

# Borneo Bulletin

Monday 31 July 2006

THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, SABAH AND SARAWAK

80 Cents / RM1.60

VOL. 11

NO. 025



Indonesian band during the performance



His Majesty

PHOTOS: HJ MD SAID ARSHAD



Spectacular fireworks

## COLOURFUL TRIBUTE TO HIS MAJESTY

THE skies above the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium lit up in a hue of colours Saturday night as the opening show of the Brunei International Tattoo 2006 turned out to be a befitting 60<sup>th</sup> birthday gift for His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. Last

night, the second show was witnessed by thousands of spectators and the two remaining shows are also a sellout. The grand fireworks show Saturday followed by the tattoo performance was a spectacle to behold. — **Sonia K & James Kon**

# 54 killed in air raid on Lebanon



- 37 children among dead
- Rice told to stay away
- Leaders condemn Israel

QANA (Reuters) - An Israeli air strike killed 54 civilians, including 37 children, on Sunday, prompting Lebanon to tell US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to stay away from Beirut and fuelling world pressure for a ceasefire. The raid on the southern village of Qana was the bloodiest single attack during Israel's 19-day-old war on Hizbollah.

As a wave of anger spread across Lebanon and the Arab world, several thousand protesters gathered outside the United Nations headquarters in downtown Beirut and some smashed their way into the building.

Rice, who was in Israel and had planned to go to Beirut later in the day, said she was saddened by the Qana air raid, but stopped well short of calling for an immediate ceasefire.

Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora said he would not hold negotiations before a ceasefire, scuppering Rice's visit. Police said Qana, which is about 11 km from the border with Israel, was bombed at 1:30am, destroying a three-storey building where about 63 displaced people were sheltering in the basement.

Many were killed in their sleep. "Why have they attacked one- and two-year-old children and defenceless women? What have they done wrong?" asked Mohamed Samai, whose relatives were among the dead.

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Lebanese Red Cross volunteer rushes to the rubble of a demolished building that was struck by Israeli warplane missiles at the village of Qana near the southern Lebanon city of Tyre, Sunday

## Daring snatch-and-run theft at supermarket

By Ignatius Stephen

IN a daring snatch-and-run theft, a thief got away with more than \$3,000 yesterday at a leading superstore in the capital.

The incident happened in full view of shoppers, guards and security cameras at about 7pm at the supermarket. A cashier was closing counter 7 and was totalling the collection at the checkout counter when the thief struck at lightning speed.

"It happened so fast that the man got away before anyone could realise it," said the tearful female cashier. The theft caused some commotion but very few shoppers were aware what exactly took place.

A shop supervisor said, "This is the first time this has happened although there were petty shoplifting attempts before."

It is possible that the thief had been watching her for some time.

"He must have also had knowledge of some of the store's inside operations. Obviously he knew the shift change times and when takings were counted," said a store manager.

Police were informed and they quickly arrived at the scene. "We are investigating," they said.

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Japanese Hanabi implementation unit and members of Hokurikukako during a courtesy call to the Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam



One of the luminous Hanabi, or Japanese fireworks

# Japan to light up skies with 'Hanabi' at BIT

By Sonia K

THE Brunei Darussalam International Tattoo (BIT) 2006 is one of the most colourful events for the 60th birthday celebrations of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Besides performances by military bands from various countries, Japan will be presenting a spectacular 'Hanabi' (Japanese fireworks) display, which is highly acclaimed worldwide for its beauty and excellence.

Japanese fireworks had gradually evolved from a long history of elegance and beauty. There are many traditional fireworks around, but the recognition of aesthetic value of Japanese fireworks is absolutely World No. 1.

Last November, the people in Brunei were treated to a spectacular Japanese fireworks display at the Empire Hotel and Country Club, hosted by the Brunei-Japan Friendship Association (BJFA). They were really impressed and amazed at how different the Japanese fireworks are as compared to ordinary fireworks.

In a press release from the Embassy of Japan, it stated that Mr Hirofumi Kawabata, General Manager of Mitsubishi Corporation of Brunei Liaison Office, a leading Japanese company in Brunei, was approached by the Secretariat of the BIT 2006 asking for assistance in presenting the Japanese Hanabi at BIT 2006.

Mr Kawabata with strong support from the Ambassador of Japan, made great effort to fulfil the request by raising contributions from influential organisations and business companies such as BJFA, GHK Motors, and Brunei LNG. The total amount of the contributions only reached half the cost. However, Mr Kubota, President and CEO of Hokurikukako, also a fervent admirer of His Majesty the Sultan, decided to bear the remaining cost.

This is how the Japanese contributions to BIT 2006 came to be

accomplished. Hokurikukako feels honoured to be able to join BIT 2006 in celebrating His Majesty's 60th birthday celebrations.

They have prepared special fireworks so that His Majesty and the people in Brunei can enjoy the Japanese traditional fireworks.

The most special and spectacular one is the magnificent 'Volley of Fire' firework, bursting with multiple blooms from balls of different sizes in six phases to mark His Majesty's 60th birthday. When the last phase of 'Volley of Fire' blossoms in the sky, it will rise to a height of almost 350m and will spread 310m across the sky.

Hokurikukako hopes His Majesty and the people of Brunei will enjoy the fireworks, which will also be coordinated and synchronised with the musical performances from the military bands of 13 different countries.

Yesterday, the Japanese Hanabi implementation unit and members of Hokurikukako paid a courtesy call to the Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam, Mr Yoshinobu Nisaka.

The ambassador was pleased that His Majesty and the people of Brunei can enjoy the best Japanese fireworks at BIT 2006, thanks to the efforts of organisations and companies that have strong relevance to Japan.

Most of the people in the firework implementation unit are women. Hokurikukako uses a combination of traditional method and computer-controlled technique of cutting-edge technology.

Each Japanese firework is not launched one by one independently but in continuous harmony. It is dangerous for foreign companies that have no advanced technologies to imitate this style.

Hokurikukako, established in 1953, takes pride in having the most modern factory that was built in 1997 in Ishikawa Prefecture to manufacture Japanese firework. Hokurikukako has the biggest factory with the most modern facilities in Japan and is ranked amongst the biggest five manufacturers of fireworks in Japan.



A stunning palm-tree like fireworks display

The manufacturing process is meticulously done. A high level of diligence and safety is their utmost motto in order to achieve the highest safety standards in light of the regulations on explosives. Under such a stringent environment, all the staff try their best everyday to manufacture high quality fireworks that have incomparable beauty with excellent craftsmanship in designing the shells which are inherited and pursued for generations.

As a result of their efforts, Hokurikukako is very proud of awards won in the past in Japan namely four times winner of Best Star-Mine Fireworks in Nagahama Firework competition.

## Infusing competitive spirit in Pakistan Army Band

THE Pakistan Armed Forces Tri-Service Band is taking part in Brunei Darussalam International Tattoo (BIT) 2006 to celebrate the 60th birthday of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Martial music reflects the spirit of the armed forces and is in keeping with the rugged nature of the duty, which soldiers have to perform.

Martial music is needed to sustain the morale of a soldier and to stimulate in him a passionate desire to achieve his goal.

It is music that awakens the soldiers to the magnitude of their task and inspires them to execute their duties with the spirit of a crusader.

Pakistan Army Band competitions are held annually to infuse a competitive spirit in the bands and improve the standard of playing, drill and turnout.

There are two types of bands in the Pakistan Army, a Military Band, commonly known as Brass Band, and a Pipe Band.

There is a slight variation in the music of the two. It is therefore imperative to draw up separate training programmes for each of the two groups.

Research work has been undertaken in military music, composition of Pakistan Marching Tunes and regularisation of all regimental marches at the Pakistan Army School of Music in Abbottabad, and we now have tunes depicting outstanding themes in national life.



Martial music is needed to sustain the morale of a soldier and to stimulate in him a passionate desire to achieve his goal

The Pakistan Army School of Music located at Abbottabad runs three types of Military Band courses and six types of Pipe Band courses.

The school has also undertaken musical training with several friendly countries such as Saudi Arabia,



There are two types of bands in the Pakistan Army, a Military Band, commonly known as Brass Band, and a Pipe Band

Ghana, Malaysia, Brunei, Jordan, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Nigeria, Bahrain and Iran.

Music is not only a technical performance but it is also what the person brings to it from his own

deep inner experience of whatever nature, be it emotional, intellectual, ecstatic or deep suffering. Whatever it may be, his own life projects itself in the music. - PAKISTAN HIGH COMMISSION