



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

Published by the Department of Information  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

31 MAY 1997



*His Majesty Paduka Sen Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Chancellor Dr. Helmut Kohl reaffirming the strong bonds between Brunei Darussalam and the Federal Republic of Germany in their speeches during a dinner at the Nurul Izzah Palace held in the German leader's honour. (More pictures on page 3).*

## Germany invited to participate in Sultanate's nationbuilding

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has called on the German Government and German private sector companies to participate in the Sultanate's infrastructure development and economic diversification.

"These priorities have been recently set out in our 7th National Development Plan, 1996-2000. In this regard, the initialling of our Investment Agree-

ment will promote more investment on both sides," stressed His Majesty in his address at a dinner he hosted in honour of the official visit of Chancellor Dr. Helmut Kohl of the Federal Republic of Germany at the Istana Nurul Izzah, on 1 May.

### **Bilateral Investment Treaty**

The initialling of the Bilateral Investment Treaty concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection

of Foreign Investment between Brunei Darussalam and the Federal Republic of Germany was held earlier in the day. His Majesty's Government was represented by Dato Paduka Haji Yakub, the Permanent Secretary of the Finance Ministry, while His Excellency Ingmar Brentle, the republic's Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam signed for his country.

According to a press release issued by the Finance Ministry, the agreement

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## **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER**

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### **YOUR TURN**

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 30 June 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.

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*(Germany invited to participate in Sultanate's nationbuilding)*

was reached during early discussions held in Bandar Seri Begawan in March and in Bonn in April this year.

The press release added that the initialling of the agreement is aimed at providing protection on investment, and giving favourable and profitable investment returns.

### **MOU between Brunei-German private sectors**

In his address, His Majesty also spoke about the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two countries' private sectors which will encourage business people to consider joint ventures in the East ASEAN Economic Growth Area. "We are ready to enter into partnership with German businessmen in developing this vast area," the ruler pointed.

The MOU was also signed on 1 May. It is aimed at fostering friendship and understanding between the business communities who feel the need to intensify cooperation and facilitate continuous interaction between them on private initiative so as to increase the two countries' trade and economic cooperation.

Therefore, the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Brunei Darussalam which signed on behalf of the country's private sector and the Association of German Chamber of Industry and Commerce representing the republic's private sector, have agreed to carry out promotional activities for business cooperation, trade, investment, technology transfer, services and other industrial sectors.

His Majesty also highlighted other areas of cooperation. These include in education and technical training in which Germany has the expertise.

"For this reason, Brunei Darussalam hopes to send more students to Germany to learn from your industrial experience. Such efforts will also help to promote more people-to-people contacts," said His Majesty.

Earlier in his address, His Majesty noted Germany's long recognition of Asia as an important economic area for investment which is now in a pe-

riod of dynamic growth.

His Majesty said: "This needs European investment, trade and technology. At the same time, Asia's expanding markets and rising incomes offer Europe boundless opportunities."

The monarch further pointed that the inaugural Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Bangkok last year brought the Heads of Government of the EU member states, ASEAN, China, Japan and South Korea together and laid the foundations for regular interaction that will build strong ties between the two regions.

As ASEM members, said His Majesty, Germany and Brunei Darussalam could strengthen bilateral ties and enhance cooperation. Overall, the monarch added, German-Brunei Darussalam relations are good and harmonious, and the bilateral trade has shown a significant increase since the 1980s.

In his reply, Chancellor Dr. Helmut Kohl, among others, stressed that since diplomatic relations were established in 1984, the two countries have successfully cooperated in a spirit of mutual trust, both bilaterally and in the multilateral context.

He added that the cooperation could be intensified and further developed in many areas. "Therefore," he said, "I very much welcome the conclusion today of an investment promotion and protection treaty. This sets a positive signal for the future."

Speaking on efforts towards strengthening relations between Asia and Europe, the German leader said that the European-Asian Summit Meeting (ASEM) in Bangkok was an important forum on the road to this common goal. The results of this summit and also of the meeting of our foreign ministers in Singapore in February this year were a major step forward.

The Chancellor pointed that a long-term partnership between Europe and Asia based on trust is indispensable.

"We should therefore commit ourselves to an open and comprehensive exchange between the cultures in both regions. In this way we can learn from one another and use the creative power

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His Excellency Dr. Helmut Kohl of the German Federal Republic said that the newly-signed Brunei Darussalam - Germany Bilateral Investment Treaty sets a positive signal for future cooperation between the two countries.



His Excellency Dr. Helmut Kohl and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah receive the salute during an honour guard at the Brunei international airport upon the German leader's arrival in Bandar Seri Begawan, followed by an inspection of the honour guard contingent by Chancellor Kohl, left and above.

The German leader's itinerary during his state visit to Brunei Darussalam included a cruise around Brunei Darussalam's scenic 400-year old Kampong Ayer or Water Village Settlement, which is home to nearly 30 thousand residents. For this, he boarded a luxury cruise vessel, accompanied by Brunei's Deputy Home Affairs Minister, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abidin Rashid.



Right: The controller of Immigration and National Registration, Awang Haji Adnan briefs His Majesty on various aspects of the department, while an official of the Labour Department does likewise as His Majesty toured the two departments. The Commissioner of the Labour Department, Dato paduka Awang Haji Abdul Aziz Mohammad, slightly to the ruler's right, also listens closely, picture at centre.



## Monarch continues visits to ministries and government departments

This time to the Departments of Labour and Immigration

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has always ensured that his government runs smoothly, effectively and efficiently. This is evidenced by the monarch going on a series of visits to ministries and government departments with the most recent being to the Immigration and Labour De-

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Right: The ruler takes a close look at one of the counters while touring the Department of Immigration and National Registration, and the Department of Labour, which are housed in the same building.



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(Monarch continues visits to ministries and government departments.)

partments under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The visit came six weeks after the ruler took a first hand look at the Ministry of Communications and the six departments under it.

During his latest visit on 28 April, His Majesty was welcomed by the Special Adviser to His Majesty in the Prime Minister's Office and the Home Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa.

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Omar, the Permanent Secretary of the Home Affairs Ministry briefed the ruler on the structure of the ministry and its departments. The departments under the ministry comprise the Brunei-Muara District Office, Belait District Office, Tutong District Office and Temburong District Office as well as the municipal boards in the respective districts, and the Departments of Labour, Immigration and National Registration, Prisons, and Fire Services.

After the briefing, His Majesty asked various questions on matters pertaining to the ministry and departments under it, including problems faced by members of the public.

The monarch then went on to view an exhibition on immigration-related offences and laws.

The department, His Majesty heard, among other things, plans to introduce a 'High Security Longlife National Identity Card,' based on the technology that has been widely used in Europe and other Western countries. The card is difficult to forge and will come in a smaller size, similar to credit cards. Also exhibited were forged passports.

His Majesty then took a close look at the Labour Department, a government agency which among others is responsible on matters relating to the entry of foreign workers to the Sultanate. According to the department's statistic, there are more than sixty thousand registered foreign workers in the country, engaged as construction workers, domestic helpers, nurses, teachers and others.



Above: The ruler listening closely to an officer during his tours of the Department of Immigration and National Registration and to the Department of Labour, which followed a welcoming address earlier by the Special Adviser to His Majesty in the Prime Minister's Office and Home Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, right, under whose ministry the two departments are placed.



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(Germany invited to participate in Sultanate's nationbuilding)

of cultural diversity for the good of mankind," he said.

"The Federal Government has already made clear in its 1993 Concept on Asia that Asia is a focal point of German foreign policy," stressed Chancellor Kohl.

He said in this framework, the strengthening and deepening of a partnership based on dialogue takes on a central importance which must include aspects of securing peace, political and social development, free trade, the environment and culture.

Chancellor Kohl was leading a

more than seventy-member delegation. He was officially welcomed at the Brunei International Airport at the start of the visit on 30 April by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister. At the airport he inspected a guard of honour mounted by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces personnel.

The Chancellor's delegation included the Federal Minister of Education, Science, Research and Technology, Dr. Jurgen Ruttgers; the State Minister at the Federal Chancellory, Herr Anton Pfeifer; senior officials and members of the private sectors.

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Left: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman listening to a briefing during the ruler's tour of the ministry. Below: With keen interest and in full concentration the ruler looks at the wood composition of a native tree amplified by a sophisticated microscope.

## On to the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources

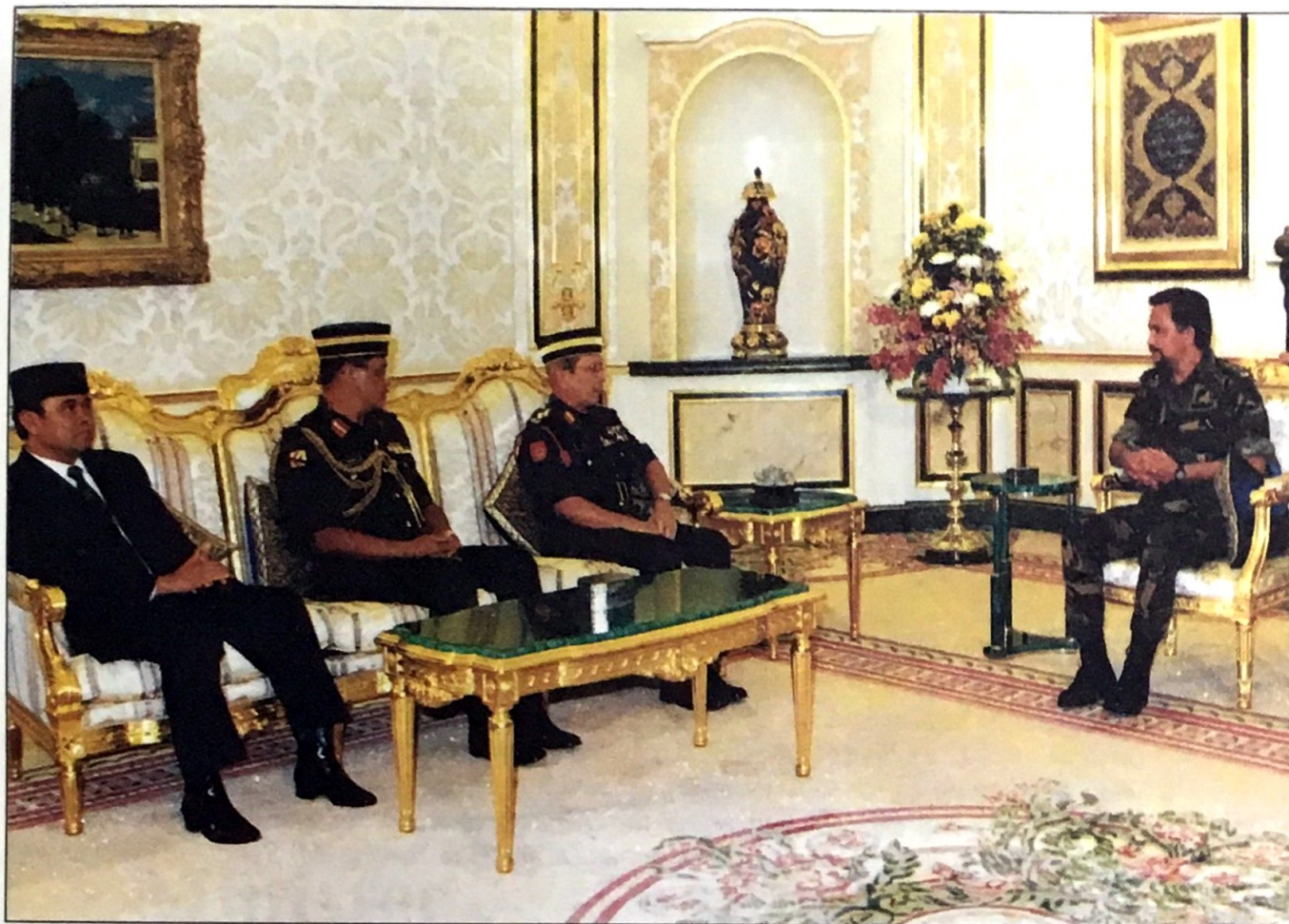
His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has continued to observe and ensure the smooth running of his government: and the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources (MIPR) was the latest to come under his attention.

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Below left: More briefing on the development and progress of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, in particular forestry, by the Director of Forestry, Awang Haji Abdul Rahman Haji Chuchu. Below right, the ruler gets a briefing on the development of tourism by the Director of the Industrial and Tourism Promotion Unit of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Pengiran Haji Ismail Pengiran Haji Mohammad.





His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam converses with the Commander of the Royal Malaysian Land Forces, General Dato' Seri Che Md. Noor, to whom the ruler granted an audience at Istana Nurul Iman on 3 May.

## Monarch grants audience to Malaysian Land Forces Commander

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted an audience to the visiting Commander of the Royal Malaysian Land Forces, General

Dato' Seri Che Md. Noor, at the Istana Nurul Iman on 3 May.

The commander who will soon retire from his service, visited the Sultanate to enhance the existing relationship between the Royal Brunei

Armed Forces and the Royal Malaysian Armed Forces.

During the farewell audience with His Majesty, the General was accompanied by the Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Haji Salim bin Hashim.

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(On to the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources)

During the visit on 29 April, His Majesty heard a welcoming remark by the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman.

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Rahman spoke on the importance for an urgent creation of competitive industrial and investment environment in the country. He said that this is a priority towards achieving the Sultanate's aspiration to diversify the economy and become less dependent on oil and gas.

Progress towards this end does not only depend on internal factors, but more on external influences such as the global economic condition and

competition with other countries in order to attract investment.

The minister added that the enhancement of competition also requires many specialities including promotion drive, international and regional cooperation, provision of basic infrastructure, sectoral specialisation on the industries that are to be developed and supporting administrative services.

The main factor for its effectiveness, however, depended on an adequate manpower resource in terms of numbers and knowledge, in which the ministry is still experiencing some shortages, the minister said.

### Policies of MIPR since its formation in 1989

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Rahman also outlined the policies of

the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources since its formation on 1 January 1989.

These include an open policy to attract direct foreign investment; developing the existing non-oil industries; encouragement of new industries both for home markets and export markets; promotion of food manufacturing and production; and promoting industries based on domestic primary resources.

### Strategy towards creating competitive industry and investment

The minister highlighted that all industrial activities need competitiveness. Such a climate is needed by local industry and investment, but more important is direct foreign investment

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• From page 5

*(Germany invited to participate in Sultanate's nationbuilding)*

The German Chancellor was also granted an audience by His Majesty at the Istana Nurul Iman on 1 May, at which the ruler stated that the visit provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries and would open up German interest in participating in the Sultanate's development programmes. To this end, both leaders agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation especially in trade and investment.

The two leaders also exchanged views on the latest regional developments in Asia and Europe.

### MOU on oil refinery

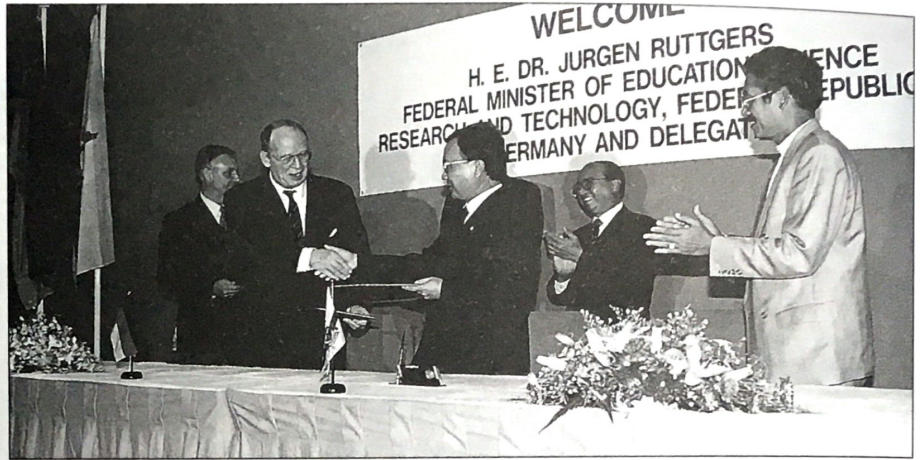
Brunei Darussalam and the Federal Republic of Germany also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the proposed project "Fully Catalytic Cracking Export Oil Refinery," involving the Brunei Oil and Gas Authority and the IAB Consortium.

The MOU recorded the understanding reached between the two parties on their carrying out economic feasibility study, the establishment of a fully catalytic refinery with a capacity of 120,000 barrels per day.

The memorandum further provides for the involvement of Bruneians in all stages of the designing and development of the refinery as well as the transfer of German technology-know-how to Brunei Darussalam.

The export-oriented refinery, when realised, will place Brunei Darussalam on the map as an exporter of value-added petroleum products instead of merely a crude oil exporter.

Signing on behalf of the Brunei Oil and Gas Authority was Dato Paduka Haji Selamat, the Deputy Minister of Finance while Prof. Dr. Jean-Pol G Delhougne and Mr. Franz Vierbucher signed on behalf of IAB Consortium



The Deputy Minister of Finance, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Selamat bin Haji Munap and Professor Dr. Jean - Pol G. Delhougne exchange documents following the signing of a memorandum of understanding on an oil refinery project, for which they respectively signed on behalf of the Brunei Oil and Gas Board Authority and the IAB Ingenieur and Anlagenau company. A third party involved in the proposed project, Gorman Oil and Gas Trading (M) Sendirian Berhad was represented by Mr. Franz Vierbucher.

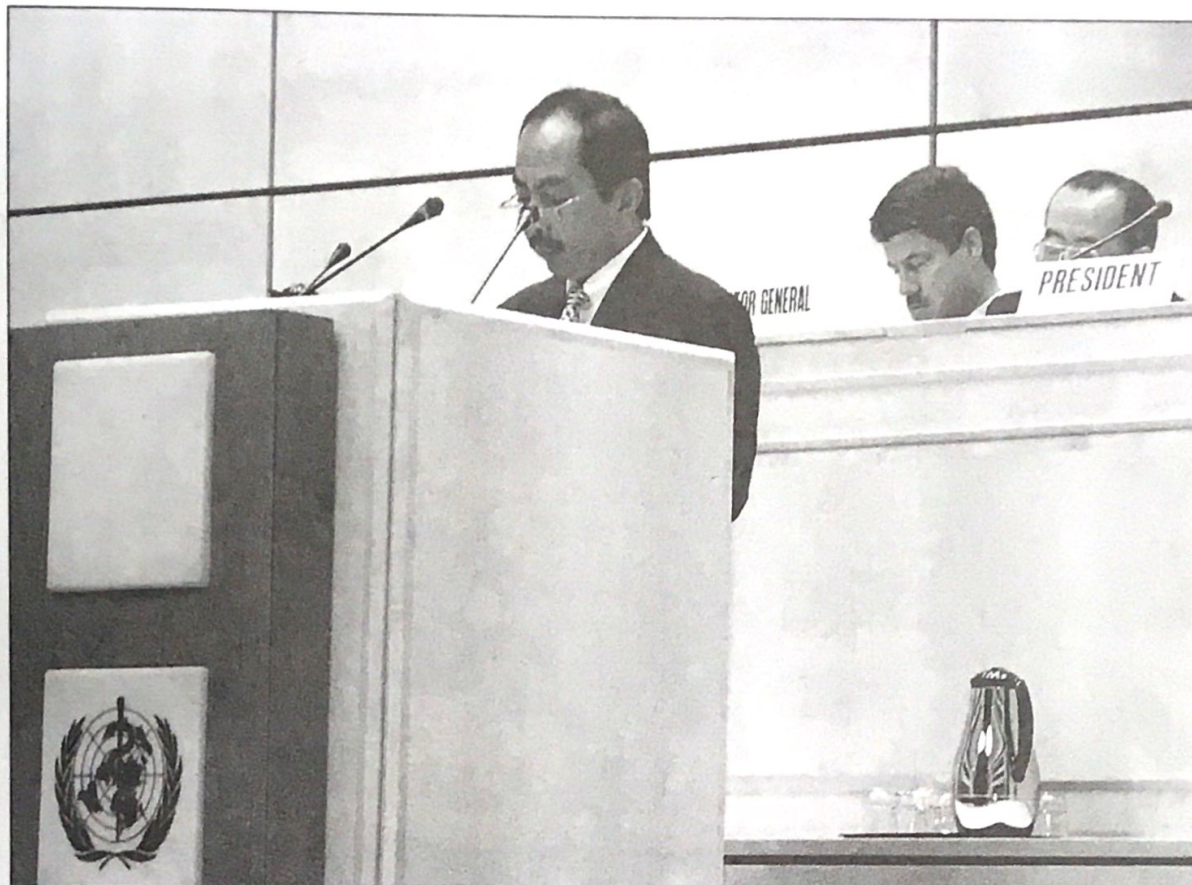
Below: Putting the seal into the Brunei - German Bilateral Investment Treaty were the Permanent Secretary of the Brunei Finance Ministry, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Yaakub bin Abu Bakar and the German Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Ingmar Brentle on behalf of their countries.



The President of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Brunei Darussalam, Awang Haji Idris bin Haji Abas and the Secretary-General of the Association of German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Dr. Franz Schoser signed a memorandum of understanding on various areas of cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries.



# Changing trends in health and greater life expectancy call for new strategies, says Health Minister



The Health Minister, Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Johar addresses the plenary session of the World Health Assembly at which he pointed to the need of new strategies towards facing the challenges of changing trends in health, and also the needs of the elderly, whose number are on the rise due to increased life expectancy.

Both developed and developing countries have witnessed improvements in health which have led globally to the increase in the life expectancy of its population for the past several decades, stated Brunei Darussalam's Health Minister, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Johar at the 50th World Health Assembly, held in Geneva for 10 days, beginning 5 May.

However, the longer life expectancy is coupled with rapid "greying" or aging of the population, which together with changing lifestyle, have led to an increase in the incidence of non-communicable diseases,

particularly cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diabetes.

"These chronic conditions in many countries, including Brunei Darussalam are major causes of deaths, ill-health and disability", he told a plenary session of the assembly.

He said developing countries in particular, are now experiencing the 'double burden' of continuing the fight against endemic infectious diseases and the challenges created by non-communicable diseases and chronic conditions.

These are challenges which require

interdependent action and solidarity not only at local and national levels, but also at regional and international levels, he stressed.

The theme chosen for discussion at the fiftieth assembly "conquering suffering, enriching humanity" was most apt and very timely in view of the suffering and social and economic burden on families and societies presented by these phenomena, he pointed.

Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Johar, who headed the Brunei delegation to the assembly comprising the Deputy Director of Health, Dr. Hajjah Intan, Acting Assistant Director of Medical and Health Services (Public Health), Dr. Hajjah Kalsom and Head of Research, Awang Idris, stressed that the realities of the demographic trends, greater longevity, economic progress and behavioural changes can no longer be ignored, and that efforts to develop and implement more innovative and lasting solutions are needed.

According to the minister, in the Pacific region, national and regional strategies for health are being directed towards the themes: preparation for life, protection for life and quality of life in later years - these being the composition of a vision "New horizons in health" initiated by a senior WHO (World Health Organisation) official.



The Health Minister, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Johar at the head of the Brunei delegation comprising the Deputy Director of Health, Dr. Hajjah Intan, to the minister's right and behind the minister, Awang Idris, Head of Research and Dr. Hajjah Kalsom, Acting Assistant Director, Medical and Health Services (Public Health).

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and his brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah (behind HM) are greeted on arrival by helicopter at one of the country's remotest villages - Kampong Merangking in Belait district at the start of the ruler's visit to the interiors. There, His Majesty presented the keys of new houses to two families who had converted to Islam, below. Bottom of page One of three conversion ceremonies which took place in the ruler's presence during his day-long visit to the interiors, where the number of people embracing the Islamic faith is on the steady increase.



## More Muslim converts get assistance from SHHB Foundation

The Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation) has continued to render assistance to Muslim converts in the country. The latest to benefit from such assistance were converts in the Belait and Tutong districts.

On 3 May, two convert families in Belait district and seven others in Tutong district received the keys to their new houses which had been built under the foundation's housing scheme. His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam personally handed the keys to the heads of families concerned during a ceremony held at a school in Kampong Merangking in the Belait district interiors.

The latest nine bring to 21 the number of houses built by the foundation for converts - 11 were built earlier for converts in Temburong district and one other in Tutong. The assistance in the form of housing are aimed at helping the converts settle in their new lives as Muslims more comfortably.

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Left - A teacher briefing the ruler as he stopped from one classroom to another during a tour of the Kampong Merangking primary school. The residents of the villages in Belait and Tutong districts visited by the monarch put on display various handicraft works and some even adorned their traditional dress to give a glimpse into their custom and culture.

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(More Muslim converts get assistance from SHHB Foundation)

During his visits to other villages in both the Belait and Tutong districts the same day, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam witnessed more residents in the two districts converting to Islam.

The ceremony in Belait district was conducted by the State Mufti in which the head of Mukim Bukit Sawat who is also the headman of Kampong Merangking and his family embraced Islam.

Two other ceremonies took place in Tutong district for a family of three in Kampong Benutan and for a family of ten in Kampong Belabau.

His Majesty witnessed all three ceremonies before ending his visits to the interiors, aimed at taking a first hand look at the development and ensuring the well-being of his subjects therein.

*(More on page 17)*



As with other visits to other parts of the country, the residents of the villages visited are eager to meet their ruler and as shown in picture at left they turned out in force to greet him.



*(Changing trends in health and greater life expectancy call for new strategies, say Health Minister)*

He said these themes recognise that what happens in earlier life has an important influence on health status in old age.

"The multisectoral and multidisciplinary approaches proposed in the document are align appropriately with WHO's priorities for action in having an integrated, coordinated approach to the prevention of these non-communicable diseases and chronic conditions in all the entire life-cycle of an individual".

The minister also called for appropriate strategies to meet the needs of the elderly who now represent a fast-growing section of the population due to longer life expectancy.

Such strategies should include efforts towards improving their health and their life quality, he said.

"This will be achieved through ap-

proaches aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles throughout life, preventing or delaying the occurrence of non-communicable diseases so as to maximise disability-free and productive lives in older age. They must be helped to maintain their independence and dignity to enable them to continue to play their role as productive members of the community", he went on.

He also spoke on the need to review the mandatory retirement age of working population, saying that with increased longevity to age 75 years and even beyond, 55 years retirement age as being practised by many countries, is still too young for many to retire when they can still make valuable contribution to the socio-economic development of their countries.

He affirmed that as it enters the new millennium, Brunei Darussalam remains firmly committed to Health for All through the primary health care approach.

"We believe the principal themes of New Horizons In Health are in line with this primary health care approach as well as the six priority areas for international action in health to improve humanity's ability to prevent, treat, rehabilitate and where possible, cure major non-communicable diseases, and to reduce the enormous suffering and disability that they cause", he concluded.

A number of important health issues were discussed in the assembly, including proposed budget for the financial year 1998-1999, WHO Reform in relation to renewing the health-for-all strategy, and prevention of violence. Reorientation of medical education and medical practice, guidelines on the WHO Certification Scheme on the Quality of Pharmaceutical Products moving in International commerce, reproductive health, Tobacco or Health, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, and Control of Tropical diseases were also topics of discussions at the assembly.

## **Brunei Darussalam - Singapore 'open skies' air agreement**

**B**runei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore have scored a first in the region when they signed an 'open skies' air agreement on 24 May.

The agreement provides for unlimited number of services by airlines designated by the respective country to carry passengers and cargo between the two countries, as well as from destinations prior to or beyond either country.

Signing the agreement at a ceremony held at Singapore's Changi International airport on behalf of the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the country's Communications Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya

Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Sertia Awang Haji Zakaria, while the Republic of Singapore was also represented by its Minister for Communications, His Excellency Mr. Mah Bow Tan.

The two governments hope that the agreement will lead to a further expansion of air services and serve as a catalyst towards the further enhancement of relations between the two countries, which are neighbours in ASEAN.

They also hope it will bring great benefit to businessmen especially, and other users of air travels, through unlimited number of services.

## **Brunei Darussalam and Slovenia establish diplomatic relations**

**T**he Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia have established diplomatic relations, with effect from 28 April, 1997.

The signing of the Joint Communique took place at the Office of the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in London.

Signing on behalf of the Government of Brunei Darussalam was His Excellency Pehin Orang Kaya Lela Utama Dato Paduka Awang Haji Jaya bin Abdul Latif, Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner to Britain, while His Excellency Mr. Matjaz Sinkovec, the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia in London signed for his country.



# New Brunei envoys appointed and foreign diplomats take up assignments in Bandar Seri Begawan

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has appointed the country's new heads of mission overseas, namely to the United Nations Organisation in New York, Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented them their letters of appointment in a ceremony held at the Istana Nurul Iman on 10 May.

His Excellency Pengiran Maidin bin Pengiran Haji Hashim, Brunei Darussalam's Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany has been re-assigned as the country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.

The 46-year-old envoy, who is a graduate in economic from Hull University in the United Kingdom, joined the diplomatic service in 1982. He has previously held various posts at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before being made ambassador to Germany.

Dato Paduka Pengiran Haji Asmalee bin Pengiran

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*Pictures from top to bottom: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents letters of appointment to His Excellency Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Asmalee bin Pengiran Ahmad, ambassador designate to Myanmar, His Excellency Pengiran Maidin bin Pengiran Haji Hashim, who will be Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, Pengiran Sallehuddin bin Pengiran Haji Yusof, ambassador designate to Cambodia, and Awang Zainidi bin Haji Sidup, ambassador designate to Laos.*



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*(New Brunei envoys appointed and foreign diplomats take up assignments in Bandar Seri Begawan)*

Ahmad, has been appointed as Ambassador to Myanmar. The 56-year-old diplomat has served in various posts in the civil service, including as Director of the Welfare, Youth and Sports Department.

Pengiran Haji Sallehuddin bin Pengiran Haji Yusof, aged 41, will serve as the country's Ambassador to Cambodia, while 47-year-old Awang Zainidi bin Haji Sidup as Ambassador to Laos.

On the same day, His Majesty consented to receive the credentials of new diplomats to the Sultanate. They are the non-resident Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, His Excellency Ferhat Ataman, who is based in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, Ambassador of the Republic of Mali, His Excellency Amadou N'Diaye, who is based in Jakarta, Indonesia, and Ambassador of the Republic of Panama, His Excellency Jose Angelberto Sosa Fernandez, who is based in Tokyo, Japan.

Meanwhile, on 12 May, His Majesty consented to receive the credentials of four other newly appointed foreign diplomats to Brunei Darussalam. They were the non-resident Ambassador of Argentina, His Excellency Guillermo Hector Renom, the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency Ali Bahaa-Edin Al-Naggary, the Ambassador of Finland, His Excellency Erkki Vaino Juhani Huittinen, and the Ambassador of the Republic of Italy, His Excellency Dr. Giuseppe Marchini Camia.

The following day, 13 May, five other non-resident ambassadors to the country presented their credentials to His Majesty. They were Their Excellencies Peter Ambrovic of the Slovak Republic, Mohammed Rifat Ali Al-Ani of the Republic of Iraq, Marek Paszuche of the Republic of Poland, Carlos Casajuana of Spain and Soufiane Mimouni of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

*Opposite page, clockwise from top left: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives the credentials of the new Panamanian ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Jose Angelberto Sosa Fernandez, His Excellency Egyptian ambassador Ali Bahaa-Edin Al-Naggary, the ambassador of Finland, His Excellency Erkki Vaino Juhani Huittinen, the ambassador of Italy, His Excellency Dr. Giuseppe Marchini Camia, Slovak's ambassador, His Excellency Peter Ambrovic, His Excellency ambassador Guillermo Hector Renom of Argentina, Mali's ambassador His Excellency Amadou N'Diaye and the Turkish ambassador, His Excellency Ferhat Ataman.*

*This page from top to bottom: Other diplomats who presented their credentials to the Brunei monarch this month were the new Iraqi ambassador, His Excellency Mohammad Rifat Ali Al-Ani, His Excellency ambassador Marek Paszuche of Poland, Spanish ambassador His Excellency Carlos Casajuana and the ambassador of Algeria, His Excellency Soufiane Mimouni.*





## Hongkong Bank's 50th anniversary dinner

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has attended a dinner marking 50 years of the establishment of Hongkong Bank in Brunei Darussalam.

At attending the anniversary din-



Above: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the dinner, with the Chairman of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Corporation Holdings, Sir William Purves seated to his right. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah are seen second from left and extreme left respectively, while His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah is seated second from right. Left: His Majesty being presented a souvenir by the bank's chairman.

ner with the ruler were his brothers, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal

Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and senior bank officials and staff members.

It was held on 10 May at the Jerudong Polo Club.

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(On to the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources)

that is greatly needed to speed up industrial development. This would enable the Sultanate to compete with other countries, which also require direct foreign investment.

Towards achieving competitiveness, the ministry has provided an incentive package; infrastructure; transparent law and regulations; faster and more effective processing methods; transparent government policies; and financial assistance to local entrepreneurs.

The setting up of Semaun Holdings Sendirian Berhad as a government corporate body under the MIPR is one of the strategies to speed up the forma-

tion of strategic industrial activities involving foreign investment.

The minister also pointed the role played by the private sector as an engine towards a sustainable economic growth. In this regard, the ministry has enhanced the effort to cooperate with the private sector to jointly work together to achieve the country's aspiration in diversifying the economy.

The long-term objective is to turn the private sector into an engine of economic development, while the government acts as controller and facilitator of such development, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Rahman explained.

The minister went on to say that the ministry is responsible in the promotional works to woo foreign and local investment, especially the setting up of joint ventures between local and foreign businessmen. Aside this, it is

also responsible for bringing in the expertise in management, technology and wooing the foreign market for exports.

The minister added that enhancing international economic cooperation is a very important strategy because with it comes the technical assistance, foreign investment, increased export opportunities, improved information network, technological flow, human resource development and entrepreneurship progress.

Special emphasis is also given to sectoral development on areas of potential towards creating supportive industries that can significantly contribute towards economic growth. These include tourism, the development of high value-added industries, forestry resources and small industries based on the by-products of such industries as oil and gas.



Left and right: His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting keys to their new houses to two of the heads of Muslim convert families in Temburong district who received housing assistance from the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation recently.



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## A further nine Muslim convert families receive housing assistance

The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation, in continuing to extend its assistance to new Muslim converts in the country, has yet again provided new houses built under its housing scheme to converts in several villages in the Temburong district.

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Above: His Majesty and brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bokiah witnessing a conversion ceremony being performed by the State Mufti in which several more residents of the district embraced the Islamic faith. Always giving attention to the development of education, both in urban and rural areas, the ruler made a point to visit a village primary school to chat informally with teachers and children, and see some of their work, below. Left: His Majesty about to walk through a traditional arch made of palm leaves especially built to welcome him, on the other side of which were laid out numerous handicraft products by the local people.





# Efforts to alleviate Sultanate's Malay community sought

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports has called for efforts to alleviate the image of the Brunei Malay community in the next century, so as to make it more respected throughout the world, in aspects of attitude, personality, knowledge, diligence, culture and faith towards religion.

The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain made the remark shortly before he officially opened a three-day Brunei Malay Congress of the 21st Century held in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan on 4 May. It was organised by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and conducted by the Language and Literature Bureau aimed at exchanging views and suggestions in providing measures towards the development of the Brunei Malays in facing the 21st century in various fields such as politics, economy, social, religious education and culture.

The minister pointed that the congress was the best venue and means to disseminate views on such aspects, as these will be observed from various perspectives.

"We hope that by the next century, we will mark the history of our resurgence and our glory as the people with high spirit of competitiveness and able to move faster in implementing the various programmes which could help alleviate our standards and reputation, stressed Pehin Dato Haji Awang Hussain.

The minister cited that in 1993,

*The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain urging for the up-lifting of Brunei Malays' image, especially during the coming millennium.*



there were several resolutions made during the then Language, Literature and Culture Congress.

He said, among these were the need to be alert against negative aspects inflicted upon the lives of Muslims, and the need to instil the culture of recognising and evaluating oneself.

Besides these, the congress resolved that knowledge and education needed to be instilled and intensified in order to produce a Malay Muslim community of quality in the face of competition, as well as for the survival of the Malay Muslim ummahs.

The important resolution in the congress was based on the aspiration towards seeing as a realisation that the Malay people become technology producer rather than mere consumer, stressed Pehin Dato Haji Awang

Hussain.

The minister went on to say that incidences which had occurred during the twentieth century were sometimes rather frightening but at the same time they motivate us to seek further progress and development.

Therefore, self-confidence should be upgraded, while religious principles and the policies set by the state should become the main guidance of our duties and way of life.

This is the reason why the previous congress had come up with the idea that there should be an "award of the twentieth century", for anyone who makes excellent achievement, regardless of the field of achievement, so that it could become the model for the next century, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Hussain concluded.

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*( More Muslim converts receive housing assistance)*

The presentation of the house keys took place on 19 May, just two weeks after His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yand Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

handed over the keys to houses built under the same scheme to converts in the Belait and the Tutong districts.

Nine heads of family of the new converts in the Temburong district also received the keys from the monarch himself.

After the ceremony, His Majesty, who was accompanied by his brother,

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, visited the houses of converts in eight villages as well as the houses of last year's recipients. During his visit to one of the villages, His Majesty also witnessed three more people embracing Islam, in a ceremony conducted by the State Mufti (Chief Religious Official).

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*(Economic progress alone not enough without spiritual development: says HM Sultan)*

cleanliness in our economy, politics, management and administration. When all these qualities are attained, then such wrong doings as embezzlement or corruption would not occur, explained the ruler.

In another address he made at the presentation ceremony of religious awards, also in conjunction with the Muslim new year, held at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanih Bolkhiah mosque, His Majesty urged Muslims and the people of Brunei Darussalam to reject all evil elements and conduct themselves according to the teachings of Islam in order to derive the strength and guidance to face various challenges and whatever cultural shocks that may lie ahead.

He told his subjects to be always on guard in their social mixing and interactions, especially with the outside world.

It is important, stressed His Majesty, that the people remain steadfast in keeping to the right path as demanded by Allah (God) The Almighty and make meaningful, religious deeds.

This is one of the best ways to spread the teachings of Islam and of not allowing evil elements or reputation to take root in the country, which will only bring hardships to us and our future generations.

There is no room for sinful acts in Brunei Darussalam, he warned.



Top picture: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents award to one of the four recipients in recognition of his contribution to the development of Islam in Brunei Darussalam, and above, the ruler views an exhibition held in conjunction with the advent of the Muslim new year of Hijrah 1418.

At the ceremony, His Majesty presented awards to four people for their deeds and contribution to the development of Islam in Brunei Darussalam.

## *Express bus services between Brunei Darussalam and several towns in East Malaysia in the pipeline*

An express bus service between the Brunei international airport and the Sarawak border town of Miri was scheduled to begin on 21 May, with a view to further facilitate greater mobility of people between Brunei Darussalam and the East Malaysian State.

Announcing this during a meeting between the Permanent Secretary of the Communications Ministry, Dato Paduka Malai Haji Ali and officials of

the Land Transportation Department on 15 May, the Land Transportation Department Director said the service was being operated under joint-venture between a local Brunei company and a Sarawak firm.

He said the establishment of the service would certainly support Brunei Darussalam's goal of becoming a service centre for trade and tourism. Already more than one million people

cross the border at Sungai Tujoh between Kuala Belait in Brunei Darussalam and Miri each year, making it the second busiest point of entry into the Sultanate after the international airport.

The Land Transportation Department Director also disclosed that similar services to other towns in Sarawak as well as to those in Sabah are also being planned.

# Economic progress alone not enough without spiritual development: says HM Sultan

Muslims and the people of Brunei Darussalam have been reminded that the achievement of economic prosperity and progress alone are not enough without 'our making ourselves trustworthy, pious and God-fearing people'.

"Hence, it does not really matter if we look back to the past in order to build our future," said His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam while he pointed to the examples set by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) through his struggles to uphold and exalt Islam.

The ruler was addressing the nation in conjunction with the coming of the new year of Hijrah 1418 of the Islamic calendar, which corresponded to 8 May.

He said the ushering-in of the new year is an occasion for reflecting on the struggles of the prophet, because by so doing will be found the values and examples of the prophet's noble personality.

One of the ways by which the

prophet upheld and exalted Islam was by making use of a formula of brotherhood among Muslims called 'Ukhuwwah Islamiah', whereby a group of Muslim was prepared to make huge sacrifices for the sake of protecting the interest of another Muslim group, he said.

His Majesty cited how the prophet and his followers fled from Mecca to Medina with only the clothes on their backs, and yet they were enriched and

became strong after having befriended another group called the Ansar people because of their willingness to share almost everything.

Although they were small in number, yet they were able to face their enemies despite being outnumbered by far, said His Majesty.

The point I am making here is that we should make an example of this virtue in order to achieve strength and

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His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam telling his subjects to reject all evil elements in his televised address marking the coming of the Muslim new year of Hijrah 1418, which corresponded to 8 May.

## Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Population : 296,000 (1995)

Official Language : Malay

Official Religion : Islam

May rainfall : 523.6 mm

(annual 2,818mm)

## Brunei Malay in a minute

Each month we introduce our readers to a Brunei Malay word that is used only in Brunei Darussalam.

We have selected the word **cucul** for this edition. **Cucul** is a row of lamps, lanterns or decorative lights used during a special function, celebration or festivities.

Used in a sentence, for example: Pada Hari Raya orang Islam di Negara Brunei Darussalam menyalakan **cucul** di rumah mereka.

During the Hari Raya (Id Mubarak) celebration, Muslims in Brunei Darussalam light up their homes with decorative lights.

**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.**