

Brunei Darussalam

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Royal 60th birthday anniversary speech: Accelerated increment, increase in living cost allowance



Inset: His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam clad in the Supreme Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces uniform. Second Photo shows the guard-of-honour neatly lined up prior to inspection at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddin

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15-

Special accelerated increment for civil servants of mid and lower levels and also an increase in the living cost allowance for staff of Division Four and Five were among the issues highlighted at the *titah* by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The *titah* was delivered in conjunction with His Majesty's 60^{th} birthday anniversary during the Audience and Special Investiture Ceremony held at the Istana Nurul Iman.

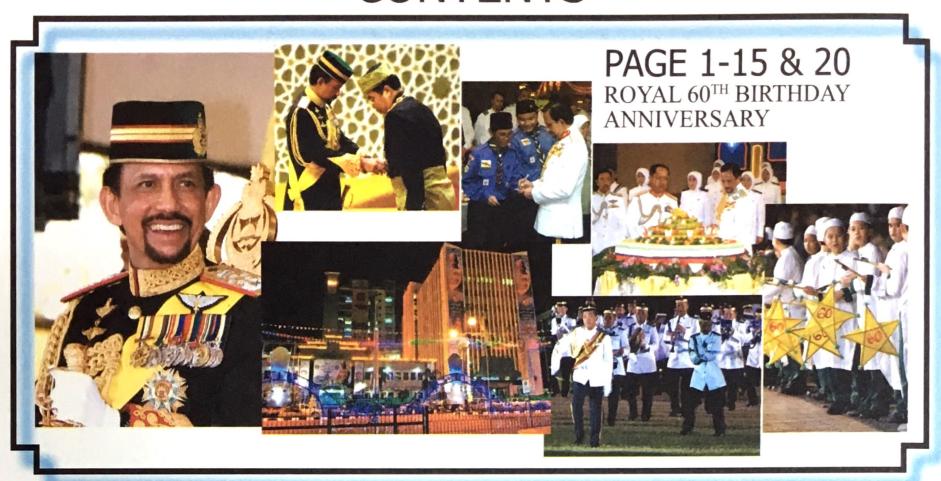
A range of issues were highlighted by His Majesty where among others His Majesty also said that one of the major priorities is to ensure that the proceeds from oil and gas continue to benefit the citizens. "A tendency for openness towards economic diversification is also essential if we are to reinforce national survival, bring in foreign investment, and implement a policy of green environment effectively."

"It is not appropriate for us to remain complacent simply because we are accustomed to importing everything including fruits and vegetables, when all such products could be grown in our own nation-state. This is incompatible with the characteristics of a developing nation-state. As such, we should overcome this; we must strive to improve and stem the perception that our current resources are adequate," said His Majesty.

The sovereign also reminded that we must not avoid expecting the unexpected as we do not know for how long the oil resources and financial viability could last. In 2006, the government of His Majesty had spent B\$166 million as subsidy for transportation fuel.

He further stated that further planning is required including acquiring productive and professional human resource. It is essential for the administrative machinery of the government to plan better in a bid to produce a satisfactory outcome. Therefore, the public service is tasked to facilitate the development which includes the implementation of relevant policies.

"All forms of impediments in policy implementation should be studied and overcome promptly. Coordination should be reviewed constantly and upgraded on a regular basis. National prosperity and hardship is our responsibility; my government strongly takes into account of the cost of living and current economic condition," said His Majesty.





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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) Dr Grahaeme Henderson, Managing Director of Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sendirian Berhad on July 20.
- The head of delegations of participants of the Brunei International Tattoo 2006 (BIT 2006) on July 29.
- 3) His Excellency General Ke Kim Yan, Commander-in-Chief of Royal Cambodian Armed Forces on July 31







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

- Madam Shukhvinder Kaur Grewal, spouse of the outgoing High Commissioner of India to Brunei on July 24.
- The spouse of the head of delegations of participants of the Brunei International Tattoo 2006 (BIT 2006) on July 29.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office on July 25, received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman, from His Excellency Butshikan Singh, outgoing High Commissioner of India to Brunei.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

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

- The Right Honourable Michaelle Jean, Governor-General of Canada and her Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Stephen Joseph Harper in conjunction with the 139th Canada Day on July 1.
- His Excellency George W. Bush, President of United States of America in conjunction with United States of America's 230th Independence Day on July 4.
- His Excellency Jacques Chirac, President of Republic of France and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Dominique de Villepin in conjunction with France's 520th National Day on July 14.
- His Excellency Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Dr Ahmed Nazif in conjunction with the country's 84th National Day on July 23.
- His Majesty King Mohammed VI, King of the Kingdom of Morocco and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Driss Jettou in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of Kingdom's National Day and the 7th anniversary of Accession to the Throne of His Majesty King Mohammed VI on July 30, 2006.

ONDOLENCE MESSAGE

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on July 19, sent condolence message to His Excellent Haji Bambang Yudhoyono, the President of Republic of Indonesia following the loss of lives caused by the tsunami in Wester



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inspecting the guard-of-honour

* From frontpage (Royal 60th birthday anniversary)

As example, according to the sovereign, health education and development are available for free and the government is still capable of meeting the outlays without inflicting extra financial burden on the citizens.

With that, His Majesty stated that the government revenue and financial standing have improved lately. As a expression of gratitude for the contribution made by the public service, a special pay rise in the form of accelerated increment are given for members of the public service.

As such, His Majesty expressed his hope that the upcoming pay increase will be used wisely and saved for unexpected needs. He also reminded retailers not to take this as a reason to increase the prices.

The sovereign also touched on peace and security. "Peace and security underpin everything. As such, all members of society should cooperate with law enforcement agencies in a bid to reinforce peace and security. Bear in mind that issues on security encompass all aspects of life: it is not confined to protection from crime, but it also covers social wellbeing, job security, health, and community and family life in general,

"I am confident that with the will to uphold peace, we will become law abiding people, and a beacon of unity and harmony that produce peace and security. This is our service to the state and society and humanity because we could no longer bear to witness the suffering experienced by those who have lost peace and security. Examples can be found in many parts of the world today," said His Majesty.

Brunei Darussalam celebrated the 60th birthday of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on July 15. The celebration started with a thanksgiving prayer on July 14 throughout the nation-state and an inspection of guard-of-honour at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien in the capital.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince shares a light moment with His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah

Musical display by Royal Brunei Armed Forces' band serenading the ceremony. Also part of the musical band are from members of the Royal Brunei Police Force





Students waving the National flag, welcoming the royal entourage

Thanksgiving prayers mark sovereign's 60th birthday

KIARONG, July 14 – Thanksgiving prayers were held throughout the nation-state marking the 60th birthday of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The main focal point was the Jame 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque in Kiarong where His Majesty and male members of the royal family joined scores of Muslims for the thanksgiving prayer.





Suest clad in black coloured traditional costumes



Father and son share the same enthusiast taking commemorative photos at the ceremony



Members of the public taking a closer look at the ceremony held at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien

His Majesty receives congratulatory greetings

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received congratulatory messages from the heads of state and other foreign dignitaries in conjunction with His Majesty's 60th birthday anniversary on July 15.

The messages were from:

His Majesty Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamallulail, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia.

His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Guardian of the Two Mosques.

His Majesty King Abdullah II ibni Al-Hussein of Jordan.

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

His Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan. His Excellency Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of the Republic of

His Excellency S.R. Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore.

Indonesia.

Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of Philippines.

His Excellency Choummaly Sayasone, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

His Excellency General Than Shwe, Chairman of the Union of Myanmar State Peace, and Development Council.

His Excellency Nguyen Minh Triet, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

His Excellency Roh Moo-Hyun, President of the Republic of Korea.

His Excellency General Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

His Excellency Vladimir V. Putin, President of the Russian Federation.

His Excellency Major-General Michael Jeffery, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

His Excellency Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, President of India.

His Excellency Victor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine.

His Excellency Tarja Halonen, President of the Republic of Finland.

His Excellency George W. Bush, President of the United States of America. His Excellency Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The Right Honourable Dato Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia.

His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore.

His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

His Excellency Bouasone Bouphavanh, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

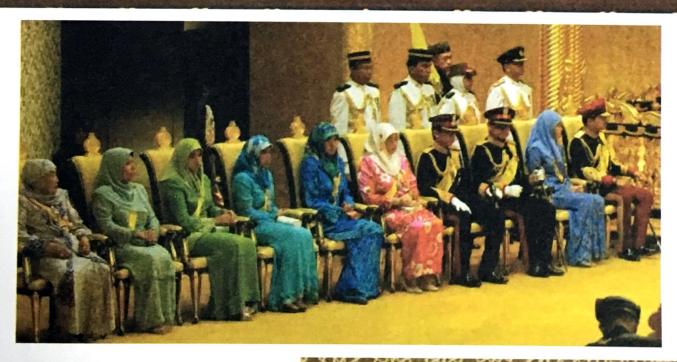
His Excellency General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, State Peace and Development Council.

His Excellency Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

His Excellency Shaukat Aziz, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.





His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers a titah at the audience and special investiture ceremony. Also in the photo are Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri

(Above) Members of the royal family at the ceremony



(Right) Invited foreign dignitaries among the guests attending the 60th birthday celebration of His Majesty



Minister of Home Affairs receives a state decoration from His



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah

56 receive state decorations

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15 - Fifty six people received state decorations issued by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Balai Singgahsana (throne chamber) Indera Buana at the Istana Nurul Iman.

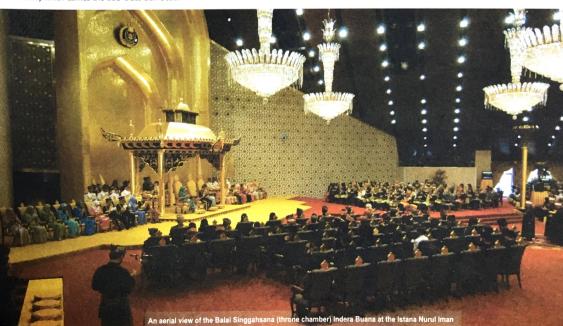
The presentation took place immediately after His Majesty delivered his royal speech (titah).

Among the recipients were cabinet ministers, local prominent businessmen and senior government officials.

The highest decoration issued was the 'Darjah Setia Negara Brunei Yang Amat Bahagia Darjah Pertama' (P.S.N.B - The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei First Class) which carries the title 'Dato Seri Setia'.



Members of the royal family and a special invited royal guest



Palace Newsround

Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri received in audience invited foreign dignitaries in conjunction with His Majesty's 60th birthday anniversary at the Istana Nurul Iman on July 15. The invited foreign dignitaries were:



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma binti Talal and His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Al-Sayed Walid Ismail Al-Kurdi of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.



Her Excellency Datin Laila Utama Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of Republic of Philippines.

His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, **Prime Minister of** Singapore.





The Right Honourable Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, Sarawak's Chief Minister.

The Right Honourable Dato Musa Haji Aman, Sabah's Chief Minister.





His Excellency Marsekal TNI **Dato Paduka** Seri Djoko Suyanto, Panglima TNI of Indonesia.





His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia.

The Right **Honourable Datuk** Seri Tun Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak, **Deputy Prime** Minister of Malaysia.





His Excellency Dr. Nur Hassan Wirajuda, Foreign Minister of Indonesia.



Datin Ratna Djoko Suyanto, spouse of His Excellency Marsekal TNI Dato Paduka Seri Djoko Suyanto.



Mrs. Lee Hsien Loong, spouse of His **Excellency Lee Hsien Loong.**



Datin Sri Dr. Hajjah Laila Taib, spouse of The Right Honourable Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud.



Datin Hajah Faridah Haji Tussin, spouse of The Right Honourable Dato Musa Haji Aman.



Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Sri Rosmah binti Mansor, spouse of The Right Honourable Datuk Seri Tun Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak.



Ibu Herawatie Hassan Wirajuda, spouse of His Excellency Dr. Nur Hassan Wirajuda.



From left to right: Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, Her Excellency Datin Laila Utama Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Philippines; His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Lt. Police Colonel Thaksin Shinawatra; the Prime Minister of Thailand and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar at the State banquet



(Right) Their Royal Highness at the State Banquet



Banquets hosted celebrate His Majesty's 60th birthday

TUNGKU, July 27 - A number of banquets were hosted to celebrate the 60th birthday anniversary of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The first series of banquets was held on July 15 where a state banquet was held attended by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar and members of the royal family.

The state banquet was also attended by His Majesty's special guests, local dignitaries and senior government officials.

While on July 17, a banquet was hosted for uniformed personnel from the governmental and non-governmental organisations. More than 6,000 uniformed personnel attended the banquet where His Majesty took his time to mingle around with the guests.

A number of organisations from both the government and private sector were present. To name a few, those present were members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Royal Brunei Police Force, Immigration & Custom, Fire & Rescue, Red Crescent Society, Scouts and Girl Guides.

Both banquets took place at the Istana Nurul Iman.

The Brunei-based diplomatic missions also hosted a reception for His Majesty at the Royal Berkshire Hall of the Jerudong Park Polo Club. At the function, His Majesty consented to cut a birthday cake and received a token of appreciation. The function was also highlighted with stage performances including a variety of songs by the PDS School and Seri Irama Group.

Meanwhile on July 27, the Royal Brunei Armed Forces hosted a banquet for His Majesty at the Chancellor Hall, Universiti of Brunei Darussalam.



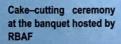
Their Majesties, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri and members of the royal family at the banquet for uniformed members (governmental and non-governmental organisations) to celebrate the 60th birthday anniversary of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam



His Majesty signs an autograph for a member of Scouts Association



Their Majesties, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri, and members of the royal family in a group photo with Brunei-based diplomatic missions





Breakfast hosted for foreign dignitaries



His Majesty, His Royal Highness The Crown Prince and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah with special invited foreign dignitaries at the breakfast hosted by His Majesty

JERUDONG, July 16 – Special invited foreign dignitaries attending His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 60th birthday celebration on July 15 were hosted to a breakfast by His Majesty at the Empire Hotel & Country Club.

The special guests were Her Excellency Datin Laila Utama Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Philippines; His Excellency Lt. Police Colonel Thaksin Shinawatra, the Prime Minister of Thailand; His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of Cambodia; and Singapore's Premier, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong.

Also present was the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.



Besides promoting a healthy lifestyle, the walkathon also promotes family quality time

number of programmes and activities were lined up for the 60th birthday anniversary of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. As such, a 60 Golden Walkathon was held led by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; and a hoisting of the giant national flag was held to mark the beginning of flag hoisting throughout the nation-state.

The walkathon started and ended at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien in the capital. Also present at the walkathon was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The walkathon which attracted more than 17,000 participants was divided into two main

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 2 – A categories; male category consisting of a 3.8 kilometers walk; and for the female category, a walkhaton of 3.3 kilometers long.

> Citizens and residents from all walks of life joined the walkathon where it was participated from the young to the elderly. This was one of the many efforts of the government to promote and create an awareness on the significance of living a healthy lifestyle.

> While on July 1, the giant National flag was hoisted at the foyer of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Complex. This marked the beginning of flag hoisting throughout the nation-state where the national flags could be seen hoisted at individual houses, government buildings as well as shopping complex.

More state decorations issued

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 26 – Another 344 state decorations were issued by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in conjunction with His Majesty's 60th birthday anniversary at the Istana Nurul Iman. The recipients included officials and personnel from government and private sector.

Knowledge Convention: Call to uphold sovereignty

BERAKAS, July 20 - A call to uphold sovereignty was made by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the opening of the Knowledge Convention 2006 (Majlis Ilmu 2006).

According to His Majesty, the sovereignty of the monarch reflects the sovereignty of the people and the nation, and symbolises their very existence. Sovereignty encompasses everything where it should be uphold by each generation as it is the ultimate authority bestowed by Allah The Almighty in the form of true and legitimate leadership that protects the people and the country.

The sovereign also said that sovereignty is like a diamond where no matter its origin, it is a diamond, wherever it is placed, it is still shining. Such is sovereignty, a noble characteristics of the ruler and the nation.

The three elements could be considered

His Majesty at the official opening of the Majlis Ilmu (Convention Knowledge) receives a token appreciation from the Chairman of the Organising Committee



as a body without any deformities where according to the hadith of the Prophet Mohamad, when one part of the body is in pain, the whole body will feel it.

Therefore it is an obligation to protect the sovereignty of the Monarch and the country as how we protect our own body so that no part is deformed or hurt.

Majlis Ilmu is an annual activity where it is a platform for educationalist, professionals

and students to discuss and exchange views on various matters pertaining to the theme. This year's theme carries the slogan 'Sovereign Monarch, Blessed Nation and People on Righteous Direction'.

A book on 'The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Exhibition Gallery: Revitalisor of Islamic Civilisation' was also introduced by His Majesty where he hoped that this book would be distributed widely.



Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri at the opening of **Brunei International Tattoo 2006**



Some of the performances from the participating countries.

Grand Tattoo celebrate His Majesty's birthday

BERAKAS, July 29 - A grand and majestic tattoo were displayed, participated by 13 countries to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The tattoo, organised by Brunei's Ministry of Defence was officially known as the Brunei International Tattoo 2006 (BIT 2006).

Present to witness the historic gathering of military musical band were His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar.

The show was held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Berakas.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and other members of the royal family.

Carrying the theme 'Together We Celebrate His Majesty's 60th Birthday', the tattoo show presented military band musical and cultural acts from a combination of 13 bands consisting of over 1300 international, regional and local personnel from; Brunei Darussalam, Australia, China, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Oman, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Pakistan and United Kingdom.

The colourful showcase was also highlighted by beautiful fireworks display thoroughly enjoyed by the spectators.

BIT 2006 was held for four days from July 29 to August 1.





His Royal Highness The Crown Prince officially opened the Rizqun International and The Mall

GADONG, July 9 – Brunei's own fivestar business hotel, the Rizqun International Hotel and biggest shopping complex, The Mall were officially opened by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

The Rizqun International Hotel and The Mall Shopping Centre are under the Abdul Razak Holdings. According to the Chairman and Managing Director of Abdul

5-star hotel & mega shopping complex open



The Mall which caters varieties of shop lots, food court and cinema



Lobby of the hotel

Razak Holdings, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Hafidz, the hotel and the mall is the fourth and last of mega project of their company on a twenty-four acre of land located in Gadong.

The Rizqun International Hotel is located in the bustling commercial area of Gadong where it is the latest addition to Brunei's ever growing hotel population. The 150-room hotel is part of an effort by the Abdul Razak Holdings to assist the Tourism Development Department's strategic objectives to further enhance and develop

the industry and create more employment opportunities for local.

One of the halls available

for use

As a business hotel, it is equipped with a number of meeting rooms, business centre, all-hour coffee house and a ballroom which could accommodate more than 1,000 people.

While The Mall, one of the biggest in Brunei Darussalam, is a perfect place to spend quality time or shopping as it provides a cinema of international standard, gymnasium, supermarket, food court, cafes and a wide range of shops.

International Forum on Disaster

GADONG, July 10—Brunei Darussalam has passed the Disaster Management Order 2006 which enables the government to establish the National Disaster Council and to set up the National Disaster Centre as she realises the importance of a proper coordinated disaster strategies at both the national and international level.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office said at the official opening of the International Forum on Disaster Relief at the Rizqun International Hotel.

His Royal Highness who is also the

Pro-Chancellor of University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) reiterated that UBD as the leading national tertiary learning institution should consider the establishment of special short-term programmes to provide training for disaster workers.

Universiti of Brunei Darussalam (UBD) could include basic elements of disaster response at the community level in its undergraduate extra curricular programmes, added His Royal Highness.

The highlight of the three-day forum was a keynote address on 'Role of Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)' from His Excellency Atah Mannan Bakhit,

the Assistant Secretary-General of OIC. An exhibition was also held as part of the forum.

The International Forum on Disaster Relief aimed to address all aspects of disaster management which among others include disaster preparedness and surveillance, disaster reduction, disaster response and coordination, and post-disaster issues.

More than one hundred participants took part in the forum, which was organised for the first time by the Institute of Medicine of UBD to commemorate the 20 years of establishment of institution.

3rd National Committee Meeting against Pandemic Influenza

TUTONG, July 12 – Importance of mutual networking and firm understanding by all ministries and government agencies towards the National Plan against the Pandemic Influenza was highly stressed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

His Royal Highness stated the matters at the 3rd National Committee Meeting against Pandemic Influenza where His Royal Highness is also the Chairman of the committee.

According to His Royal Highness, a clear and proper role will assist in overcoming and reducing bad consequences of the pandemic influenza on the social, economic and government machineries movement.

Among the agenda of the meeting was discussing the current status of the Avian Influenza. The meeting also took note on the development of the Ministry of Health's

Action Plan which covered 'table top exercise'; reviewing of the action plan following the visit by representatives from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and also sharing of information and current issues from APEC and ASEAN meeting.

A dry run procedure was also held where it tested management skills were tested-out particularly an overview on Tutong Hospital's preparation as a treatment and isolation centre for influenza cases.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office at the Third National Committee Meeting against Pandemic Influenza

Royalty attends comedy theatre

BERAKAS, July 8 - Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah attended the opening show of the comedy theatre "All in Timing" performed by popular British comedy theatre group Peepolykus.

Pronounced as 'People-Like-Us', Peepolykus was brought to Brunei by the British High Commission as part of its Public Diplomacy Season "Britain in Brunei 2006 - 100 Years of Friendship"; and also to jointly celebrate His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 60th birthday anniversary.



One of the scene from the comedy theatre



Her Royal Highness at the opening of the comedy theatre by Peepolykus

Pa Plern Festival 2006 and Photo Exhibition Exchange Program

BERAKAS, July 22 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand under the Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) on Cooperation in the Field of Information and Broadcasting had organised the Second 'Pa Plern Festival' and photo exhibition exchange program named 'Harmony between the Two Kingdoms: Brunei Darussalam and Thailand'.

The dual occasions were particularly special as it was held in conjunction with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 60th



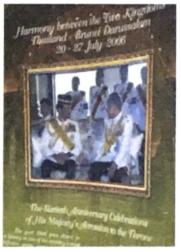
The 'Tree of Love and Loyalty' where well-wishers can note best wishes down and congratulatory messages for His Majesty's 60th birthday anniversary.

birthday celebration and coincided with the 60th anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand's Accession to the Throne.

The 'Pesta Pa Plern 2006' was a joint musical variety show organised by the Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB) of Brunei Darussalam and TV Channel 11 of Thailand. The event was held on July 22 at the Hassanal Bolkiah Indoor Stadium. This was the second Pa Plern concert held, the first was held in Thailand in 2004.

Meanwhile, the photo exhibition exchange program 'Harmony between The Two Kingdom: Brunei Darussalam and Thailand' was held from July 20 to 27 at the International Convention Centre (ICC). The photo exhibition was presented by the Department of Information, Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam and the Public Relations Department of the Kingdom of Thailand.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented visit the exhibition during the official opening ceremony of the Knowledge Convention. Besides displaying snapshots of all aspects of the Brunei-Thai bilateral relationship; the exhibition also featured a display in the form of a tree with golden leaves; known as 'Tree of Love and Loyalty'. The tree was set-up by the Thai



One of the posters exhibited during the Photo Exhibition **Exchange Program**

officials for well-wishers to note down best wishes and congratulatory messages for His Majesty's 60th birthday anniversary.

Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Thailand signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Bilateral Cooperation Broadcasting and Information on August 16, 2001. The MoU provisions media organisations of both signatories to forge closer working relationship in the form of joint productions, news exchanges and the like.



Some of the exhibition brought from Thailand, a touch of tradition and culture

39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting: Forging a united, resilient and integrated ASEAN

KUALA LUMPUR, July 25 - ASEAN should be steadfast in keeping its solidarity and to remain focused on achieving its common mission of fostering greater regional integration. ASEAN should also adopt the approach of proceeding a step-by-step, instrument-by-instrument, institution-by-institution in its community-building efforts. This is the only way to ensure that ASEAN achieves true consensus on establishing a set of common values, perceptions, and outlooks.

This was stated by the Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the Prime Minister of Malaysia at the opening ceremony of the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting.

Pehin Dato Seri Paduka Lim Jock Seng, Brunei Darussalam's Second Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade was present on behalf of Brunei Darussalam.

The 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting saw a wide range of discussions ranging from ASEAN Community; the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP); initiative for ASEAN Integration; ASEAN Security Community; Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia; the South China Sea; transnational crime and counter terrorism; Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone; ASEAN Economic Community; to regional and international issues.

An ASEAN + 3 Foreign Ministers Meeting was also held on July 26 where matters of common concerns and regional developments were discussed. The Meeting also reviewed the progress achieved by the ASEAN + 3 cooperation.

A Post Ministerial Conferences (PMC) was also held on July 27 where foreign ministers of ASEAN and Australia reviewed the ASEAN-Australia dialogue relations. They also discussed ways to enhance various areas of cooperation that exist between both sides.

The Foreign Ministers also attended an ASEAN PMC + 10 Working Lunch on the same day.

Pehin Dato Seri Paduka Lim Jock Seng co-chaired the PMC meeting with Canada where ASEAN foreign ministers and Canada reviewed the ASEAN-Canada dialogue relations and discussed ways to enhance areas of cooperation that exist between both sides.

This was the last ASEAN-Canada Foreign Ministers meeting under Brunei Darussalam's co-ordinatorship.

A signing ceremony was also held for the Framework Document for the Plan of Action to implement the ASEAN-US Enhanced Partnership.



Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Pehin Dato Seri Paduka Lim Jock Seng (second from left) at the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur

Visa exemption promotes intra-ASEAN travel

Kuala Lumpur, July 25 - ASEAN citizens are no longer required to apply visa when traveling to any of the ASEAN member-countries provided the stay is for a period up to 14 days from the date of entry. It is also provided that such stay shall not be used for purposes other than visit. This move was made feasible through the signing of ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption through the 39th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting.

The signing of the agreement is inline with the provisions of Article 2 of the ASEAN Tourism Agreement signed on November 4, 2002 in Cambodia on facilitation of intra-ASEAN travel; and paragraph (b) of Article 11 of the ASEAN Framework Agreement for Integration of Priority Sectors signed on November 29, 2004 which commits ASEAN member countries to provide visa exemption for intra-ASEAN travel by ASEAN nationals.

This agreement, however, will not effect the implementation of existing agreements on visa exemption between member countries as well as the rights and obligations of member countries under any existing agreements of international conventions of which they are parties.

This significant move is expected to increase and enable intra-ASEAN travel to be much more convenient, thus boosting tourism sector. The ASEAN tourism industry posted a strong recovering in 2004 despite the tsunami and earthquake disasters of end 2004 and early-2005. There was a 32 per cent increase in tourist arrivals compared to 2003.

Present on behalf of Brunei Darussalam at the signaturory ceremony was the Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Pehin Dato Seri Paduka Lim Jock Seng.

New Fixed Deposit Scheme launched

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 31 – The Perbadanan Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei or TAIB (Brunei Islamic Trust Fund) launched a fixed deposit scheme called TAIB Deposit Certificate (TDC) at the its headquarter in the capital. The scheme was officiated by Dato Dr Haji Mat Suny, Deputy Minister of Development who is also the Chairman of TAIB.

The TDC was launched as an effort for TAIB to encourage saving habits and create awareness on financial planning to the people and resident of the nation. It is also inline with His Majesty's 60th Birthday titah (royal speech) on July 15 with regards to the salary increments of government

servants that is hoped to be used wisely and prudently.

According to TAIB, the TDC Scheme is a short-term Syariah-compliant deposit with a period of one to three years. It is based on the Al-Mudharabah concept (profitsharing) where semi-annual returns would be distributed to depositors. The deposit is denominated in Brunei currency.

TDC is opened to Muslim and non-Muslim individuals to start their financial planning with a minimum deposit from as low as \$100 per certificate. It acts as an alternative to interest-bearing deposits. For further information, TAIB can be contacted at: enquiry@taib.com.bn or by visiting their website at www.taib.com.bn.

The Perbadanan Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei or TAIB, was established on September, 29, 1991. It was officially launched by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Brunei Darussalam.

The launching of TAIB marked a new beginning for Brunei Darussalam as TAIB was then the first financial institution that conducted all of its activities in accordance with the Islamic faith.

Strategising for Efficient, Competitive and Sustainable ASEAN Energy Future

VIENTIANE, July 27 — ASEAN Ministers of Energy exchanged views on the strategic directions and measures for an efficient, competitive and sustainable future in ASEAN since energy will be a key agenda in the forthcoming ASEAN Leaders' Summit in 2006 in Manila.

This was reached at the 24th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting held in Vientiane on July 27 where the Ministers also discussed the adverse impacts of the volatility of world oil prices.

The Ministers affirmed the importance of maintaining energy security and stability as a priority agenda, as high oil prices are clear risks to sustained economic growth of the ASEAN region. ASEAN's reliance on external sources for oil will have implications on the security of its energy supply. Therefore, improvements in energy efficiency and an increase in the contribution from renewable energy to supplies are both important for

achieving a sustainable energy future.

Continued investments in energy production and infrastructural development in the bid to secure adequate and stable supply of energy was also called. The Ministers also called for further expanding renewable energy by strengthening efficient support system for their utilisation, increasing research and development activities towards technological innovation and creating policies to support their development by the private sector.

Various agreements were reached through this meeting where among others include the strengthening of renewable energy development, such as hydropower, biomass, biofuels, and to promote power trade cooperation in ASEAN.

The Ministers also agreed that ASEAN member countries should strive to stay resilient and address the challenges of

soaring oil prices by making continuous efforts to reduce dependency on imported energy, particularly oil; finding more efficient ways to generate and use of energy; embracing renewable energy; and putting in place measures for improving emergency preparedness; and response capacity to high oil prices and supply disruptions.

A collective work towards the finalisation of new ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement (APSA) and the Memorandum of Understanding on the ASEAN Power Grid (APG) for possible signing at the 25th AMEM in 2007 were also agreed.

The Ministers also agreed to strengthen cooperation in the coal sector taking environmental concerns into account.

Present on behalf of Brunei Darussalam was the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Yahya.

Insurance industry as one component diversify economy



Second Minister of Finance, Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman opened the 23rd East Asian Insurance Congress (EAIC) 2006

BERAKAS, July 31 — Brunei Darussalam is endeavouring to make its insurance industry, along with other financial sector, a key component of the nation's economic diversification efforts. With this is mind, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, has approved several new laws related to the supervision of insurance activities in the country.

The matter was stated by the Minister of Finance II, Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman at the opening ceremony of 23rd East Asian Insurance Congress (EAIC) 2006 at the International Convention Centre (ICC).

The introduction of the new legislation in March this year is part of the Ministry's ongoing effort to enhance supervision on the sector in line with international best practice, said the Minister.

The laws introduced are the Insurance Order, 2006 and the Insurance Regulation, 2006; which are applicable to both general and life businesses.

The Minister further added that,

another key objective of the legislation is to ensure that our insurance companies remain financially strong so that the interests of the public as policyholders are properly protected. In return, it is hoped would encourage general public to also embrace insurance as a key component of their long term financial plans, be it for protection or investment.

The Minister also touched on the traditional role of the industry and numerous innovation and new types of distribution channels that resulted from progression of technology, as well as the creativeness of the players in response to dynamic and ever evolving market.

In term of the fundamental landscape of the industry, the Minister said that since the turn of new millennium, this region has borne witness to the impact of both natural and man made catastrophes. These events undoubtedly had caused both destruction to lives and properties, and untold human suffering and also bring significant business disruptions.

"Faced with such new realities, both regional and global players will need to boost their existing structural and financial capabilities to properly served their intended 'insurers' functions and withstand the potentially, deleterious effect of such calamity," said the Minister.

According to him, with such challenges in mind, coupled with the ever pressing need to sustain and enhance industry profitability, the theme for this conference, 'East Asian Insurance at the Crossroads of Growth and Profitability' is timely appropriate.

This is the first time, for Brunei Darussalam to host EAIC. The EAIC was

held from July 31 to August 2, which congregated more than 900 delegates, consisting of distinguished speakers, experts and consultants, regulators and key players from around the world.

The conference was hoped to create new networking opportunities between delegates, and also further strengthen the existing regional and international ties and cooperation.

TAP declare dividend

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN,
July 7 — Tabung Amanah Pekerja
(TAP) or Employees Trust Fund
declare a dividend at the rate of
4.25 per cent for the Financial Year
2005-2006. The matter was stated
by the Chairman of TAP, Pehin Major
General (R) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji
Awang Mohammad.

According to him, a total of \$36,259,903.40 would be paid to 88,159 members for the financial year 2005-2006(April 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006) compared to \$38,223,472.25 for 82,709 members for the financial year 2004-2005 (January 1, 2004 – March 31, 2005).

As a social security agency for the retirement benefit of its members, TAP will continue with its prudent investment strategy and its commitment of ensuring the security and increase in value of its members' savings.

Brunei celebrates 60th birthday of His Majesty

uly is the much awaited month as the citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam would be celebrating the birthday of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on the fifteenth of the month.

In a celebratory mood, an abundant number of festivals and events would be organised as part of the celebration which involves the public and private sectors as well as members of the public.

Various preparations had taken crafted arches were erected along the



place since the month of June where beautifully streets of the capital and suburban areas, where it not only looked majestic during day time but came night time, these arches would be embodied with beautiful sparkling neon lights, adding more vibrant to the celebratory mood. Giant banners and stages were also erected

along strategic places with greetings for His Majesty; and the most waited by all walks of life would be the festival stalls set up in all four

districts where each night not only promise you good reasonable items for

purchase, which ran from foods and beverages but also home décor, knic knacs for young children, clothes, health products; but various performances would also be staged.

This year, a walkaton was organised by where it was led by His Majesty The Sultan Darussalam, participated by more than

On July 14, a thanksgiving prayer Majesty and members of the royal family

the focal point at the Jamer' Asr Hassanil the prayer.

The celebration officially commenced on July 15 with an inspection of the guard-of-honour, made up of more than 1000 uniformed personnel from government agencies to non-governmental organisations, held at

> the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien in the capital. Additional grandstand was set up along the Taman as huge crowd turned up to witness the historic event was expected. His Majesty who wore the Supreme Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces uniform arrived with a welcoming 21-gun salute to mark His Majesty's 60th birthday and the National Anthem.

A special audience and investiture was also held after the inspection of the guard-of-honour at the Balai Singgahsana (throne chamber) Indera Buana at the Istana Nurul Iman where His Majesty delivered a titah (royal speech) and issued state decorations to 56 recipients.

Other grand events were also organised such as the state banquet and banquets organised by various agencies.

Other major highlights for His Majesty's 60th birthday anniversary in July include the Knowledge Convention, Brunei International Tattoo (BIT) 2006 and the 23rd East Asian Insurance Congress 2006.

Also held in July were meet-the-people sessions, held in each district where His Majesty would meet the citizens and residents in each district. Through this golden opportunity, members of the public from all walks of life were able to personally to greet His Majesty, a symbol of His Majesty's care and love towards his subject.

Few other events would be held in August such as the 'Malam Serumpun Seri 60' where this would be the four-in-one fiesta comprising of a float procession, cultural performances, firework displays and the first ever ASEAN Tug-Of-War Invitational; the first International Halal Products Expo in Brunei Darussalam; the ASEAN Kites Festival; and the Borneo Ethnic Cultural Show.

The celebrations were not only limited to the cultural and educational field but the sports were also one of the main highlights. Various sports competitions were organised ranging from tradition sports such as top spinning for local and ASEAN Invitation; and tug-of-war. While on the national level, the sepak takraw, silat; traditional boat race; softball; chess; volleyball; netball and speedboat race were also organised.

For the month of August, more sport events would be organised such as His Majesty's Golf Challenge Trophy 2006; Brunei Basketball Tournament – 6th Shell Rimula Brunei Cup; Brunei Darussalam Motorcorss Challenge; The Brunei Open Masters 2006; and Go-Kart race.

Members of the public could also participate in the celebration through water festival; bazaar and river fiesta; beach fiesta; healthy baby competition; exhibition of flowers; cleanliness and landscape competition; arches and neon lights competition; local and foreign cats competition; various singing competitions; and stage performances from various agencies.

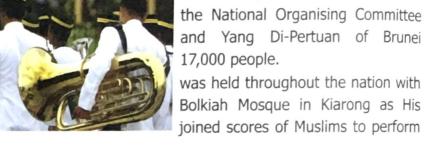
Truly a buzzing month, citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam greet His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on his 60th birthday, the sovereign who has always showed his care and love towards his subject, the ruler who has always put the well-being of his subject as a priority in ensuring that they would live in a comfortable livelihood.













Briefly

Brunei lifts ban on poultry and poultry products from West **Malaysian states**

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 1 -Brunei Darussalam had lifted its temporary ban on poultry and poultry products from West Malaysian states with effect from July 1, 2006. The decision was made following Malaysia's declaration of its free status from Avian Influenza, in compliance with World Organisation for Animal Health, Terrestrial Animal Health Code 2005.

However, as precautionary measures to prevent any occurrences of Avian Influenza in Brunei Darussalam, the public are advised to strictly adhere to all animal quarantines procedures under the enforcement of local government authorities. The procedures require the application of import permit from the Department of Agriculture and issuance of Veterinary Health Certificate by the Competent Authority in Malaysia.

Brunei's First International Halal Products Expo (IHPE)

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 1 - Brunei Darussalam will be organising the first ever International Halal Products Expo (IHPE) from August 7 to 11 at the International Convention Centre (ICC).

IHPE is organised by the National Organising Committee for His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's birthday celebration and supported by Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Religious Affairs.

With the objective of sharing the enormous opportunities that beckon at Brunei's doorsteps, this IHPE will serve as a unique platform for all international players dealing in halal products to gather and discuss relevant matters, under one roof.

More information on IHPE can be obtained from www.bruneihalalexpo. com.

Recall on chocolate products

BERAKAS, July 4 - The Ministry of Health is recalling seven Cadbury Chocolate products made in Britain following recent reports of Salmonella contamination.

The products recalled were Cadbury Dairy Turkish 250g; Cadbury Dairy Milk Caramel 250g; Cadbury Milk Mint 250g; Cadbury Dairy Milk 8 Chunk; Cadbury Dairy Milk 1 kg; Cadbury Dairy Milk Button Easter Egg 105g; and Cadbury Freddo 10p.

According to the records of the Department of Food Imports Administration, Quality Control and Food Health of Brunei's Ministry of Health, these affected chocolate products are not imported to Brunei as most of the Cadbury chocolates sold in the country are manufactured in Malaysia or Australia.

However, as a precaution the Health Services Department will continue to monitor to ensure the affected products are not imported and sold in the country.

HFMD Update for July

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 7 - Ministry of Health announced that since March 2006 until July 4, 2006; 1,137 cases of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) had been reported. From the total, 209 cases were reported in June and 16 cases had been reported for the first four day in month of July. From the ministry surveillance, most of the cases (72 per cent) were involving children aged five and below.

RBA appoints GSA in India

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 11 -

The national carrier of Brunei Darussalam. Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) has appointed STIC Travels Pvt Ltd as its General Sales Agent (GSA) for passengers and cargo in India.

A signing ceremony was held on July 10 at the airline's head office in the capital on July 10. Present as signatories were the Chairman of STIC Travels, Mr. Subhash Goyal and RBA was represented by its General Manager - Sales & Marketing, Mr Wong Peng Hoon.

The General Manager of STIC Travels, Captain Rakesh Walia and RBA's Regional Manager Middle East, Indian Sub-continent and Europe, Abd Nasir Haji Bolhassan counter-signed the agreement.

With the appointment, STIC Travels will represent the airline in promoting its products and will manage the airline's passenger reservations and ticketing in India. STIC Travels is a market leader in air transportation services with a network of more than 40 offices located across India.

Brunei Marathon back for second year

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 13 - Dubbed as the most gruelling marathon

in the region, Shahbandar Challenge set a unique combination of beach run, trekking Shahbandar hill terrains and running on highway tarmac roads. In addition, the race route covers various places of interest around Jerudong area. Starting from and finishing at The Empire Hotel and Country Club, the most anticipated sporting even for the year had attracted around 2,500 participants of which 400 of them are foreigners by origin.

The organiser of Brunei Marathon 2006, Excellence Event Management, in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources has redirected the marathon route from 'eco-track' to 'towntrack'. The town-track will be totally 100 per cent road track. Brunei Marathon 2006 will be held on December, 10, this year.

Starting and finishing at the heart of Bandar Seri Begawan, at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien to be exact, the runners will speed out of town towards Jalan Tutong passing numbers of Brunei's Landmarks, Royal Regalia Building, Edinburgh Bridge, High Court Building and eventually passing Royal Palace, Istana Nurul Iman.

Apart from 42km marathon, half marathon (21km) and 5km fun-runner, there is a newly introduced 10 km route for individual, veteran and student category.

For more information, log into www. bruneimarathon.com

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

His Majesty's 60th Birthday anniversary Fireworks display at the vicinity of Istana Nurul Iman celebrating His Majesty's 60th birthday anniversary 14 July - 6 August

www.bruneinewsletter.info and email us at: info@bruneinewsletter.info

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