



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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All ills must be prevented, His Majesty tells his subjects

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has urged his subjects to ensure that Brunei is free from all political, social and economic ills, and that they should be more committed in shouldering their responsibility in keeping such ills at bay.

His Majesty made the 'titah' (royal address) on the eve of the new year of 1420 Hijrah in the Islamic calendar corresponding to 17 April 1999 which was telecast nation-

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His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers his 'titah' on the eve of the new year of 1420 Hijrah in the Islamic calendar.

Brunei and Singapore to enhance ties in partnership and cooperation



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah granting an audience to His Excellency Mr. Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister of Singapore at Istana Nurul Iman.

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore will continue to enhance their long-existing ties, stated His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during an audience he granted to the visiting Singapore Premier, His Excellency Mr. Goh Chok Tong at Istana Nurul Iman on 12 April 1999.

His Majesty said that the long-standing ties of friendship and goodwill, which link the Governments and people of Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, would continue to be strengthened in partnership and cooperation.

During the audience, the two leaders discussed bilateral matters and a number of regional

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YOURTURN

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His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting a house key to one of the successful applicants of the National Housing Development Scheme in Lambak Kanan (Stage 12).

Government grants more houses, land lots and land grants to citizens

His Majesty's Government through the Ministry of Development is continuing efforts towards providing people with houses, land lots and land grants to ensure that the people can enjoy a comfortable lifestyle and co-exist peacefully and harmoniously.

The monarch's aspiration has been carried out successfully and are continuing with the introduction of various programmes which include the National Housing Development Scheme; Housing for Landless Indigenous Citizens; Land Lots for Government officers and employees as well as the granting of land entitlements to families who have live from ten to thirty years on lands under the TOL (Temporary Occupation License) basis.

Last month, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to present more than 500 house keys, land lots and land grants to successful applicants in the Brunei-Muara district.

On 23 March, the monarch presented 105 land grants; 193 house keys to landless indigenous citizens at

Kampong Mata-Mata, Gadong and Lambak Kiri in the outskirts of the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, 201 house keys for the National Housing Development Scheme at Lambak Kanan (Stage 12), and 45 land lots to government officers and employees, who opted to build houses on their own or through the Government's Housing Loan Scheme. The presentation ceremony was held at the Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College hall at Tungku, a suburb of the capital.

After the ceremony, His Majesty toured several classrooms of the college while lessons were in progress, thus enabling the ruler to see personally the activities of students and the college as a whole. The highlight of the visit was a choir presentation by the students.

From the college, the Brunei ruler went to the housing areas in Lambak Kiri and Lambak Kanan where he was greeted by hundreds of residents. Prior to each visit, His Majesty consented to drop in at the houses of both

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 (more houses, lands lots and
 land grants to citizens)

headmen of Kampong Lambak Kiri and Kampong Lambak Kanan.

Meanwhile, Awang Moharefandi bin Haji Mohd Tahir, a 34 year-old government employee, who got a house under the National Housing Development Scheme in Lambak Kanan told the 'newsletter' that like everyone, he also hoped that the ruler would visit his house. He said such a visit would be "very special and memorable one for every family."

Asked how he felt about the government's housing scheme, Awang Moharefandi replied: "It's worth waiting for a house of my own even though I have had to wait for it for sometimes, and furthermore I just have to pay a very small amount for thirty years." He said that he applied for the scheme in 1985 while still living with his parents in Kampong Bengkurong before he moved to a government quarters.

Meanwhile, His Majesty's next stop was at Kampong Pulaie. There the monarch visited the homes of two families who received land entitlement.

From Kampong Pulaie, His Majesty visited the Dialysis Centre in Kampong Rimba Gadong which provides dialysis services to patients. The centre was built as one of the projects under the Sixth National Development Plan, at a cost of \$8.2 million. Located on a 2.832 hectare site, it has 32 beds for adults and six for children. It also has,



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being greeted by residents during his visit to the housing scheme for landless indigenous citizens at Kampong Mata-Mata in Gadong.

among other things, out-patient service, a pharmacy and medical records section.

The monarch then proceeded to the nearby Civil Service Institute (CSI). The CSI is the only civil service training institution in the Sultanate which provides human resources development programmes.

During his visit to the CSI, His Majesty consented to view a mini exhibition on the activities of the institute as well as visit several lecture halls where different courses organised by the CSI were being held such as 're-

port and working paper writing' course.

His Majesty's next stop was at the Horticulture Centre which is also just a short distance away from the CSI building. At the centre the monarch watched displays of local products.

The monarch ended his more than half-a-day visit at Kampong Mata-Mata in Gadong, another site of a major housing scheme for landless indigenous citizens. There the ruler went inside several houses and mingled with residents, some of whom had family photographs taken with His Majesty.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visiting one of the courses organised by the Civil Service Institute (CSI) during his visit to the CSI building (above left) and visits a classroom at the Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College shortly after he presented land grants, house keys and land lots to successful applicants in the Brunei-Muara district (above right).



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving the credentials of Their Excellencies Thinakorn Kanasuta, the new ambassador of Thailand (above left), Ambassador Tran Tien Vinh of Vietnam (above right) and High Commissioner Francis Adjei Danso of Ghana (below left). Picture below right: His Majesty granting an audience to out-going ambassador of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Glen Robert Rase.



His Majesty receives credentials of new foreign envoys and grants an audience to out-going diplomat

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has received the credentials of three newly-appointed ambassadors and high commissioner to the country, namely from Thailand, Vietnam and Ghana. The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman on 8 April 1999. On the same day, the monarch consented to grant an audience to the out-going ambassador of the United State of America to the country, His Excellency Glen Robert Rase.

His Majesty first, consented to receive the credential of Thailand's new

ambassador, His Excellency Thinakorn Kanasuta. The 48-year-old diplomat was previously Thailand's Deputy Director-General in the Department of American and South Pacific Affairs. His Majesty later received the credential of His Excellency Tran Tien Vinh, the ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The 59-year-old envoy was previously the Deputy Director in the Asia Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam.

The other new diplomat presented his credential was the non-resident high commissioner of the Republic of Ghana to the country, His Excellency Francis Adjei Danso. The 61-year-old

envoy holds the post of the secretary to the cabinet of the Republic of Ghana.

After the ceremonies, His Majesty granted the three envoys separate audiences. Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with Thailand in January 1984, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in February 1992 and with the Republic of Ghana in December 1991.

His Majesty later received the out-going ambassador of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Glen Robert Rase in audience. The diplomat has been in Bandar Seri Begawan, since September 1996.

Patriotism - a prerequisite for development:

says HM the Sultan



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has emphasised the need for everyone to possess a spirit of patriotism as a prerequisite towards the development of the Brunei race, especially in this time of crisis and downturn.

Speaking in a nationwide message on the eve of Hari Raya Aidiladha or Hari Raya Korban (the Day of Sacrifice), His Majesty also spoke on the significance of sacrifice, saying that all should know what it means. He said: "Besides receiving, we should also be giving, and if necessary contribute towards the wellbeing of all."

Brunei Darussalam marked the Hari Raya Aidiladha on 29 March 1999 with sacrifices of animals such as goats, buffaloes and cows, the meat of which were distributed to the needy.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam along with other members of the Brunei royal family join thousands of Muslims in performing the congregational Hari Raya Aidiladha prayer at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque.

His Majesty consented to make a sacrifice of seven goats for himself and 13 cows for his family. The ceremony in which the animals were sacrificially slaughtered, was held outside Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque in the Brunei capital, shortly after the monarch along with members of the royal family joined thousands of Muslims performed the congregational Hari Raya Aidiladha prayer.

Meanwhile, in his message which was telecast over radio and television, His Majesty asserted that countries which are stable are those which are willing to sacrifice.

"Although weaknesses can be an obstacle, if we are united, the heavy

burdens can surely become light," His Majesty pointed out.

"This is one of the teachings of Islam. We are enjoined to improve ourselves and our country through close cooperation and consensus. We are committed to collective interest, and not just for one or two days, but forever," stressed the ruler.

"When we adopt such policy and make it a culture, then we are a people who can hope to progress while at the same time maintain our credibility."

Earlier, His Majesty spoke on the significance of 'hari raya' (festive day) which Muslims throughout the world celebrate with 'takbir' and 'tahmid' - the recitation praises of Allah, God the Almighty.

When 'takbir' reverberates, all eyes will stay awake and the hearts intensify, said His Majesty. Muslim ummah, he urged, should never be weak because for 24 hours each day, their tongues recite 'takbir' in their prayers. Those who recite the 'takbir' are strong.

The monarch explained that this was the weapon and clothings used by Muslim ummahs in early history which made them great and respected.

His Majesty concluded his message with the hope that Brunei pilgrims who performed the 'haj' this year, would return home safely after completing their obligations. This year, more than one thousand Bruneians performed the 'haj', the fifth pillars of Islam and a once in a life time obligation for every able Muslim.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam led the slaughtering of one of the seven goats which the monarch offered as sacrifice for himself in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidiladha or Hari Raya Korban (the Day of Sacrifice).

Picture right: His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the 1420 Hijrah celebration, held at Jame' 'Asr Hassanal Bolkiah. Also attending were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.



Picture below: His Majesty consented to present the Hijrah Meritorious Award to the first recipient, Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Hamid bin Metassan.

Picture bottom of page: His Majesty presenting the Hijrah Meritorious Award to the second recipient, Dato Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Ishak bin Haji Adam.



• From page one
(New year of 1420 Hijrah celebration)

wide. His Majesty said, it is wise for the people not to become mere spectators in the face of anxiety brought about by an epidemic but also to make sure whether our country is free or not from such situation through a real commitment.

“For example in the wake of a widespread anxiety over an outbreak of a disease, it would be important to know whether our country is really free from such an epidemic although others are affected.”

“This is one way to fulfill certain needs, so that our people are not impoverished in information. With the nation and people rich in information, it would be easier for them to carry out their duties and responsibilities,” His Majesty lamented.

Referring to the various happenings around the region and the world at large, His Majesty said it is important for the people not only to hear of them but more importantly to take some lessons from them.

“It is therefore important for us to review and study all the happenings and foremost to realise that we have a bigger responsibility to keep them at bay from affecting our country,” His Majesty asserted.

His Majesty went to say that in Brunei Darussalam we are able to carry on with our lives as usual in harmony and with a sense of responsibility towards religion, the monarchy and country due to the close cooperation and understanding between the government and people.

“With sincerity I invite all my Muslim subjects to pray to Allah the Almighty for a brighter life and a prosperous year for our nation. We truly hope that whatever problem we are facing now will come to an end.”

His Majesty said it is difficult to explain clearly in details the difficulties that the world is facing now. They are certainly affecting everyone, only varying with intensity from one to another.

“Some can accept them with patience 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, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik exchange greetings with other muslims attending the celebration.



• From page 6

preserverance while others panic. These panicky people are found everywhere and react in such manner which can worsen the situation," observed His Majesty.

His Majesty urged his subjects to join hands in determination to safeguard the peace and harmony of the nation.

This year's Hijrah celebration was held at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque in Kampong Kiarong and began with the reading of Quranic verses, followed by the presentation of Dikir Syarafil Anam.

The climax of the celebration was the presentation of the Anugerah Bakti Hijrah (Hijrah Meritorious Award) to two recipients whose achievements and commitment in religious activities have been outstanding.

The two recipients, Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Hamid bin Metassan and Dato Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Ishak bin Haji Adam each received cash gifts, honorary

certificate, prizes and free medical and first class ward treatment at every government hospital.

All the awards were presented to them by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. Also present at the celebration were His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.



Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Hamid and Dato Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Ishak posing for a photograph soon after receiving their Meritorious Award from His Majesty (picture above).



Some of the state dignitaries attending the cerelebration (left).

• From page one
(Brunei and Singapore to enhance ties)

issues.

The Singapore Prime Minister was in Brunei Darussalam on a two-day working visit at the head of a more than 10-member delegation, who included Professor S Jayakumar, Singapore's Foreign Affairs and Law Minister and Mr. Mohamad Maidin Packer Mohd, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education.

After meeting His Majesty, the Singapore leader was received in audience by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah at Assarraa and met afterwards with His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister.

In the evening, the Singapore Premier and members of delegation were entertained by His Majesty to a dinner at the Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club in Jerudong. Present at the dinner were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The following day, the Singapore leader visited the Civil Service Institute (CSI) situated at Gadong, about eight kilometers from the capital. The CSI is the only institution in Brunei Darussalam which conducts civil service training and provides human resource development programmes.

At the CSI, His Excellency Mr. Goh Chok Tong delivered a special talk entitled 'Financial Crisis - Singapore's Perspective.' He among other things, pointed out that Brunei Darussalam, like the rest of the region, has also been affected by the crisis. However, he noted that the Government has taken urgent measures such as the formation in June 1998 of the Ministerial Economic Council to recommend measures to revitalise the economy. In addition, Brunei Darussalam has injected more than B\$350 million into the economy to the country's 7th National Development Plan.

"These measures will help Brunei recover when conditions improve," said the Singapore leader.

Speaking on measures to help the region recover from the crisis, the Sin-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah receiving the Singapore Premier, His Excellency Mr. Goh Chok Tong (above), who was also met by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister at Assarraa (below).



gapore Premier among other things emphasised that ASEAN countries need to cooperate closely for mutual benefits.

He said both Brunei Darussalam and Singapore are small and harbour no ambition to lead ASEAN. "But we can provide ideas and act as a catalyst to strengthen ASEAN," Mr. Goh Chok Tong assured.

He noted earlier that ASEAN has lost much stature in the crisis. First, the crisis has taken the shine out of ASEAN and second, as a group, ASEAN was seen helpless, worse and disunited in the crisis. In the grouping's summits in 1997 and 1998, he pointed out, they failed to convince the outside world that ASEAN was tackling the crisis with determination and decisiveness to regain its high growth.

"The key to recovery is to regain investor confidence in the region," he stressed, while adding that the grouping, too, should adopt practical measures and persuade the developed countries to be involved in helping ASEAN recover.

The prime minister also suggested ASEAN to organise joint investment

roadshows to the United States, Europe and Japan to sell the region. Another idea, he said, was to make sure that ASEAN sends the right signals to investors that it remains committed to economic liberalisation and welcomes foreign investment; and push ahead with AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area) and the ASEAN Investment Area.

During his hour-long talk before several Brunei cabinet ministers and top government officials, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, also outlined three major lessons that could be learnt from the crisis. Firstly, on the importance of good corporate governance; secondly, the essential of having a strong financial system; and thirdly on the need for policy-makers to maintain credibility in markets.

Before leaving Brunei Darussalam, the Singapore Prime Minister also took time off to meet members of the Singapore community in Brunei Darussalam at the Singapore Association building situated in Kampong (Village) Sungai Besar, along Jalan Kota Batu outside the Brunei capital.

Sultanate organises Awareness course in hotel industry for locals

Brunei Darussalam has organised a course to help local people gain knowledge and experiences as well as create career prospects in the hotel industry. On 2 March, 38 job-seekers who are registered with the Labour Department began a two-week long course jointly organised by the Labour Department and Brunei Hotel.

The course entitled 'Awareness in Hotel Industry for Locals' was officially opened by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Adanan, the Permanent Secretary at the Home Affairs Ministry.

Speaking to the participants, the permanent secretary among other things, pointed out that the course was conducted in line with the current trend whereby a variety of professions in the hotel industry are in demand, especially so when the Sultanate is now providing tourists with more places to stay such as hotels, apartments and resorts.

The permanent secretary also believed that the course was in line with the aspiration of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, who in his 'titah' (royal address) during the 14th National Day celebration last year among other things, urged the people to equip themselves with various expertise in order to give a meaningful contribution to the country.

The monarch said that there were a number of people unemployed and among the reasons was because of lack of qualification needed for a particular position especially in the private sector. In this regard, His Majesty urged that the existing programmes should be further upgraded to assist the people in obtaining qualification and expertise.

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Adanan also noted that the Sultanate is also experiencing the impact of the economic crisis affecting the region. He said, according to the Employment Unit Centre of the Labour Department, job-seekers registered with the department in 1998 were 6,457 people and 842 out of the total number have since

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Inculcate sense of love for clean and pollution-free environment among members of public

The Special Adviser to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in the Prime Minister's Office cum the Home Affairs Minister, has recently stressed the need to inculcate the sense of love for clean and pollution-free environment among members of the public, youths in particular, so as to ensure the survival of nature and the beauty of the country's environment for continuing socio-economic growth.

He said that this would also help to cultivate the public's interest to contribute to the land and support the government's aspiration in diversifying the country's economy through industrial field, cultivation etc.

Speaking at the launching of World Forestry Day Celebration held at the Danau Beach on 21 March, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa also called on the relevant agencies and members of the public to together play their part in protecting the forestry and environment in the country in relevance with this year's World Forestry Day's theme 'Forests and Environment: Role of the Community'.

He acknowledged that without the concern and cooperation of the public, all government plans and efforts would not achieve their objectives.

The Minister had earlier noted that Brunei Darussalam is still fortunate to have extensive and protected tropical forests, even though the country has experienced the El-Nino and La Nina phenomenon.

He said that despite the damage caused by these phenomena and other disasters, man's doings have also brought about anxiety at the international arena, particularly on matters concerning deforestation which leads to the loss of bio-diversity, because according to the Commonwealth Forestry Associa-

tion, tropical forests are habitats to some 99 per cent of animal and plants species.

The fear also exists due to the fact that forest is one of the main source of economy in many countries, especially the developing countries. Moreover, forests and trees are also the basic elements, that act not only as air refiner and preventer of land erosion, but are homes and breeding places for all animals.

Pehin Dato Haji Isa later congratulated the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, the Forestry Department especially, for giving due concern and stepping up their efforts to protect the country's forests.

He hoped that mass tree-planting activity to beautify the Danau/Telisai beach surroundings would be extended to other places in the country.

Other events organised for the celebration include Environmental Excursion, Nature Camp, Foresters' Night, Foresters' Sports Fest, Forum, Special Forestry Adoption Scheme Programme, the Launching of the Electronic Herbarium Banking System, Launching of the Herbarium Building and the Presentation of Princess Rashidah Young Nature Scientist Awards.



The Special Adviser to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Prime Minister's Office cum the Home Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa plants a tree in conjunction with the launching of this year's World Forestry Day.

Sultanate at Second Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Berlin, Germany

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs led the Brunei Darussalam delegation to the Second Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Berlin, the Federal Republic of Germany.



Foreign Ministers of Asian and European Union countries last month gathered in Berlin, the Federal Republic of Germany for a two-day Second Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). Brunei Darussalam was represented by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs.

On her arrival in Berlin, Princess Hajjah Masna stated that she hoped to discuss with the foreign ministers of Asian and European Union countries matters of politics, economy, social and cultural.

At the meeting held from 28 to 29 March, the foreign ministers among other things, discussed political and economic developments in Asia and Europe as well as regional and international issues. They also discussed issues pertaining to the future of ASEM member countries and its work programmes.

The foreign ministers were hosted to a reception by His Excellency Professor Dr. Roman Herzog, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Asian countries at the meeting comprise of the seven ASEAN member nations, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines as well as China, Korea and Japan. The 15 European Union countries are made up of Austria, France, Finland, Denmark, Belgium, Hellenic Republic, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Great Britain and the



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs receiving His Excellency Mr. Martin Cullen, the Minister of State of the Republic of Ireland in audience during the Second Asia-Europe Meeting in Berlin.

host country, Germany.

After the reception, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna along with the other foreign ministers attended the official opening of an art exhibition by Vietnamese artists as well as cultural performances presented by students from member countries of ASEM.

In the evening, Princess Hajjah Masna consented to attend an informal dinner hosted by the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Germany, His Excellency Joschka Fischer, the chairman of the Second ASEM meeting.

Prior to the dinner, Princess Hajjah Masna attended a meeting of

foreign ministers of the Asian countries.

While in Berlin, Princess Hajjah Masna consented to receive the Minister of State of the Republic of Ireland, His Excellency Mr. Martin Cullen in audience where they discussed bilateral issues of mutual interest for both countries.

The Second Asian-Europe Meeting was earlier cancelled when the two sides namely ASEAN and European Union disagreed over the issue confronted by Myanmar, a member country of ASEAN.

The next Asia-Europe Meeting of foreign ministers is to be held in Beijing, China in the year 2001.

BGC and MHI sign shipbuilding contract

The Brunei Gas Carriers Sendirian Berhad (BGC) and a top Japanese Shipyard, the Mitsubishi Heavy Industry (MHI) have signed a shipbuilding contract on 20 March. The signing ceremony took place at the Petroleum Unit Building in Berakas.

Signing on behalf of BGC was the BGC's Acting Managing Director, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abu Bakar bin Pengiran Seri Indera Pengiran Haji Ismail, while Mr. Naochika Namba, the Managing Director of MHI signed on behalf of the shipbuilder.

Also present at the ceremony were the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office and Chairman of the BGC, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Yahya bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Bakar, the Permanent Secretary of the Communications Ministry, Dato Paduka Haji Malai Ali bin Malai Othman, who is also a member of the BGC Board of Directors, other members of the BGC Board of Directors,

senior government officers and representatives from the shareholders and shipbuilder.

Under the contract, MHI will build a 135,000 cubic metres LNG (liquified natural gas) carrier at Nagasaki Shipyard and is scheduled to be commissioned by June 2002. Upon completion, the vessel will enter into service under a long-term charter arrangement with the Brunei LNG Sendirian Berhad.

The new Brunei-flag vessel is part of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Darussalam's long term plan to ensure the availability of sufficient, safe and reliable shipping capacity to meet BLNG's contractual obligation. Once entered into service, the newly-built vessel will replace the non-Brunei owned A-Class LNG carrier, and BLNG will be using a wholly Brunei-owned fleet.

At present, BLNG has chartered a total of eight carriers to fulfil its long-term contractual obligations with its Japanese and Korean buyers. Seven of

the vessels, each with a capacity of 75,000 cubic metres, are owned by the Brunei Shell Tankers Sdn. Bhd, a company jointly owned by His Majesty's Government and Shell Petroleum Company Ltd.

The seven vessels entered into service with BLNG when the project started in 1972. Since 1994, BLNG has to charter an additional A-Class LNG carrier with a capacity of more than 12,000 cubic metres from an international shipping company, in order to meet its growing LNG sales commitment.

BGC, a joint venture-company registered in Brunei Darussalam, is 80 percent owned by His Majesty's Government, with Shell Gas and Mitsubishi Corporation holding a 10 percent equity each. The participation of Shell Gas and Mitsubishi Corporation in the joint venture shows the continuing overseas investors' confidence in the country's economic future.

Brunei Darussalam is one of the world's major LNG exporters and has long terms contracts with Japanese and South Korean buyers. The number of cargoes deliverable under these contract was increased from an equivalent of 186 B-Class cargoes in 1998 to 200 cargoes or 6.71 million tonnes of LNG per year from 1999 until 2013.



The Brunei Gas Carriers Sendirian Berhad's Acting Managing Director, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Abu Bakar (sitting far left) signs a shipbuilding contract on behalf of BGC, while Mr. Naochika Namba, the Managing Director of Mitsubishi Heavy Industry (sitting on the right) signs for MHI.

• From page 8
(Awareness course in hotel industry for locals)

found jobs leaving 5615 people still unemployed.

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Adanan said the Government of His Majesty through various ministries and departments has continued its efforts in reducing dependence on foreign resources and is seeking to identify new approaches to encourage local people to participate in various fields of professions and employment especially in the private sector through voca-

tional and technical institutions, youth development centre, technical courses as well as specialisation programmes that were jointly organised with the private sector.

He went on to say that the Labour Department had and is continuing its efforts, strategy and planning to channel job opportunities to local people such as through the Employment Service Centre throughout the country, job training and by conducting special courses organised by the Labour Department in conjunction with several or-

ganisations in the private sector, as well as by holding meetings with the employers and job-seekers.

The course was conducted by Mr. Rohan Patrick Jayasundera from the Canberra Institute of Australia, who talked on topics such as Hotel Introduction and its Importance in the Economy; Main Departments in Hotel; Food and Drink Services and Roles of the Front Desk, to name a few.

Also present at the ceremony was the Managing Director of Brunei Hotel Sdn. Bhd., Mr. Tomothy Ong.



99 days to go to SEA Games



Awang Budiman

Games Village assure comfort for guest-athletes and officials

20TH SEA GAMES BRUNEI DARUSSALAM 1999

Brunei Darussalam, the host country for the 20th Southeast Asian Games 1999 (20TH SEA Games 1999) - only ninety-nine days away from the region's major sports event - will house the more than four thousand-member sports contingents of the ten participating countries, at the Games Village in the Brunei capital of Bandar Seri Begawan.

The Games Village is just a short distance away from the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium, the venue of the colourful opening and closing ceremonies as well as for a number of the games and from other sports complexes where the rest of the sports events will take place. The village is equipped with facilities such as sub-media centre, telecommunications services, a round-the-clock medical and health services, a dining hall which can cater up to 1,400 athletes and nightly cultural stage shows.

Built on a 12-hectare site, the Games Village comprises of 13 residential blocks ranging from five to 15 storeys. Each block has between 16 and 56 units of fully furnished and air-conditioned living quarters of three to five bedrooms each. In addition, the Games Village has four administration and facilities blocks, aimed at among other things, giving the sports and official contingents of the SEA Games debut in Bru-

nei Darussalam every possible conveniences. The services and facilities available at the Games Village, too, portrays the Sultanate's aspiration as reflected by the Brunei Darussalam's 20th SEA Games mascot which encapsulates all the attributes for openness, hospitality, courtesy and wisdom; and meet the Games objectives.

Brief history of The Games: From SEAP to SEA

The SEA Games has its origin from the SEAP (South East Asian Peninsular) Games which was mooted by Thailand and was first held in Bangkok in 1959. Six countries participated in the first Games, namely Burma (Myanmar), Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and the host country Thailand.

The then Vice-President of the Olympic Committee, Laung

Sukhumnaipaadit, had been trying to begin a SEAP Games since 1957.

He believed that a regional sports event, similar to the Asian Games or the Olympic Games, will help promote cooperation, understanding and relations among countries in the region. His efforts were realised two years later in 1959.

The SEAP Games was used up to 1975. In 1977 the SEAP Games Federation Committee accepted Indonesia, the Philippines and Brunei as new members, and the name was changed to SEA Games.

The name has since been officially adopted and the Games has become the most important sports event in the region.

Memberships of the SEA Games have increased to ten with Cambodia being the latest member. Brunei Darussalam is hosting this prestigious regional Games, the last this millennium, for the first time.



Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Official Language : Malay

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Official Religion : Islam

Population : 296,000 (1995)

March rainfall : 169.2 mm (annual 2,818mm)

**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.**