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Brunei Darussalam

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Do not misinterpret words of Al-Quran

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



His Majesty presents a prize to Ak. Mohd. Adibulamin, champion of the National Al-Quran Reading Competition for Adults 1429H/2008

BERAKAS, May 29 – Claims saying that the teaching of the Al-Quran is encouraging to threaten the security of others and cause chaos to world peace are deeply disappointing.

This was said by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the final of the Al-Quran National Reading Competition for Adults held at the International Convention Centre.

His Majesty was referring to a short film documentary that was disseminated through websites and has caused widespread controversy. Those responsible were trying to infuse doubts on people's mind about the Al-Quran by saying that it encouraged war and killings. Some individuals tried to misinterpret the teachings by taking short verses of the chapters. The part of the verses they picked was not complete and ignored the rest of sentences by not including them in its entirety.

His Majesty further said that the verse should read in its entirety to understand the full meaning.

The sovereign also presented prizes to winners of the competition. Awangku Muhammad Adibulamin bin Pengiran Haji Marjuki and Dayang Nurfaezah binti Haji Emran emerged as champions of this year's Al-Quran National Reading Competition for Adults 1429/2008.

Also present at this ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

To sell and supply tobacco products is an offence

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 2 – It is an offence to sell and supply tobacco products to those aged 18 or below. Licensed retailers that sell tobacco were urged to showcase such prohibition notice.

Smoking is a risk factor that leads to heart disease and the main cause of death. Smoking increases the risk of heart disease by 25 percent to 35 percent.

These were highlighted by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi at the World No Tobacco Day held at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital.

The Minister also said, the theme for the No Tobacco Day which reads "Tobacco-Free-Youth" is timely in our effort to give protection and awareness for youths not to get influenced by the smoking advertisements and not to get acquainted with smoking.

RIPAS Hospital, the nation's leading medical institution introduced its very own Anti Tobacco Action Team that will ensure that all visitors and patients will not be allowed to puff on that lethal cigarette anymore.

The Minister said the Tobacco



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

The Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Suyoi at the World No Tobacco Day held at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital.

Order 2005 is not unique to Brunei. Asean countries like Singapore and Thailand have long enforced such Order progressively. European nations like UK and France have begun to enforce laws without facing negative reaction from the public. Instead, the public has applauded these moves and abided by the rules without any

protest.

Effective year-end 2008, images of warning will be pasted in every cigarette pack. This has long been introduced in countries like Canada.

The "World No Tobacco Day" was observed every May 31 to remind one on the dangers of smoking.



Picture shows students from Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College on a school trip for one of their science project held at Tasek Lama Recreational Park in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Tasek Lama Recreational Park is one of the natural reserves in Brunei with a spectacular waterfall. Situated in the heart of the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

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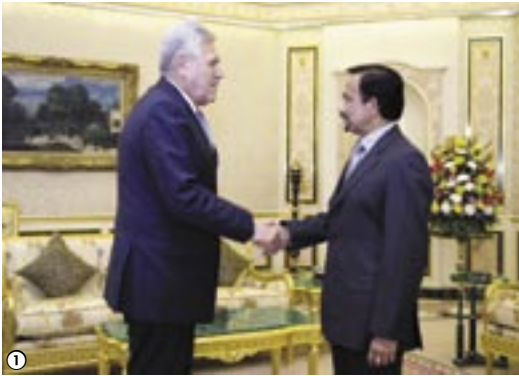
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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



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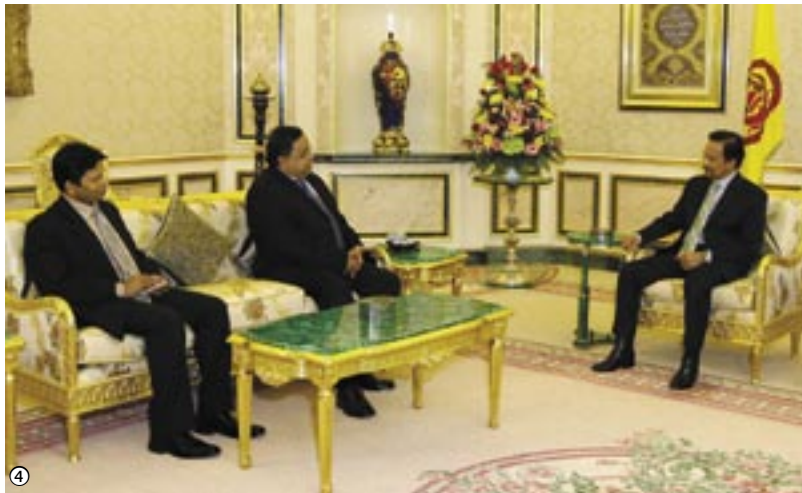
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PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



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PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN



④

PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN

- ① The Minister of Economics and Technology, Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency Michael Glos on May 19.
- ② The outgoing Ambassador of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Emil Skodon on May 19.
- ③ The Head of the Police forces From Asean (ASEANPOL) on May 26.
- ④ The outgoing High Commissioner of Bangladesh, His Excellency Hedayetul Islam Chowdhury on May 29.

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

PHOTO: PG.HAJI BAHAR PG.HAJI OMAR



The spouse of Heads of the Police forces from Asean (ASEANPOL) on May 26.



PHOTO: PG.HAJI BAHAR PG.HAJI OMAR

The spouse of the outgoing High Commissioner of Canada, Mrs. Giovanna Battle on May 26.

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



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN



PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN



③



④

- ① The outgoing Ambassador of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Emil Skodon on May 7.
- ② Brunei's newly-appointed envoy to United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, His Excellency Md. Janin bin Erih and Brunei's newly-appointed High Commissioner to Canada, Her Excellency Dayang Rakiah binti Haji Abdul Hamid on May 7.
- ③ The High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Leopold Battel on June 23.
- ④ The Ambassador of France to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Patrick Bonneville on June 24.

Brunei-India: Call to broaden areas of cooperation

NEW DELHI, India, May 21 – A call was made to broaden areas of cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and India particularly in the field of trade, investment, defence and information technology.

The call was made by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) at a dinner banquet hosted by the President of India, Her Excellency Pratibha Devisingh Patil on May 21 in honour of His Majesty's four-day work visit to India.

"There are more than eight thousand Indian citizens in Brunei today. These may not seem huge numbers in your own country's calculations, but to us, they form a very important community and we greatly appreciate their contribution to our own development. In other words, there are strong and lasting human ties between us.

"One of the most important of these today is that like the people of India, and we very much look forward to working with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and your

His Majesty delivers a titah during the State Banquet hosted by the President of India.



PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT

government to continue expanding our relations wherever we can, not only in traditional areas such as health and education but also through trade, investment and defence and especially in information technology where India is so rightly recognised as a world leader.

"This desire to work closely with your government also strongly reflects our recognition of India's contribution to regional peace, security and progress and its commitment to working closely

with ASEAN.

"My message on this visit is a simple one. We greatly value our relations with India and we look forward to many opportunities to continue strengthening their spirit, scope and purpose," said His Majesty.

Brunei Darussalam and India established diplomatic relations on May 10, 1984. Several cooperations have been achieved such as in areas of trade, defence, education, health and communications.

Brunei – India signs MoU

NEW DELHI, India, May 22 – The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Republic of India have signed an agreement and four Memorandum of Understandings (MoU).

The first document signed was an agreement on Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) at the republic's Ministry of Finance. Representing the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Pehin Dato Haji

Awang Abdul Rahman, Minister of Finance II while India was represented by its Minister of Finance, His Excellency Palaniappan Chidambaram.

The first MoU signed was in the field of culture, arts and sports which was signed by Pehin Dato Awang Lim Jock Seng, Brunei's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II; while his counterpart was His Excellency Ambika Soni, India's Minister of Tourism and Culture. The signing ceremony was held at one of the leading hotels in New Delhi.

Another MoU was signed in the field of information communication

technology held at the E-Governance Hall, India's Ministry of Information Technology. Representing Brunei was Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner to India, His Excellency Awang Haji Sidek while his counterpart was Mr M Nambiar, the Special Secretary of the India's Ministry of Information Technology.

The next MoU signed was for cooperation in telemetry tracking and telecommand station for satellite and launch vehicles. It was signed by Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner to India, His Excellency Awang Haji Sidek

* From page 4
(Brunei – India signs MoU)

and his counterpart, Joint Secretary of India's Ministry of State for External Affairs, Mr A K Goel.

The last MoU signed was for cooperation to establish a Joint Trade committee. Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty was Datin Paduka Hajah Maimunah while her counterpart was Mr Jayant Dasgupta, Joint Secretary for India's Ministry of Trade.

His Majesty receives India's leaders

NEW DELHI, India, May 21 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam who is on a four-day state visit to India received India's leaders at ITC Maurya Hotel.

His Majesty first received India's Minister of State for External Affairs, His Excellency E. Ahmad in the morning; followed with India's Minister of Finance, His Excellency Palaniappan Chidambaram.

His Majesty then received India's Minister of Defence, His Excellency Arackaparam Bil Kurian Antony and followed with India's Vice President, His Excellency Hamid Ansari and the President of India's United Progressive Alliance Party, Her Excellency Sonia Gandhi.

Also in president during the meetings were Brunei's Minister of Finance II, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Rahman; Pehin Dato Awang Lim Jock Seng, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade II; Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mohammad Yasmin, the Deputy Minister of Defence; Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Halbi, the Commander of Royal Brunei Armed Forces; and His Excellency Awang Haji Sidek, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to India.

His Majesty meets India's Prime Minister

NEW DELHI, India, May 21 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India held a meeting at the Racecourse Track, the official residence of India's Prime Minister.

During the meeting, both leaders exchanged ideas on bilateral issues of mutual interest.

His Majesty then attended a luncheon hosted by His Excellency in honour of His Majesty's state visit to India.

His Majesty meets with the Prime Minister of India at the official resident of Prime Minister.



PHOTO: HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN

His Majesty visits Bangalore

BANGALORE, May 23 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam continued his state-visit to India to Bangalore where His Majesty visited India's Parachute Regiment Training Centre and Indian Space Research Organisation based at the Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network in Bangalore.

His Majesty also attended a luncheon hosted by the Governor of Karnataka, Mr Rameshwar Thakur at Raj Bhavan, the governor's official residence.

His Majesty ended his state visit to India in Bangalore.

PHOTOS : HAJI MOHD. YUSOF MOHD. YASSIN



His Majesty consents to try a 'Walther' type-weapon made by India.



His Majesty given a briefing during a visit to the Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network in Bangalore.

RTB receives royal visit



PHOTO: HAJI SAHRIN HAJI ASMAT

A medical staff from the Ministry of Health checking His Majesty's blood pressure at a medical booth set up for officers and staff members of RTB for a health screening programme campaign.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 28 – The state radio and television network, Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB) received an unscheduled visit by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

During the visit, His Majesty took a closer look at the new RTB complex in Kampong Sungai Akar; and the daily operation of RTB's headquarters in the capital particularly the TV Programme Section; Radio Section, Engineering Section, Radio Broadcasting Studio, Rampai Pagi studio set, ENG Unit, Tape and Film Library, Public Relations office, Play-Out Centre, Studio Jubilee and the News Centre.

While visiting RTB's headquarters in the capital, a health programme was underway known as the 'Health Check for Civil Servants Roadshow'. His Majesty also took a closer look at the process of this health check program.

RTB is a state-run television and radio network where the radio service was first introduced on May 2, 1957; whereas the television service was introduced on July 9, 1975. Currently there are more than 1,000 staff employed where among the plans for RTB is to go digital in the near future.

Setting up of Military Academy fully embraced

LUMUT, May 31 – In its bid to enhance the quality of its members, the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) will be setting up a military academy this year where this move by RBAF is highly lauded.

The setting up of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies and improvement works to the Training Institute are also highly appreciated.

These were highlighted by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his *titah* (royal speech) to mark the 47th anniversary of RBAF.

These facilities, said His Majesty, will surely widen the perspectives and vision of RBAF members. He also hoped that such assets will be utilised as a lifelong learning platform to acquire various skills.

His Majesty also expressed his happiness on witnessing the rapid growth of infrastructure development

where the Ministry of Defence not only has occupied a better building but facilities for soldiers in Pulau Baru-Baru have also been provided. The opening of the Third Battalion, according to His Majesty, is undoubtedly a visible identifier of RBAF's enhanced level of professionalism and capabilities.

His Majesty also gave emphasis on the importance of effective leadership. He said that leaders should have a vision to improve besides acquiring abilities to overcome any weaknesses. In the military institution, these types of leadership characteristics are important to differentiate itself from other institutions.

This year's RBAF's anniversary



His Majesty delivers a *titah* (royal speech) at the 47th anniversary of the RBAF.

celebration is centred at the Third Battalion Royal Brunei Land Force camp in Lumut of the Belait District. The theme for this year's celebration is "Empowering Youth to Strengthen National Defence".

Brunei – France satisfied on various cooperations

PARIS, Republic of France, June 12 – His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam discussed bilateral issues on strengthening the relationship between Brunei and France during a meeting with French President, His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy

in Paris.

During the bilateral meeting, the two leaders expressed happiness with the positive progress in the defence and investment cooperation and agreed to further strengthen ties in education and culture.

At the same time, His Majesty also commended the French government for hosting the International Donors Conference for Afghanistan.

The conference which was held on June 12 gathered 67 nations and 17 international organisations.

During the visit, His Majesty also visited the National Gendarmerie Intervention Group Unit (GIGN) in Satory, Versailles. Created in 1973, it is an elite counter terrorism and hostage rescue unit.

His Majesty was briefed on the operations and structure of the GIGN and later toured the command centre and observed a live demonstration on hostage rescue situation.

Brunei established diplomatic relations with France in 1984. Bilateral relations between the two countries have since seen positive progress. His Majesty last visited France in 1994.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the bilateral meeting with the President of the Republic of France, His Excellency Nicolas Sarkozy at the President Palace.

His Majesty meets UK'S Prime Minister

LONDON, June 25 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam recently met the British Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Gordon Brown at 10 Downing Street.

During the meeting, both leaders have discussed various topics which include bilateral relationship in education, defence and trade.

In the field of education, His Majesty and The Right Honourable agreed to offer a scholarship that focused towards enhancing understanding between the two different cultures.

His Majesty also informed The Right Honourable on the progress in the effort to protect the Borneo Tropical Forest under the initiative of 'Heart of Borneo' and appreciated the support given by United Kingdom.

At the meeting, His Majesty also voiced Brunei Darussalam's support for the 'Millennium Development Goals Call To Action'.

Brunei Darussalam and United Kingdom have set up a diplomatic relationship since 1984. Bilateral relations was reinforced through exchange of government senior officers and visit by the royal family.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

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

- Italian President Giorgio Napolitano and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi on the occasion of Italy's 62nd Republic Day anniversary on June 2.
- His Majesty King Carl Gustaf XVI of the Kingdom of Sweden and to his Prime Minister, His Excellency Fredrik Reinfeldt on the occasion of Flag Day of the Kingdom of Sweden on June 6.
- The President of the Republic of the Philippines, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, on the occasion of the 110th Independence Day Anniversary of the Republic of the Philippines on June 12.
- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the occasion of the Queen's 82nd birthday anniversary on June 14.

Quran recital winners receive prizes

JERUDONG, May 23 - Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha, the Royal Patron of Brunei Darussalam Girl Guides' Association, presented prizes to winners of the Quran recital competition at the Jerudong Park Polo Club.

Also present at the ceremony were Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Azrinaz Mazhar, Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah.

Organised by the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam, the competition was divided into

three categories. Siti Norazurin bin Haji Bakar from Brunei-Muara district emerged champion of the Young Leaders category. She received the Royal Patron Trophy, contributed by Her Majesty.

In the Girl Guides category, the presidential trophy was won by Ampuan Tiara Rasyidah binti Ampuan Hussin from Temburong district. The trophy was a contribution from Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Masna, the president of the association.

In the category for Brownies, in top place was Wafaa Nazurah binti Hamzah from Brunei-Muara district.



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri presents the prize to one of the winner of the Quran competition.

PHOTO: HERNIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

17th Convocation of Institut Teknologi Brunei HRH: Call to encourage research on entrepreneurship



PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

His Royal Highness awards a diploma to one of the graduates at the 7th Convocation of ITB.

BERAKAS, May 19 - A call was made for Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB) to continue to uphold the strength or competitive edge it has, whilst also enhancing its role in further pursuing research and development activities in entrepreneurship, innovation as well as other fields relevant to the needs

and expectations of the vision for the development of the nation.

The call was made by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office at the 17th convocation ceremony for ITB held at the International Convention Centre.

"At the same time, I hope ITB will continue to strive in internationalising the relevant aspects it will require to spearhead its position as a renowned institution of higher learning of quality in global arena.

"Such a step is in line with the core thrust of Sistem Pendidikan Negara SPN 21, towards the objective of raising the percentage rate of students who successfully progress their studies to the university level to a rate on par with those of developed nations," said His Royal Highness.

The 17th convocation saw 294

students graduating with Higher National Diploma in their respective fields - 32 graduated in Accounting, 20 in Banking, 32 in Management, 46 in Civil Engineering, 11 in Construction & Management Engineering, 18 in Electrical Engineering & Building Services, 40 in Communication Engineering and Computer System, 36 in Computer and 27 in Information System Studies.

Among ITB's excellence awardees were Geoffrey Loh Thien Yu in Electrical and Communication Engineering; Lizawaty Haji Saini in Civil Engineering; Siti Yusmandizah Haji Mat Yusof in Business and Finance; Hailmey Ariffin in Mechanical Engineering; Muhd Khalid Haji Zaini in Computer and Information System and Muhd Fadhil Haji Abd Kadir in additional Activities.

Crown Prince presents Charity Golf Prizes

JERUDONG, May 4 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office presented the prizes to the winners of the Charity Golf Event 2008. The event has collected a total amount of \$28,500.00.

Ak. Md. Wirahadikusuma bin Pg. Md. Salleh emerged as the winner in the overall gross. In the overall nett was won by Sufian bin Haji Bahar.

In Men Nett, Category A was won by Haji Iskandar bin Haji Yusof. Pg. Haji Md. Suhaimi won in Category B and Category C was Shahnorn bin Haji Ahmad.

In category Men Senior gross event was won by Haji Aziz bin Kassim while the Women Category was won by Siti Salwa bin Haji Asmadi.

The prize presentation was held at the Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club (RBGCC).

Royal concern for victims of strong wind

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 22 - Victims of recently hit by strong wind in the Kampong Ayer received a visit by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Deputy Sultan.

His Royal Highness took a closer look at the homes that were affected and restoration works undertaken onto the affected houses.

A briefing was also given by the Brunei-Muara District Office, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Md. Yussop bin Bakar.

His Royal Highness also mingled with the victims showing his concern and care towards the welfare of the affected citizens and residents.

Kampong Ayer or the water village was hit with strong winds on May 11, 13, 14 and 16 where 53 houses across 12 mukims were affected. Thirteen of



His Royal Highness at one of the house affected by the bad weather conditions in Kampong Ayer.

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

the houses were located in Kampong Ayer specifically in Kampong Sungai Kebun, Kampong Burong Pingai and Kampong Pandai Besi. Government buildings and a school were also affected including the Sungai Kebun Primary School.

Crown Prince visits Ulu Temburong National Park

BANGAR, May 21 - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office paid a working visit to Ulu Temburong National Park in Kuala Belalong, Temburong.

Ulu Temburong National Park is spread over 50 hectares of lush green forests with public facilities and nature paths provided by the Forestry Department around 1991.

It is situated alongside the Temburong riverbed and Belalong River, housing an Information Centre, staff quarters, a surau, a few chalets for overnight visitors and many more.

His Royal Highness was briefed on its infrastructure and the facilities provided around the complex, including the types of accommodation and the work actively carried out around the facility.

Travelling on the Belalong River, the Crown Prince proceeded towards the UBD's Belalong Field Research Centre.

His Royal Highness received a briefing on the centre's functions and roles and viewed the research exhibition while mingling with officers and staff of the centre. This was followed with a souvenir presentation from the vice chancellor.

Established in 1991, UBD's Belalong Field Research Centre serves to provide foreign and local students, as well as government officers and staff, with resources needed for environmental research.

The Crown Prince crossed suspension bridges to experience one of the most popular attractions of the National Park - the Canopy Walk. There, His Royal Highness was also briefed on the surrounding flora and fauna, as well as the facilities.

The 80-metre high canopy walkway can be reached by a series of 1,226 steps, at the top of which is a breathtaking panoramic view of the river and surrounding forest, the zenith of the Heart of Borneo initiative.

The visit concluded with a luncheon at the Two River Terrace of the Ulu-Ulu Resort.



His Royal highness at the canopy walk across Ulu Sungai Temburong.

PHOTOS: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



His Royal Highness in a group photo with officers and staffs of Belalong Field Research Centre.

Awareness campaign on autism launched

PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH



Her Royal Highness interacts with one of the autistic children.

JERUDONG, May 22 - A campaign to create awareness on autism and a Learning Ladders Association were launched.

Present to officially launch the campaign and association was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah. The ceremony took place at the Empire Hotel & Country Club.

At the launching ceremony, Her Royal Highness also toured around a static exhibition and mingled with the autistic children.

Children with autism in Brunei Darussalam received strong support from both the public and private institutions. One particular non-government organisation (NGO) named as SMARTER Brunei or "Society for the Management of Autism Related Issues - Training, Education and Resources" of Brunei has been active in providing training and educating not only for autistic children and their parents but to members of the public too.

More details on SMARTER Brunei is available at www.smarterbrunei.org

Brunei Darussalam committed to OIC

KAMPALA, Republic of Uganda, June 19 - Brunei Darussalam reaffirmed its commitment to the Organisation Islamic Conference (OIC) and well-being of the Islamic Ummah.

This was reiterated by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade at the 35th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC held at the Munyonyo Commonwealth Resort Hotel in Kampala. Her Royal Highness delivered her statement on the second day of the three-day meeting.

Her Royal Highness highlighted the

recent adoption of the Amended OIC Charter by the leaders in Senegal as a manifestation of the collective will to move the OIC forward for the benefits of its members. Her Royal Highness was encouraged by the growing momentum for joint action in the direction set out by the leaders as stated in the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action.

Her Royal Highness noted that some progress had been made by the OIC Member States in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However Her Royal Highness

acknowledged that political, economic, and environmental factors could threaten the achievement of the Goals. The recent disasters in Myanmar and China were a reminder of one's vulnerability and stressed the importance of collective efforts and support of the international community.

On food security, Her Royal Highness welcomed the outcome of the High Level Conference on World Food Security held recently in Rome and supported the emphasis to increase food production and reduce

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(Brunei Darussalam committed to OIC)

trade restrictions.

Her Royal Highness also expressed concern on the deteriorating condition of the Palestinians who had been continuously denied access to many basic necessities. Her Royal Highness reiterated Brunei Darussalam's solidarity with the Palestinian people on their legitimate struggle for an independent state.

Her Royal Highness also highlighted other issues of importance including the increasing incidents of Islamophobia and commended the valuable work of OIC Secretary General in disseminating messages of moderation and tolerance as well as building bridges of dialogue with other religions, cultures and civilizations.

On the need to provide high quality education and training designed to promote creativity, research and innovation for the younger generation, Her Royal Highness encouraged

member countries to achieve them through the various measures in the Ten Year Programme of Action.

More than 50 Foreign Ministers, Heads of delegation, OIC Observer Countries, subsidiary and affiliated institutions of the OIC, delivered their statements. Also on the second day of the meeting Her Royal Highness consented to give separate audiences to the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey, His Excellency Ali Babacan and the Special Envoy of the Royal Government of Thailand, His Excellency Pithaya Pookoman. Her Royal Highness discussed bilateral as well as regional and international matters with the two officials.

Later that evening, Her Royal Highness accompanied by Yang Amat Mulla Pengiran Lela Chetria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz attended a dinner hosted by His Excellency Foreign Minister

of the Republic of Uganda at the Pyramid Hotel, Kampala.

On June 18, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna attended the opening ceremony of the 35th Session officiated by His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda. The meeting elected His Excellency Sam Kutesa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda as the Chairman and thanked the outgoing Chairman, Pakistan.

In the evening of the first of day of the meeting, Her Royal Highness accompanied by Yang Amat Mulla Pengiran Lela Chetria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz attended a banquet dinner hosted by His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda at Serena Hotel, Kampala.

RBTS sign MoUs with Singapore Companies

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 3 - The Royal Brunei Technical Services (RBTS) signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in Singapore, with two companies of Singapore Technologies Engineering Group (ST Engg).

The first MoU signing with ST Electronics (Info-Comm Systems) Pte Ltd (STEE-InfoComm) will see STEEInfoComm supporting RBTS in setting up a maintenance centre for electronics and information communications systems and optical equipment at RBTS's facilities in Brunei.

The objective is for RBTS to establish an indigenous capability offering intermediate and deep-level maintenance of electronics and information communications systems

and optical equipment to defence and security organisations in Brunei.

The second MoU signing with Singapore Technologies Synthesis Pte Ltd (ST Synthesis) will see ST Synthesis supporting RBTS in establishing a capability in equipment storage, inventory management, spares provisioning and optimisation, stock turnover, distribution, preservation and quality assurance.

The objective is for RBTS to offer services in the management of storehouses/ warehouses to defence and security organisations, as well as other customers who are considering outsourcing their non-core and non-operational functions.

Both MoUs will include assisting RBTS in conducting comprehensive studies, developing its human capital through

training and education, and putting in place work processes that will lead to quality system certifications.

RBTS's Chief Executive Officer, Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd) Haji Amir Hamzah bin Haji Hanafi, signed on behalf of RBTS, while STEE-InfoComm's Lau Thiam Beng, signed the MoU on behalf of STEE-InfoComm, and ST Synthesis's Vice President/General Manager, Goh Lik Kok, signed the MoU on behalf of ST Synthesis.

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, Brunei, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Majid bin Mangarshah, who was at Singapore Technologies Engineering (ST Engg) as part of his introductory visit to Singapore, witnessed the ceremony, together with Tan Pheng Hock, President & CEO, ST Engineering.

More local ICT experts needed to drive the industry



PHOTO: HAJI SAHRIN HAJI ASMAT

The Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Seri Paduka Eusoff Agaki delivers a speech at the launching of Brunei ICT Career Day 2008.

BERAKAS, May 3 - Brunei Darussalam is still relying on foreign expertise when it comes to information and communications technology (ICT) as the nation has yet to produce a critical mass of local ICT talents.

These were stated by Dato Seri Paduka Eusoff Agaki, the Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Office at the launching of Brunei ICT Career Day 2008 at the International Convention Centre.

To date, only 50 per cent of the current workforces in the field of ICT, in the private sector, are filled by locals. For the most part, ICT projects or e-government initiatives are still very much dependent on foreign consultants.

"At present, the InfoCom Federation of Brunei is working closely

with participating training centres to compile a database in order to better comprehend the various components required to boost the local ICT industry," said the deputy minister on how the federation and the career day event are relevant to the strategies and policies required to drive national development, particularly in ICT.

The career day is intended to be, first and foremost, a platform and catalyst for matching of supply and demand of the ICT professionals and industry needs in Brunei Darussalam.

The Deputy minister believed, with the correct marketing efforts and the dedication of the organisers, we will see a vibrant pool of local ICT experts being identified at this event, to meet current demands as well as future needs of the local ICT industry.

Brunei, fourth ASEAN member use biometric passport

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 5 – Brunei Darussalam marked another milestone in its information communication technologies' (ICT) capability with the launching of its biometric passport. Brunei is the fourth ASEAN member to use such technology which will replace the existing conventional passport that had been used since 1993.

The launching of the biometric passport fulfils the international standard required particularly by

the International Civil Aviation Organisation and taking into account the requirements for entering the United States of America (U.S.A) where the US government has enforced the use of biometric passport since October 26, 2006. With the e-passport, Brunei Darussalam will continue to experience the benefits of US' Visa Waiver Program.

Present to launch the passport was the Minister of Home of Affairs, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Adanan

held at the Department of Immigration and National Registration building.

This project which cost about \$7.2 million is aimed at speeding the checking process at immigration posts and checkpoints; and to curb forgery as the new passport has high security features.

The other three countries that use similar passport are Malaysia, the Republic of Singapore and Thailand.

Brunei joins meeting of Asean Labour Ministers

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 6 – Brunei is joining other Asean member countries in the biennial meeting of the region's labour ministers in Bangkok, Thailand.

The meeting is to discuss issues pertaining to decent work for vulnerable groups of labour, especially in the informal sector involving domestic workers and shop owners. The Minister of Home Affairs, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Adanan leads Brunei's delegation to the meeting.

The meeting may also see Thailand proposing the setting up of a task force to draft the cooperation framework for the implementation of decent work for vulnerable groups among Asean countries.

Themed 'Promotion and Enhancement of Decent Work for the Vulnerable Categories of Labour', the 20th Asean Labour Ministers Meeting from May 6-9 seeks to provide a platform for Asean countries in exchanging ideas on labour and human resources.

A meeting of Asean senior labour officials will precede the ministers meeting to monitor and review various activities from the previous ministerial meeting and discuss new initiatives for ministers' consideration.

They will also conduct a dialogue with partners China, Japan and South Korea, officials from the International Labour Organisation and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Guidelines for Health Research

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 10 – All research with human subjects in Brunei should be conducted in line with a research framework the Ministry of Health has established, marking yet another milestone in the health field in the country.

With an approved research in ethic application to protect the participants and the researcher, the research will be regulated by the Ministry of Health Medical Research Committee (MMRC), to be chaired by the permanent secretary.

This was announced by the Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Suyoi in his speech as guest of honour at the launching of the Brunei

Darussalam Guidelines for Good Clinical Practice held at Sheraton Utama Hotel.

The committee will provide direction for health research in the Ministry of Health and identify national health research priorities. Under its umbrella are two other research committees; the health policy and system research committee and the medical health research and ethics committee.

Up to now there are very few purely scientific research projects that have been done, although a clinical research unit is currently being set up at RIPAS Hospital to coordinate and facilitate research projects in Brunei.

The event also witnessed the launching of the Guidebook followed by the guest of honour sprinkling scented water on the book.

The Ministry of Health was organising the 2nd GCP workshop from May 10 to 12, to provide an overview of clinical research with a comprehensive review of the Brunei Darussalam guidelines for Good Clinical Practice.

Over 30 doctors and allied health professionals participated in the workshop. On hand to facilitate the workshop are distinguished researchers and speakers from the Ministry of Health, as well as invited speakers from clinical research centre, Kuala Lumpur hospital and MOH Malaysia.

Primary school to accommodate more students

LAMBAK KANAN, May 14 – A new primary school built under the 2007-2012 National Development Plan (NDP) is currently underway to accommodate more students.

The new school is known as Perpindahan Lambak Kanan Primary School, Jalan 10 and built on a 2.84 hectare piece of land. Construction works began on May 15, 2007 and expected to be fully completed by November 2008 with a cost of around \$4.2 million.

A foundation laying ceremony was held at the school's vicinity with

the Permanent Secretary (Higher Learning) at the Ministry of Education, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Daud present as guest of honour.

Through the previous NDP, the education sector underwent a remarkable development both in terms of quantity and quality. The government allocated \$507 million or 6.9 per cent of the total development budget for education and related facilities including school buildings.

The latest NDP will provide more school buildings and rebuild a few existing ones. Additional facilities will

also be provided to existing primary and secondary schools which amongst others will include additional classrooms and science, computer and language laboratories.

A total of \$822 million or 8.7 per cent of the latest NDP budget is allocated to finance the implementation of 68 projects in the education sector. In addition, the government also allocates \$295 million for human resource development related projects.

Energy sector still economic driver

JERUDONG, May 20 – The energy sector is still the nation's economic driver as the export of oil and gas is the country's major production. Apart from that, most of business and employment opportunities in the new hydrocarbon down streaming activities depend on the strength of advantage competitiveness in the energy sector.

In this regard, the government will continue to increase its efforts towards identifying new business

opportunities to be developed by the local and native small-and medium-entrepreneurs (SMEs) companies.

This was highlighted by Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya, the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office at the official opening of the Brunei Shell Petroleum (BSP) Vendors Forum held at The Empire Hotel & Country Club.

The minister also urged local entrepreneurs to intensify their efforts to train their employees, explore new growth areas and take proactive

steps to enhance their overall competitiveness.

The forum with the theme 'Strengthening Ties' was participated by 750 people from 450 companies registered with BSP, Brunei Liquified Natural Gas (BLNG), Brunei Shell Marketing (BSM), Brunei Shell Tanker (BST) and government contractors, corporate bodies and interested entrepreneurs.

Waste of energy brings negative economic growth

BERAKAS, May 24 – Negligence and wasting in energy consumption bring negative effect on the economic growth and looming change to the world's climate.

This was said by Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya, Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office at the official launching of Energy Day 2008 held at the Department of Electrical Services.

The Minister also stressed on the importance of efficient and increase clean renewable energy consumption from the impacts of climate change that has now effected the world's

population.

He also reminded the people of this country to nurture a competent and meticulous attitude when consuming energy and this can be seen as a global fight.

This year's Energy Week 2008 stressed on the theme 'Moving Together Towards Energy Efficiency'. A number of activities have been planned including an 'Energy Fair 2008' that will be take place at Taman Haji Sir Omar 'Ali Saifuddin in the capital.

Tobacco Order 2005 to protect citizens

GADONG, May 24 -The enforcement of Tobacco Order 2005 is vital in the bid to protect the citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam from the negative effects of tobacco. It is also to protect passive smokers and ensure a clean public environment.

These were highlighted by the Acting Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hazair at a handing over of Tobacco Order 2005 posters and no-smoking notices to government ministries and departments held at The Rizqun International Hotel.

According to the Acting Minister, public areas including government buildings and public transportations are now declared as non-smoking zones.

With the enforcement of the Order too, offenders if found guilty will be penalised with not more than \$1,000.

Broadcasting Act Authority transferred

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 21 – With effect from May 21, 2008, the authority for Broadcasting Act (Chapter 180) will be transferred to the Ministry of Communications.

With the transfer of authority, regulatory and monitoring functions of the Act, such as the issuance of broadcasting licenses, collection of licensing revenues, monitoring and enforcement will now be carried out by the Ministry of Communications.

However, the two government media agencies, Radio Televisyen

Brunei and the Department of Information will not be affected by the transfer and will remain under the administration of the Prime Minister's Office.

A handing over ceremony was held at the Amar Pahlawan Hall of Ministry of Communications. Present on behalf of the Prime Minister's Office was Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya, the Minister of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office while his counterpart was Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar, the Minister of Communications.

Educational Forum provide cooperation opportunities

TUNGKU LINK, May 27 – Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) recently hosted the 10th ASEAN University Network (AUN) Educational Forum and Youth Speakers Contest.

It received a positive response with participation from 17 universities from AUN member universities from nine ASEAN member countries.

Among the contents of the forum include academic and cultural activities such as; educational forums; young speakers contest; lecture and presentations on ASEAN related issues; and educational trips to this country's historical and cultural attraction sites.

The objective of this forum is to provide a platform for the exploration of opportunities for higher educational cooperation among AUN member universities towards the integration of ASEAN.

The forum ran from May 21 to 27 at the Senate Hall, Chancellor Hall of UBD.

RTB introduce new innovative website

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 2 – Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB) launched its newly revamped website introducing better features and content.

The website now known as RTB City has a range of services such as the i-mag, i-Talk, i-one2-c, i-Kids and i-Sinar where each services provide interactive and informative features and contents.

A launching ceremony was held attended by the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Ismail bin Pengiran Haji Mohamed as guest of honour.

In his welcoming speech, the Acting Director of RTB, Awang Haji Osman said the newly upgraded website was first introduced in 2000. It has been upgraded in the bid to

reach a wider range of audiences by enhancing RTB's services that is through the new media.

He also said that RTB plans to make this website as an important medium to reach the audience both locally and abroad, particularly the young generation.

While the Permanent Secretary, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Ismail reminded internet users to not abuse the internet and to use the internet responsibly. Brunei Darussalam has its own internet regulation which is the Broadcasting Act (Chapter 180) and Internet Code of Practice Notification 2000. While the Broadcasting (Class Licence) Notification 2000 provides the guideline for internet service and content providers.

Did you know that...

- Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) was formed in 1989 with the responsibility of promoting and facilitating industrial development in Brunei Darussalam
- There are five divisions, five departments and two companies under the jurisdiction of MIPR. Each of this divisions and department had their own roles in supporting the vision and mission of the Ministry.
- The five divisions under the Ministry are Management and Finance, Policy and Planning, Promotion and Facilitation Services, National Standards and Accreditation Centre, and Entrepreneurial Development Centre.
- The five departments are; Agriculture Department, Fishery Department, Forestry Department, Brunei Industrial Development Authority and Tourism Development Department. Meanwhile the two companies are; Semaun Holdings Sendirian Berhad and Jerambak Holdings Pty. Ltd.
- The Ministry is lead by a minister; Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Ahmad bin Haji Jumat. The departments are all lead by director.
- More information on the Ministry is available at <http://www.industry.gov.bn>.

>> 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.brunelair.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.



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

The New State Legislative Council Building

The new State Legislative Council Building marked another milestone in Brunei's history where it becomes a landmark for Brunei as an independent and sovereign state and its own distinctive system of governance.

The new building is standing proudly and beautifully on a hill at Jalan Kebangsaan near the capital.

A foundation laying ceremony was held on July 28, 2005 in conjunction with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 59th birthday celebration.

The project to build this building came under the purview of the Eighth National Development Plan with a cost of around \$62 million. With a base area of about 10.7 hectare, the total area included a lake covering three acres that is part of the overall landscape.

The building has distinct Bruneian characteristics with columns, stairs and symmetry that display Order, Strength and Stability. Each of the columns at the main entrance was designed with combination of 'Daun Lukut' and 'Air Muleh' while the walls with a combination of Brunei Malay Songket such as 'bunga melor bintang' and 'bunga bersusun indah damai'.

It has several symbolic elements such as five and nine columns at Porte Cochere revealing the promulgation of the Brunei Constitution in 1959, while the eight and four columns leading



His Majesty delivers a *titah* at the opening ceremony of the new State Legislative Council Building.

PHOTO: MASRI OSMAN

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(The State Legislative Council)**

to the Legislative Chamber on the third level symbolically reflects Brunei gaining full authority in 1984.

The dome on the roof of the central main block is surrounded by 29 windows and columns displaying the rule of the 29th monarch, and portray Islamic architecture and natural environment.

Overall, the landscape with water elements give a natural look to the site. A recreational area will also be provided at the building near the lake

for the use of public members.

Facilities at the new building include a conference room that can accommodate 45 to 60 people, a public gallery that can accommodate more than 450 people, a VIP room, a canteen, a banquet hall that can accommodate 500 people, an auditorium, a *surau* and confidential secretary, secretarial and press rooms.

The Legislative Chamber and Banquet Hall is located at the tower

central lobby while the right wing block accommodate the Speaker's office, library, auditorium, committee members' meeting room, VIP lounge and gymnasium.

The administrative office, canteen and *surau* meanwhile are located on the left wing block.



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALAH HAJI MOHD. ALI

His Majesty signed a plaque to mark the opening of the new State Legislative Council Building.



PHOTO: MOHD. ZUL-IZZI HAJI DURAMAN



PHOTO: AMPUAN HAJI MAHMUD AMPUAN HAJI TENGAH

1st Plagiocephaly operation a success

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 4 – The first plagiocephaly operation in the main referral hospital – Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital was a success. A two-year-old girl, Dayang Zalinatul Zafeah who was born with an abnormal skull underwent the surgery on May 20 which her skull was reshaped and modified to enable her brain to develop normally.

The first such operation in Brunei Darussalam was led by Professor David Staffenberg, a leading plastic surgeon from Albert Einstein Medical Institution in the United States of America. He was assisted by Professor Dr. N. Ravindanathan, Dr. Haji Haroon, Dr. Suresh, Dr. Rohayati Taib, Dr. Mohan Ramalingam, Dr. Nair, Matron Haji Rosli, Sister Haji Mohammad and Md. Husin, theatre circulator.

The operation took eight hours to complete.

UBD and ACB sign MoU



The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Vice Chancellor of UBD and Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office.

TUNGKU, June 5 - In a bid to create a culture of zero tolerance towards corruption in the country, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) under the Prime Minister's Office, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate in educating students on corruption activities.

Signing on behalf of ACB was Pengiran Kasmirhan bin Pengiran Haji

Tahir, Director of ACB and UBD was represented by Awang Haji Jalil bin Haji Mail, Registrar and Secretary. The signing ceremony was held at UBD's Chancellor's Hall.

Also in attendance was Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Awang Ismail bin Haji Duraman, Vice Chancellor of UBD and Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustappa bin Haji Sirat, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office.

These collaborative efforts will take place in the new academic year, with the incorporation of anti-corruption education component into the Melayu Islam Beraja (MIB) or Malay Islamic monarchy course, a compulsory module for all first year students in UBD, conducted by the Academy of Brunei Studies for the 2008/2009 session.

Brunei – Thailand's exhibition programme: Global Warming

THAILAND, June 6 – Brunei Darussalam through Information Department, Prime Ministers Office and Thailand through the Public Relations Department have organised a joint exhibition programme as a part of the Memorandum of Understanding between Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Thailand in the information and broadcasting field.

The programme was held for four days starting from June 3 to 6 at

the Auditorium SOI Areesamphan, Phanomyothin Road, Bangkok. The exhibition was launched by the Permanent Secretary at Brunei's Prime Minister's Office, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Ismail.

The exhibition was entitled "Thailand and Brunei Darussalam: Only One Earth Care and Share", on the theme "Global Warming". The exhibition coincided with the celebration of World Environmental

Day held on June 5.

The exhibition was divided into two categories. The Brunei Darussalam - Thailand MoU on Cooperation in Information and Broadcasting and Brunei Darussalam - Thailand joint musical variety show.

The exhibition was hoped to raise public awareness on environmental issues and problems and possible solutions to save the earth from the effects of global warming.

Fleetcard for commercial vehicles

BERAKAS, June 9 – Commercial vehicles are now required to use a fleetcard when consuming gasoline or diesel as this is a new mandate issued by the Energy Section of the Prime Minister's Office.

While vessels and commercial boats are also required to use the

fleetcard approved by the Brunei Shell Marketing Sdn Bhd (BSM) and to directly fill the gasoline into their gas tank or onto a permitted container based on international standards.

The new mandate also requires for any purchase for industrial use to use the fleetcard and must not exceed

400 litres.

These were highlighted at the fleetcard promotional campaign held at the Orchid Garden Hotel. A briefing was delivered by Awang Haji Hairul Radzi, the Excellence Retail Operational Executive Officer of BSM.

PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT



The Minister of Religious Affairs, Pehin Dato Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain and the British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency John Saville at a reception to mark Her Majesty The Queen's 82nd birthday anniversary on June 11.

PHOTO: HERMIE SULIANA HAJI OTHMAN

Brunei-Malaysia underscore cooperation in drug fight

PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT



The 12th annual meeting between Darussalam's Narcotics Control Bureau and the Narcotics Crime Investigation Department of the Royal Malaysian Police.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 10 - Brunei Darussalam's Narcotics Control Bureau and the Narcotics Crime Investigation Department of the Royal Malaysian Police held their 12th annual meeting where, Brunei Darussalam hosted the meeting this year.

The meeting enabled the countries to share information such as on drug smuggling across the borders. The meeting also enhanced the cooperation between the two law enforcing agencies by updating their

knowledge on the trend in drug issues and discussing ways to enhance their working relationship.

The meeting was divided into two parts. The first part discussed the types of cooperation and assistance, courses related to the subject, as well as sharing of information, skills and experience on drug abuse prevention. The second part discussed and endorsed what was discussed in the working group.

Olympic Day Run



PHOTO: HAJI MASMALEH HAJI MOHD. AU

His Royal Highness officially flagged off the Olympic Run Day.

BERAKAS, June 22 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council attended the annual Olympic Day Run at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

The event was commenced with an aerobic session. His Royal Highness also joined the participants in the Olympic Day Run.

Also in attendance was His Royal Highness' son, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul 'Aleem.

Comprehensive National Blood Centre to be established

PHOTO: ABDULLAH HAJI AWANG DAMIT



The Deputy Health Minister take a closer look at the exhibition in conjunction with the World Blood Donor day Celebration.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 14 - A comprehensive National Blood Centre equipped with its own laboratory facilities will be set up. This is in line with the efforts to ensure an adequate and safe supply of blood.

As a preparation towards the setting up of this Centre, a Serology Lab has been established since May 1, 2008 where its objective is to identify transferable diseases. This is also to ensure that all donated blood are not contaminated from diseases which

can result to transferable diseases through blood transfusion.

These were said by the Acting Minister of Health, Pehin Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hazair at a ceremony to celebrate World Blood Donor Day 2008 held at the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Complex.

Continuous monitoring to filter and examine donated blood according to the international standard particularly by the World Health Organisation has also been enhanced.

Brunei-Malaysia strengthen cooperation in information

BERAKAS, June 18 - Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia further strengthen its cooperation in the field of information through the latest joint executive meeting between Information Departments of respective countries.

Among the issues discussed were exchange of publications, exhibitions, news, photos; exchange of officers; and temporary work attachments for journalists and photographers.

While in Bandar Seri Begawan, the Malaysian delegation also visited Temburong district and took a closer look at the various community activities and development programmes available in that district.

Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of information and broadcasting on February 14, 1992 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

ASEAN Ministers vow to tackle land, forest fires

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 25 - The ministers from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand agreed to remain vigilant and take proactive steps to prevent and mitigate land and forest fires.

The matter was agreed in the 5th Meeting of the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee (MSC) on Transboundary Haze Pollution on June 23 in Singapore.

The ministers agreed that relevant national agencies should remain vigilant and take necessary measures to prevent and mitigate land and forest fires, and continue to support each other.

They also applauded Indonesia's efforts in implementing its plan of action in dealing with transboundary haze pollution and to prepare for the coming dry season, while reaffirming its commitment to reduce hotspots in 2008 by 50 per cent as compared to 2006.

The ministers also noted that the MoU for collaboration between the governments of Malaysia and Indonesia in Riau Province was signed on June 3.

The ministers will meet again in October in Phuket, Thailand.

HADRAH

Hadrah is a traditional musical instrument, most common in the Malay culture where it had been passed down by our ancestors and can be claimed as successfully preserved by the current generation.

In other Malay communities in the Asia region, hadrah is also known as rampana or tar. However, hadrah is more synonym for the Brunei Malay culture.

Hadrah produces drum-like sounds where it should be played with not less than nine people. However it should be noted, the larger the group, the sound produced would be much more attractive and challenging. It is believed that the hadrah was originated from the Arabic countries.

Hadrah is closely linked into our culture as it is significantly used during weddings, during an opening of an event and highly chosen to play an

important role in marking the arrival of His Majesty in various events such as during meet-the-people session in all four districts for His Majesty's birthday celebration. The sounds of hadrah which is energetic and can lift one's spirit is often used to welcome a delegation, a group of tourists at the airport and even foreign dignitaries.

As part of the efforts to preserve this traditional music, schools and *mukims* can be seen promoting hadrah through competitions and it is included as part of the extracurricular activities.

One encouraging factor for this traditional music to survive is there is still a strong demand for hadrah group to perform during weddings. Hence groups formed either in schools or villages constantly receive bookings for them to perform at weddings. They are also highly sought for opening of

events or to welcome a delegation.

Today, along with change in time, the sounds from hadrah has also changed. Songs chosen to sing along with the sound of hadrah are sometimes those of new and old songs. Happiness on the faces of the players and even those who listens can be seen once a song has been played. With suitable songs, the beating of hadrah can enliven the ceremony. One example is when a newlywed couple will sit next to each other on the dais accompanied with the sounds of hadrah which makes the ceremony more festive and meaningful.

Hadrah is also now played by both the young and elderly where previously it was mostly played by the adults.

PHOTO: INFORMATION DEPARTMENT



The hadrah group performing at a wedding.



PHOTO: HAJAH NOORHURAH HAJI IDRIS

SAMBAL IKAN TAHAI

Yields 5 to 10 servings

Ingredients

Ikan Tahal	370gm
Large onion (sliced)	150gm
Tamarind juice	150gm
Salt	6gm
Sugar	5gm
Cooking oil	200 ml

Ground Ingredients

Fresh shallot	200gm
Fresh garlic	100gm
Dry chill	250gm

Method

Peel and de-bone Tahal. Then clean and pound coarsely. Heat oil and stir fry ground ingredients until golden brown and fragrant. Add in tahal; mix in large onions, tamarind juice, salt & sugar. Simmer until cooked and then remove.



BNDOC's President attend Jeddah Meeting

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 8 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council was in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia for the Annual General Meeting of the 5th General Assembly of the Islamic Solidarity Sport Federation.

Present at the Brunei International Airport to bid farewell was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Pehin Major General (Rtd) Dato Haji Awang Mohammad.

The meeting was held for three days starting from May 5 to 8.

Bicycle expedition to mark World Water Day 2008

BERAKAS, May 18 - More than 300 people took part in a bicycle expedition to mark World Water Day 2008. The expedition was 30 kilometres long which commenced and ended at the Public Works Department's headquarters in Berakas. There were two categories; Open and for children under 12 years old.

Also present to take part in this expedition was the Minister of Development, Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdullah and his deputy, Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Mat Suny.

This activity was co-organised by the Department of Water Services and Department of Sewage & Drainage of Ministry of Development.

This year's World Water Day 2008 theme was "Sanitation".

Brunei joins World Islamic Conference for Dialogue

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 3 - Brunei Darussalam participated in the World Islamic Conference for Dialogue under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

Representing the sultanate to the conference was Pehin Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Haji Abdul Aziz.

The conference focussed on the Islamic foundation of dialogue and setting up objective plans for the future, stressing that the Islamic approach is the method adopted by the World Muslim League in all its activities and conferences.

Delegates also discussed working papers and researches, which based on what was mentioned in the Al-Quran and the Sunnah (traditions) of Prophet Muhammad in the area of dialogue and speech which are directed towards non-muslims and the relations between Muslims and people of other nations and communities.

SMS to raise fund

JALAN MENTERI BESAR, June 5 - A humanitarian fund to assist victims of natural disasters in Myanmar and China by using the short-message-service (SMS) has been launched.

An official launching of this service was held at the Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports, launched by its Minister, Pehin Dato Seri Haji Awang Mohammad.

Members of the public who wish to donate to the fund are required to type in "BANTU" and the amount they wish to donate which is either \$1, \$5, \$10, \$15 or \$20 and send it to their respective telephony service provider.

This humanitarian fund is a joint cooperation between the Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports with Radio Televisyen Brunei (RTB), DST Group and B-Mobile Communications Sdn Bhd.

Two major natural disasters took place in Myanmar and China where thousands of lives were loss and effected. In Myanmar, the Typhoon Nargis effected more than 2.4 million lives needing assistance and thousands were found dead. While the Sichuan Province of China was effected with an earthquake measured at 7.8 Richter scale. As a result of the earthquake, thousands of lives were loss, lost their homes and in need of food supply.

Brunei to host Regional Special Olympic

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 6 - The second Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce will be held in Brunei Darussalam in August this year.

Among the objectives of the competition was to give opportunity to the athletes to socialise and interact with one another. It was also to instill a sense of confidence apart from to better prepare the special needs athletes for the tournament.

A total of 14 athletes will represent Brunei in the competition which will be held at the Sports Complex of Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium from August 17 to 24.

Princess awards badges

LAMBAK KANAN, June 8 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, President of the Brunei Darussalam Girl Guide Association graced a presentation of Warrant to Commissioners (2007 - 2009) and Tenderfoot Ceremony of the Girl Guide Association of Brunei Darussalam. The ceremony was held at the Sayyidina Abu Bakar Secondary School.

At the ceremony, Her Royal Highness awarded a warrant, certificates and badges to members.

Brunei brings home two silver

KUALA TERENGGANU, June 9 - Brunei Darussalam gained two silver medals at the 12th Malaysia games (12th SUKMA).

The medal were gained from karate-do through Md. Nabil bin Abdul Malik in committee 70 kg and through Md. Jamil bin Haji Badri in committee 80 kg. This was the country's 6th participation in the games.

Brunei Darussalam participated this games as an invitation team. Brunei's contingent participated in nine sport events. The next Malaysia games will be held in 2010 and Melaka will be hosting the game.

Three companies to promote IHPE 2008

BERAKAS, June 9 - SUNLIT Advertising Sendirian Berhad as 'Event Manager' International Halal Product Expo (IHPE) 2008 signed an agreement with two strategic partnership, Halal Journal (KasehDia) and DagangHalal.com.

SUNLIT Advertising was represented by its Executive Director, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Danial; Halal Journal by its director, Awang Nordin dan DagangHalal by its Chief Operation Officer, Mr. Yap Yun Sin.

The signing ceremony was held at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR).

The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Acting Permanent Secretary of MIPR, Pengiran Hajah Mariana binti Pengiran Dipa Negara Laila Diraja Pengiran Haji Abdul Momin.

IPHE 2008 will be held on August 14 to 17 at the International Convention Centre.

Brunei joins UNESCO Asian Youth Forum

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 25 - Brunei Darussalam sent its representatives for the 2nd UNESCO Asian Youth Forum, which runs from June 26 to 30 in South Korea. They are Awang Iswandy bin Ahmad of Brunei AIDS Council and Dayang Rina Nurhafizah Reza binti Abdul Rani of Tutong Youth Community Club.

With themed the "Sustainable Community in Asia", the forum will be attended by over 70 participants, including observers, from 20 countries.

The forum is aimed at promoting UNESCO's vision of intercultural cooperation in Asia, sharing experiences on youth activities, and reviewing and recommending youth-led pilot projects.



'HORREY' by Samle Jait won the officers and staff category for the month of June organised by the Photography and Audio Visual Section of Information Department.



'Wajah Kegembiraan' by Ak. Amirulnizam Pg. Hj. Mohd. Ali won the Photography Category for the month of June organised by the Photography and Audio Visual Section of Information Department.