



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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*"Sacrifices are clothings
of the faithfuls"*



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in his 'titah' on the eve of the Hari Raya Aidiladha or Hari Raya Korban, among other things, encouraged Muslims to make sacrifices.

In a titah (royal address) in conjunction with Aidiladha, also known as Hari Raya Korban (The great day of the sacrifice) on 1 June, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam called on Brunei Muslims and people to be ever-willing to make as much sacrifice as possible.

Aidiladha, which falls on the tenth

day of the month of Zulhijjah (twelfth month) of the Muslim calendar each year, is a solemn occasion when all Muslims remember to surrender all in the name of Allah (God the Almighty). It commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's act of devotion and obedience when he agreed to sacrifice his son, Prophet Ismail, to fulfill Allah's wish. Allah finally commanded that a sheep be sacrificed instead.

*Make
sacrifices
in
whatever
form
possible:
HM Sultan
to Muslims*

In Brunei Darussalam, aidiladha began with prayers at mosques and surau nationwide, followed by slaughtering of animals, whose meat were distributed to the poor and needy.

In his address, telecast nationwide over television and radio, His Majesty said, "True to the spirit of aidiladha or sacrifice, let us instill the will and determination to sacrifice as much as possible."

The monarch said if one has material wealth, then one's sacrifice should be in material possessions. But if one does not own material

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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YOUR TURN

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From page 1 (Sacrifices)

possessions, then sacrifice whatever form of knowledge that one possesses, or one's energy, or time.

His Majesty stressed that Islam holds high regards for the concept of sacrifice for it embraces elements of tests and trials. Such elements are the "attires worn by those with strong faith".

Man, said the monarch, is tested through his responsibility, and the higher his status, the bigger and heavier are his tests. And no one will escape such tests and trials.

"Only when he has fulfilled his responsibility properly would he have succeeded in face of such tests".

His Majesty also pointed out that it was important to identify, and categorise one's responsibility into worldly dealings, and obligation for the hereafter in the context of 'dosa dan pahala' or sins and reward from Allah, God the Almighty for good doings.

"That is why", explained the ruler, "Muslims are not only encouraged to find fortunes, but more importantly they must know how best to make use of such fortunes beneficially. Likewise, they should know how best to ensure that the planning and development carried out would become a source of fulfillment and not a source

of cursedness".

On this realisation, we are conducting our development precisely on the basis of religious guidelines (hukum syara), rejecting elements which are contrary to these guidelines.

The Brunei monarch cited the establishment of the Brunei Islamic Trust Fund (TAIB) and the Brunei Islamic Bank Berhad (IBB) as instances of planning blessed by Allah.

"I am most pleased by the fact that recently Brunei Darussalam was listed in foreign newspapers and magazines as one of the Muslim countries with its own Islamic financial system. More pleasing still is the fact that Brunei Darussalam was listed as the number two country", said His Majesty.

He added this favourable evaluation is based on the involvement and initiative of the Government towards implementation of such a financial system.

"I am also of the opinion", the ruler went on, "that our 'good name' is a reflection of the blessings as result of programmes carried out along Islamic lines.

I hope those involved will regard this as an incentive towards achieving further excellence of the Brunei Islamic Bank Berhad", His Majesty concluded.

Muslims urged to establish friendly relations with all mankind

The Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office has urged Bruneian Muslims to interact and establish friendly relations with all mankind regardless of race and countries outside the Islamic sphere.

The Permanent Secretary also stressed that the relationship with non-Islamic countries should not weaken the brotherhood and friendly ties between fellow Muslims and Islamic countries.

Each country has its own interests to protect and achieve, he added.

Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Ustaz Awang

Haji Badaruddin, the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office made the remarks when addressing Muslims in his 'khutbah' (sermon) shortly after Muslims performed the Hari Raya Aidiladha also known as Hari Raya Korban (The great day of sacrifice) congregational prayer at the Omar Ali Saifuddien mosque in Bandar Seri Begawan, June 1.

Leading thousand of Muslims at this year's Aidiladha prayer was His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji

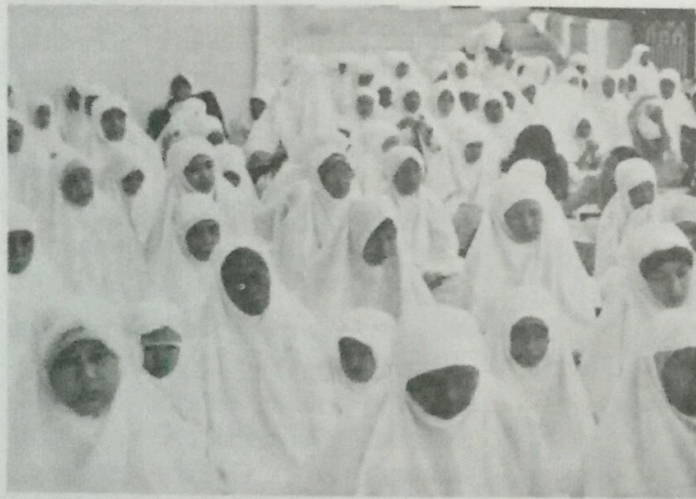
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His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan, is surrounded by Muslim well-wishers outside the Omar Ali Saifuddien mosque after the Aidiladha congregation prayer.



Yang Dimulikan Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Ustaz Awang Haji Badaruddin, the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office.



Women worshippers and men worshippers attending the Hari Raya Aidiladha or Hari Raya Korban congregational prayer to mark the beginning of the celebrations.

From page 2 (Aidiladha sermon)

Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as well as other members of the royal family.

In his sermon, the permanent secretary also stressed that unfortunate incidents such as oppressions and atrocities inflicted upon Muslims elsewhere, should not mean that similar actions are to be perpetrated against non-Muslims in the country, as a revenge.

Allah, God the Almighty, he added, has forbidden us to do so as we have been enjoined to respect the rights and justice of all mankind.

The permanent secretary lamented about the uncertainties confronting Muslims which have yet remain un-

resolved. For instance the oppression by the Jewish regime on the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab land since the Arab-Israeli war in 1967 continues.

On Afghanistan, he pointed out that even though the Mujahidin fighters succeeded in toppling the communist regime in Kabul, they have not even enjoyed their victory because of the persisting in-fighting and the struggle for power.

The permanent secretary noted that Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina suddenly came into the limelight after remaining under the communist reign of former Yugoslavia, yet they are in a tragic situation today. And now, with the international community wavering action, in particular the super power countries, it seems

that Bosnian Muslims will become a "second Palestine", said the permanent secretary.

The permanent secretary also noted the continuing disintegration among Islamic countries particularly the Arabs even though the Gulf war caused by the invasion of Iraq on Kuwait had ended.

He added that the end of the Iran-Iraq war five years ago has opened the road for the super powers and power-greed leaders to deceive Islamic countries into losing their sense of direction and subsequently misleading them in distinguishing friend and foe.

He also noted the ill-fortune of hundreds of thousands and millions of Muslims in the two African states

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Animal is slaughtered as sacrifice by Muslims during the Hari Raya Aidiladha celebrations.



The meat of the sacrificial animal is divided to be distributed to the poor and needy.

From page 3 (Aidiladha sermon)
of Somalia and in Southern of Sudan who are facing starvation.

In spite of all these, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin said, there are also indication of Islamic resurgence taking place at the end of this 20th century. This greater awareness of the Islamic faith is not merely devoted to acts of worship alone but also involves the social, economic and political fields.

New world order

Following the "new world order", the permanent secretary observed, there are signs that super power countries which have their own advanced technology and defence capability as well as economic influence tried to impose their value system in the political and economic fields on other countries.

He said such attempts would clash with the countries which already have their own social and political system, based on their respective traditions.

There will also be conflicts with Islamic countries which are experiencing a resurgence and where selecting and deciding their own system of government, is also taking place.

Interdependence among nations and races

In view of the interdependence of countries in today's world, and advanced means of communications, the permanent secretary said Mus-

lims should be wise in their dealings with others. Each country has to safeguard its own national interests while at the same time wishing to establish bilateral cooperation on various matters, either at the regional or the international level.

The permanent secretary also stressed that one could draw many lessons from the experiences of Islamic countries in this age.

Those experiences have taught us that Islamic countries and the Muslim communities have yet to develop without depending on the friendly relations with non-Muslim countries, he pointed out.

When establishing international, regional and bilateral cooperations, Muslims should identify their interests which need to be safeguarded and achieved, he added.

As the scope of international relations changes in time and as members of the international community, a change in attitude and perception in assessing our relationship with non-Islamic as well as Islamic countries should take place, the permanent secretary said. Such a review is important so that Muslims do not get confuse and face a dilemma as to which relation should be forged.

The permanent secretary later cited that Verse 13 of "Surah Al-Hajurat" (in the Al-Quran) clearly urges mankind to get to know each other even though they have been created differently with different racial groups. That is why fellow Muslims should make the effort to interact and establish relationships

with other communities, he added.

In whatever situation, the permanent secretary added, even though Muslims are facing various tragic situations, this should not weaken our spirit to achieve something positive and safeguard the rights and justice which have been enjoined by Allah, God the Almighty.

Sacrifices bring oneself closer to Allah, God the Almighty

In another sermon, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin urged fellow Muslims to evaluate the extent of sacrifices they have made to bring them closer to Allah, God the Almighty.

Yang Dimuliakan Pehin later stressed that one should not feel compelled to make any sacrifices in terms of money, time or energy or in the hope of gaining influence. Any sacrifices made should be sincere in order to obtain blessings from the Almighty and to bring one closer to the Creator.

Aidiladha celebrations

Brunei Darussalam marked Hari Raya Aidiladha celebrations with mass prayers in the morning in all the mosques and suraus. This was followed by the slaughtering of sacrificial animals such as goats, buffaloes and cows.

At the Mulaut Abattoir alone, some 100 cows were slaughtered as sacrifices requested by members of the public and government departments. The meat was then distributed to the poor and needy in the country.

Sixth National Development Plan as platform for continuous progress of the future: Minister

The Minister of Development has stated that the Sixth National Development Plan is an ongoing efforts of the previous national development plan aimed at strengthening the basis of development of this country and as a platform for a continuous progress of the future.

Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail, the Minister of Development, who is the Chairman of the National Committee, also stressed that the plan was legislated as a realistic plan and decided upon the situation of world economy, the availability of the country's resources as well as in accordance to our implementation capability.

The Development Minister made the remarks shortly before launching a book on the "Sixth National Development Plan" for 1991 - 1995 at the Economic Planning Unit in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan on May 27.

Goals and objectives of the Sixth National Development Plan

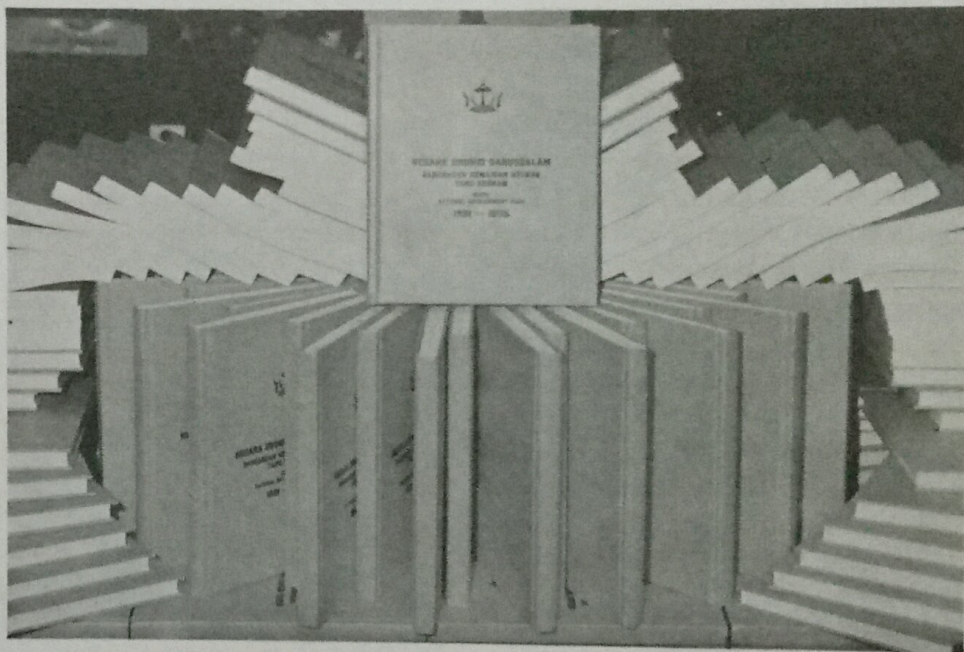
In his speech, the minister said the basis of the Sixth National Development Plan will be the same as the goal proclaimed by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam outlined in the Fifth National Development Plan that:

"Brunei Darussalam shall be for ever a sovereign, democratic and independent Malay Muslim Monarchy upon the teachings of Islam according to the Ahlis Sunnah Wal-Jamaah and based upon the principle of liberty, trust and justice and ever seeking the guidance and blessings of Allah (to Whom praised and Whose name be exalted) the peace and security, welfare and happiness of the people of Brunei Darussalam."

In this relation, the minister said, the long-term objectives of the Sixth National Development Plan is similar to the Fifth plan as to improve the quality of life of the people, to



Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail, the Minister of Development (third from left) launching the book on the "Sixth National Development Plan" for 1991 - 1995 (above). The sets of books of the Sixth National Development Plan on display during the launching ceremony (below).



minimise the economic utilization of national resources, develop new export-oriented industries and import substitution industries, accelerate human resources development, maintain full employment and increase the level of productivity, maintain a moderate rate of inflation, foster a more disciplined, self-reliant and caring society, encourage and nurture the development of "Rakyat Melayu" (Malay subject) as leaders of industry and commerce, and to have a clean and healthy environment.

Nevertheless, the minister said, the Sixth National Development Plan has also emphasized on several mat-

ters as to further accelerate human resources development, to widen the economic base and create a favourable climate for industries, to optimise Government expenditure, to sustain the development of the oil and gas industries, to encourage the development of a strong private sector and to maintain a clean and healthy environment.

\$5,509 million allocated for the Sixth National Development Plan

The Development Minister disclosed that a total of \$5,509 million

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His Majesty grants audiences to out-going diplomats

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted separate audiences to the out-going foreign diplomats to the country at Istana Nurul Iman on June 12.

The Brunei monarch first granted an audience to the Ambassador of the United States of America, His Excellency Mr. Donald Burnham Ensenat. The out-going ambassador presented his credentials to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on September 1992 and will leave the country the following day.

His Majesty later granted an audience to the out-going Philippines Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Eusebio A. Abaquin. The Philippines diplomat took his ambassado-

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His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granted audiences to His Excellency Mr. Donald Burnham Ensenat, the out-going Ambassador of the United States of America (picture above), and the out-going Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines, His Excellency Mr. Eusebio A. Abaquin (picture below).



Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha (picture above left) and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam (picture above right) granted audiences to the wife of the Ambassador of the United States of America, Mrs. Taylor Ensenat.

Women's organisations urged to foster understanding and cooperation: Her Majesty

Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha recently urged women's organisations to foster understanding and cooperation in order to strengthen unity among women in the Sultanate.

Her Majesty made the remark in her brief 'titah' (royal address) shortly before officiating a badminton championship tournament marking the 10th anniversary of the formation of BISTARI, a welfare body of government officials' wives and women officials at the Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) sports complex, in Berakas on June 11.

Since its formation ten years ago, BISTARI has already carried out various welfare activities in the community field and sports with other women's associations in the country.

Her Majesty who is the patron of BISTARI believed that all activities carried out by it come from the desire to render services for the benefit of its members and the community in the country.

Accompanying Her Majesty at the function were Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Nor'ain, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajjah Mazuin and Yang Teramat Amat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

On arrival, Her Majesty was greeted by members of the executive committee of BISTARI led by its President, Datin Hajjah Edah. Her Majesty was also introduced to team leaders, players as well as referees.

BISTARI was formed in 1983 and now has some 150 members.



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri delivers a 'titah'.

Thanksgiving ceremonies held for His Majesty after performing the haj

A thanksgiving and dikir (recital and praises to Allah and Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him) ceremonies were held separately at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah on June 5 and June 6 respectively, marking the safe return of His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam after performing the haj in the holy land of Mecca.

Accompanying the monarch to the haj, were his brother, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, the Finance Minister and His Majesty's son, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Haji Abdul 'Azim.

The ceremony began with the recital of 'Surah Al-Fatihah' led by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Khatib Haji Awang Abdul Wahid while the 'dikir' was led by mosque officials.

The thanksgiving prayer was read by the Chief Kadzi, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal.

Both ceremonies were held be-



The thanksgiving and 'dikir' ceremonies were respectively held at Istana Nurul Iman (above) and at Istana Nurul Izzah (below) to mark the safe return of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam from the pilgrimage in Mecca (below).



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From page 5 (Development Plan)
has been allocated for the implementation of some 619 projects on several sectors.

He said \$550.9 million or 10 percent out of the total budget is allocated for the industrial sector in which \$100 million from it will be allotted for encouragement and development of industries.

\$1614.6 million or 29.3 percent is allotted for social services including government and public housing, public amenities, education, medical and health.

\$1101.8 million or 20 percent is allocated for communications and transportation sector including roads, telecommunications, civil aviation, sea and port, radio and television and post.

Another \$1101.8 million or 20 percent is allocated for public utilities such as electricity and water supply.

The sum of \$550.9 million or 10 percent is allotted for public building sector while some \$385.8 million or 7 percent is allocated for security sector.

The minister further pointed out

that the budget also allocated \$38.1 million or 7 percent for miscellaneous services comprising on feasibility studies, and a total of \$165.1 million or 3 percent for contingency reserved. Apart from the physical projects that are identified in the Sixth National Development Plan, there are also 78 proposal studies that are identified and are supported for implementation during the period of the plan, said the minister.

Cooperation needed for implementation of the plan

The minister stressed on the need for cooperation and diligent effort for the implementation of projects contained in the Sixth National Development Plan, not only by the relevant ministries or government departments, but also among the people particularly the private sector as well as other ministries and government departments.

For the public and the private sector, the minister said, it requires a progressive attitude and to provide oneself with competence in achieving and developing the fields such as

industrialisation, trade, construction and other economic fields.

"These aspects will always challenge the ability and capability of the private sector especially the indigenous entrepreneurs," said the minister.

The minister further stressed that the provision of all the facilities and opportunities for the private sector to involve themselves in the Sixth National Development Plan would only be achieved if they are strong progressive, willing to work hard and responsible.

The minister also said that the government ministries and departments responsible in the implementation of plans in the Sixth National Development Plan, too, should require a continuous diligent effort not only in implementing plans under respective ministries and departments but also in giving assistance and cooperation to other ministries and departments as well as the private sector, so that whatever plans and studies that are implemented either by the private sector or the ministries and departments would be carried out smoothly and orderly.

From page 6 (Audience)

rial post in Brunei Darussalam in 1986.

Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with the United States of America on March 1984 and with the Republic of the Philippines on January the same year.

Meanwhile Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha also granted an audience to the wife of the out-going Ambassador of the United States of America, Mrs. Taylor Ensenat at Istana Nurul Iman on June 9, while Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam granted her an audience at Istana Nurul Izzah on June 8.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri also granted separate audiences to the wife of the out-going Ambassador of the Philippines, Mrs. Lourdez Abaquin.

Food security should include food industry

The Director of Agriculture, Haji Mohd. Yassin bin Ampuan Salleh stated recently that in light of impending changes, the concept of food security should encompass a broader spectrum to include the food industry.

Haji Mohd. Yassin made this remark shortly before declaring the 14th Meeting of the ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board open in Bandar Seri Begawan on June 10.

He also said that ASEAN food production and food industry have become more technologically innovative, competitive and demanding in quality and sophistication.

He added that although com-

modity-based products such as rice, corn, and sugar are still important, emphasis has shifted to high quality processed foods in convenient packages with greater efficiency in transport, distribution and better shelf-life.

The director pointed out that these attributes are important within the context of food security.

"As we take stock of the status of commodity-based products," he said, "perhaps we should also review capabilities in enhancing food supply through the technologies of the food industry."

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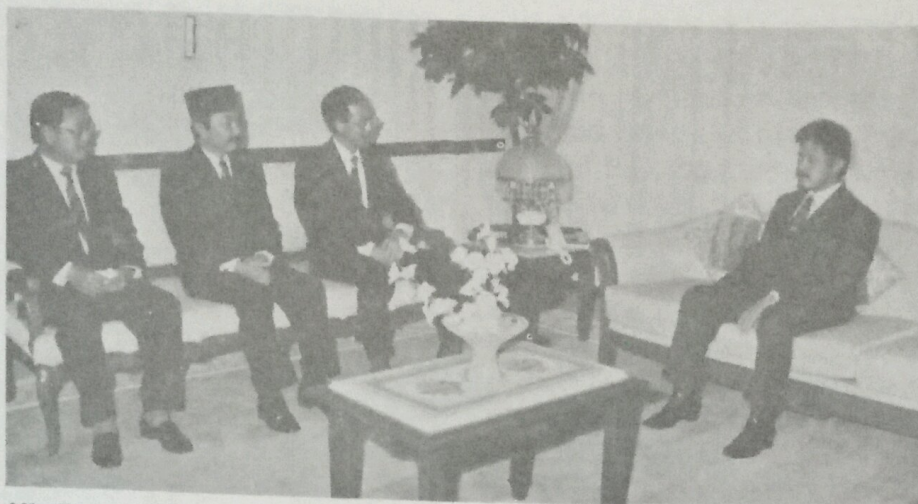
Cooperation in health services between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore

His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Minister of Health of the Republic of Singapore, discussed bilateral issues particularly on upgrading cooperation in health services of both countries.

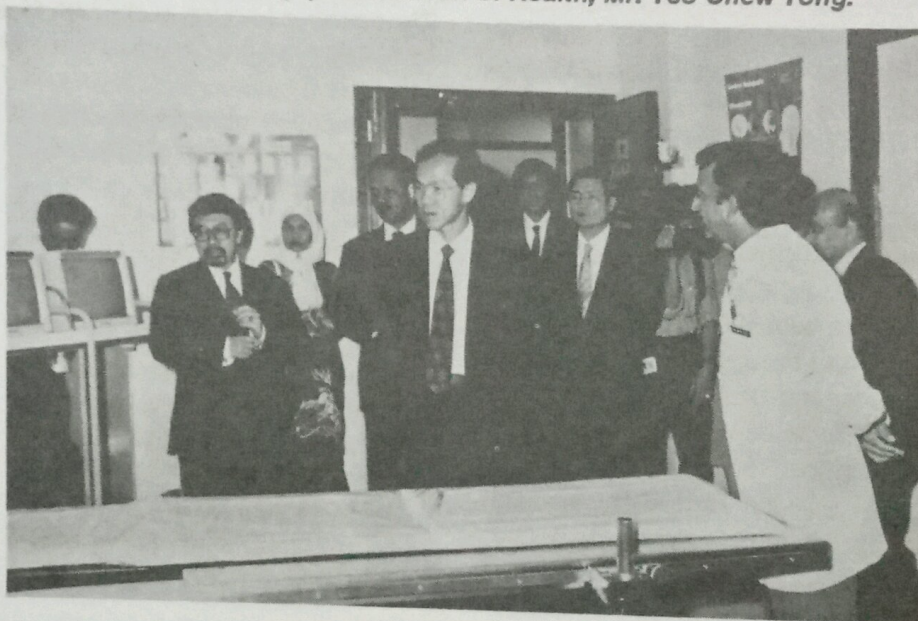
This was stated in a press release issued by Brunei Darussalam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs following an audience granted by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah to Mr. Yeo Chew Tong, Singapore's Minister of Health at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan along Jalan Tutong on May 25.

Also present at the ceremony were Brunei Darussalam's Health Minister, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Awang Johar, Singapore High Commissioner to the country, His Excellency Mr. Tan Keng Jin and the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dato Paduka Awang Lim Jock Seng.

The Singapore Health Minister was leading a five-member delegation to Brunei Darussalam for a



His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan grants an audience to the Singapore Minister of Health, Mr. Yeo Chew Tong.



The Singapore Health Minister is briefed during his visit to the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) hospital.

three-day goodwill visit.

He arrived in Bandar Seri Begawan on May 24 with the Chairman of Singapore's Government Parliamentary Committee for Health, Mr. Loh Meng See, the Parliamentary Secretary, Minister of Information and the Arts, Mr. Mohd. Maidin, the Deputy Director of Medical Services, Dr. Lam Sian Lian and Senior Consultant Cardiologist and Head of Department of Cardiology of Singapore General Hospital, Dr. Arthur

Tan.

The visiting minister also called on his Brunei counterpart, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Johar, at the Health Ministry's office in Bandar Seri Begawan on May 24.

Mr. Yeo Cheow Tong and delegation also toured the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) hospital in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan and the Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam hospital in the Temburong district.

From page 7 (Thanksgiving)

fore Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Perdana Cheteria Laila Diraja Sahibun Nabalai Pengiran Haji Damit. Also present were Yang Amat

Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz, other state dignitaries, cabinet ministers, their deputies, permanent secretaries and senior officials.

This year's pilgrimage was His Majesty's fourth; he first went in 1987, followed by the second in 1991. Last year, His Majesty was joined by his family members on the pilgrimage.

He said that the food manufacturing sectors of ASEAN countries are already gearing themselves for greater growth, adding that, it is timely now for the board to consider both food production of basic commodities and food industry within the framework of food security.

The director went on to say that Brunei Darussalam's participation in the ASEAN food security reserve board is critical. He further noted that the country imports most of the domestic requirement for major food items.

He added that ASEAN member countries have been the main suppliers of Brunei Darussalam and would continue to depend on imports for sometime to come until the country's farm production increase to meet domestic demand.

The Department of Agriculture together with the Fisheries Department have been given the mandate to promote and facilitate activities that would increase local food production, stressed the director.

The director further emphasized that the country's strong economy from oil and gas has provided basic funding to promote and facilitate farming, fishing, food production and food industry activities.

He also noted that in the last several years, the country's farmers have been able to produce more quantity and better quality crop and livestock products particularly in the poultry industry and similarly, the fishermen have increased their catch significantly and the country's food industry is progressing satisfactorily.

Sultanate shares same vision of greater productivity in providing the people more and better food

The Agriculture Director further stated: "As ASEAN member countries, we share the same vision of greater productivity from our land and seas to provide our people more and better food. This similarity will strengthen our commitment to agriculture and fisheries and provide us



The opening session of the 14th Meeting of the ASEAN Food Security Board by the Agriculture Director, Haji Mohd. Yassin bin Ampuan Salleh (centre)

the foundation to work together in the true spirit of ASEAN solidarity."

He stressed that the recent formation of ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) was a testimony to our government foresight to foster trade liberalization between ASEAN countries and many food items have been included.

He noted that the move was important, and described that "It establishes our common responsibility to ensure that food and food products can be made available in all member countries."

Earlier, the director spoke about the emergence of the ASEAN member countries in the last two decades, as prosperous nations with the expansion and growth in the manufacturing sector.

He said that the economic boom has attracted rural populations to the urban centres for better and more employment opportunities.

Agriculture and fisheries, he added, including forestry have assumed new roles as to compliment growth in the manufacturing sector by providing raw materials so essential for industrial development and most importantly food to feed the growing number of people in the urban and industrial enclaves.

He also stressed that higher per capita income, better education, greater nutritional awareness and social prestige stimulated demand

for wider range of food items.

He added that traditional markets gave way to supermarkets. Consequently, he said, inter and intra food trade between ASEAN countries increased to cater for demand.

"It is expected that this trend will continue to influence the food habits of ASEAN people which will have important implications in the overall food security of ASEAN member countries," stressed the director.

Earlier, the Director of Agriculture noted that delegates have deliberated on the activities of ASEAN Grain Post Harvest Programmes (AGPP) of the ASEAN Food Security Board.

He also pointed out that the Government of Canada through the agency of International Development and Research Centre (IDRC) has been the major sponsor of AGPP, adding that, over the years the IDRC has provided not only financial support but also valuable advice and together with the full cooperation of ASEAN researchers and participants, have contributed to the success of many AGPP projects.

The two-day meeting was attended by 13 delegates from the ASEAN member countries. The meeting was chaired by the Acting Deputy Director of Agriculture, Awang Kamis bin Haji Tamin. It was the second meeting hosted by Brunei Darussalam. The first was in 1987.

Linkage programme facilitates sharing of experience and knowledge

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources has underlined the importance of Inter-Institutional Linkages Programme (IILP) as mechanism for facilitating the sharing of experiences and knowledge among institutions in ASEAN and New Zealand.

Dato Paduka Malai Ali, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources made the remark at the opening of the Third Regional Workshop Project 2 SIRD/IILP (sustainable integrated rural development/inter-institutional linkages programme) ASEAN-New Zealand Cooperation held in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan on June 3. The theme of the workshop was Training for Community Resource Management.

The permanent secretary said that for Brunei Darussalam, the continuing expansion of the country's network of linkages not only government to government, but also other institutions which include the private sector and the academic is a component of our development process.

Touching on the Sustainable Integrated Rural Development project, the permanent secretary said that it was of interest to Brunei and more specifically of direct relevance to the responsibility of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

For Brunei Darussalam, he said, the tradition of communal activities has been in existence for centuries in which all the activities are done through the "gotong-royong" or collective work by all members of the community.

This has the effect of reinforcing the ideas of living, in unity and in harmony, the permanent secretary stressed.

The permanent secretary also pointed out that from the recent experience, the relatively new found prosperity and the ease with which people can find alternative means of income has encouraged more people to leave the kampong (village) community and has caused a decline in agriculture, adding that, the improvement in the infrastructure has further contributed to improving the standard of living and consequently increase personal mobility. This results in the further fragmentation of the commu-

nity, he added.

Dato Paduka Malai Ali also reiterated His Majesty's 'titah' (royal address), which expressed grave concern in the declining interest in agricultural activities, His Majesty commanded that a programme of "Budaya Bertanam" (farming culture) be reactivated as a source or supplementary income and also to support the "Green Earth" concept.

He also pointed out that "Sustainable Integrated Rural Development" is a practical challenge for Brunei Darussalam in three dimensions namely on community/communal, economic and commerce and on environment with land as the common base.

The permanent secretary further stressed that economic progress and commercial success are competitive elements and in most cases true to the concept of survival of the fittest and could erode communal values.

He said that some consider money as the root of all evils but in the same token money motivate prosperity.

Commercial use of land, he said, might not necessarily be compatible with sustainable environment, but yet must we condemn the community to subsistence living, he asked.

He added that this complex and dynamic problem has no single solution and said: "we only have options, actions and outcome. We are tasked with managing the outcome which at the end of the day must be balanced. We are tasked with managing the resources and actions for an outcome that would be dynamically stable and growing," the permanent secretary said.

Dato Paduka Malai Ali also disclosed on the formation of a committee to manage and monitor rural agricultural development in every 'mukim', a collection of kampongs in each district, which comprise various agencies within the government to ensure that development is co-ordinated, with values consolidated and sustainability assured.

SIRD brings together rural development related institutions in ASEAN and New Zealand

The Chairman of the Third Regional Workshop, Awang Haji Abdul

Latif bin Haji Ibrahim, Acting Director, Academy of Brunei Studies in his welcoming address among others pointed out that Sustainable Integrated Rural Development (SIRD) is the Project 2 of the five main projects of the Inter-Institutional Linkages Programme (IILP), which brings together rural development related institutions in ASEAN and New Zealand.

He said it was financed by the Ministry of External Relations and Trade (MERT), Wellington, New Zealand.

The week-long long workshop was attended by 19 participants from ASEAN member countries and New Zealand. Seven papers were presented including two from Brunei Darussalam with titles "Rural Development Training in Brunei Darussalam: Case Study of Kampong Kulapis" and "Thought on SIRD and its implications for Brunei Darussalam."

Objective of IILP

The major objective of IILP is the establishment of on-going self-sustaining linkages between ASEAN and New Zealand institution in the academic, professional, scientific and commercial studies. The purpose of forming such linkages is to allow a more easy and more continuous transfer of knowledge and skills among the various countries involved.

Five projects of the IILP

The five individual projects of the Inter-Institutional Linkages Programmes (IILP) aim to achieve a range of interrelated purposes namely Project 1 which will develop library capabilities through information and skills exchanges in the area of ethnobotany; Project 2 will promote sustainable integrated rural development (SIRD), including its social and environmental implications; Project 3 will develop conservation forestry planning methods and restoration techniques for indigenous forests; Project 4 will develop integrated agro-industrial forestry planning methods for the establishment of rural-based industries, including their social and environmental implications and Project 5 will develop health and diet promotional strategies.



Arches of warm homecoming

These wooden arches erected in front of houses or gateways are most common in the Sultanate during the haj session when Muslims from all over the world including Brunei Darussalam perform the haj in Mecca each year.

The arches are part of the warm reception to mark the safe return of family members from the holy land to fulfill the fifth pillar of Islam, the haj, the once in a life time religious obligation for each and every abled Muslim.

Some will decorate these arches with coloured lights and coconut leaves but will never miss to include the wordings written in 'Jawi' (Arabic script) such as "welcome back to the homeland."

Traditionally, these arches will be left for sometime while thanksgiving and 'dikir' (recital and praises to Allah, God the Almighty and Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him) ceremonies are held for the returnees. Relatives and friends also pay visits to personally convey their greetings.

This year, some 2,700 Bruneians went for the pilgrimage accompanied by haj officials and medical teams.

Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size : 5765 sq. km
Population : 260,000 (1991)
Official Language : Malay
Official Religion : Islam
March rainfall : 20.3 mm
(annual 2,818mm)

PRIME LENDING RATE

March 6%

(quoted by Bankers' Association)

Brunei Malay in a minute

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

For this issue, we have chosen the word **awar**.

Awar is shy or ashamed. In standard Malay **awar** is malu or segan.

Let's now use the word in a sentence.

Dia merasa **awar** kerana bajunya kotor.

He was ashamed of his dirty clothes.

Abu **awar** berhadapan dengan perempuan.

Abu is shy of women.

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.