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Hassanal Bolkhiah National Stadium

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A replica of Brunei's traditional musical instrument, guling tangan in silver.

Silverwork continues to flourish

The genesis of silver-crafting in Brunei Darussalam is not clearly known but it is believed that the craft is an ancient one, having been in existence in the country for centuries.

According to stories the early silversmiths began their art around Kampung Pandai Mas, one of the villages in Kampung Ayer (Water Village) where several other age-old crafts such as gold, copper, brass and bronze works, cloth-weaving, wood-working and cannon as well as other weapon-making were also practised. Records have shown that these handicrafts were already flourishing at the height of the Brunei Empire at the 15th century and the first half of the 16th century.



Various shapes and sizes with multi purposes made with silver.

Secrecy

Until recently knowledge of silverware-fashioning, like the rest of the other crafts had been a closely guarded secret that was handed down through the generations from father to son. Attempts by others to penetrate this cloak of secrecy were always met with resentment. Thus the number of craftsmen was small and restricted only to certain family circles within the confines of Kampung Ayer.

In the early 50's, the government in an effort to perpetuate these handicrafts and make them more prevailing in the country, gave the artisans, notably the silversmiths, a building where they could display and sell their products.

Process

Silver-crafting is simpler today because the silver used is imported in the form of sheets ready for use. In the old days the silver was obtained by melting old silver coins, bracelets and pieces of unwanted silverware and then making them into sheets involving a lot of heating and hammering in the process.

Although the availability of processed materials and modern tools made things easier for the craftsmen as a whole, traditional method and design remained basically unchanged.

To make a silverware, for example, the procedure is fundamentally the same. The silver sheet is measured, cut and fashion into the shape of whatever the silversmith has in mind.

He then draws an outline of his intricate design on the article before filling every cavity with hot liquid resin. The resin, once hardened, acts as a cushion when the delicate process of chipping the design using tiny hammer and chisel begins.

The design is usually based on local plants and flowers, which are patterned according to the artistic skills and imagination of the silversmith. The most commonly used is a pattern called *Bunga Air Mulih* in which a creeping flowering plant is depicted in an unbroken chain covering the whole or certain parts of the silverware.



Creations

Local smiths have for centuries created a wide range of silver articles for use by royalty as well as the ordinary common folk. Some of these items such as *pasigupan* (smoking pipe), *cupu* (vase), *kiap* (fan), *kabuk panastan* (jar with cover), *kaskul* (bowl with cover) and *tumbak* (spear) today still make up part of the royal regalia.

Their other creations include ornamental articles such as cannon replicas, dinner gongs, flower vases and those traditionally worn by Malay brides and grooms.

The largest silverware ever crafted by a group of local smiths are the two *Pebarahan* or giant incense burners at the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque in the capital. Each of these burners stand more than 1.4 metres and weight many pounds. The *Pebarahan* is another example of Brunei Darussalam's exquisite hallmark of silver craftsmanship.

Silver-crafting has not only been a means of preserving family traditions but also a profitable cottage industry in Brunei Darussalam. A silverware is valued according to the amount or weight of the metal used and the amount of hard work invested in creating the article. A silver tea set for instance can cost up to \$3,000, and the demand for it and other silverware is always high.

The popularity of silverware among the locals and tourists alike will further assure the survival of this cultural heritage and at the same time continue to provide a source of income for those willing to learn this delicate but beneficial craft.



Brunei Arts and Handicraft Training Centre (BAHTC) was established to preserve traditional arts and handicrafts.



Traditional methods in silversmithing are still practiced today producing beautiful and detailed ornaments.





The value of handicraft produced through silversmithing can reach to thousands of dollars.





Members of State Legislative Council in group photo.

STATE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUILDING

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

The State Legislative Council Building was officially opened by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on March 4, 2008.

The new building is standing proudly and beautifully on a hill at Jalan Kebangsaan, about 15 minutes from the heart of the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan. The location is easily accessible

and close to various government ministries and departments.

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 four-storey building came under the purview of the 8th National Development Plan with a cost 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 landscapes.

The building has distinct Bruneian characteristics with

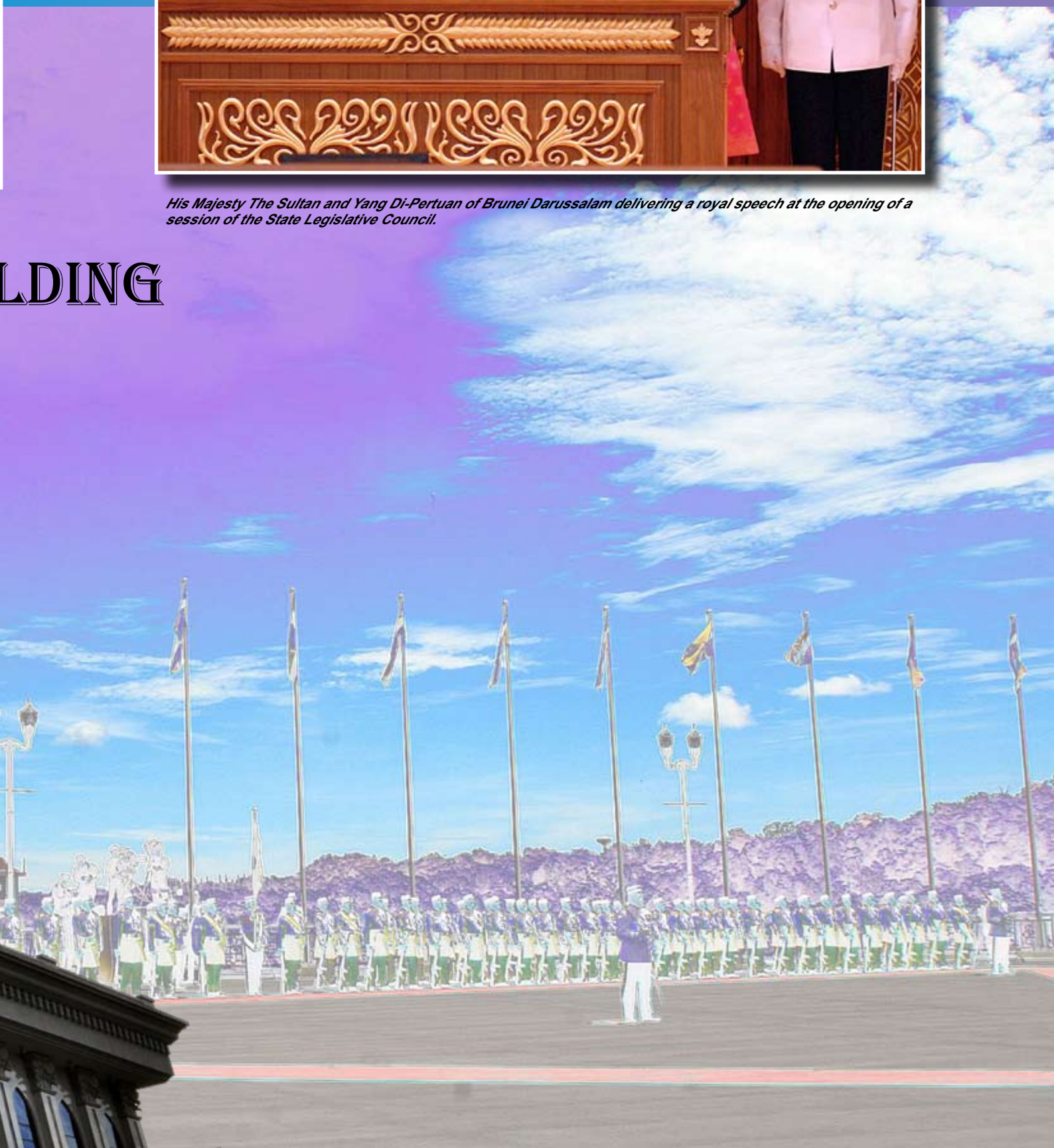
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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a royal speech at the opening of a session of the State Legislative Council.

LDING





* From page 8
(State Legislative Council Building)

columns, stairs and symmetry that display Order, Strength and Stability.

The design concept of the building has several symbolic elements such as:

- Five and nine columns at Porte Cochere revealing the promulgation of the Brunei's Written Constitution in 1959.
- Eight and four columns leading to the Legislative Chamber on the third level symbolically reflects Brunei gaining full authority in 1984.

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A wide angle view of the State Legislative Council Meeting in session.



* From page 11
(State Legislative Council Building)

- The picture of Al-Marhum His Majesty Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien signing Brunei's Written Constitution on September 29, 1959 at Lapau, is symbolised through a mural at the entrance wall to Legislative Chamber.
- The picture of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with The Right Honourable Lord Goronwy-Roberts signing the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and United Kingdom on January 7, 1979, is symbolised through a mural at the entrance wall to Legislative Chamber.
- The dome on the roof of the central main block is surrounded by 29 windows and column displaying the rule of the 29th monarch, and also portraying Islamic architecture and natural environment.
- Each of the columns are accessorised with *Daun Lukut* and *Air Muleh* motif while the walls are adorned with designs of Brunei's fine woven cloth such as *Bunga Melor Bintang* and *Bunga Besusun Indah Damai*.

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

Facilities at the 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* (prayer hall), interpreter rooms, gymnasium and press room.

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.

Brunei Darussalam reopened its State Legislative Council in September 2004, where the seatings took place at the International Convention Centre (ICC) before moving permanently to the current building.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signs a commemorative plaque to officially opened the State Legislative Council Building.



HASSANAL BOLKIAH NATIONAL STADIUM

In a bid to enhance the sports' standard in this country, the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports have been providing various sports facilities to cater the needs of athletes and the public. These include stadiums, sports complexes and youth centres established throughout the nation.

The national stadium of Brunei Darussalam is the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium, located on a 70-acre site off Jalan Berakas.

Brief History

One of the most memorable events to remember for Brunei Darussalam and its people was the construction of one of the most modern stadium in the region.

The idea came from Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien to commemorate the royal visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to Brunei Darussalam on February 29, 1972.

To implement the idea, a special committee was appointed and in a meeting on May 16, 1972, a collective

decision to build a stadium in Bandar Seri Begawan was consented by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The entire project cost about \$100 million. The financing of the project was funded via two sources, which were through public contribution with the balance being borne by the Government. A total of \$1, 102, 761, 57 was accumulated from public contribution.

Construction works were carried out in various phases including earthworks which commenced in August, 1980. The main building works commenced in January, 1981. The construction project was completed in July 1983.

The stadium was officiated by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on September 23, 1983. The date was chosen to commemorate Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien's 70th birthday anniversary.

At the ceremony, His Majesty consented to name the stadium as the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

The opening ceremony of the stadium was held grandly on the afternoon of

September 23. It was estimated about 35,000 people to had turned up to witness the historic event.

There were march-pass by associations of youth and sports, welfare bodies, students with flip cards display, choir performance, and bands from schools and Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

In the evening, a friendly football match was played between Brunei's National Football Team and Sheffield United, a football team from the United Kingdom where the Brunei National Football Team lost by 0-1.

The next day, another friendly matched was played between Sheffield United and Brunei Invited Team which ended with a draw, 1-1.

Structures and Facilities

The stadium is 850 feet long and 632 feet wide and orientated on a North-South axis so that the participants are not affected by the sun. The grandstand was similarly located on the west to avoid the afternoon sun.

The stadium can accommodate up to 25,000 spectators including royal seats, VIP seats and grandstand seats.

A National Day Celebration held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.





An aerial view of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

The football field was made according to Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) standards.

Meanwhile the eight-lane running tracks meet International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) requirements and surfaced with a synthetic finish from Messrs Voight of Germany at a cost of \$1.9 million.

The stadium is also well equipped with quality sound system, scoreboard and floodlights.

Besides the track and field, the sole stadium in the country is also equipped

with football field, gym, billiards and snooker room, lecture hall and lobby which can accommodate around 200-230 people, conference hall which can accommodate 50 – 60 people, jury room which can accommodate around 25-30 people and parking bays.

It is opened for lease to any football tournaments (quarter, semi final and final games only). The other facilities gym, billiards & snooker room, lecture hall and lobby, conference hall, jury room and car parks are also opened for leased.

Since its establishment, the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium has undergone several renovation works such as changing of spectators seat from benches to individual chairs.

Celebration

The Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium had hosted various national and regional events. Among the most memorable was Brunei Darussalam's 1st

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Spectators witnessing a National Day Celebration at the national stadium.





Various celebrations hosted at the national stadium.



*** From page 13
(Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium)**

National Day celebration that took place on February 23, 1984.

The grand celebration was attended not only by members of the Brunei Darussalam's royal family, citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam but also by invited foreign guests comprising of King, President, Prime Ministers, Ambassadors and High Commissioners.

Another historic event held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium was the 20th Southeast Asia (SEA) Games in 1999. It was Brunei Darussalam's first time to host the most prestigious sports event in Southeast Asia.

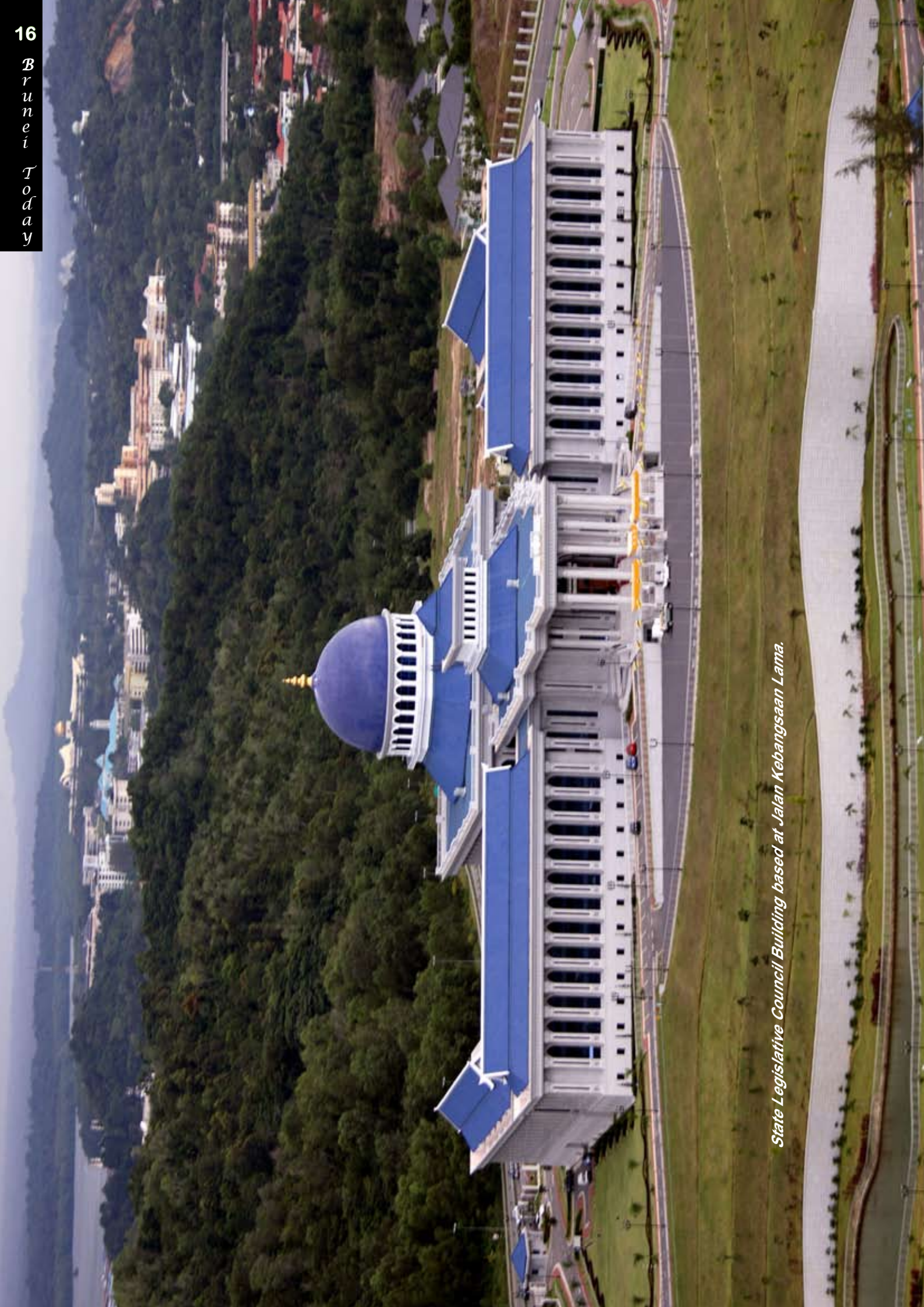
Apart from these, the national stadium also hosted Merdeka Games (1985), Brunei International Tattoo, Hassanal Bolkiah Trophy for SEA Youth Under-21 Football Tournament, Malaysian Premier League, Borneo Games and National Sports Fiesta.

The Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium was also the venue for a grand celebration to mark Brunei Darussalam's 20th National Day in 2004 and 25th Silver Jubilee National Day celebration in 2009.



One of the highest prestigious events held at the national stadium was the 20th Southeast Asia Games (SEAGames) in 1999.





State Legislative Council Building based at Jalan Kebangsaan Lama.