



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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*His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam speaking to the nation on the eve of Hari Raya Aidilfitri - reminding his subjects and people of Brunei Darussalam of the importance of the lessons learned from the act of fasting, such as self-restraint.*

## Faith and piety as prerequisite to maintain prosperity and security

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has emphasised that the Sultanate will always remain prosperous and secure despite future difficulties and challenges, as long as the people continue to uphold their faith and pious values.

"We will be able to overcome those difficulties, not only due to the expertise we have, but more importantly is the guidance from Allah the Almighty," said His Majesty in his message in conjunction with the Hari Raya 'Idilfitri which Muslims in the Sultanate celebrated on 9 February, after the fasting month of Ramadhan.

In his nation-wide address on the eve of the Hari Raya festival telecast over radio and television, His Majesty also spoke about the significance of the two of the pillars of Islam; fasting and paying the tithe.

His Majesty said fasting has moulded discipline and instilled noble virtues in ourselves such as patience and courage, both of which are vital in facing the more challenging life.

The monarch added that the lessons from fasting never ends. Fasting teaches us to avoid undesirable influences, and that is why we are still encouraged to put the teachings and the philosophy of fasting into practice at all times.

Throughout our lives, said His Majesty, there are many things that need to be prevented not only by the laws and regulations, but more important is self-discipline through our consciousness arising from our devoutness to Allah the Almighty.

If one can control oneself from vices, this indicates that one has carried out or has obeyed the teaching of fasting for oneself. Likewise, fasting is the saviour of the ummah which rescue us from humiliation on earth as well as from the punishment in the hereafter.

Another significant lesson, His Majesty went on, fasting teaches the

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### YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 28 February 1997. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.



*Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah consulting with the ministry's permanent secretary during a session of the Twelfth ASEAN-European Union Ministerial Meeting (AEMM).*

## ASEAN-EU to consolidate economic relations of the two regions

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the European Union (EU) have agreed to consolidate and diversify their relationships, in particular both regions' economic relations in the area of trade in goods and services, investment, economic development and cooperation, and interregional strategy.

This was stated in a joint declaration issued at the end of the two-day session of the 12th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM) held in the Republic of Singapore.

The meeting, held from 13-14 February at the Raffles City Convention Centre was co-chaired by Singapore and the Netherlands, and brought together the seven Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN member countries and their 15 European Union counterparts comprising those of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany. The Hellenic Republic, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by its Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Prince

Mohamed Bolkiah.

It was the first time that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the seventh member of ASEAN attended the meeting, and also for Austria, Finland and Sweden from the EU side. In this respect, the ministers signed the Protocol on the Extension of the Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and the member countries of ASEAN to Vietnam.

In the 11-page declaration, the foreign ministers stated that they had a productive and wide-ranging exchange of views on a number of political, security, economic and other issues.

The discussion, they said, took place in an atmosphere of mutual confidence and understanding, following the spirit of their previous meeting in Karlsruhe, Germany in September 1994.

"We reiterated that ASEAN remains a cornerstone of the EU's dialogue with the Asian region," the ministers stated.

They also noted the significant progress and accomplishments of both

• *Continued on page 3*



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ASEAN and the EU, and how both have been instrumental in the forging of close ties between the two regions.

The Ministers further noted that while they recognise the existence of internal and external challenges, they believed that their determination to enhance cooperation, peace and prosperity in the two regions will enable them to create a substantive and mutually beneficial relationship.

They recognised the central role of the ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting as the policy-formulating and coordinating organ of the two regions' dialogue relations.

They renewed the commitment to re-invigorate and to intensify dialogue and cooperation on issues of peace and security, the environment and sustainable development, trade and investment, human rights, based on partnership, shared responsibility and mutual benefit.

They agreed to enhance cooperation with a view to sharing experience — taking into account the unique knowledge the EU had acquired in completing the Single Market and that of ASEAN in implementing the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), and promoting respective regional markets.

The ministers believed that stronger

Above: The Brunei Darussalam Foreign Affairs Minister (5th from left) joins his counterparts from the ASEAN member countries and those of the European Union to pose for a group photograph at their latest meeting in the Republic of Singapore, while picture below shows His Royal Highness in the midst of discussion with some of his ASEAN counterparts.



economic flows between the two regions will drive the dynamo in ASEAN-EU relations. As economic links strengthen, they noted that the role of the private sector will become more vital.

ASEAN and EU are committed to working towards the encouragement of private sector initiatives which will facilitate greater cooperation. The small and medium-size enterprises

(SMEs) can pool their resources and experience to embark on joint ventures, both within and beyond the two regions, the declaration said.

### Political and security cooperation

On political and security cooperation, the ministers among

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others, reiterated their commitments made at their meeting in Karlsruhe.

They agreed to share perspectives and information with each other, deepen political dialogue through frank discussions of sensitive issues of common concern and cooperate in international fora.

## Economic cooperation

On economic cooperation, the ministers among others, stressed the central importance of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

They recognised that there is a great potential for a further strengthening of the two regions' economic links.

ASEAN and EU are among the most dynamic economic regions in the world today. The EU is the world's largest trading entity, while ASEAN is one of the fastest growing regions in the world. This provides a sound basis for dynamic economic cooperation between ASEAN and EU, the declaration added.

In 1995, the value of trade between ASEAN and the EU reached US\$86 billion - nearly four times over that in 1980. As the potential to further increase this is tremendous, the ministers agreed that there should be mutual efforts to improve market access and promote and facilitate the free flow of goods and services between the two regions.

They also agreed to initiate ASEAN-EU cooperation in customs matters.

The declaration further said that the establishment of AFTA and the expansion of ASEAN present greater investment opportunities for EU companies. As ASEAN economies grow and mature, ASEAN investors will be in a better position to invest within the EU.

ASEAN and EU will promote programmes aimed at stimulating broader and deeper business ties between the two regions.

The ministers also noted the importance of the ASEAN-EU Partenariat, ASEAN-EU Industrialist Roundtable and the Junior EU-ASEAN Managers Exchange



Above: His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam at a dinner with other ASEAN and EU Foreign Ministers.

Below: an air services agreement between Brunei Darussalam and Austria is signed on behalf of the two governments by their respective foreign minister – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah for Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Mr. Wolfgang Schussel for Austria.



Programme. They also encouraged the cooperation of the two regions' various business associations.

## Development Cooperation

The ministers reaffirmed their commitment to give priority to the alleviation of poverty, human resource development, health and family planning, the role of women, respect for human rights, environment and sustainable development, taking into account the individual ASEAN countries' needs.

The ministers said that they will undertake development assistance to assist the poor, cooperation on the eradication of illiteracy, public sector training, cooperation on the environment as well as cooperation on other areas on science and technology;

drugs and transfer of technology and know-how.

The ministers recognised the need to promote greater understanding between the peoples of two regions through cooperation between institutions, enhancement of media understanding and cooperation, cultural exchanges and human resource development.

While in the republic, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah met his Austrian counterpart, His Excellency Mr. Wolfgang Schussel to sign an air services agreement on behalf of the respective governments.

The prince also held separate courtesy calls with His Excellency Mr. Herve De Charette, the Foreign Affairs Minister of France and His Excellency Mr. Prachuab Chaiyasarn, the Foreign Affairs Minister of Thailand.



Left: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family comprising Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, Prince 'Abdul Malik and Prince 'Abdul Mateen joined other Muslims in a Hari Raya Aidilfitri prayer at the Omar Ali Saifuddien mosque in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.



Centre: The Brunei monarch at a 'bertahlil' (offer of prayer) at the royal mausoleum in memory of his late father, Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and late mother, Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit. Other members of the royal family also present were Their Royal Highnesses Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim and Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Below: After the tahlil prayers, His Majesty sprinkles scented water on the tombs of his late father and late mother, followed by other royal family members.

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Muslim ummahs to share together the burden faced by the less fortunate fellow Muslims, not only within a particular community, but also in the rest of the world.

In this world, we often witness pitiful incidents caused by hunger which bring about sickness and deaths. This is a sad story that occur in this so-called development age, His Majesty stressed.

His Majesty added that there are people who prosper as well as who

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Above and below: His Majesty exchanges greetings and chatting with local dignitaries and foreign VIPs including foreign diplomats when he granted them an audience at Istana Nurul Iman on the first day of Hari Raya Aidilfitri.



His Majesty leads other male members of the royal family to exchange Hari Raya Aidilfitri greetings with the thousands of people who came to Istana Nurul Iman when the palace held open house for three days in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidilfitri starting on the second day of the celebration.

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suffer, likewise there are those who have more and who have less. Therefore, whoever are prosperous and have the extras should help the less fortunate ones, stressed the ruler.

In this situation, His Majesty pointed, the concept and regulation towards the payment of the tithe, too, should also be carried out to help reduce the burden of the less fortunate people.

Towards this end, the monarch urged Muslims to abide by the rules and laws of paying the tithe both the 'zakat fitrah' (tithe given by each Muslim at the end of the fasting month) and the 'zakat harta' (tithe on parts of property) and the tithe, too should be distributed effectively to the needy.

"We will always receive the blessings through the fulfillment of religious responsibilities we conduct, discreetly and sincerely solely in the name Allah the Almighty," stressed the ruler.

The Hari Raya 'Idilfitri celebrations began with a mass morning prayer. His Majesty led thousands of Muslims to perform the

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• from page 6 (Faith and piety)

prayer at the Jame' 'Asr Hassaniil Bolkiah mosque. The monarch later received greetings from state dignitaries and foreign diplomats at the Istana Nurul Iman. Meanwhile, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam led the female members of the royal family in receiving the female guests.

Traditionally, the Istana Nurul Iman was opened for three days for members of the public to convey their greetings to the ruler and the royal family. His Majesty also entertained handicapped people and orphans at the Istana Nurul Izzah.

Above: His Majesty and his brothers - Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah chatting happily on the first day of Hari Raya as they were about to mingle with local dignitaries and other VIPs.

Centre: In another part of Istana Nurul Iman, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam lead the female members of the royal family to exchange greetings with female visitors during the palace's three-day Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house.

Bottom of page: Her Majesty the Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri exchange greetings with women VIPs who had come to the palace for the Hari Raya Aidilfitri.





*Hari Raya Aidilfitri is an occasion when all should rejoice, and the less fortunate members of society are not forgotten in sharing the joy of the season's festivity. Picture at left shows His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and his children greeting orphans and handicapped people during a Hari Raya Aidilfitri party at Istana Nurul Izzah given by the ruler and his family.*

*Some 4,000 orphans and handicapped who were present at the Hari Raya party at Istana Nurul Izzah had a real treat and plenty of fun at the function, picture at right.*



## **Jordan honours Brunei Darussalam's Education Minister**

The Government of Jordan has awarded one of the country's highest honours to Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, Minister of Education of Brunei Darussalam.

The 'Star of Jordan' first class

was conferred on the minister by the Jordanian monarch, His Majesty King Hussein ibni Talal in recognition of his services especially in the development of education in Brunei Darussalam, as well as internationally.

The presentation of the honours took place at the Jordanian

ruler's palace in Amman last December 17.

The Brunei Darussalam Education Minister visited Jordan during a series of visits that also took him to the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the invitation of his counterparts in those countries.



# Economic action agenda needed for facing global competition

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources has emphasised on the need for commercial and industrial bodies in the Sultanate to take the initiative in planning their respective economic action agenda in facing the stiff global competition, abreast of the efforts of the government in creating a conducive trade and investment climate.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman stressed that in this relation the Chinese Chamber of Commerce could play a role in making this initiative a reality.

The minister made the remarks during a swearing — in ceremony of new members of the administrative committee of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, held at the International Convention Centre on 15 January.

He said that the speciality of being an established business network community with partners abroad ought to be made an incentive towards creating a more diligent and credible entrepreneurship.

Similarly, the involvement of the entrepreneurs should not be limited in the “Quang - Xi” community only, but it should be extended through joint-ventures by establishing cooperation with other chambers of commerce and industry in the Sultanate.

Such a role could bring a meaningful contribution in supporting the country's economic



*The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman calling for the pooling of initiatives between the chambers of commerce in Brunei Darussalam so as to figure in the international market.*

objective, the minister added.

Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Rahman further pointed that the effort to diversify the economy will give a more positive impact when there is solidarity among the chambers of commerce and industry in planning economic action agenda.

Speaking about the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the minister said that it plays an important role in the country's economic development, and that there is still a lot to be explored to further upgrade and strengthen the chamber.

Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Rahman also spoke about the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). He said that our responsibility is not only to

achieve a significant agreement towards the APEC vision for open and free trade. But more importantly on how the Sultanate's involvement can be utilised beneficially in enhancing the country's economic development and towards producing entrepreneurs who are competitive in order to seize economic opportunities.

There are many perceptions by local entrepreneurs saying that open and free trade will push away opportunities and undermine their respective interests. However, we should be aware that the process of globalisation and free trade is not an option but is a vision of the international community which compel us to face it, said the minister.

He added that this challenge should be accepted positively and the process of development should be observed together so that the economic development efforts we carry out actively will enable us to face the process of globalisation.

The minister further pointed that an excellent measure to diversify the country's economy is based on our strength. He said that the possession of our natural resources and finance will ensure success only if we manage them effectively.

However, what we have achieved is not really prevailing and the private sector, too, is yet to play a role to utilise the existing strength, pointed the minister.

# Caring attitude to clients as top priority

The Acting Director of Telecommunications Department has highlighted that the caring attitude towards the clients should be practised by officials and staff of the department and it should be given a top priority.

Awang Buntar bin Osman, the Acting Director made the remark during the launching of an orientation ceremony for new officials and staff of the Telecommunications Department for 1997 held at the Ministry of Communications building on 9 January.

According to the Acting Director, the Telecommunications Department has given top priority on the caring attitude to its clients in order to upgrade the quality of the public service.

He added that this is also suitable with the 'We Serve You First' slogan whereas the client is a number one subject towards determining the level of their efficient services.

Awang Buntar further urged officials and staff that the slogan should



Awang Buntar bin Osman, the Acting Director of the Telecommunications Department (second from right) attending the launching of an orientation ceremony for this year's new officials and staff joining his department.

always be remembered while entertaining clients and while carrying out their daily duties.

"We should ensure that the service is efficient and meets the need of a client and the country," he stressed.

In this regard, he said, the Telecommunications Department is actively establishing a centre to give

due attention to its clients that is appropriate with the aspiration towards the realisation of the department's vision as the 'Telecommunications Service Supervisor of World Standard by the year 2000', just as important as the Sultanate's vision for 'SHuTT' (Service Hub for Trade and Tourism) by 2003.

## Brighter economic growth predicted in future

Brunei Darussalam's economic growth which is developing rapidly has been predicted to be brighter in the future due to conducive factors of economic climate in the country and in the region, said Datin Hajjah Edah, the wife of the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources.

Speaking at the official opening of Expo '97 organised by Zaza Ayu Enterprise owned by local businesswomen held in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan on 15 January, Datin Hajjah Edah said that this encouraging economic growth has given us new hope in terms of economic opportunities that could be explored by the entrepreneurs.

She pointed that in response to the Sultanate's aspiration towards economic diversification, the entrepreneurs should organise new strategy and move faster in order to progress ahead by beneficially utilising the available opportunities and specialities in the country and by improving any weakness so that the environment of our entrepreneurship could be more competitive and

dynamic.

The week-long exposition was aimed at establishing business relationships, expanding local businesses and introducing new

products from abroad. It was participated by business people from India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Bangkok, Singapore, Dubai as well as local businesses.



Datin Hajjah Edah (extreme right) viewing the exhibits put up by local and overseas businesses after she officiated the week-long Expo '97 in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.



His Excellency Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Idris (picture above) presenting his credentials to the United Nations Director-General in Geneva, while His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yunos (picture right), presents his to President Nouhak Phoumsavanh of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos.



## Brunei envoys to Laos and Geneva Present credentials

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has appointed two non-resident envoys abroad - the People's Democratic Republic of Laos and the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

His Excellency Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Yunos bin Haji Mohd. Hussein,

Brunei Darussalam's Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Laos presented his credentials to the republic's President. His Excellency Nouhak Phoumsavanh on 7 November last year.

Meanwhile, Brunei Darussalam's Ambassador to the Republic of France,

His Excellency Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Idris has also become the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United Nations Organisation in Geneva. He Presented the letter of appointment to His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Petrosky, the Director-General of the United Nations Organisation in Geneva.

## SHuTT - a comfortable service for tourist and businessmen

Tourists and foreign businessmen who come to Brunei Darussalam or visit several places in the Borneo Island will receive comfortable services through the Sultanate's Service Hub for Trade and Tourism (SHuTT) vision by the year 2003, a senior official from the Communications Ministry has said.

According to Awang Haji Matassan bin Haji Mohd. Daud, a Senior Special Duties Officer of the Ministry of Communication, SHuTT could attract more tourists and enable the business community to communicate towards enhancing respective businesses.

The official made this remark in a briefing at a gathering held between the

Ministry of Communications and the Law Ministry on 23 January. He pointed that with the service hub, more tourists will come to Brunei Darussalam and there will be a lot of business communications conducted through Brunei Darussalam.

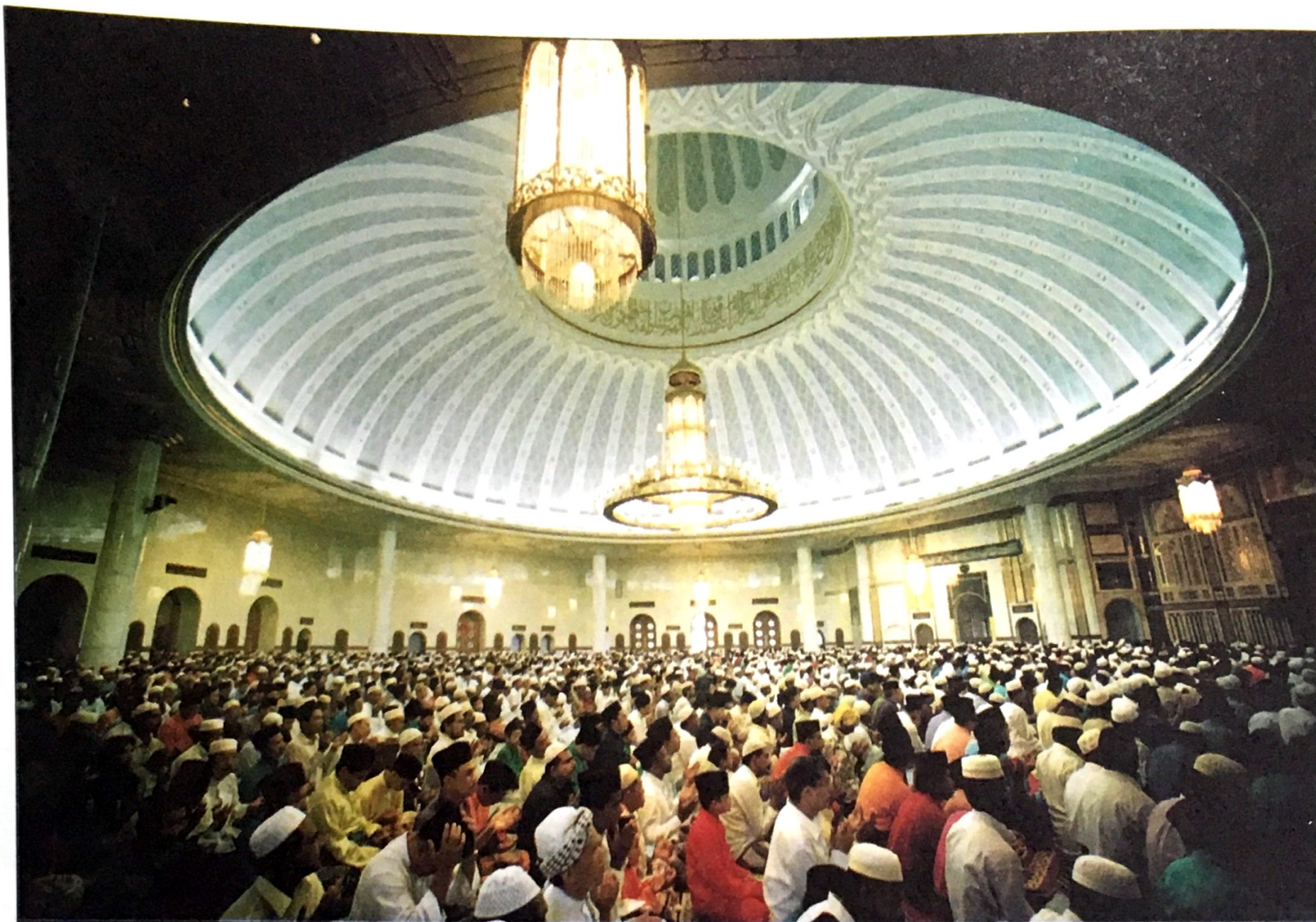
He pointed that the Muara Port has recorded an increase of cargoes and it is expected to increase further by the year 2003.

There is a high percentage of cargoes in the Muara Port and now we have carried out activities to attract ships to bring in and out goods in areas including the BIMP-EAGA or Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines - East ASEAN Growth Area, the official added.

The official further pointed that the amount of cargo handled by the Brunei International Airport is also increasing, thus such service requires more planning in order to attract more cargoes.

Therefore, the infrastructure development is vital to meet the need of service for the cargo and passengers who will arrive and leave through Brunei Darussalam, he stressed.

Present at the function were the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Malai Haji Ali, the Ministry's Senior Special Duties Officer, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah and heads of departments under both ministries.



## In solemnity, Muslims pray serenely in gratefulness and to seek further blessings

Under the magnificent chandelier-lit domes of the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque near Bandar Seri Begawan, Muslims upturn the palms of their hands during the do'a during the

Hari Raya Aidilfitri prayer as a mark of their gratefulness and to seek further blessings from Allah (God) The Almighty .

The scene depicted in this picture was typical at all mosques

and other prayer halls throughout the country, some of which overflowed with Muslim faithfuls performing the Hari Raya Aidilfitri prayer, marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

### *Brunei in Brief*

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Population : 296,000 (1995)

Official Language : Malay

Official Religion : Islam

January rainfall : 241.2 mm

(annual 2,818mm)

### *Brunei Malay in a minute*

Readers have the opportunity to learn a Brunei Malay word that is particularly peculiar to the country.

In this edition we have

selected the word **paraca**.

**Paraca** is handkerchief and sapu tangan in standard Malay.

**THE TRAFFICKING IN AND THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS ARE VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AND THE PENALTY FOR SUCH OFFENCES IS DEATH.**