



Knowledge Convention 2007: Faith to guide us

His Majesty at one of the exhibition
at the Knowledge Convention
2007.



BERAKAS, July 24 - The importance of faith or *aqidah* was highlighted by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the official opening of the Knowledge Convention 2007.

According to His Majesty, issues on faith is an everlasting one and activities that are against faith is a norm. However, people are often not aware that these kind of acts would bring destruction and huge losses.

The convention was held in

conjunction with His Majesty's 61st birthday anniversary. The monarch advised that faith could provide guidance towards working with sincerity, diligence and efficiency, to generate good results and raise productivity.

Such transgressions indicate that the doers' faith is flawed, and their belief in Allah The Almighty is incomplete. If their faith had been absolute, then they would not have committed acts that are considered wrong and restricted by Allah The Almighty.

His Majesty said that Brunei enjoy sufficient facilities to strengthen the *aqidah*. The monarch hoped that the annual event will continue to have perpetually fresh agendas. This year's theme is *Aqidah Kukuh Membawa Berkat* (strong faith invites blessings).

Also present at the event were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Azim and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Over \$300k to assist victims of natural disaster

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 6 – More than \$300,000.00 were received from members of the public and private sectors including individuals through the 'Tabung Amanah Jabatan Daerah Brunei dan Muara' (Brunei Muara District's Trust Fund) set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the bid to aid the victims of natural disaster that occurred on July 23.

Besides financial assistance, also

received were materials for repairing the damages, food supplies and canvas (to temporarily cover affected roof). School children at affected areas also received stationery.

Several areas in the nation were hit by strong winds and heavy rains with Kampong Ayer or the water village the most affected. About 200 houses including schools and a mosque experienced damages.

The villages affected at Kampong Ayer were Mukim Saba, Mukim Tamoi, Mukim Sungai Kedayan and Mukim Kota Batu.

The affected areas also received royal visits from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on July 31 and August 6.

During the visit, His Majesty also went to the Fire and Rescue Station at Kampung Sungai Lampai where the centre of rescue operations was based.

Meet-the people sessions

Thousands from all walks of life personally greeted His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in conjunction with the 61st birthday anniversary of the sovereign at a meet-the-people sessions.

The sessions were held at four districts; Temburong on July 17; Tutong on July 19; Belait on July 21 and Brunei Muara on July 22.

The sessions among others also include colourful cultural performances and exhibitions from various villages, *mukims* and associations.

But the most awaited moment by all people and residents was the chance to personally meet and greet His Majesty.



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ISTANA NURUL IMAN, August 8 - His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive diplomatic credentials from four newly appointed envoys to Brunei Darussalam.

They were:

- ❶ His Excellency Dato' Ku Jaafar bin Ku Shaari, the newly-appointed Malaysia's High Commissioner of Malaysia.
- ❷ His Excellency Pham Binh Man, the newly-appointed ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
- ❸ His Excellency Ali Ibrahima Sylla, the newly-appointed ambassador of the Republic of Guinea.
- ❹ His Excellency Sisa Ngombane, the newly-appointed High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman the outgoing Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Datuk Ali bin Abdullah on July 30.



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

- ❶ The wife of the outgoing Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, Datin Wan Kamariah binti Wan Abdul Rahman on July 28.
- ❷ The wife of Brunei's newly appointed ambassador to the Republic Socialist of Vietnam, Datin Dayang Hajah Jaidah binti Haji Ibrahim on July 28 and the wife of Brunei's newly appointed Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Dayang Hajah Mariani binti Haji Bongsu.

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 granted audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman for:

- ① Brunei's newly appointed ambassador to Republic Socialist to Vietnam, His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mahadi bin Haji Wasli and wife; and Brunei's newly appointed Permanent Representative to the United Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland, His Excellency Awang Haji Alaihuddin bin Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Utama Haji Awang Mohd Taha and wife on July 26.
- ② The outgoing Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Datuk Ali bin Abdullah and wife, Datin Wan Kamariah binti Wan Abdul Rahman on July 26.
- ③ The outgoing Union of Myanmar's Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency U Tin Htun on August 9.
- ④ The outgoing Lao People's Democratic Republic's Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Bounthong Vongsaly on August 9.
- ⑤ The newly appointed Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mohamad bin Jameel Abdul Jaleel Hashim on August 9.



Congratulatory messages

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

- His Excellency Mohammed Hosni Mubarak, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and His Excellency Ahmed Nazif, the Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt in conjunction with the country's 85th National Day on July 23.
- The President of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency S. R. Nathan, and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, in conjunction with the republic's 42nd National Day on August 9.



His Majesty mingles with members of uniformed associations.



His Majesty receives a token of appreciation from the Royal Brunei Police Force.



Their Majesties and Their Royal Highness at a banquet hosted by Brunei-based diplomatic missions.

Banquets celebrate His Majesty's 61st birthday anniversary

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, July 31 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar graced several banquets in conjunction with His Majesty's 61st birthday anniversary.

On July 17, Their Majesties and Her Royal Highness graced a banquet for officers of uniformed organisations and members of various uniformed associations. They were Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Royal Brunei Police Force, Custom and Excise Department, Immigration Department, Prison Department, Fire and Rescue Department, Gurkha Reserve Unit and others government agencies. Also present were personnel from Scouts Association, Girl Guides, Red Crescent as well as cadets from Army, Police and Fire Rescue.

On July 25, the Brunei-based diplomatic missions hosted a banquet at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Jerudong Park Country Club. A light music performance was performed by two talented children, a local singer and a Filipino pianist.

On July 28, a banquet was hosted by the Royal Brunei Police Force. It was held at the Assarraa Hall in the capital.

While on July 31, Royal Brunei Armed Forces hosted a banquet at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.



His Majesty cuts a birthday cake at a banquet hosted by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.



National Youth Day's celebration held at the Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sport Complex.

National Youth Day: Proper education generates mature youths

BERAKAS, August 1 - Proper education will generate a mature youth where the identity of a mature youth is one who is active and shuns sinful acts. Youths have a special potential in terms of age, and their strong physical and mental aspects. If these aspects are used purposefully, youths would bring benefits to the community and nation.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said in his *titah* (royal speech) at the 2nd National Youth Day celebration held at the Indoor Stadium of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sports Complex.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said that the youths are a component of national development and dynamic stakeholders for the survival of the nation and race.

"Based on their formal and complete education, they are the think tank so there is no doubt that they can think big for the benefit of the community," said His Majesty.

His Majesty also expressed his gratitude to all the youth for their contributions to the society and national development and hoped it would be continued in the future.

At the event, His Majesty presented three youths awards; Meritorious Youth Leader Award, Youth Service Award and Youth Association Award.

Four recipients received the Meritorious Youth Leader Award. They were Dato Paduka Awang Haji Yakub bin Haji Ahmad, Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Raja Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Mohd. Ali bin Haji Awang Mohd. Daud, Datin Hajah

Masni binti Haji Mohd. Ali dan Datin Hajah Edah binti Haji Mohd. Noor.

Two recipients received the Youth Service Award. They were Dayang Hafsa binti Awang Haji Abdul Halim and Awang Ahanapi binti Haji Mahadi.

His Majesty also presented the Youth Association Award to five youth associations, namely Persatuan Melayu Keriam (PESAKA), Persatuan Membasmi Dadah (BASMIDA), Persatuan Pertiwi, Persatuan Tiga Kampong Bersatu (TIBA) and Persatuan Kampong Tanjong Maya (PERTAMA).

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

Call for equal treatment

BERAKAS, August 7 - Village leaders and relevant agencies were urged not to practise favouritism or give preferential treatment when it comes to looking after the welfare of the residents under their jurisdictions.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stressed the matter in his *titah* (royal speech) at a gathering for Mukim and Village Consultative Councils throughout the country held at the International Convention Centre.

His Majesty also expressed his confidence that many activities, both religious and community, had been organised through the Village Consultative Council Organising Board since its

establishment over 15 years ago. This is inline with the objective of establishing consultative councils which aims for a united community.

His Majesty believed that with the amount of period, the consultative councils are well-experienced and mature enough to move actively, relevant with human's development and situation.

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



His Majesty receives a memento from one of the participants.

Together uphold concept of change



His Majesty presents a prize to one of the winner.

BERAKAS, August 11 – A call was made for the society to together uphold concept of change was made. The good must be preserved, while wrong-doings should be mended or changed. This is what we call a society that is an agent of change.

The call was made by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at a celebration to mark Isra' Mi'raj held at the International Convention Centre.

The highlight of the event was the announcement of Exemplary Religious Schools Awards. Pengiran Anak Puteri Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam Religious School in Kg. Mulaut won the Exemplary Religious School Award in Administration. The school received \$3,000, a trophy and a certificate. Pengiran Anak Puteri Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah Religious School from Kg. Serusop won the Exemplary Religious School Award in Academics. The school received \$3,000, a trophy and certificate, while Penanjong Religious School won the Exemplary Religious School Award for Activities. The school received \$3,000, a trophy and certificate.

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

Isra' Mi'raj is a religious event celebrating Prophet Muhammad's one-night journey, who ascended to the heaven and returned back to Earth.



Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness at an Isra' Mi'raj celebration at Istana Nurul Iman.

6,000 at Istana Nurul Iman

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, August 11 - Some 6,000 guests attended an event to observe Isra' Mi'raj held at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Gracing the event were Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah and members of the royal family.

This year's theme of the Isra' and Mi'raj celebration was *Memperkasa Iltizam Kehidupan Beragama*.



His Majesty in a group photo after officiating the Dirgahayu 60 monument.

'Dirgahayu 60' monument

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 22 – A monument – 'Dirgahayu 60' was officially unveiled by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The monument is strategically located as it is based in front of the world's largest water settlement area, Kampong Ayer and next to the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Complex.

'Dirgahayu 60' monument is a gift from citizens and residents of the country to show their undivided loyalty to the caring monarch in conjunction with the His Majesty's birthday anniversary last year.

The concept of the monument is based on the country's philosophy of Malay, Islamic, Monarchy. Elements that shape the structure of the monument dictate symbolism or meaning.

The unveiling took place at a get-together ceremony with citizens and residents of the Brunei-Muara District in conjunction with His Majesty's 61st birthday anniversary.



His Majesty and The Right Honourable during the audience.

Malaysian Premier on work visit to Brunei

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, August 14 - The Malaysian Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi and Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah were in the sultanate for a two-day working visit from August 13 to 14.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar received in audience from the Malaysian Prime Minister and wife.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; Her Majesty Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri also attended a banquet, in honour of the Malaysian Prime Minister. The reception took place at the Royal Berkshire, Jerudong Polo and Country Club.

The Malaysian Prime Minister and wife attended a high tea reception hosted by the Malaysian High Commission in Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Dato Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari. The function took place in Jalan Kebangsaan. To entertain the guests, traditional cultural dance performances were held organised.

On August 14, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and The Right Honourable conducted a 'Morning Walk' at the Tasek Recreational park in the capital. During the walk, both leaders discussed and exchanged thoughts and ideas and after that enjoyed breakfast in front of the waterfall, the main attraction of the park. Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

The Malaysian Prime Minister and wife, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah also had luncheon with Malaysians residing in the country. The luncheon was held at the Empire Hotel and Country Club. There are about 30,000 Malaysian nationals in Brunei either working with the government or the private sector, or studying.

Meanwhile, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah also visited several places of interest in the country such as a tour of the Kampung Ayer and the Royal Regalia Building.

The Malaysian Prime Minister and delegation left Brunei on August 14 after a two-day working visit.

Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia continue to enhance ties

JERUDONG, August 14 - Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia reaffirmed their commitment to further expand and deepen the bilateral relations based on mutual benefit and respect. Both countries also expressed satisfaction with the warm and longstanding friendship that exist between both countries.

The joint statement was issued in conjunction with the 11th Annual Leaders' Consultation between His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Malaysian Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi.

The two leaders reviewed the overall state of bilateral relations and noted with satisfaction the progress of cooperation in particular in trade and investment, finance, transportation, information and communication technology, defence, health, education and tourism.

The 12th Annual Leaders' Consultation will be held in Malaysia in 2008.

Message from His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam On the Occasion of the 40th Anniversary of Founding of ASEAN

On August the 8th 1967, five Southeast Asia nations met in Bangkok and issued a declaration that set up the regional association we now all know as ASEAN.

In doing so, their leaders became honoured throughout the region as the association's 'founding fathers'.

It is now the fortieth anniversary of that day and, to mark it, we are celebrating their declaration and the achievements that have followed its issue.

It is a time for us to pay tribute to the vision of our founders.

It is also a time to be proud of all that ASEAN has accomplished.

And it is a time to look forward to the future it is offering the five hundred million people it now represents.

When we do this, it is hard for us today to imagine the nineteen sixties when ASEAN was founded.

It was the most dangerous period of the Cold War and we, the nations of Southeast Asia, were its fiercest battleground.

There was a famous theory about us then.

It described us as 'dominoes'

One push, it proposed and we would all collapse in a heap to be gathered up and distributed to the global winners.

It was the foresight of the regions' leaders that enabled us to resist that fate.

And it was ASEAN that was to provide the deep roots which ensure that we would never fall over.

That is why we honour our founding fathers today.

Now forty years later, we see a totally different Southeast Asia.

The 'former 'dominoes' are strong, upright and respected throughout the world.

Where once we were five, we are now ten.

Where once the world came to us to make war, they now come to join us in common friendship and peaceful endeavour.

Where once we were recipients of aid from donor nations, now we are partners, signing independent trading agreements with the great economic powers and moving towards our own economic integration.

And where once our future was decided by others, now we plan future confidently and boldly.

At the end of the year, the signing of the ASEAN Charter will mark the start of a new era in our region's modern history.

It will complete the immediate vision of our founding fathers.

The fullest realization of their hopes for our region, however, means the establishment of permanent peace, freedom and prosperity for all our people.

And that is the task we are now setting ourselves.

I look forward to joining my fellow regional leaders at our Summit in Singapore this year to accept the challenges represented by that task.

In doing so, we will be once more inspired by the example of our association's founding fathers forty years ago today.

In renewing Brunei Darussalam's lasting commitment to the future of our region, I wish all our neighbours, friends and partners in ASEAN most enjoyable celebration of our 40th anniversary.

Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Of Brunei

Crown Prince on working visit to Public Works Department

BERAKAS, August 4 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office conducted a working visit to the headquarters of the Public Works Department, Ministry of Development.

Among the places visited by His Royal Highness were the Tender Distribution Unit, IT and Administration Section, offices of the Director General and Deputy Director General of Public Works. His Royal Highness also visited the Development Control and Integrated Biting System Units, the Technical Services Department, the Structural Section of the department, the Architect Section, Quality Surveyor .



His Royal Highness given a briefing by one of the officer.

Foreign Affairs & Trade Minister attends ASEAN 40th Ministerial Meeting

MANILA, August 2 – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade was in Manila, Philippines to attend the 40th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, the Post Ministerial Conferences and the ASEAN Regional Forum from July 29 to August 2. Accompanying His Royal Highness was Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah.

On July 30, His Royal Highness joined other Foreign Ministers of ASEAN, Dialogue Partners, and the ASEAN Regional Forum, for a courtesy call in Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines at the Malacanang Palace in Manila.

Their Royal Highness then joined fellow Foreign Ministers at a dinner hosted by Her Excellency.

His Royal Highness attended the East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers Luncheon at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila with other Foreign Ministers of ASEAN, Australia, the People's Republic of China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea and New Zealand on July 31. He also attended the ASEAN + 3 Foreign Ministers at the Convention Center held on the same day.

In the evening, Their Royal Highness attended a dinner hosted by Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines.



His Royal Highness receives the Order of the Golden Heart from the President of the Philippines.

HRH awarded State Medal of Philippines

MANILA, July 31 - His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade was awarded the Order of the Golden Heart with the Rank of Grand Cross by Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Philippines. The ceremony took place at the Malacanang Palace in Manila.

The award was in recognition of His Royal Highness' humanitarian work, civic involvement, and efforts at promoting Peace building, Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace, and education in southern Philippines.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah at one of the meeting.



Brunei Darussalam establish diplomatic relations with Macedonia

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 2 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with the Government of the Republic of Macedonia with effect from August 1, 2007.

The signing of the Joint Communiqué took place at the office of the Permanent Mission of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in New York.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by His Excellency Dr. Haji Emran bin Bahar, Brunei Darussalam's Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York. Meanwhile, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia was represented by His Excellency Igor Dzundez, the Permanent Representatives of the Republic of Macedonia.



His Royal Highness officiates the ASEAN 40th anniversary celebration.

ASEAN 40th anniversary

BERAKAS, August 8 – A reception was held to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Association of South East Asia Nation (ASEAN). The reception was held at the International Convention Centre.

Present to grace the function were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah.

His Royal Highness opened the celebrations by recalling the signing of the Bangkok Declarations on August 8, 1967 and asked guests to remember the vision expressed by ASEAN's founding fathers.

The events was highlighted by cultural performances and cuisine from ASEAN countries. It is among the activities organised by Brunei Darussalam to promote public awareness on ASEAN.

Enforcement of Tobacco Order 2005

COMMONWEALTH DRIVE, July 31

– Ministry of Health announced that the Tobacco Order 2005 and its regulations will be enforced soon. A grace period of six months was given commencing on August 1, 2007 before the order is fully enforced at a later date to be announced.

The Tobacco Order 2005 consists of 36 sections under six divisions including tight control on tobacco product, smoking at specified places and specified vehicles, and control on advertisements.

Regulations that are stipulated under the Tobacco Order 2005 are Tobacco Regulations (Offence Conviction), 2007; Tobacco Regulations (Labelling), 2007; Tobacco Regulations (Importers licensing, distributors and retailers), 2007; and Tobacco Regulations (Prohibition at Specified Places), 2007.

"The Order is aimed to protect people from the negative effects of tobacco usage," said Dr. Hajah Kalsom binti Abdul Latif, Acting Head of Health Services.

She also hopes that the Order can assist in controlling smoking habits among children and teenagers below 18 years old; and also to protect passive smokers.

152 join first intake of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali



Minister of Education (fourth from left) also present at the ceremony.

GADONG, August 6 - Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) received 152 students for its very first intake.

Of the total, 125 students are taking first Degree courses in various faculties and programmes, whilst 26 others are registered for Master Degree courses and one candidate is to study a Doctorate in Philosophy.

The university has four faculties, the Faculty of Usuluddin, the Faculty of Syariah and Law, the Faculty of Islamic Civilisation and Arab Language and the Faculty of Business and Science Management.

UNISSA is the second university in Brunei Darussalam after Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

High priority on environment and health issues

BANGKOK, August 9 – Brunei Darussalam give issues on dealing with environmental and health issues a high priority. Among those include the Strategy on National Environment stipulated in the Seventh National Development Plan (7th NDP); the setting up of a National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC); and the establishment of a working committee on the National Environment and Health that integrate the available mechanism and strategy between the relevant parties.

These were highlighted by the Deputy Health Minister, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hazair at the Ministerial Regional

Forum on Environment and Health held in Bangkok from August 8 to 9.

In the health field, Brunei Darussalam give priority on prevention and control of transferable diseases that are related to the environment such as waterborne and vector diseases which need continuous monitoring, and activities towards prevention and control. This is in inline with the requirements outlined by the International Health Regulation and the Asia-Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases.

The meeting saw the endorsement of the Bangkok Declaration on Environment

and Health. It is a collective effort to reduce the estimated 6.6million deaths in Asia each year attributed to various environmental health risks. The death toll is approximately 25 per cent of all deaths in the region.

The meeting on August 8 was a forum to review national activities and the Regional Work Plans. While the Ministerial meeting held on August 9 commenced with a scientific segment chaired by Her Royal Highness Professor Dr. Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol.

Did you know that...

- The Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) was formed on the May 31, 1961 which then became an armed organisation of the new ministry's structure. RBAF provide the main thrusts to national defense policy in preserving peace, sovereignty and security of the nation.
- The main referral hospital in the country is Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (R.I.P.A.S) Hospital, which is situated on a 42-acre site about 0.8 km from the heart of the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan. The hospital was officially opened on August 28, 1984 and is equipped with modern, cutting-edge medical technology.
- Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB) is the state broadcaster. Radio Brunei made its first broadcast on May 2, 1957, with a television service starting in 1975.

>> CALENDAR OF EVENT 2007

January 1	-	New Year 2007
January 20	-	New Year of Islamic Calendar 1428 Hijrah
February 18	-	Chinese New Year
February 23	-	Brunei's 23 rd National Day
March 31	-	Prophet Muhammad's birthday anniversary
May 31	-	Royal Brunei Armed Forces 46 th anniversary
July 15	-	His Majesty's 61 st birthday anniversary
August 11	-	Israk Mikraj celebration
September 13	-	First Day of Ramadhan
September 29	-	Nuzul Al-Quran celebration
October 13	-	Hari Raya Aidil Fitri
December 20	-	Hari Raya Aidil Adha
December 25	-	Christmas

*subject to changes

Brunei's School Holiday

March 16 to 25	-	First Term School Holiday
June 10 to 24	-	Second Term School Holiday
September 7 to 16	-	Third Term School Holiday
November 30 to December 31	-	Fourth Term School Holiday

>> BRUNEI IN BRIEF

- Official name is Negara Brunei Darussalam.
- Capital is Bandar Seri Begawan.
- It is located on the north-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia.
- Land size is 5765 sq. km
- Population is estimated at 383,000 people (2006)
- It is divided into four districts – Brunei Muara, Tutong, Kuala Belait and Temburong.
- Malay is the official language but English is widely spoken.
- Islam is the official religion and it allows other religions to be practiced.
- National carrier is Royal Brunei Airlines.
- It has an equatorial climate, a uniform temperature, high humidity and heavy rainfall.

Public Warning: The trafficking of controlled drugs carries the death penalty in Brunei Darussalam

>> HOW TO GET TO BRUNEI DARUSSALAM?

There are a number of ways to reach Brunei.

- By air - Brunei's national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines travels to more than 20 destinations around the world. The airline also has worldwide office for you to book a return flight to Brunei (to know the nearest RBA's office at your place, please log to: www.bruneiair.com)

International airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines and Thai Airways also fly frequently to Brunei. Beginning July 2006, Air Asia, the Malaysia's lowest airfare carrier also has direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Brunei.

Arrival by plane would land you to Brunei International Airport (BWN), the sole airport in the nation.

- For those who enjoy journey by sea, you can reach Brunei by boat or ferry. The main ferry terminal in Brunei is the Serasa Ferry Terminal at Muara. You can catch a ferry from Labuan, Sabah or Lawas and Sundar, both in Sarawak, a state of the neighbouring country, Malaysia. Another option is via a boat from Limbang, Sarawak which will arrive at the jetty around Jalan Residency area in the Capital.
- You would have two options of entry point to Brunei by land transport. You can enter through the Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait District or the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post in Brunei Muara District. The Sungai Tujoh Immigration Control Post in Belait is the entry point for those from Miri, Sarawak. While the Kuala Lurah Immigration Control Post is the entrance for those coming from Limbang, Sarawak; Kota Kinabalu; and Kalimantan.

BRUNEI MUARA DISTRICT

For this edition, In Brunei features places of interest and attractions available in the Brunei Muara District.

Background

Brunei-Muara is the northern-most district in Brunei Darussalam. It is the smallest district in Brunei but by far the most populous, with over half the country's population. Its capital is Bandar Seri Begawan, which is also the nation's capital and the seat of government and commerce.

The district borders the South China Sea to the north, Brunei Bay to the east, Malaysia to the south and the Bruneian district of Tutong to the west. It has a population of more than 255,000 people and covers 570km²/220mi².

There are 17 *mukims* within the Brunei-Muara district and of all the *mukim*, six of them are located in the water village. They are Sungai Kedayan, Tamoi, Burung Pingai Ayer, Sungai Kebun, Peramu, Saba, Kianggeh, Kumbang Pasang, Mentiri, Kota Batu, Serasa, Gadong, Berakas, Sengkulong, Kilanas, Pengkalan Batu, and Lumapas.

Accommodation

The capital, Bandar Seri Begawan with busy business areas and Government Departments, have seen even more developments in recent times. It offers a number of accommodations such as Sheraton Utama Hotel, Terrace Hotel, Capital Hotel, Jubilee Hotel, Brunei Hotel, APEK Utama Hotel, KH Soon Resthouse and a Youth Hostel.

Sheraton Utama Hotel is convenient if you decide to stay in the heart of the city as it is only a walking distance to many of Brunei attractions such as the Royal Regalia, Brunei History Centre, Kampong Ayer (water village) and the Sultan Omar

'Ali Saifuddien Mosque. It is only about a 10 to 15 minutes drive from the Brunei International Airport.

Right in the heart of Bandar Seri Begawan, within walking distance from Tamu (Market) Kianggeh, major banks and shop houses, embassies and airline offices, is the Brunei Hotel. If you are on a budget vacation but need a pretty comfortable accommodation, Terrace Hotel located right next to Sheraton Utama Hotel is another option.

KH Soon Resthouse is among the accommodation that offers low price located just in front of the Brunei Hotel. But the lowest price accommodation will be the Youth Hostel, which is under the Department of Youth and Sports. The hostel is located not far from the Lapau (Ceremonial Hall) and the oldest Chinese private school in Brunei, Chung Hwa School.

Approximately a five-minute drive from the capital and 15-minute drive from the Brunei International Airport, there are three more accommodations, Complex Mohd. Yussof Service Apartment, the unique boutique hotel – the Le Gallery Suites Hotel and Abdul Razak Plaza Apartments. These accommodations are within Seri Complex area of Jalan Tutong and are the closest to the Istana Nurul Iman (royal palace), the Damuan Recreational Park and the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital. It is also close to one of the villages of the water village, Kampong Tamoi, where you can find Jon Tampoi's 125-year old home which houses various ancient artefacts (this house is opened for visits).

Still in the city's perimeter, another two favourite accommodations



Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque, one of the landmarks in the district.

are the Orchid Garden Hotel and the D' Anggerek Service Apartment in Berakas. Both are located only about five minutes drive from the Brunei International Airport. For those who enjoy jogging, walking or strolling, both accommodations maybe the perfect choice, as it is quite close to the country's national stadium and its sport facilities. These accommodations are also the closest to government offices and the International Convention Centre where regional and international events are usually held. Shopping can be done at the Serusop and Delima Jaya area and the Hua Ho in Manggis.

Also located in the city's perimeter is Riverview Hotel which is about 10 minutes drive from Brunei International Airport. From



Night view of Bandar Seri Begawan.



Drop off and pick up point for water taxis based near the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Complex.

Riverview Hotel, it only takes you five minute to reach the bustling commercial area call Gadong. Among the luxuries you can indulge in are the poolside barbeque and steamboat, riverbank 24-hour café, sauna room and Jacuzzi.

But for those who prefer to stay in the hustle and bustle area, accommodations in Gadong are the best. Gadong is one of the mukims located in Brunei Muara District. You can choose from a five-star to budget accommodations. All these accommodations are about five to ten minutes from Brunei International Airport and the capital.

The Centrepoint Hotel and The Rizqun International Hotel are the place to stay in Gadong. Within these hotels you can find shopping malls, departmental stores, saloons, banks, international fast food outlets like Pizza Hut, McDonald and the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, private clinics, wet market and of course money changers.

The five-star hotel, The Rizqun International Hotel shares the same complex with The Mall, which houses various shops, banks, food court and Cineplex. One block away is the Centrepoint Hotel, the favourite hotel for business entrepreneurs and tourists as it offers affordable rate. For more budget accommodation yet comfortable, you can choose Grand City Hotel, Traders Inn, and SEAMEO Voctech International House. One of the fast growing area but situated on the outer city perimeter is Jerudong (about 15 to 25 minutes from Brunei International Airport and the capital). It is where Brunei's famous Jerudong Park playground, top leading private specialist hospital, Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) and the Cardiac Centre Gleneagles JPMC are located.

Within this area, there are five accommodations, namely Nazira Guesthouse, Goodview Hotel, LR Asma Hotel, The Holiday Lodge and Empire Hotel & Country Club. Most of these accommodations offer affordable rates.

For those who wish to experience luxurious accommodations, Empire Hotel & Country Club is a great choice. Located in Jerudong, it is about 25 minutes drive from the Brunei International Airport and about 20 minutes from the capital.

Places of Interest

There are a number of interesting places to visit in Brunei Muara District.

The Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque dominates the city centre of Bandar Seri Begawan. It is one of the most spectacular mosques of South-East Asia. The mosque was completed in 1958 and is named after the 28th Sultan, the late Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddien, who is referred to as the architect of modern Brunei. Located at the heart of capital, the mosque is country's most recognisable landmark.

Besides this mosque, anchored in a lagoon is a replica of a 16th century *mahligai* or royal barge, where religious ceremonies such as Al-Quran reading competitions were staged during the 1960s and early 1970s. The mosque is closed to non-Muslims on Thursdays. It is opened on Saturday provided that there is no official function the following day.

Kampong Ayer, the country's historical attraction and the world's largest water village that is home to more than 30,000 people is next on the list. It is a place where houses on stilts were built on Brunei River. The houses in Kampong Ayer are joined by a maze of inter connecting wooden walkways. Modern facilities such as schools, clinics, police stations and mosque are provided for residents who are living at Kampong Ayer. Water taxis are the most efficient and popular means of negotiating the Kampong Ayer's labyrinthine waterways.

An amalgamation of traditional and modern architectural styles, the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Complex is one of the capital's most popular shopping venues. The shopping complex, opened in July 1996, contains the largest selection of shopping facilities in Brunei. With the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Complex, Bandar Seri Begawan has created a completely new image of the city centre, making it a major tourist attraction.

The Istana Nurul Iman, the home of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, is also the most impressive site in Bandar Seri Begawan. It is the largest residential palace in the world, and its golden domes, vaulted roof and riverside setting make it a spectacular subject for photographs.

The palace is opened to the public during Hari Raya Aidil Fitri or Eid Mubarak when citizens and visitors have the opportunity to personally greet His Majesty and members of the royal family.

Taman Persiaran Damuan situated next to the Istana Nurul Iman, is where visitors can get the best view of the palace. Because of the magnificent view it provides, this park is one of the popular places of interest in Brunei. Taman Persiaran Damuan offers a scenic park along the riverbank off Jalan Tutong, and it is also popular spot for joggers. Other distinctive decorations are the six outdoor sculptures by ASEAN artists.

These are some of the interesting places in the Brunei Muara District. More will be featured in the next edition.



Jerudong Wet Market



Among the sceneries at the Jerudong Wet Market

Facing the cool breeze from the South China Sea, in the near distance, rows of stalls are visible housing the Jerudong Wet Market, a favourite among the locals to consume fresh salt water fish.

Jerudong Wet Market is about 20 minutes drive from the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan and it is located in Mukim Jerudong, famous with Brunei's landmarks; Jerudong Park Playground and also the Empire Hotel and Country Club.

The wet market has become one of local favourite as it not only place for buying goods but people can enjoy light exercise like brisk walking and jogging. Situated within the Jerudong Beach area, you can enjoy the beautiful scenery of the sea and sea breeze.

Other than that, Jerudong is also located on the main highway from Tutong District and Belait District to reach the capital. This is another factor for people to stop by at the wet market.

The market which has existed since

several years ago was initially made up of businesses under temporary tents and huts. Due to the increase in number of people selling their fresh catches along the beach side and its increasing popularity, as well as to provide more convenience for consumers, eight permanent blocks were built.

Also built were Prayer room, washrooms, car park spaces, boat park spaces and boat-drop-off-area.

The eight blocks are divided equally for selling fresh sea catches, fruits and vegetables. Different rates are charged depending on the block's location and types of items sold. The business hours are from 6am to 6pm daily.

You can purchase a freshly catch fish and prawns at reasonable prices here as most of the traders selling their own catches. According to one of the trader, fresh sea catches are usually transported from the boat around 9 am and late afternoon.

More choices of fish will be available

during weekend as more people be throng to the market during these days.

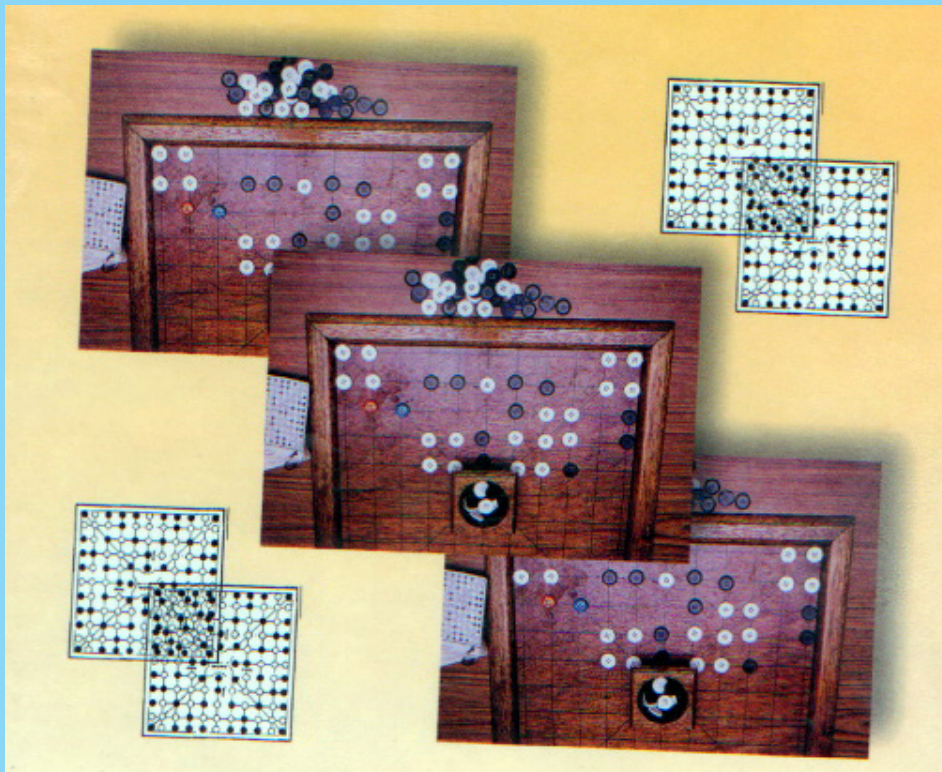
Besides fresh sea catches, fresh fruits and vegetables and also dried foods are also sold here. Like the sea catches, the fruits and veggies sold are also at good price as some are selling their own garden products.

During the fruit season, variety of fruits are available here especially different types of local durian. The local people prefer to shop for fresh fruits here as the prices are negotiable.

As the market is under the supervision of Brunei Muara District Office, Ministry of Home Affairs, the safety of the area is guaranteed. Security guards are available 24 hours to patrol the area.



Pasang, a traditional indoor game



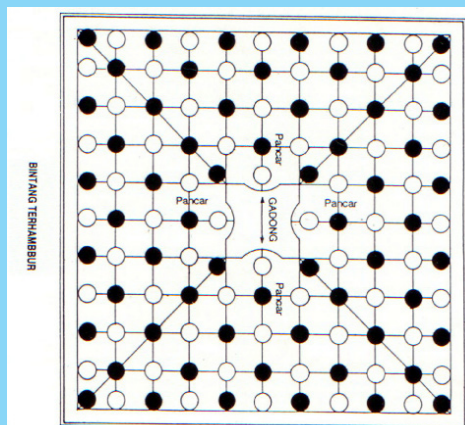
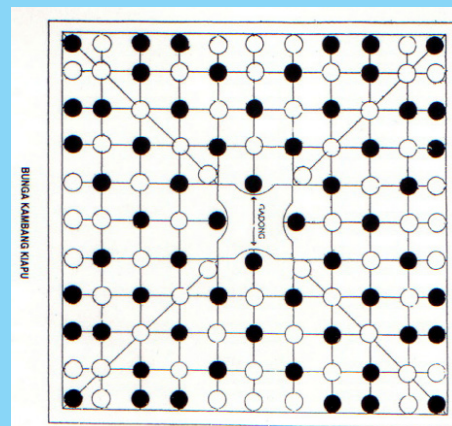
Pasang is a traditional game which is popular among Bruneians in various age levels. Regarded as a royal game “Permainan Diraja”, Pasang has a unique and distinctive image that could be played any time.

Pasang is played between two players. This game requires a piece of pasang wood, 120 pieces of button (60 pieces white-coloured button and 60 pieces black-coloured button) and one kas button. Black and white pieces are arranged on a board and the players would take turn capturing the pieces. Unlike checkers, each player has only one mobile piece to move the kas.

Pasang buttons would be arranged according to an arrangement wanted by the players. Among the flower patterns are; Awan beturus, Bunga becucuk, Ikan berenang, Kina putar, Pucuk rebung, Sukma indera and many others.

A Pasang player needs to be active and have a high effective mind concentration especially when arranging the strategy against the opponent. It is an amusing and challenging game.

To this day, this game is still popular among Bruneians and actively played as a recreational activity or entertainment especially during a royal wedding.



Acts to protect women's welfare



Minister of Culture, Youths and Sports delivers his speech.

BERAKAS, July 5 – A number of acts were passed to protect women's welfare and security of this nation. Among the acts are the Women and Girls Protection Act 1972, Emergency Act (Islamic Family Law) 1999 or 'Perintah Darurat (Undang-Undang Keluarga Islam) 1999, and Emergency Act, 1999 (Married Woman) or 'Perintah Darurat (Perempuan Bersuami)' 1999.

Brunei Darussalam also acknowledge women's rights and roles both at regional and international level. A clear indication is when the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signed 'The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women' on May 18, 2006 - which outlines women's rights in the field of politics, economy, social and cultural.

These were highlighted by the Minister of Cultural, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Mohammad at a celebration to mark ASEAN Women's Day 2007 held at the International Convention Centre.

The Minister also urged all parties especially government and non-government agencies (NGO) to be more

aware on women's issues particularly on their rights and security.

Pehin Dato also highlighted the significant roles of women in the society where it is the responsibility of a mother to instil good values to their children. He also highlighted women's role in the economic sector where in 2005, statistics have shown 40 per cent of the workforce comprise of women.

Meanwhile in her welcoming speech, Datin Hajah Adina, the co-chairperson of the event, said that women's development in the ASEAN region is good where Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore are among those in the elite group who have high ratings in the development of its human resource. The increase is inline with ASEAN's aim to narrow the gap between men and women; and to provide equal opportunities for them to contribute to the development of the nation and region.

ASEAN Women's Day 2007 celebration in Brunei Darussalam was conducted by the Department of Community Development, Ministry of Culture, Youth & Sports.

Brunei's economy record positive growth

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 1 – Brunei Darussalam's economy in 2006 recorded a positive growth of 5.1 per cent, compared to 0.4 per cent in 2005. This was announced by the Department of Economic Planning and Development of Prime Minister's Office.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in current prices for 2006 was estimated at \$18.4 billion, compared to \$15.9 billion in 2005. GDP per capita for 2006 reached \$48.0 thousand.

The industrial sector grew by 4.1 per cent. This was brought about by the positive growths of the mining and manufacturing sectors by 6.1 per cent and 0.8 per cent, respectively. Electricity and water sector slowed down to 0.1 per cent.

Meanwhile, construction sector showed a negative growth of 3.7 per cent.

Due to the positive growths which recorded by all sub-sectors, the services sector had expanded by 7.4 per cent. The finance and private services recorded double-digit growths of 14.0 per cent and 11.0 per cent respectively, followed by government services (8.9 per cent), trade (2.6 per cent) and transport and communication (0.9 per cent).

Real estate and ownership of dwellings recorded the lowest growth at 0.3 per cent.

Meanwhile, the agriculture, forestry and fishery sector declined by 9.9 per cent due to the declines in fishery, based on the commercial capture industry by 23.8

per cent and vegetables, fruits and other agriculture by 12.8 per cent. Livestock grew by 12.6 per cent, followed by forestry at 1.0 per cent.

The oil and gas sector improved its performance by growing at 5.7 per cent and the non oil and gas sector continued to grow at 4.5 per cent.

By the expenditure approach, all major expenditure components recorded positive growths. Government consumption expenditure grew by 12.8 per cent, followed by imports of goods and services (3.7 per cent) personal consumption expenditure (3.7 per cent) and capital formation or investment (1.4 per cent).

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, MAY 2007

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in May 2007 remained at the same level as in the previous month with an index of 102.6.

The overall cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages remained unchanged. However, some food items recorded an increase in prices such as eggs, butter, vegetables and palm oil, cabbage, mustard leaves, spinach, oranges, durian, oranges and grapes while the prices of food items such as fresh chicken meat and fresh fish decreased.

Higher prices of ready-made clothing and materials for male and female led

to a 0.3 per cent increase in the cost of clothing and footwear.

Due to the higher prices of furniture, floor covering, household furnishings and household operation, the cost of household goods, services and operation had rose by 0.2 per cent.

The cost of communications fell by 0.2 per cent due to lower prices of instruments including accessories.

The cost of education went up by 0.1 per cent as a result of higher price of stationery item.

Lower prices of some holiday packages led to a decline in the cost of recreation and entertainment by 1.7 per cent.

Following the higher price agency fees for domestic services and higher prices of gold, the cost of miscellaneous goods and services had increased by 1.9 per cent.

Meanwhile, the cost of housing, water, electricity and maintenance; transportation and medical and health remained the same as in the previous month.

The CPI in May 2007 was 0.2 per cent lower than that of the same month in 2006. For the first five month of this year (January – May 2007) the CPI decreased by 0.4 per cent compared to the same period last year.

STPRI 50 Years



Her Majesty delivers a *titah* (royal speech).



Her Majesty tours around an exhibition held in conjunction with the Golden Jubilee.



One of the performance during the celebration.



Current view of the school's compound.

Sekolah Tinggi Perempuan Raja Isteri (STPRI) is one of the first all-girls school established in Brunei Darussalam. It was opened in January 1957 with the name of Sekolah Tinggi Perempuan.

On January 1, 1958, Sekolah Tinggi Perempuan changed its name to Sekolah Tinggi Perempuan Raja Isteri.

Fifty years have gone by and it is inevitable that the school has undergone several changes and development. The school started off with lower education and lower secondary but in 1978, it expanded its curriculum to include upper secondary and for the first time - the Brunei General Cambridge Education Ordinary Level (BGCE 'O' Level) the following year in 1979.

To this day, the school has achieved tremendous triumph and has established itself as a reputable all-girl secondary school.

Academically, STPRI is one of the schools that constantly achieved excellent results among the secondary schools and colleges throughout the nation-state. Such excellence had been produced that several high achieving students from this school would be awarded scholarships from the government and private sector each year.

In 2002, STPRI was given the trust to commence secondary six curriculum until 2005. They stopped receiving secondary six students in 2005 as the students were moved to a new secondary six centre in Berakas.

Realising the importance of producing quality students both academically and physically, STPRI also stressed the importance of co-curriculum activities by taking part in competitions organised by Co-Curriculum Education Department and other relevant organisations.

STPRI had also won several competitions such as *gulingtangan* (a traditional music instrument orchestrated by a number of persons), *dikir*, musabaqah Al-Quran, *nasyid*, choir, Inforama and Robotech, Explomaths and several times represented the nation at the French Speech Competition in Singapore. Through the students' involvement in national events, it is hoped that it could nurture the feeling of responsibility to the nation.

Recently, on June 29, STPRI celebrated its 50th Golden Jubilee. Present to attend the ceremony were Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar as well as other members of the royal family.

At the ceremony Her Majesty presented the Golden Jubilee Special Awards to four former students of STPRI in recognition of their achievement and accomplishments. Her Majesty also launched the STPRI Golden Jubilee 50th Anniversary Memorial.



Sasagun

Ingredients:

907 g rice
1 ½ coconut whole
340 g sugar
Salt sufficiently

Methods:

Soak rice until swell and drip away. Then grind and sieve. Wash and grate the coconut meat. Grind the sugar finely. Mix flour and grate coconut thoroughly then fry (without oil) until yellowish. Then remove and let it cool down. Then the dough is mixed with sugar and knead thoroughly. Then it is ready to be served with banana.

MIPR and State Mufti sign MoU

BERAKAS, July 11 – A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) and the State Mufti Department to publish a book on issues of *halal* product, and the reprinting of a book on animal slaughtering and meat management was signed.

Present as signatories were the Acting Director of Agriculture, Dayang Hajah Normah Suria Hayati and Dato Paduka Ahmad Bukhari as the Director Administration of State Mufti Department. Present to witness the signing ceremony was the Permanent Secretary at MIPR, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Hamid.

The book – Issues on Halal Product will be bilingual (Malay and English) where it is a collection of the State Mufti's *fatwa* from 1994 to 2006. While the book on animal slaughtering and meat management is focusing on various problems related to animal slaughtering; the cleaning, managing and its business transaction; and foodstuff which have meat as an ingredient.

BSB is now 100.36 square kilometers wide

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 19 – Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB) is now 10,036.24 hectares (100.36 square kilometers) wide. The expansion took place effective August 1, 2007. The capital was formerly 1,287 hectares (12.87 square kilometers) wide.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the expansion was made to align with the effort to make BSB as centre of administration, trade and commercial which is competitive with its own uniqueness and special heritage.

The new expansion area also include the existing town area and the villages under the respective *mukims*; Mukim Kianggeh, parts of Mukim Gadong, parts of Mukim Kilanas, parts of Mukim Berakas 'A', parts of Mukim Berakas 'B', and parts of Mukim Kota Batu.

Also included are Kampong Ayer's vicinity that is Mukim Sungai Kedayan, Mukim Tamoi, Mukim Burong Pingai Ayer, Mukim Peramu, Mukim Saba, and Mukim Sungai Kebun.

123.5 metric tonnes dates for fasting month

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 23 – A total 123.5 metric tonnes of Mabroom dates, a personal gift of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam will be distributed to all Muslims in the country for the fasting month of Ramadhan.

The distribution of the dates was announced in a meeting, chaired by Dato Paduka Haji Ali Hashim, Managing Director of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation.

Each will be given a 300 gramme-box of the dark-coloured, very sweet and strong-flavoured dried fruit to break the fast. The management of the distribution of the dates is organised by the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation every year. The dates are supplied by Al Madinah al Munawarah Dates Company.

Enhance commitment on air connectivity

MANILA, July 25 – Initiatives and progress of transport sector in the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP EAGA) were among the issues discussed at the 2nd BIMP EAGA Transport Ministers Meeting in Cebu.

The ministers also discussed the efforts to enhance the commitment to improve the air connectivity at the BIMP-EAGA region as included under the Memorandum of Understanding on Expansion of Air Linkages signed during the 3rd BIMP-EAGA Summit on February 12, 2007.

The Minister of Communications, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar led Brunei's delegation to Davao, Mindanao, Republic of Philippines.

223 receive state medals

ISTANA NURUL IMAN, July 31 – About 223 people received state medals from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in conjunction with His Majesty's

61st birthday anniversary. The ceremony took place at the Singgahsana Indera Kencana of Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.

Recipients comprised of senior government officers and uniformed personnel from various ministries and government departments, and those from the private sector.

Forty people received 'The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei - Third Class'; two received 'The Most Eminent Order of Islam - Fourth Class'; 177 received 'The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei – Fourth'; and four recipients received 'The Most Eminent Order of Islam - Fifth

Brunei Top 5 Asia-Pacific countries in living standards

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 1 - Brunei Darussalam is ranked among top five in Asia and the Pacific when it comes to economic well-being and living standards of the population.

This results is based on the Asia Development Bank (ADB) study. ADB said the five economics that top the list are Hong Kong, Taipei, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam and Macau.

MIPR aim substantial output \$4.5billion by 2023

JERUDONG, August 6 – The Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) aim to achieve a substantial output of \$4.5billion by 2023. The substantial output is from new economic activity in the value-added industry, import-substitution sector, export sector and hi-tech industry.

This was disclosed by the Minister of MIPR, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Awang Ahmad at a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) certificate awarding ceremony.

According to the Minister, last year's economy recorded an output valued at \$1.007 billion from primary resources, tourism and the manufacturing sector.

The Minister said that we must achieve the standards set by the World Trade Organisation, such as import permits, health and safety certification or mandatory requirements in the European Union, United States, Japan and Australia.

As Brunei's market is small, the minister stressed that local producers must ensure that their products are able to compete in a global market. On top of that they should also be of the highest quality if they are to carry the "Made in Brunei" brand.

At the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) certificate awarding ceremony, four companies HACCP certificate as acknowledgement from Bureau Veritas Quality International (BVQI), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bureau Veritas, a France-based multinational organisation. The recipients were PDS Meat Industries (B) Sendirian Berhad, PDS Abattoir Sendirian Berhad, Semaun Seafood Sendirian Berhad and Golden Chick Abattoir Sendirian Berhad. While two companies received a certificate of appreciation from the Ministry for their high commitments towards food safety for consumers and its desire to explore the international market. These companies were TMM Processing Sendirian Berhad who received a certificate from Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Private Limited Malaysia in January 2005; and IBIC Sendirian Berhad who received HACCP certificate from TUVSUD Productivity Standard and Board Private Limited Singapore.

Bruneians partake International Quran Reading Competition

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 15 - Awang Haji Ismail bin Haji Sulaiman and Dayang Nurfaezah binti Haji Emran will represent the country at the 49th International Tilawah Al-Quran Reading in Kuala Lumpur. The delegation is led by Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yusop bin Bakar as adviser to both readers, while Doctor Haji Mirwan bin Haji Mohd. Nuh Batubara as trainer. The competition will be held from the August 16 until 23.

Malam Serumpun Seri 61



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, August 4 – Malam Serumpun Seri 61 was the grand finale celebration in honour of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 61st birthday anniversary.

The grand night celebration comprised of the final of Borneo Tug-of-War Competition, floats procession and fireworks display.

The grand night started off with a display of 'Protechnics' and 'Cold Fireworks' display. This was followed with a colourful parade procession involving 20 decorated vehicles comprising of government ministries and the private sector and a march-past involving various groups and associations in Brunei.

Present at this event were His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri.

It took place at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien where thousands came to watch the colourful event.

