Bersedia*), the association is actively involve in any national and international activities like collecting funds for flood and fire victims.

Founded in 1951, the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides Association became a full member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGS) in 1987. The patron for the girls-only organisation is Her Majesty The Raja Isteri

Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha. Likes the Scouts Association, Girl Guides is also actively involved in many events such as community works, social and charitable events.

Another popular association among youngster in Brunei is Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society. The association provides services to the community and responsible citizenship and also actively involve in any volunteer works within Brunei and worldwide.

The other two associations; BASMIDA and AIDS/HIV Council are set up to promote awareness on the dangers of drug abuse and rise of AIDS and HIV cases. Public and private sectors are welcomed to support the activities organised by these associations.

For the convenience of the youth associations to conduct activities, Youth Centre was built on each district. The Youth Centre in Bandar Seri Begawan opened on March 23, 1969 is one of the oldest building in the country.

In the effort to expose Brunei's youths to regional and international environment; the



government through Youth and Sports Department and supported by various government and private agencies had organised and took part in various events. The Football Championship, Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy for ASEAN Youth Under-21 and Southeast Asian Youth Quran Reading Competition are among the activities organised by Brunei Darussalam. On the participation, Brunei's youths among others had taken part in SSEAYP, ASEAN Youth Day, ASEAN Youth Award, and Commonwealth Youth Program.

The government through the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports with cooperation from various government and private agencies acknowledged the important role of youth. Hence, a number of programmes had been organised particularly to promote solidarity among the youth, positive and quality skills, self confidence, leadership, creativity and one that could cope with changes in social economy and technology.



Briefly

Brunei Darussalam International Kite Festival 2006

TUNGKU, August 20 – His Majesty's 60th birthday anniversary was still celebrated throughout the nation with various events. Among the events was the Brunei Darussalam International Kite Festival 2006. The festival was launched by Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Adanan at the Tungku Beach.

The three-day festival which kicked start on August 18 was organised by Brunei Darussalam Kite Association. The festival had attracted not only local kite players but also contestants from ASEAN member-country; Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.

Temburong Hosts Borneo Ethnic Festival

TEMBURONG, August 25 – Temburong District became the focal point of cultural events when the district hosted the Borneo Ethnic Cultural Festival 2006 for three days from August 25 to 27. The festival was one of the many efforts to attract visitors, both local and foreigner to the district, while simultaneously promoting Temburong as the green jewel of the nation.

Interesting activities were conducted in the festival including colourful stage performances by local and foreign artistes and cultural performers from Sabah, Sarawak, Kalimantan. An exhibition and bazaar also held at the Community Hall Field Complex. Government agencies and the University Brunei Darussalam also took part. The festival was held in conjunction with the monarch's 60th birthday celebrations and was sponsored by the Tourism Development Department, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources. It was organised by the Temburong Cultural and Tourism Committee in collaboration with the Temburong District Office.

6th ASEAN Skills Competition

GADONG, August 23 – Brunei Darussalam will be hosting the 6th ASEAN Skills Competition from September 3 to 6. The competition is expected to attract 450 participants and delegations from ASEAN's member countries.

Participants will be competing in 12 different skills areas; namely automobile technology, welding, commercial wiring, plumbing, electronic applications, computer-aided drawing and design, information technology, ladies' dressmaking, cookery, restaurant service, bricklaying and wooden furniture making.

The competition will be held at three different venues namely the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Berakas, Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex in Berakas and Sultan Saiful Rijal Technical College in Jalan Muara.

The 6th ASEAN Skills Competition aims to encourage competitiveness among the region's technical and vocational students, to meet the quality and high standards set by their counterparts worldwide.

Brunei will be represented by 24 participants who will take part in 12 different skilled areas.

200 Brunei Troops For Lebanon

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 11 – Brunei Darussalam is ready to send troops to Lebanon as part of a UN-mandated peacekeeping force. Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General Dato Seri Haji Awang Halbi said that in a meeting with Malaysian and Indonesian military chiefs in Jakarta.

The heads of the armed forces from Brunei, Malaysia and Jakarta met to discuss coordination for a possible deployment of troops in the Middle East. In the meeting, Brunei Darussalam said, she is ready to contribute 200 troops.

The forces from the three Islamic nations would be prepared while awaiting approval

by the United Nations Security Council to be included under any peacekeeping contingent. The message that three Islamic nations want to convey is that the UN must know how serious the three countries are in preparing this mission.

At least 16 nations are considering sending troops to Lebanon. Aside from Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei, they are Australia, Brazil, Chile, France, Ghana, Italy, Lithuania, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Turkey.

Nursing College To Mark 20th Anniversary

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 27 – Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatull Bolkiah College of Nursing will hold its 20th anniversary on September 4. Among the events to be organised in conjunction with the anniversary celebration are a 'Majlis Bertahlil' to be held on Sept 4 at the surau of the Nursing College. Meanwhile, on Sept 9, the official launching ceremony will be held at the Jubilee Hall of the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatull Bolkiah College of Nursing.

Gigantic Malay Kueh

JERUDONG, August 7 – A new world record was set by Brunei Darussalam with a gigantic display of a Malay *kueh* (cakes) measuring six metres by four metres. The making of the giant *kueh* (cakes) was held in conjunction with His Majesty's 60th birthday celebrations. It was launched by Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah at the Empire Hotel & Country Club. Also present was Her Royal Highness Princess Fadhillah Lubabul Bolkiah. The display comprised about ten thousands pieces of 'Bingka' from several types of *Bingka* namely *Bingka Keladi*, *Bingka Lapis*, *Bingka Pandan*, *Bingka Susu*, *Bingka Beras*, *Bingka Cheese*, *Bingka Ubi Kayu* and *Kek Batik*.

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

The arts of weaving



Weaving or plaiting, popularly known as 'menganyam' could be described as plaiting or weaving parts of bamboo, rattan and the leaves of other plants into a variety of items is one of Brunei Darussalam's traditional handicrafts.

This fine art of weaving started in Brunei Darussalam a long time ago by housewives as a hobby to pass away the time while their husbands, who were either farmers or fishermen, went about their works. It was sold for sideline income as there was a big demand for such products for daily usage. What began as a pastime hobby became a sideline income earner for the diligent housewives.



The famous items were *tudung dulang* (dish cover), *nyiru* (tray-shaped and used for drying foodstuffs and winnowing paddy), *tikar mengkuang* (mat made of leaves) and *takiding* (a kind of basket carry which you could carry at the back to keep fruits, vegetables and harvested paddy).

However, as the time passed-by, the demands for these handicrafts have shifted. It is now seen as a souvenir or gift.

Items woven have progressed to a much larger segment as you could now find handbags, tissue boxes, pencil case, handphone covers woven in a variety of colours and multi sizes.

To ensure that this tradition would not fade away with time, the Government through the Arts and Handicrafts Training Centre has been offering a three-year formal course in weaving. She does not only offer a course in weaving but it extends to silverwork, brass work, *keris* making (weapon), *songkok*-making (a traditional head gear) and cloth-weaving.



Most of the souvenir shops in Brunei Darussalam sell these items. However, for more extensive varieties, you could take a closer look and purchase the items at the Arts and Handicrafts Centre at Jalan Residency in Bandar Seri Begawan.



Festival Sale
14 July - 6 August
Special Textile Sale
25 August - 17 September

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER is now available online

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