



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

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

MAY, 2006
VOLUME 21 ISSUE 17

HIS MAJESTY DESCRIBES PEACE A GIFT FROM ALLAH

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 31 - Brunei Darussalam celebrated the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) 45th anniversary with a wide array of displays put up by not less than 1600 personnel on the morning of May 31.

Despite the show of military might, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam reminded the armed forces to go for peace.

Peace, asserted His Majesty, is something that cannot be bought.

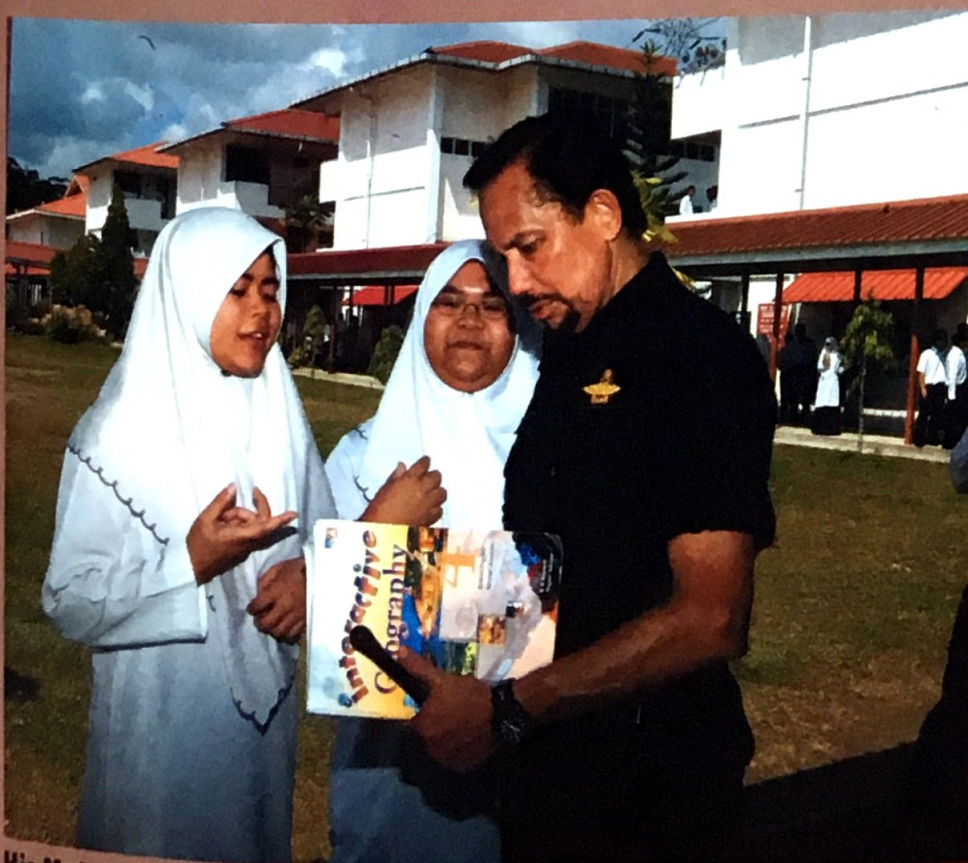
"It is a gift from Allah," said the 59 year-old monarch.



His Majesty, who is also the Supreme Commander of the RBAF delivered his 'titah' after inspecting a guard-of-honour mounted by hundreds of RBAF personnel at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien in the nation-state capital of Bandar Seri Begawan.

His Majesty is seen cutting the anniversary cake witnessed by His Royal Highness and Commander of the RBAF, Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi on May 31 in Bandar Seri Begawan.

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His Majesty mingles with students during his unscheduled visit to Sayyidina Husain Secondary School and Sayyidina Hassan Secondary School.

A PLEASANT SURPRISE

JERUDONG, May 10 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made an unscheduled visit to the Sayyidina Husain Secondary School and Sayyidina Hassan Secondary School.

At these visits, His Majesty personally examined the academic development as well as the facilities available at the school.

Ensuring the quality of life of his subjects will continue to be the working monarch's top priority.

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER
is published monthly by the Department of
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HM presents land titles, houses to deserving citizens

KUALA BELAIT, May 23 - More Bruneians are enjoying better living as a result of various programmes introduced by the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The recent event in Kuala Belait displayed His Majesty's concern in providing his subjects with better standard of living.

Sixty-four citizens in the Belait District had the opportunity of meeting their beloved monarch when they were presented with land titles and keys to their terraced houses under the Kampong Pandan National Housing Plan.

The land titles were awarded to citizens who have been occupying government land under the temporary occupation license (TOL) arrangement, while the terraced houses were awarded to deserving citizens participating in the housing scheme.

The two-storey houses occupy an average floor area of 96.2 square metres with 3 bedrooms and a toilet on the top floor with living and dining rooms as well as a spacious kitchen on the ground floor.

The houses were offered at a price ranging from \$43,000 - \$45,000, interest-free, and payable over a period of 10 to 15 years.



A recipient receiving his key from His Majesty

Kampong Pandan where the National Housing Plan is located has a population of 16,700 people.

His Majesty's itinerary also included a tour of the nearby Sayyidina Ali Secondary School, meeting sessions with recipients of the terraced houses, tour of the Belait District Police Headquarters in Panaga, Brunei Shell's Process Plant, a visit to the residence of the *Penghulu* of Mukim Seria, the Co-Generation Plant as well as the residence of the Village Head of Lumut 1 and government buildings in the surrounding area.



Inspection guard-of-honour at Penanjong Garrison

Having a closer look at RBAF's Training Institute

TUTONG, May 16 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visited the Royal Brunei Armed Forces' Training Institute at the Penanjong Garrison in the Tutong District on May 16. Picture at left shows His Majesty inspecting a guard-of-honour mounted by the garrison's army personnel while the picture below shows His Majesty being briefed on the teaching module available at the Institute. His Majesty were received by the Deputy Minister of Defence, Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (R) Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mohammad Yasmin and the RBAF Commander, Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi.



A briefing at the Training Institute

Royal reception for former Malaysian Premier

JERUDONG, May 7 - Former Malaysian Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohammed was accorded a royal dinner reception at the start of his three-day visit to Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam dined with The Right Honourable at the world's renowned Empire Hotel & Country Club.

Also present during the royal banquet were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.



His Majesty greets Tun Dr. Mahathir at the Empire Hotel & Country Club

Brunei Darussalam welcomes Saudi and Palestinian Ministers



His Majesty welcoming His Excellency Mahmoud Al-Zahar, Foreign Minister of Palestinian National Authority and picture at right shows the monarch greeting His Excellency Dr Nizar bin Obaid Madani, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 22 - Brunei Darussalam welcomed His Excellency Dr Nizar bin Obaid Madani, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia and spouse who was on an official visit to this country beginning May 22.

The highlight of his visit was an audience with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Excellency was a signatory to the General Agreement to

enhance bilateral cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty also granted an audience at the Istana Nurul Iman for His Excellency Mahmoud Al-Zahar, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Palestinian National Authority on Saturday, May 27.

The Minister was accompanied by His Excellency Dr. Samir Abu Esah, Planning Minister of the Palestinian National Authority.



His Majesty receives UNESCO's Director General

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 24 - In a gesture of goodwill, His Majesty received in audience UNESCO's Director General, His Excellency Koichiro Ito Matsuura who was on a two-day visit to Brunei Darussalam starting May 24.

During the audience, His Excellency Koichiro was accompanied by the Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman.

Royal audiences to foreign envoys

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 29 - Brunei Darussalam welcomed four new Ambassadors and High Commissioners to Brunei Darussalam.

The foreign envoys presented their credentials in special audiences with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman.

They are:

1. His Excellency Md.Hedayetul Islam Chowdhery, the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei.
2. His Excellency Nan Sy, the newly appointed Ambaddador of Cambodia to Brunei.
3. His Excellency Dr. Donatus Kock, the newly appointed non-resident Ambassador of Austria to Brunei.
4. His Excellency Damien Dominic Gamiandu, the newly appointed non-resident High Commissioner of Papua New Guinea to Brunei.

His Majesty also granted an audience on May 18 to Mr Malcom Brinded, the Shell International's Executive Director of Exploration and Production (below).



Warm welcome for Lord Mayor of London and Lady Mayoress



Brunei Darussalam played host to The Right Honourable Lord Mayor of London, Alderman David Brewer and wife, Lady Mayoress, Mrs Tessa Brewer starting Monday, May 15. Their three-day visit in this country were memorable indeed starting with an audience with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman, while Lady Mayoress, concurrently was granted an audience with Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha.

The Lord Mayor of London was accompanied by His Excellency John Saville, the British High Commissioner and on hand to accompany Lady Mayoress was Mrs Fabiola Moreno, the spouse of the British High Commissioner.

Farewell to outgoing ambassadors

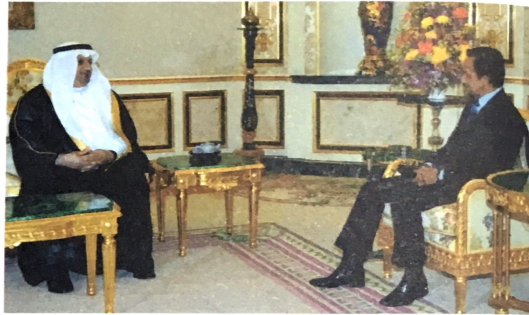
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 30 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience His Excellency Esam A Abid Al-Thagafi, the outgoing Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Excellency who had been in Brunei Darussalam since May 2003 was accompanied by his spouse, Madam Susu H.M Husein who was accorded the privilege of an audience with Her Majesty The Raja Isteri.

His Majesty then consented to receive in audience His Excellency Dato Paduka Dr. Oleksandr Horin, the Ambassador of Ukraine to Brunei Darussalam.

His Excellency was a non-resident Ambassador of Ukraine to Brunei Darussalam since February 2004.

His Excellency was also granted an audience by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.



His Majesty in an audience for His Excellency Esam A Abid Al-Thagafi



His Majesty and His Royal Highness in a separate audience for His Excellency Dato Paduka Dr. Oleksandr Horin



Her Majesty receives Madam Susu H.M Husein, the spouse of the outgoing Ambassador of Saudi Arabia



Her Majesty presenting the trophy to the winner

Royal boost for badminton players

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 21 - Women badminton players competing in a championship organised by the Women Section of the Malay Teachers' Association pleasantly accorded royal support with the presence of Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha.

The tournament which was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, was the eighth since it was first introduced in 1989.

Accompanying Her Majesty were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum-Al-Islam and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Noor Ehsani.

Al-Quran - Our guide to the right path



Winners of the male and female category receiving their trophies from His Majesty



BERAKAS, May 25 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam called on his subjects to read and understand the contents of the holy Quran.

He also described the Quran as a reference to guide us to the right path, and consequently a source of blessing from Allah the Almighty.

Additionally, His Majesty reminded educational institutions, ministries and departments to promote Quran reading among their population and to view the effort as an '*amanah*,' (trustworthiness) - a universal issue which is sought after not only by Islam but other races and faiths.

The call was made by His Majesty during the final and prize presentation ceremony of the national level Quran Reading Competition at the International Convention Centre near Bandar Seri Begawan on May 25.

The competition was officially launched the day before by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

In his opening speech, the Crown Prince described the Quran as a blessing from Allah the Almighty that fills the lives of mankind with awareness and prevents wrongdoings.

His Royal Highness also said that the lessons contained in the Quran encourage mankind to perform good deeds in order to obtain spiritual rewards and warned of the dire consequences for those who commit sins and bad deeds.

Awang Muhammad Fahmie bin Haji Metussin emerged as champion in the *qari* (male) category while the *qariah* was won by Dayang Hajah Maidah binti Haji Abdul Rahman.

Both champions received their awards from His Majesty on May 25.



A long shot view of the scenery at the Quran reading competition

Slight increase reported in March's Consumer Price Index

March's 2006 Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 0.1 per cent over the previous month with an Index of 102.7.

The cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages decreased marginally by 0.1 per cent over the previous month due to cheaper price of eggs, vegetable and palm oil, tea, milo and horlicks.

While cost of clothing and footwear fell by 0.2 per cent as a result of lower prices of ready-made clothing and accessories.

Meanwhile cost of household goods, services and operation declined by 0.1 per cent due to lower prices of household furnishings; audio, video equipments and musical instruments; household equipments, electrical and kitchen appliances and utensils.

Cost of transportation increased by 0.2 per cent due to higher prices of airfares.

The education cost dropped by 0.1 per cent due to cheaper prices of some computers and accessories; and school textbooks and stationery.

Higher prices of proprietary medicines and supplies led to 0.1 per cent increased in the cost of medical and health.

The cost of recreation and entertainment rose by 0.6 per cent resulting from higher prices of holiday packages.

The miscellaneous goods and services cost declined by 0.1 per cent as a result of lower prices of unisex personal care and ladies personal effects.

The cost of housing, water, electricity, communication and maintenance; remained the same as in the previous month.

The CPI in March 2006 was 0.3 per cent higher than that of the same month in 2005.

Royal honours for Indonesian army chief



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 17 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to bestow the award of The Most Exalted Order of Paduka Keberanian Yang Amat Gemilang (D.P.K.T) (1st Class) to His Excellency Mersekai TNI Djoko Suyanto, chief of the Tentera Nasional Indonesia, which brings the title 'Dato Paduka Seri'.

His Majesty then consented to receive in audience Dato Paduka Seri Marsekai TNI Djoko Suyanto at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Simultaneously, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri also consented to receive in audience Datin Ibu Ratna Djoko Suyanto, spouse of Dato Paduka Seri Marsekai TNI Djoko Suyanto.

Also present at the ceremony were Pehin Datu Colonel (R) Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mohammad Yasmin, Deputy Minister of Defence, Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and His Excellency Herianto Soeprapto, the Indonesian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Brunei Darussalam.

The couple were on an official three-day visit to Brunei Darussalam from May 17 to 19.



Her Majesty and Yang Teramat Mulia attend gathering



JERUDONG, May 26 - Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Yang Teramat Mulia Azrinaz Mazhar consented to attend a reception organised by spouses of cabinet ministers, confidential secretary to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, deputy permanent

secretaries and associated members at the Jerudong Polo Club Berkshire Hall.

Also present at the auspicious occasion were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Noor Ehsani.

Crown Prince graces start of Mushaf Brunei reprint

His Royal Highness
graces the start of
Mushaf Brunei's
Printing



BERAKAS, May 22 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office officially launched the start of reprinting activities of the Mushaf Brunei (Brunei Darussalam caligraphic version of the holy Quran).

The previous version of the Mushaf Brunei made available to the public in 1991 is out of stock prompting the Ministry of Religious Affairs to reprint to the order of 150,000 copies.

In his welcoming address, Pehin Dato Seri Utama

Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain, Religious Affairs Minister explained that the reprinting of Mushaf Brunei will be done in three stages starting this year.

Out of the 150,000 copies, 120,000 copies will be distributed to schools throughout the nation-state while the remaining 30,000 will be made available to the public.

Vital pre-printing processes and associated materials of Mushaf Brunei was presented to the Crown Prince through an exhibition.

Crown Prince: ITB should diversify courses and programmes

BERAKAS, May 20 - Speaking at the Institut Teknologi Brunei's (ITB) 19th Convocation Ceremony, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, identified human resource development as a crucial factor in the development of the nation.

"In view of the importance of human resource development, His Majesty's Government has allocated millions of dollars to fulfill the requirements for expertise and skills in the local workforce in various sectors including the field of Education or Teaching. The opportunities and facilities provided for these purposes should be utilised wisely," said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness reaffirmed his confidence on ITB, which according to His Royal Highness is now ready with its own strategic plan to produce marketable graduates who are competitive at the international level.

His Royal Highness also advised ITB to diversify courses or programs to cater for developments in the job market which require a high-tech capable workforce.



Recipient of Higher National Diploma receiving his certificate

"In devising the relevant curriculum, it should be ensured that it is relevant to the field of education which fulfills the aspiration to produce graduates who possess the traits of technopreneurs," asserted His Royal Highness.

Additionally, His Royal Highness suggested for ITB to undertake programs such as the raising of lecturers' qualifications both academically and professionally, exchanges of officers with overseas centres for higher learning or opening themselves in the field of research and offering short-term courses as well as consultancy services in their respective field of expertise.

Successful Sukuk Al-Ijarah Securities

COMMONWEALTH DRIVE, May 18 - The Ministry of Finance announced the successful pricing of the Brunei Government's 2nd issuance of Short-term Sukuk Al-Ijarah securities.

The BND150 million offering was fully subscribed at a yield of 3.375%. It was the second issue of *sukuk* by the Brunei Government following its successful maiden offering on April 6. The securities were issued on May 18.

New ferry terminal by 2007

MUARA, May 1 - Passengers plying Brunei Darussalam and Labuan and nearby areas of Malaysia will spend their pre-departure and arrival time in a much comfortable environment with the completion, next year of a new ferry terminal in Muara.

Construction work of the \$4.88 million building has already started with the completion date expected in July 2007.

It will occupy an area of 13,761 metres near the Marine Department building.

The three-storey terminal building will feature Malay architectural concept.

Threat of Avian Influenza: APEC Ministers meet

BERAKAS, May 7 - The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Paduka Awang Haji Suyoi was among the 176 delegation from 21 APEC member countries who met to discuss the threat posed by Avian Influenza among the APEC economies.

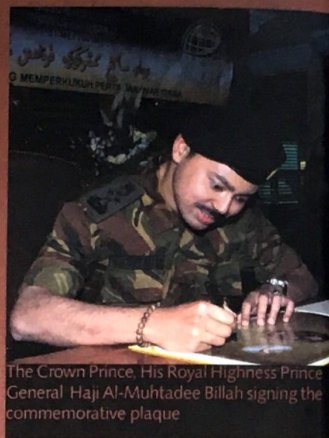
In a press conference upon his arrival from Dan Namg, Vietnam, the Minister said that the H5N1 virus has spread to nine APEC economies prompting the establishment of long term control initiatives to reduce its impact.

The meeting in Vietnam allowed delegates to share experiences on controlling the spread of Avian Influenza.

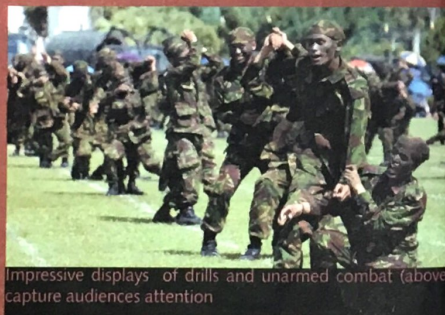
The Nation celebrates Armed Forces Day



His Majesty inspecting the guard-of-honour mounted by hundreds of personnel



The Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Prince General Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah signing the commemorative plaque



Impressive displays of drills and unarmed combat (above) capture audiences attention

From Page 1

Brunei Darussalam is a peaceful country with the population enjoying a high standard of living as a result of incomes generated by the oil and gas industry being properly invested to continuously improve the well being of the people.

His Majesty's remark highlights the notion that peace is not to be taken for granted for "it is not a commodity or something that can be built but more of God's will," and attributes the peaceful environment to the inner purity of its people having deep religious beliefs and devotions.

Monarch, who is also UK's Sandhurst Military College

graduate lauds the armed forces' effort to establish its own religious department, which, according to His Majesty will increase the motivation and strengthen military discipline using the essence of the Islamic religion.

Other achievements were noted by the Monarch including the establishment of the defence and strategic institution, the setting up of the military academy and the scholarship scheme for 'O' and 'A' level students.

Other details can be obtained from the RBAF's website: www.mindef.gov.bn

RBAF BRIEFLY

The Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) was formed as The Royal Brunei Malay Regiment on May 31, 1961. Exactly five years later the name was changed to Royal Brunei Malay Regiment in recognition of its vital role in protecting the sovereignty of the monarch and the nation as a whole.

The name Royal Brunei Armed Forces came into effect on April 1, 1984 - shortly after Brunei Darussalam regained her full independence from the British.

His Majesty and Crown Prince at Regimental Dinner

BERAKAS, May 27 - The Regimental Dinner - one of the oldest tradition of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces was surely a night full of excitement for the military community as it allowed them to meet their Monarch who is also their Supreme Commander.

This year's regimental dinner at the Bolkih Garrison on May 27, was to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam graced the function with his presence along with His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, General of RBAF.

Pictures presented in this section show His Majesty and His Royal Highness being greeted upon their arrival at the Officers' Mess by senior officers of the RBAF, followed by the dinner reception and of particular significance is the photo at the bottom which shows His Majesty sharing his skills in conducting the RBAF orchestra.

His Majesty and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince were seen in conversation with a number of officers and were ushered to sign a commemorative document before leaving the Bolkih Garrison.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness greeted by members of the Royal Brunei Armed forces



Regimental dinner attended by members of RBAF



His Majesty conducting the orchestra

Brunei Shell's Time Tunnel Gallery launched

SERIA, May 17 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office consented to launch the Time Tunnel Gallery and made a working visit to the Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sendirian Berhad (BSP).

The launching ceremony in the morning began with a welcoming address by the Managing Director of BSP, Dr Grahaeme Henderson who touched on the current achievements of BSP in producing oil and gas and the company's success in becoming one of the largest and most successful oil and gas companies in Asia.

The morning's ceremony proceeded with an address by a representative of BSP retirees, Syed Haji Mohamad bin Syed Haji Othman.

His Royal Highness then launched the Time Tunnel Gallery showcasing more than 75 years of economic and technological investment by the Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sendirian Berhad.

His Royal Highness then proceeded to visit several sections of the company which began at the BSP head office. His Royal Highness then toured the company's operation departments including the Production Control Centre (PCC) where His Royal Highness was briefed on the activities that took place at the respective departments whilst taking a closer look at the facilities available and equipments used for the company's operation.

From the BSP Head Office, His Royal Highness visited the Seria Crude Oil Terminal (SCOT) where crude oil had been exported since 1971. During the visit, His Royal Highness was briefed on the activities at the terminal. His Royal Highness also consented to

take a closer look at the terminal's surroundings. The visit proceeded with a get-together and luncheon attended by members of the Board of Directors of BSP; BLNG; BST; BSM; Senior Government and BSP Officers; the *Penghulus* and Village Heads of the Belait District; and BSP retirees.

In the afternoon, His Royal Highness boarded a helicopter to visit the Champion 7 Offshore Complex. On arrival at the Complex, His Royal Highness' visit began with a briefing on the operations of the Champion 7 Offshore Complex which is one of the most technically advanced facilities.

His Royal Highness ended the visit with a tour of the Complex operational sections and its external surroundings.

His Royal Highness being briefed on the exhibits at the gallery



His Royal Highness being briefed on Brunei Shell's Champion-7 production facilities.

Royalty at Pakistan's Cultural Night

BERAKAS, May 28 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah were entertained to a colourful cultural show organised by the Arts Council of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Also present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

On hand to greet Their Royal Highnesses' arrival was the Republic's High Commissioner, His Excellency Major General (R) Syed Haider Jawed and spouse, Madam Fauzia Jawed.

Beside the cultural shows, Their Royal Highnesses were also briefed by His Excellency Syed Haider on the reconstruction effort taking place after the recent earthquake in Pakistan which claimed 80,000 lives and made three million people homeless.



Their Royal Highnesses at the Pakistan's Cultural Night

Crown Prince grants audience to ambassador

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 16 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah granted an audience for His Excellency Pehin Datu Harimau Padang Major General (R) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Husin, Brunei Darussalam's new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Indonesia.

His Excellency was presented with his diplomatic accreditation during an audience with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on April 12.

Prior to his new appointment, His Excellency was Brunei Darussalam Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Jordan.

Also present during the audience was Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abu Bakar, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office.



Crown Prince General at the Maghrib prayer

Thanksgiving prayer commemorate 45th anniversary

BERAKAS, May 30 - The Royal Brunei Armed Forces organised a thanksgiving prayer in commemoration of the forces' 45th anniversary celebration.

Present to grace the occasion was His Royal Highness Crown Prince General Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

The function started with the *Maghrib* prayer followed by the recital of 'Surah Yaa Siin.' His Royal Highness stayed for the *Isyak* prayer and joined the congregation for a dinner reception after the thanksgiving prayer was read.

Princess on working visit to RBAF Legal Unit

BOLKIAH GARRISON, May 1- Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Muta Wakillah Hayatul Bolkiah visited the development of the Military Legal Unit of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

Her Royal Highness was on a working visit to the establishment. She was briefed on the history, responsibilities and the organisational structure of the military legal unit by Lieutenant Colonel Haji Md. Yusof before visiting the Military Court where Her Royal Highness was able to review a military court proceeding.

A study on the need of a military legal unit was executed in 1999 led to its establishment way back in 2002. It was housed in temporary building facilities at the Bolkiah Garrison until a permanent purpose-built building was completed and officiated in December 2004 by the RBAF Commander, Pehin Dato Lailaraja Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi.

A memento was presented to Her Royal Highness by the RBAF Commander in appreciation of Her Royal Highness' historic visit to the establishment.



Her Royal Highness during her visit to the Military Legal Unit

Prince Mohamed Bolkiah attends ACD Ministerial Meeting in DOHA



His Royal Highness arrives at the Doha International Airport in Qatar.

DOHA, May 23 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, was in Doha, State of Qatar to attend the 5th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Ministerial Meeting.

His Royal Highness were among the Foreign Ministers from 28 countries who participated in discussions on matters of common concern to ACD as well as international and regional developments.

His Royal Highness also met His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al-Thani, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, for bilateral discussions.

Additionally, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah also met His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Rashid Beebeejun, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping of the Republic of Mauritius and His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea to discuss bilateral matters.

His Royal Highness also met His Excellency Taro Aso, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan where both ministers agreed to start negotiations on the Brunei Darussalam-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement.

In the evening, His Royal Highness, joined other ACD Ministers at a dinner hosted by His Royal Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Heir Apparent of the State of Qatar.

The Asian cooperation dialogue (ACD) was inaugurated in June 2002 in Chiang Mai, Thailand where 18 Asian foreign ministers have met for the first time.



23 - 24 May, 2006



(From left to right): His Royal Highness with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Heir Apparent of the State of Qatar; The Honourable Dr. Ahmed Rashid Beebeejun, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping of the Republic of Mauritius; and His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Republic of Korea.

Understanding Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)

ACD is a continent wide forum and aims to constitute the missing link in Asia by incorporating every Asian country and building an Asian Community.

The ACD is an initiative from Thailand and the first ACD Ministerial Meeting was held on June 18-19, 2002 in Cha-Am, Thailand.

Currently the ACD comprises of 28 countries.

The main objectives of the ACD are as follows:

- To promote interdependence among Asian countries in all areas of cooperation by identifying Asia's common strengths and opportunities which will help reduce poverty and improve the quality of life for Asian people whilst developing a knowledge-based society within Asia enhancing community and people empowerment;

- To expand the trade and financial market within Asia and increase the bargaining power of Asian countries in lieu of competition and, in turn, enhance Asia's economic competitiveness in the global market;
- To serve as the missing link of Asia by building upon Asia's potentials and strengths through supplementing complementing existing cooperative frameworks so as to become a viable partner for other regions;
- To ultimately transform the Asian continent into an Asian Community, capable of interacting with the rest of the world on a more equal footing and contributing more positively towards mutual peace and prosperity.

Member countries have agreed to cooperate in the development of a wide area of commerce and trades.



Representatives of member countries of NAM in Kuala Lumpur

Dynamism & solidarity as driving force for NAM



"As an example, in handling terrorism we are beginning to see some progress. This is a good development, but so far we are only seen to be defending (ourselves from terrorism), and the time has come for us to act against it."



KUALA LUMPUR, May 29 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade was in Kuala Lumpur to attend the two-day Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) starting May 29.

In his address to the delegation, His Royal Highness said that the spirit of solidarity has allowed NAM to establish relationship with the continent of Africa, Latin America and a big part of Asia.

His Royal Highness asserted that dynamism is associated with the diversity that can be found in NAM which could be translated into strength depending on how it was acted upon for positive results.

"As an example, in handling terrorism we are beginning to see some progress. This is a good development, but so far we are only seen to be defending (ourselves from terrorism), and the time has come for us to act against it," said His Royal Highness.

After the NAM meeting, His Royal Highness attended the G77 Special Ministerial Level Meeting and the Republic of China.

Diplomatic ties with Estonia

TOKYO, May 1 - The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has established diplomatic relations with the Government of the Republic of Estonia starting May 1.

This relation was made official in a joint communique on the diplomatic ties held at Brunei Darussalam's embassy in Tokyo, Japan.

On hand to represent the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Adnan bin Buntar, the Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to Japan while his counterpart was Mr. Argo Kangro, Charge d' Affaires ad interim, Embassy of the Republic of Estonia.

Message of condolences

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 28 - Brunei Darussalam shared the sorrow experienced by the people of Indonesia for the huge losses they suffered after the recent earthquake in Yogyakarta.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah consented to send a message of condolence to His Excellency Dr. Haji Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the President of the Republic of Indonesia.

His Majesty personally, and the people of Brunei Darussalam extended their sympathy and condolence to the government and to the people of the Republic of Indonesia, especially to the bereaved families of victims of the disaster.

Brunei Darussalam & Saudi Arabia for bilateral cooperation



BERAKAS, May 26 - Brunei Darussalam and Saudi Arabia entered into a General Agreement to further enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields such as economics, trade and cultural cooperation.

Signing on behalf of Brunei Darussalam was Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and while the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was represented by His Excellency Dr. Nizar bin Obaid Madani, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs . The signing ceremony took place at the International Convention Centre.

Leaving for a noble cause

BERAKAS, May 31 - While their colleagues were celebrating the Royal Brunei Armed Forces 45th Anniversary on May 31, some of our fellow soldiers in The Humanitarian Relief Team to the Republic of Indonesia left the country to assist victims of an earthquake in Yogyakarta.

The seven member team is led by Staff Officer at the General Office Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Lieutenant Colonel Haji Zaini bin Haji Awang Damit. The team comprises a military medical officer, a medical specialist from the Ministry of Health, an officer from the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation officer from the Fire and Rescue Department and two military nurses.

According to the team leader, a total of 24,000 composite and medical supplies had already been sent to Yogyakarta. The supplies will be increased depending on the outcome of the assessment of the Brunei's advance team. The advance team is coordinated by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces with the cooperation of the Indonesian National Army. It is aimed at providing humanitarian assistance such as food and medicine.

Congratulatory Messages

- His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sent congratulatory messages to:
- His Majesty Harald V, the King of Norway and His Excellency Jens Stoltenberg, the Prime Minister of Norway on their Constitution Day on May 17.
 - His Excellency Pehin Seri Dr. Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Chief Minister of Sarawak on his re-appointment as Chief Minister of Sarawak on May 21.
 - His Majesty King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein, the King of Jordan and His Excellency Dr. Marouf Bakhit, the Prime Minister of Jordan on Jordan's Independence Day Celebration on May 25.
 - His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, on his re-appointment as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore on May 31.

HFMD Update

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 24 - The Ministry of Health announced that a total of 862 cases of the Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease have been reported in Brunei Darussalam from March 1 to May 20.

In March, 74 per cent of the cases involved children under the age of 5. In April, the figure decreased, but the number of infected children above 5 years old increased from 26 per cent in March to 75 per cent.

Brunei Darussalam is determined to keep the spread of the disease under control and has for some time now established appropriate preparedness initiatives.



*Exquisite local
& international
delicacies
abound at
the Mall*



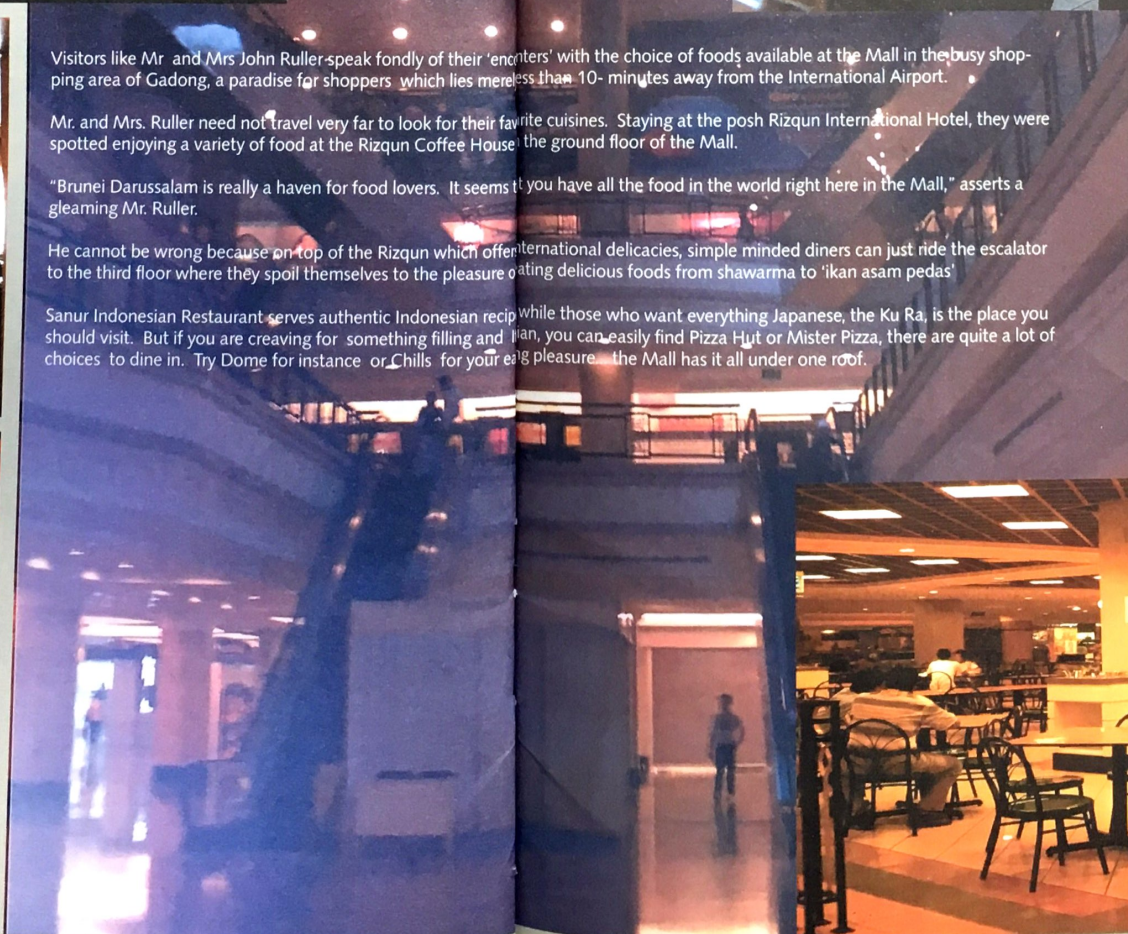
Visitors like Mr. and Mrs. John Ruller speak fondly of their 'encounters' with the choice of foods available at the Mall in the busy shopping area of Gadong, a paradise for shoppers which lies mere less than 10- minutes away from the International Airport.

Mr. and Mrs. Ruller need not travel very far to look for their favorite cuisines. Staying at the posh Rizqun International Hotel, they were spotted enjoying a variety of food at the Rizqun Coffee House, the ground floor of the Mall.

"Brunei Darussalam is really a haven for food lovers. It seems to you have all the food in the world right here in the Mall," asserts a gleaming Mr. Ruller.

He cannot be wrong because on top of the Rizqun which offers international delicacies, simple minded diners can just ride the escalator to the third floor where they spoil themselves to the pleasure of eating delicious foods from shawarma to 'ikan asam pedas'.

Sanur Indonesian Restaurant serves authentic Indonesian recipes while those who want everything Japanese, the Ku Ra, is the place you should visit. But if you are craving for something filling and filling, you can easily find Pizza Hut or Mister Pizza, there are quite a lot of choices to dine in. Try Dome for instance or Chills for your evening pleasure. The Mall has it all under one roof.





Kelupis



Wajid



Pulut Pangang



Tapai



Cendol

Of Kianggeh Bridge and Bruneians' very own delicious 'kueh'

The boat has to pass under the Bandar Seri Begawan's Kianggeh Bridge in order to reach the famous Kianggeh Tamu (open market) where one can find a variety of delicious native Bruneian *kueh* (cakes) and drinks. Bruneians are hospitable, generous and humble, unique characteristics which are reflected in the way they prepare their traditional 'kueh.'

The cakes above are called *kelupis*, *wajid*, *pulut pangang*, and *tapai* - all are wrapped in locally found leaves and made from rice with or without fillings. The *wajid* and *tapai* are sweet, suitable to be served during afternoon tea, while the *cendol* also made from rice is thirst quencher for anytime of the day.

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

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