

BRUNE! DARUSSALAM newsletter

Published by the Department of Information PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

NUMBER 116

15/30 April 1993

Remembering the departed

Prayers at the royal mausoleum

The joy and happiness brought by the fasting month of Ramadhan and the ensuing festivities during the month of Syawal each year are still fresh in the minds of Muslims not only in Brunei Darussalam, but among Muslims the world over, no doubt.

These are also the times when the departed ones dear

Continued on page 9



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam sprinkling the 'ayeng asahasahan' (scented water) on the tombs of his late father and mother at the royal mausoleum in Bandar Seri Begawan, the Brunei Darussalam capital.

Establishment of the Brunei Oil and Gas authority

H is Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has graciously consented to the establishment of the Brunei Oil and Gas Authority. His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, the Minister of Finance, has been appointed Chairman of the Authority.

The first meeting of the Authority chaired by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong

Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah was held on 8th April 1993. Amongst the items discussed at the meeting was the extension to the sale and purchase Agreement of the Brunei LNG.

The Authority is established with effect from 1st January 1993 and its main function is to submit to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, advice and recommendations on policies in all matters pertaining to oil and gas products and their

implementation.

The Authority has also been mandated among others with the planning and control of every phase of activities with regard to development of petroleum and products taking into account the needs for conservation of these primary resources and the environment; the award of petroleum mining concessions and contracts and related matters and to submit to His.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

Brunei Darussalam Newsletter is published fortnightly by the Department of Information. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated. For free subscription (Excluding postage) write to Information Department, Jalan Stoney, Bandar Seri Begawan 2041, Brunei Darussalam.

Editorial Staff

Chief Editor: Mahari Haji Ismail

Senior Editor: Aishah Mohamed

Editors Hanafiah Mohamad Aisah Haji Piee

Asst. Editor/Layout Zaianit Haji Noorkhan

Photographs

Pg. Bahar Pg. Haji Omar Halim Haji Sulaiman Pg. Haji Abu Bakar Pg. Haji Othman Pg. Haji Yaakub PMHH Harun Rashid Amat Moksin Abdullah Haji Awang Damit Masmaleh Haji Md. Ali Ramli Tengah

YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 15 April, 1993. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-225941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

From page 1 (oil and gas authority)

Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, advice and recommendations relating to the control and protection of investments in the petroleum industry within the State.

Members of the Authority appointed by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam include The Honourable Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pg Haji Bahrin bin Pg Haji Abas, Minister of law as Vice-Chairman, with members comprising The Honourable Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr Haji Ismail bin Pg Haji Damit, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Haji Ahmad Wally Skinner, Deputy Finance Minister, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Selamat bin Haji Munap, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and

Sports, Yang Mulia Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awg Haji Abd Rahman bin Haji Karim, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, Yang Mulia Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awg Haji Abas bin Haji Serudin, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Law and the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Alimin.

The Director of the Petroleum Unit is Secretary to the Authority and will act as Cheif Executive Officer and spokesman. The Petroleum Unit will also act as Secretariat to the Authority. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, Brunei Oil and Gas Authority, c/o Petroleum Unit, Prime Minister's Office, 4th Floor RBA Plaza, Jalan Sultan, Bandar Seri Begawan 2007, Brunei Darussalam.

Secretary to Council of Cabinet Ministers post created

7 ith the command of His Majesty Paduka Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the Prime Minister's Office has announced the formation of a new post, known as Secretary to the Council of Cabinet Ministers, which comes under the Prime Minister's Office, with effect from 1 April 1993.

Dato Paduka Haji Judin bin Haji Asar is appointed Secretary to the Council of Cabinet Ministers with effect from 1 April 1993. This post carries the status and privileges equivalent to Permanent Secretaries in His Majesty's Government.

Dato Paduka Haji Judin will continue to be Clerk of Councils, in addition to his present appointment.

With effect from 1 April 1993, the post of Secretary to the Councils in the Councils of State Department is now abolished, with its allocation transferred to the Prime Minister's Office.



His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, the Minister of Finance (centre, front row) poses with other members of the newly-established Brunei Oil and Gas Authority, of which he is Chairman.

Brunei liquefied natural gas sale-purchase contract extended

The Minister of Finance His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah as Chairman of the newly established Brunei Oil and Gas Authority has announced that the negotiations with the Japanese Buyers have been concluded successfully on the day the first 20 years Contract expired on 31st March this year. The new Contract is for another period of 20 years (1st April 1993 to 31st March 2013).

All three shareholders of the Brunei Coldgas Sdn Bhd namely the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam (which hold 50 percent of shares), Shell Overseas Trading Co Ltd and the Mitsubishi Corporation (each holding 25 percent), were involved in the nego-



His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, the Minister of Finance who is also Chairman of the Brunei Oil and Gas Authority, announced the renewal for a further 20 years of Brunei LNG sale and purchase contract with Japanese customers.

tiations.

The new contract assures the purchase of liquefied natural gas from

Brunei on a long-term basis and contributes to the prosperity of the country.

The extension also ensures a stability of supply of energy not only to the companies concerned but also to Japan as a whole.

The Japanese Buyers comprise The Tokyo Electric Power Co Inc. (with purchase of 3.72 million tons per annum), Tokyo Gas Company, Limited (1.14 million tons per annum) and Osaka Gas Company, Limited (0.68 million tons per annum). Under the new contract 5.54 million tons per annum of LNG will be supplied to the Japanese buyers (old contract quantity was 5.14 million tons per annum).

The Brunei LNG first introduced in December 1972 was the second LNG project for Japan following the LNG project Alaska.



Left: The Commander of the British Forces in Hongkong, Major-General J.P. Foley in conversation with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the former's recent visit to Bandar Seri Begawan. Seated extreme left is the British High Commissioner in Bandar Seri Begawan, His Excellency John Sindall.

Right: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granting a farewell audience to the outgoing Ambassador of the German Federal Republic, His Excellency Friedrich Krekeler, who has been in Bandar Seri Begawan since August 1990.



Top ranking military officer and a diplomat have audiences with HM The Sultan

H is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granted an audience to the Commander of the British Forces in Hongkong, Major-General J.P. Foley on April 5. Major-General Foley was accompanied at the audience at the

Istana Nurul Iman by the British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Adrian John Sindall.

Also having an audience with the Brunei ruler, on March 22, was the outgoing Ambassador of the German Federal Republic, His Excellency Friedrich Krekeler.

His Excellency Friedrich

Krekeler, Germany's third envoy in Bandar Seri Begawan, ends his tour of duty in the Brunei capital this month.

Brunei Darussalam and the German Federal Republic established diplomatic relations in 1984, soon after the Sultanate resumed full independence.

Signatories of the Paris Agreement call on all Cambodian parties to abide by the results of forthcoming elections

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued the following statement on Cambodia on 23 April 1993:

"At the initiative of the Co-Chairmen of the Paris Conference on Cambodia, the signatory states of the Agreements on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian conflict declare their firm determination to support the electoral process under way in that country. In particular, they support unreservedly the decision of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia that the elections shall be held on 23/27 May 1993. They call on UNTAC to continue to make every effort to create and maintain a neutral political environment coducive to the holding of free and fair elections, and support UNTAC's endeavours in this respect. For this purpose, the signatory states pledge their full support to the special representative of the Secretary-General, M Yasushi Akashi, in implenting the Paris Agreements, in cooperation with the SNC. They

associate themselves with Resolution 810 as well as other relevant security Resolutions.

The signatory states of the Paris Agreements vigorously condemn all acts of violence committed on political or ethnic grounds whoever the perpetrators and the victims may be. In particular they express their indignation at the cowardly assassinations of civilian and military personnel of UNTAC who came to Cambodia on a mission of peace. They demand that all Cambodian parties take measures necessary to end all acts of violence and to ensure particularly the safety of all UN civilian and military personnel.

They call upon the Cambodian parties to abide by their commitment under the Paris Agreements to respect the results of the elections provided they are certified free and fair by the United Nations. They express their readiness to support fully the constituent assembly and the process of drawing up the constitu-

tion and establishing a new government for all Cambodia.

The signatory states of the Paris Agreements express their support for and confidence in His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State and President of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, for his crucial role in carrying out the peace process and in promoting national reconciliation. They pledge their full support for the determination of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the people of Cambodia to achieve a comprehensive political settlement and to proceed with the election. They also support fully the vital role of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the people of Cambodia in securing the assistance and active engagement of the international community in post election reconstruction and peace building in Cambodia.

Finally the signatory states reiterate their full commitment to implement the Paris Agreements."

Revenues from oil and gas made up 64 percent of Brunei Darussalam's gross domestic product



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

Revenues from oil and gas constitute about 64 percent of Brunei's gross domestic product. Currently, Brunei Darussalam is producing at a rate of approximately 160,000 barrels per day, a very modest figure compared to what most countries in the Middle East and West Asia are producing, the Special Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in the Prime Minister's Office and the Home Affairs Minister said in Teheran recently.

The Special Adviser to His Majesty was in the Islamic Republic of Iran to attend the 13th Conference of Asian and Pacific Labour Ministers, 21 to 23 April 1993.

In his speech at the conference, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa also said that in view of Brunei's small population, the country is dependent on imported skilled and semi-skilled manpower. Out of about 107,000 total workforce, 41 percent of them are foreign workers.

The professionals such as doctors, engineers and teachers are normally from Brunei's immediate neighbours, namely ASEAN and lately Brunei is also recruiting skilled

From page 5 (revenues)

manpower from India, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Developing manpower resources

Since Brunei Darussalam first participated in such a forum at the 10th Conference held in Melbourne in 1985, said Yang Berhormat Pehin, Brunei has found that the gathering provides valuable opportunities to share information on socio-economic matters particularly those pertaining to manpower.

With the current trends in world trade and technological advancement, it is fitting that this conference has placed two important topics on its agenda, namely Labour Administration and Technical Cooperation on Labour Issues.

"Our gathering today is being held against the backdrop of economic uncertainties affecting many countries and regions. World trade is getting more protectionist and the prices of commodities as well as currency exchange rates fluctuate rapidly, causing difficulties to developing countries.

This gloomy economic situation is working against employement and income growth, especially in many developing countries which seek to achieve economic development through expansion of trade."

Yang Berhormat said he hoped that through the conference, the na-

tions of Asia and the Pacific Region would enhance the level of cooperation in finding ways to harness the abundance of the region's manpower resources, so that its growth potential can be fully translated into reality.

"This conference comes also at a time of rapid technological advancement to which countries in this region have to adapt, and which further underscores the crucial importance of good labour administration."

Brunei, he added, could benefit from the working papers presented especially on matters relating to human resources development. "We are keen to follow the discussions on issues like mismatches, and other labour issues in general.

Brunei's national development

Brunei's national development plan, emphasizes, as one of its strategies, the importance of accelerating human resources development so as to maintain a sound economy, generate full employment and increase the level of productivity.

Hence, the government is putting great efforts into the development of technical and vocational training as well as of tertiary level of education.

The plan, he added, also contains provisions for the setting up of a national training scheme involving the government, employers and workers. The aims of this scheme is to utilise local manpower to its full potential, particularly for the benefit of the private sector.

Technical cooperation

Labour market policies operate in the wider context of economic, social and education policies. Close interaction between labour market policies and economic policies is essential to ensure sustained growth of output and employment.

Yang Berhormat further said that for this reason technical cooperation among nations of the Asia and the Pacific region should be promoted in order to harmonise the labour, economic and education policies of member countries.

The diversity of the nations of the Asia-Pacific Region, with their varying stages of economic development, rates of growth, sizes of population and employment situation should not hamper the expansion of technical cooperation.

On the contrary, this great diversity should be regarded as a positive element in favour of enhancing technical cooperation among the nations of the region, he stated.

The three-day conference, chaired by His Excellency Mr Hossein Kamali, Labour and Social Affairs Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was officially opened by His Excellency Akabar Hashemi Rafsanjani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Shortly after the opening ceremony, Yang Berhormat Pehin along with other labour ministers and heads of delegation were introduced to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Government is fully committed to conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources of Brunei Darussalam

is Majesty's Government is fully committed to the conservation and sustainable utilization of the natural resources of Brunei Darussalam, the Special Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in the Prime Minister's Office and the

Home Affairs Minister, has said.

"We in Brunei Darussalam are fortunate to be living in a country which as yet does not need to exploit our rainforests to the extent most other countries are depleting theirs. Much of Brunei's forests are still pristine, with our development needs

being satisfied by limited land clearance for construction, mostly along the coast, and our sawn timber requirements met by a 'reduced cut' policy."

In a speech as guest-of-honour at

the opening of the International Conference of Tropical Rainforest Research: Current Issues held at Universiti Brunei Darussalam, 10 April, the Special Adviser to His Majesty further said: "The Government of His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is well aware of the importance of the sustainable exploitation of our tropical forests, and it fully supported the endorsement by the countries of the world of Agenda 21 at the Rio Conference on the Environment which was held last year."

At the same conference the Biodiversity Convention was proposed, and while a number of countries in the developed world had reservations about certain provisions of the Convention, the Brunei Government welcomed the initiative as a means of conserving the world's primary resource base.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa added that His Majesty's Government is also a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, and fully intends to maintain and extend the monitoring of the trade in plants and animals to ensure that Brunei does not become an intermediary for illegal trans-shipments of protected animals and plants.

Knowledge of the flora and fauna of the country is still very incomplete, and much remains to be learnt said Yang Berhormat Pehin. Cooperatives ventures such as those between the Forestry Department and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, are essential. Delegates of the one-week conference would have the opportunity to learn more of the results of this collaboration during the plenary sessions over the next few days.

"In a small country such as Brunei, with a limited though expanding scientific resource base, it is difficult for us to properly document the biodiversity of the country without outside help, hence assistance from the international scientific community is always welcome."

His Majesty's Government has recently set up The Brunei Darussalam Research Council, one of whose functions is to promote research in general, and specifically to encourage joint efforts with research bodies abroad particularly in the ASEAN-member countries.

The Conference marks the culmination of more than three years of collaboration between UBD and the Royal Geographical Society of London - a collaboration which is of special importance to Brunei's young university, said Yang Berhormat and further hoped this would pave the way for future collaborative ventures, both with the Society and with other institutions as well.

The Brunei Rainforest project was set up to study a small area of primary forest in the Temburong District in support of the development of the new Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre. The Centre is already fulfilling one of its primary roles - that of introducing the country's schoolchildren to the riches and wonders of Brunei's forests.

In a wider context, the success of the Brunei rainforest has attracted worldwide attention and has significantly enhanced the international standing of UBD as well as that of the country.

Over the next few years the Batu Apoi Forest Reserve, in which the Field Centre is located, will be developed as Brunei's first National park, and the experience of visiting one of Borneo's most beautiful forests will then be available to a far wider section of the public.

In his concluding speech, while stressing that development is necessary and inevitable, Yang Berhormat said that it is up to the scientists and researchers who are actually working in the tropical rain forest, to provide information on which correct decisions on development can be taken.

Welcoming address by UBD's Vice Chancellor

In another speech by the Univer-

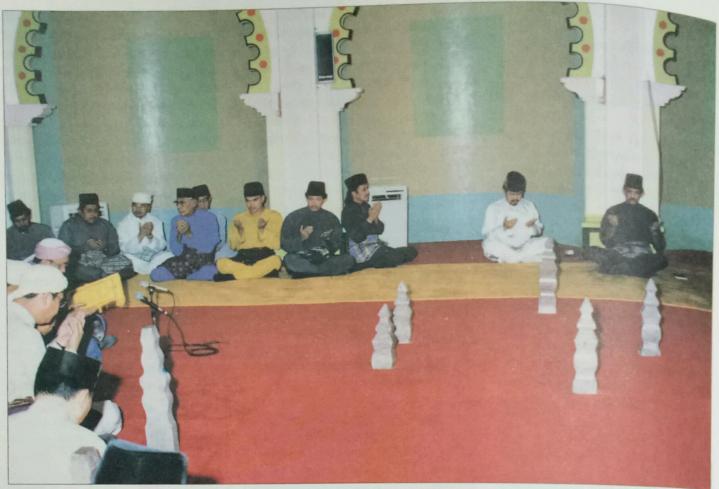
sity's Vice Chancellor, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, said that the Brunei rainforest project 1991-92 was a multi-disciplinary scientific expendition of the pristine rainforest around Kuala Belalong in the Temburong District, a collaborative project between UBD and the Royal Geographical Society of London (RGS).

More than 160 delegates from over 20 countries would hear some of the results of that expedition during the conference, with 23 papers being presented on work done during that period.

The University is very much aware of the efforts and dedication required to organize such an expedition, said the Vice Chancellor and on behalf of UBD, would like to thank the RGS particularly the Project Leader, The Earl of Cranbook, for their contribution to the development of the Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre.

The Centre is a permanent facility for teaching, training and research into the rainforest of Brunei Darussalam, and UBD would welcome scientists who wish to use the Centre and contribute to the expansion of knowledge of Brunei's forests.

"The 15 month-expedition into the rainforest to provide background information in support of the Field Studies Centre's long-term operationwould not achieve its success without the support, assistance and cooperation of various agencies within the government and private sectors. In this connection, I would like to express our gratitude and thanks to His Majesty's government for the continuous support to the centre, to the Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sendirian Berhad for the generous contribution of alsmot B\$1 million to build and equip the centre, to other government departments, Royal Brunei Airlines, the British Council, Standard Chartered Bank and other agencies and individuals who have untiringly supported the Centre and co-sponsored the conference."



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with his brothers, Their Royal Highnesses Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah (2nd from right), Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisuara Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah (3rd from right) and Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah (4th from right) at the royal mausoleum.

Islamic religious officials discuss measures to tackle deviationist teachings in region

S everal senior religious officials from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore gathered in Bandar Seri Begawan for a three-day seminar aimed at trashing out measures to curb deviationist Islamic teachings in the region.

Safeguarding aqidah is duty of every Muslim

In a speech at the opening ceremony of the seminar on aqidah (faith) at the Pusat Da'awah Islamiah on 19 April, the Minister of Religious Affairs stressed the duty of every Muslim to safeguard his or her aqidah.

The same as parents, other groups such as the poor group, the

school, the community, the mass media - all have an influential part in shaping the aqidah of a person. (Any form of) deviation, the Minister said, could take place as all these factors (affect) the lives of a person and his/her parents.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr Haji Mohd Zain also warned of the dangers involved for the Islamic community should people succeed to mislead and confuse the Muslims, and should their illintentioned efforts be left unchecked.

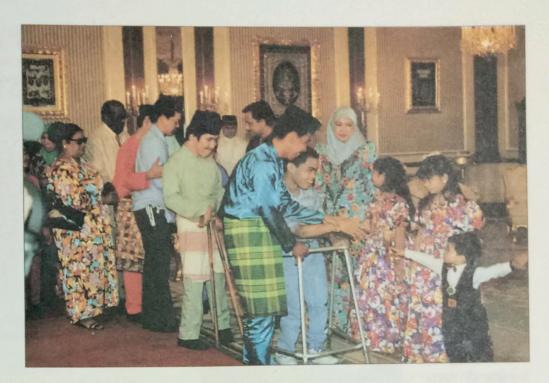
The holy book Al-Quran came to this region in the first century of Hijrah (of the Islamic Calendar). Islam came to China during the period of Al-Rasyiden Cliph. The

teachings of the Al-Quran have enabled the Malays to live in peace and harmony as well as come up with administrative policies with no prevailing or conflicting views which could disrupt the unity (of the country).

The Malays firmly uphold their aqidah and Islam and this has greatly helped them to successfully deal with any form of destructive elements and foreign interference.

With Muslims in Brunei Darussalam subscribing to the Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah (Sunnites/Muslims who follow the teachings (sunnah), tradition and customs of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him) and Iman Shafei, this has helped them to successfully ad-

Right: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam and their children meeting orphans and disabled who attended a Hari Raya gathering given by the royal family. Bottom of page picture: Some of the orphans and handicapped children enjoying the festivity at the istana Nurul Izzah.



From page 1 (Mausoleum)

to our hearts are especially remembered.

In Brunei Darussalam, Muslims converged on cemeteries to hold the 'bertahlil' ceremonies and offer prayers for relatives and friends.

On April 5, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam led other members of the royal family for such ceremonies at the royal meusoleum in the Brunei Darussalam capital of Bandar Seri Begawan.

They included His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisuara Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri

Bolkiah.

The ceremony, which was also attended by religious officials and Government officers, was for His Majesty's late father, Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien and His Majesty's late mother, Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit.

At the ceremony, His Majesty also sprinkled "ayeng asah-asahan" (scented water) on the tombs of his late father and mother, followed by

his three brothers.

Meanwhile, the less fortunate members of society were not forgotten in sharing the happiness and joy of the festivities. His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Diof Brunei Pertuan Darussalam and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam and their children on 29 March entertained several thousand orphans and handicapped to a Hari Raya (Eid Mubarak) gathering at Istana Nurul Izzah in Jerudong, 11 kilometres from the capital.



Brunei Darussalam expresses concern over problems confronting Muslim world

Brune i Darussalam has again expressed concern over the plight of Mulisms in particular the problems of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Palestinian issue.

In a speech delivered at the 21st OIC meeting in Karachi in Pakistan, (25 to 29 April 1993) the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam said that

the situation facing our fellow Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina is still most disturbing.

Lifting arms embargo

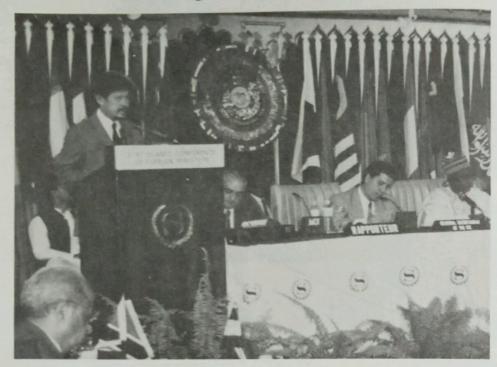
His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah said that the end of the cold war has been followed by bitter racial and ethnic conflicts.

War crimes continue to be committed by the Bosnian Serbs even though they have been condemned by the international community and all members of this organisation.

"We ask the Security Council to back their reaffirmation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. This can best be done by taking what we feel is the obvious step. That is to lift the arms embargo."

At the same time, we welcome the recent Security Council Resolutions and ask for them to be implemented without reservation, His Royal Highness added.

"This may serve to impress upon the Bosnian-Serbs the total condem-



Darussalam Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah high lighting problems cur rently confronting the Muslim world while addressing delegates of the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Karachi, Pakistan recently.

nation of the international community. They need to be made fully aware that we will never accept the policies they are currently pursuing."

We hope the Security Council will remain committed to nothing less than the guaranteed sovereignty of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Minister stressed.

Palestinian issue

On the Palestinian issue, His Royal Highness said: "Whilst we welcome the Palestinian decision to take part in the Middle East peace talks, we are concerned that the Israelis still refuse to implement the Security Council resolutions. They have also taken a series of actions which have made it very difficult for the Palestinians to continue the peace process."

"Naturally, we continue to hope for success in the Middle East peace talks. But our position remains the same. We wish to see the Israelis making genuine compromises which will satisfy us that the rights of the Palestinians will be secured."

Problems faced by Muslims elsewhere

The Palestinian issue and the problem of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina are just two of the most highly publicised problems, the Minister said. Similar distressing situations are faced by Muslims in Africa, Asia and among our Muslim minorities in Europe.

"We are aware, too of the numbers of Muslims who are either refugees or are fleeing their countries as a way out of poverty. Such matters demand our deepest concern. To all this we can add international fears about the arms race, drug trafficking and the environment."

Uneven level of development

Moreover, the world economic situation does not seem to offer much comfort to many OIC members, the Minister continued. Despite some indication of global economic growth the reality for many nations is still an

From page 10 (Muslim World)

uneven level of development, restricted access to world markets, great proverty and even starvation. All these factors could create major sethacks in our efforts to improve the welfare of the Ummah.

"Two years ago we noted many uncertainties. One thing that has now become clear is that we shall have to work within the framework of these uncertainties for many years.

We must be prepared to respond to international developments which often take new directions from week to week.

Therefore if this fluid situation is to be channelled towards objectives which promote the interests of the Ummah, our contribution must be positive."

The alternative is violent conflict. As we can see in many parts of the world today, the cost of this is terrible human suffering, the Minister said.

Our organisation is in a unique position to step beyond national interests and offer a wider vision. To do this, however, we must work together, he stressed. Where necessary, we should be self-critical and examine any of our own shortcomings in order to achieve unity and solidarity.

OIC's Responsibility to Muslims

The Minister further added: "We have a responsibility to over one fifth of the world's population and we re present a third of the members of the United Nations. This potential strength is needed by our people so that we can be a strong force in helping to shape a just and peaceful world."

His Royal Highness also spoke of the need to be optimistic in an organisation such as the OIC even amidst the grave concern members share today. At a time when good sense, reason and compromise are often sadly absent among conflicting parties, efforts made by members to work positively towards peace have provided much needed hope, he said.

Education Ministry introduces strategy to upgrade standard of acquisition of the English language

The Education Ministry through the Curriculum Development Department is to introduce another teaching strategy on effort to upgrade the standard of language aquisition among students particularly the English language, namely through the "Language Across the Curriculum" concept.

Pengiran Hajah Mariam binti Pengiran Haji Matarsat, the Director of Curriculum Development Department announced this at the official opening of a two-day seminar on the "Language Across the Curriculum" for government school headmasters throughout the country at the Curriculum Development Department in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan on April 8.

The director said such concept is not new but has been introduced for several years aimed at upgrading the quality of teaching and learning of subjects by means of language as a medium of communication in the teaching and learning process.

She said that the Curriculum Development Department has organised two seminars on such matter for the department's officials in providing exposure towards such concept in depth and in a more specific way.

This time the seminar is mainly designed for administrators and supervisors of primary schools namely primary school headmasters.

The director said school headmasters are the agent of changes on such educational innovation, adding that success on such changes are more dependent on their attitude

The director pointed out that the primary school level is also the main focus in the teaching and learning strategy as it is realised that the aquisition of language should be enforced earlier at primary school level which provides the basic for further education.

Pengiran Hajah Mariam also stressed the importance of cooperation between language teachers and those who teach other subjects in the school curriculum.

She said that "Language Across the Curriculum" display the teaching process as a joint effort between the two parties, adding that bilateral cooperation, understanding and better relationship among all teachers are needed in making such concept a success.

Earlier, the director said that the question of the acquisition of the English language for students has seldom been raised as one of the factors which has influenced a better academic achievement for students in primary schools as well as in the secondary.

She stressed that the acquisition of the English language is not an easy task as it is a foreign language to us, adding that in order to acquire it, it needed a lot of exposure, diligence and determination of a teacher and students tehmselves, where a teacher should upgrade competency in speech when conveying such lesson effectively, in accordance with the ability of the students.

In realising such problem, the director said that the Education

From page 8 (Religious Meeting)



Every Muslim has a duty to protect his/her aqidah (faith): says the Religious Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Awang Haji Mohd Zain.

minister and govern the country, and enabled them to subsequently adopt the MIB (Melayu Islam Beraja) - (a philosophy) that is strong and capable of safeguarding the position of Islam in the country and facing up whatever form of changes and developments, Yang Berhormat emphasised.

Muslims in the country could be easily trained to accept Islamic teachings and practise them accordingly, he said. The country could hence focus its efforts on development programmes with no interruption as a result of confliciting opinions or debate which could disintegrate the Islamic community.

Several efforts have been undertaken in order to ensure that the (Mazhab of) Ahli Sunnah Wal Jammah continues to be practised in the country, said the Minister. Some of these include efforts to have the teachings of the Ahli Sunnah Wal Jammah incorporated in the school curricula, the adoption of strict control of imported publications, as well as having the role of the Pusat Da'awah Islamiah further enhanced to check aginst deviationist teachings.

With members of the public coming forward to report to the authorities about any deviationist teachings in the Sultanate and with

Continued to page 13

Firm and prompt action must be taken against those seeking to disrupt harmony, create disunity.

F irm and prompt action must be taken against anybody seeking to disrupt the country's harmony, create disunity and (harbour) anti-establishment (tendencies), the Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs said at the end of a three-day seminar on Aqidah in Bandar Seri Begawan April 21.

As empowered by the law, we sould not allow anyone or any group who merely long after personal gain such as power, money, or influence or any escapist (deviationist) who tries to exploit religion to spread deviationist teachings, said Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya to delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore who attended the seminar on tackling the problem of deviationist teachings in the region.

We all know, he added, that the backwardness of any community or Ummah thrives on the disunity of its people. Some (deviationists) strive to strengthen the basis of their political influence and (by) exporting belifes that are incompatible (with others).

"I am therefore confident in that this seminar is a step forward towards the unity of the Ummah (which is capable of) strengthening the faith (of Muslims) and the position of Islam in this region in particular, and (all) Muslims elsewhere In other words," the Deputy Minister added, "we have been able to show that Muslims in this region can remain united and can work together to ensure that Islam remains sovereign...."

The seminar came up with several resolutions including guidelines to identify deviationist teach-



The Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Awang Haji Yahya calling for firm action against deviationists.

ings and beliefs that run contrary to true teachings of Islam.

Resolutions and Plan of Action to Counter Deviationist Teachings

The seminar agreed among others, on conducting research studies before categorising any form of teaching as deviationist. Seven criteria have been listed down as guidelines to identify teachings that are contrary to Islam.

The seminar also agreed that member countries take a plan of action to counter deviationist teachings. This includes the banning of any deviationist teaching in the country by means of any appropriate step or ruling in the country; the banning of any form of publication or material such as books, magazines, video tapes and casettes which contain deviationist teachings; taking legal action against anyone involved in these two ac-

tivities; enhancing dakwah activities by giving more information to the public about the Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah; making information on deviationist teachings available through formal and informal education, the mass media, seminars and lectures; taking several administrative measures such as issuing fatwas and statments about such teachings; and intensifying dakwah movements and information on unIslamic pratices like Valentine's Day.

The participants convened that these resolutions be submitted to the 12th SOM (Senior Officials Meeting) and the 4th MABIMS (Religious Affairs Ministers of Brunei Darussalam, Indoneisa, Malaysia and Singapore) Meeting to be held in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Second Meeting of ASEAN Ministers of Justice, Ministers of Law and Altorneys-General

Y ang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin, Minister of Law and Attorney-General, attended the Second Meeting of ASEAN Ministers of Justice, Ministers of Law and Attorneys-General in Kuala Lumpur from April 15 to 16.

The meeting discussed several areas which had been agreed at the first meeting in Bali in Indonesia in 1986. This included cooperation in the judicial field, exchange of legal material and legal education, training and research. In addition, other areas of possible cooperation and its mechanisms such as the facilitation of implementation of AFTA, the establishment of an ASEAN legal information network system and legal framework for environmental protection of the seas in the ASEAN region were also discussed.

Speech by Law Minister

In his speech at the meeting, Yang Amat Mulia said that Ministers of Law and Attorneys-General should consider the proper areas of jurisdiction of the ministerial meeting. Yang Amat Mulia also noted that there are many areas which raise legal issues and implication but which are not necessarily within the proper jurisdiction of Ministers of Justice and Ministers of Law for example the legal framework of AFTA (ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA) is properly within the jurisdiction of the economic ministers and foreign ministers. This meeting should be aware of development in these important new areas and should keep abreast with legal issues arising from them.

Yang Amat Mulia also stressed that it was necessary for the Ministers of Law to determine the role of this meeting because unlike coop-



The Minister of Law, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin

eration in established fields of economics, politics and social issues, there is no ASEAN agreeement or Declarations to support cooperation in the legal field other than the BALI MINISTERIAL UNDERSTANDING.

Apart from that, the Minister suggested that the meeting should concentrate on administration of justice and enforcement of law.

Due to the fact that ASEAN member countries have different legal systems, the cooperation towards this objective can be arranged

on a bilateral basis. In areas which are covered by international convention to which all ASEAN member countries belong there should exist a basis for a common approach so that harmonization could be more easily achieved.

Among the agenda discussed at the meeting was the adoption of the report of the ASEAN Senior legal officials who met for three days before the ministers convened. The Permanent Secreary Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abas, accompanied by several legal officers from the Ministries of Law and Foreign Affairs attended the SLOM. During that meeting, Brunei presented a working paper on legal cooperation among member countries including exchange of legal materials.

From page 12 (Religious Meeting)

religious scholars from abroad giving lectures in the country to further reinforce the faith of Muslims, these have also helped in efforts to ensure that the teachings of the Ahli Sunnah Wal Jammah continue to be practised in the country.

Papers presented during seminar

Some of the papers presented during the seminar included the ban of the Al-Arqam in Brunei, the Shiite influence in Malaysia and deviationist teachings and influence in Singapore and Indonesia.

Greater skills and Expertise needed with greater emphasis on higher productivity and greater efficiency in civil service

G reater skills and expertise are needed with greater emphasis on higher productivity and greater efficiency in the civil service, the Director of the Establishment Department said this month to ASEAN participants at a workshop for senior civil service officers.

The workshop, initiated by the Sixth ASEAN Conference on Civil Service Matters, is a country project for Brunei Darussalam as part of its effort to cultivate and intensify the country's participation in ASEAN conference on civil Service matters.

In his speech before declaring the workshop open on April 12, Dato Paduka Awang Danial bin Haji Hanafiah, the Director of Establishment said: "......ASEAN is now experiencing an era of rapid economic growth and development, where business enterprises are becoming more competitive and where problems and challenges that confront them are more sophisticated."

"While the government has changed, time as a resource has remained limited. Future managers and leaders in the business world therefore, continuously need new tools to be able to confront and manage those problems and challenges."

The scenario nowadays, the Director added, is not very much different in the public sector, since the civil service is not and cannot be isolated from the turbulence of the business environment.

"Indeed we provided the infrastructure or the foundation on which they thrive and survive. The speed with which we react to changes in



The Director of Establishment, Dato Paduka Awang Danial Haji Hanafiah

the environment and our effectiveness in implementing policies into actions have always been important elements in supporting the private sector. At the same time, we also maintain our capacity as provider for services to the public in general."

Lately, the Director said, the public sector has been recognised as a facilitator or pioneer on areas where the private sector is unsure to invest its resources.

"Our roles in the civil service are therefore expanding and changing everyday. We no longer can thrive on the traditional civil service cultures which so often have been described as lax and at time nebulous and where the decision making process often unnerves the very customers that we serve - in both the public and private sectors."

Dato Paduka Awang Danial further told participants that changes

in customer needs as well as cultural and work values, demand that we in the civil service examine ourselves and reconcile ourroles where necessary, especially in the decision making process.

Dato Paduka Awang Danial further old participants that changes in customer needs as well as cultural and work values, demand that we in the civil service examine ourselves and reconcile our roles where necessary, especially in the decision making process.

Strategic planning and management as well as organisational development which once were the cornerstone of the private enterprises are not steadily being activated in the public sector.

Structures are now becoming flatter, he said, while the span of control is getting wider as greater emphasis is put into higher productivity and greater efficiency. There is now a major concern on the "value for money" spent in the provision of services by the public sector. This demands greater skills and expertise among contemporary managers, the Director said.

The Director further hoped that at the end at the workshop, participants would be better equipped to deal not only with current issues and problems but also future challenges. Though coming from countries with different values and cultures and while exposed to what may be alien tools, it would be incumbent upon all of them to adapt and adopt those as they see fit. He hoped that participants would not only share common ASEAN experiences but also appreciate existing differences among them.

Negligence and violence lead to high cost of medical care

Costs can be prevented

Tollowing is the message of Health Minister, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr Haji Johar bin Dato Paduka Haji Nordin on the occasion of World Health Day, 7th

April 1993:

"World Health Day, an important date on World Health Organization, is with us once again. Traditionally, the World Health Day is observed on 7th April each year, throughout the world. In Brunei Darussalam, as the day comes too soon after the fasting month and the festivities of Hari Raya, observance of the day has to be postponed to a later date.

The World Health Day theme this year is "HANDLE LIFE WITH CARE - PREVENT VIO-LENCE AND NEGLIGENCE". The Message behind the theme is particularly noteworthy, in the present day world. Countless lives are lost and injuries are inflicted due to violence, accidents and negligent acts. At least three and half million people on our planet die each year as a result of injury caused by violence, accidental or intentional. Just as many may be totally disabled through loss of limb or eyesight.

Whether on the roads, at home or at play, the risk of injury to individuals have been neglected for too long and enough attention is not paid towards prevention. As a result of negligence, indifference or foul play, millions of people each year require medical care after accidents or acts of physical violence. Worldwide, it is estimated to cost US\$500 billion in medical care



"Let's commit ourselves to prevent violence", Brunei Darussalam's Health Minister, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Johar

and lost productivity.

In Brunei Darussalam, read traffic accidents alone has become the second leading cause of death. Disabilities and permanent handicaps are inflicted on many more. Potential years of life are lost, and health resources are stretched to its maximum, caring for the victims. The economic cost to the country is enormous in terms of lost years of life, loss of production and cost of medical treatment. In 1991, road traffic accidents were the cause of 46 deaths out of 98 violent deaths that year. Serious injuries requiring hospital admission were 702 of which 301 were due to road accidents. Total number of minor injuries treated in outpatients were 3357 and road accidents accounted for 614 of them.

This year the World Health

Organization drew attention to the disastrous consequences to individuals and society from accidents and acts of physical violence, that can very often be prevented. WHO also wants to highlight the responsibility of the individuals and community towards the safety of the society.

Having achieved great improvement in health and quality of life, to lose it through carelessness is indeed a tragic waste.

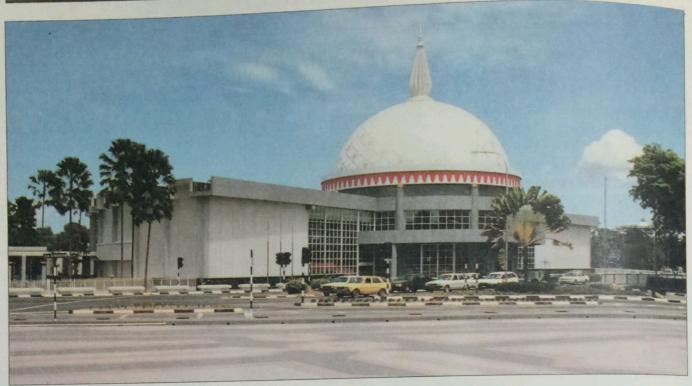
Let each one of us accept the responsibility to handle life, our own and of others, with care and commit ourselves to prevent violence and negligence."

From page 11 (English language)

Ministry through the Curriculum Development Department has implemented various programmes and efforts towards improving and upgrading the acquisition of language particularly the English language including the introduction of the Reading and Language Acquisition (RELA) project aimed at upgrading the standard of acquisition of the English language and in fostering reading habit among primary school students.

She said that based on evaluation which had been made towards the achievement of students in the English language, such project has shown an encouraging success and bring about positive impact in upgrading competency in the English language and in developing reading habit among students.

Royal regalias and mementos under one roof



The royal regalia centre in the heart of Bandar Seri Begawan is certainly one of the most imposing buildings in the Brunei Darussalam capital, that has added to the richness of the cultural and traditional identity of the country. Officially opened by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang

Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 30 September last year as part of the extensive programmes to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty's accession to the throne, it is in this building that regalias and royal mementos are carefully preserved and exhibited not only for the

present generation to see, but also generations of the future. There for all to see, it is hoped that the regalias on display would evoke a sense of pride among the Brunei people of having their own sets of distinct nad unique cultural traits.

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

E ach fortnight through the Brunei Darussalam newsletter, we introduce readers to a new Brunei Malay word used only in the country.

This time we have selected the word bangas.

Bangas is the Brunei Malay word used to describe food that has gone stale or bad. In standard Malay the word bangas is basi.

Let's use the word in a sentence.

Budak itu sakit perut kerana termakan makanan yang sudah bangas.

That child has a stomach ache after accidentally eating food that had gone stale.

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.