

## LOCAL News

### British High Commission hosts Queen's b'day party

By Narissa Noor



Cutting the cake.



Mr John Saville speaks at the event.



The popular red-colour phone booth normally seen in London.



Pehin Mohd Zain receiving a souvenir. -  
PHOTOS: JASON LEONG



Dr Grahaeme Henderson, Managing Director of  
BSP, viewing the exhibits at the event.

In honour of the United Kingdom's 2008 National Day celebration, the British High Commission hosted Her Majesty the Queen's 82nd Birthday Party at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom of the Empire Hotel and Country Club, yesterday afternoon.

Held in June when the ceremony of Trooping the Colour is traditionally held to celebrate Her Majesty's official birthday, the afternoon saw foreign dignitaries, senior government officials and other guests invited to an afternoon tea.

British High Commissioner, John Saville and his wife welcomed the guest of honour, Pehin Jawatan Luar Perkerna Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr Ustaz Haji Mohd Zain bin Haji Serudin, Minister of Religious Affairs.

In his welcoming speech, John Saville highlighted the areas from which a bilateral relationship was formed and shared his hopes for its enhancement, especially in the areas of education and defence.

"We have been working over the past year with Bruneian colleagues to renew and update some of the underpinning agreements and understanding, and making excellent progress," said the High Commissioner on matters of defence.

He also emphasised the cultural bond that the two nations shared citing examples such as Unaiza Karim, a British Muslim who captivated Bruneians when she showcased her calligraphic and gold leaf work based in the Ottoman tradition at the Majlis Ilmu 2007.

"I see the UK-Brunei partnership as combining the strength of a tried, trusted and true friendship," he added, "with the opportunity to find innovative ways of meeting shared challenges."

The afternoon was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony to mark Her Majesty the Queen's birthday. Guests also viewed photographs of 'Muslims In Britain' by photographer Peter Sanders, a British Muslim convert, who paid tribute to the British Muslim population in all aspects of society.