



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

Produced by the Department of Information  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. NUMBER 69

15 April, 1991

## National Education Policy to be geared towards having everyone being able to read the Holy Quran



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined in a solemn prayer for blessing of the ceremony led by the Sultanate Chief Kadzi. Sitting on His Majesty's right are His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has said that we need not feel too alarmed about anti-Quranic movement outside the Islamic community which aims to tarnish the image of the holy Quran. The Quran itself is a

holy book full of miracles and blessings from Allah, God the Almighty. Thus, Allah alone, His Majesty said, has the powers and might to always safeguard and protect it.

Despite many attempts to mar its good image, the Quran has remained intact. There have also been occasions when these

attempts have even backfired against the plotters, His Majesty said in a titah (royal address) at a ceremony on 2 April to mark Nuzul Al-Quran or the revelation of the holy Quran which falls on the seventeenth of Ramadhan.

"Since its revelation more than a thousand years ago," the ruling monarch said, "the holy Quran



## 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 write to Information Department, Jalan Stoney, Bandar Seri Begawan 2041, Brunei Darussalam.

### Editorial Staff

Chief Editor:  
Mahari Haji Ismail

Senior Editor:  
Aishah Mohamed

Editors:  
Ishak Othman  
Aisah Haji Piee

Asst. Editors/Layout:  
Zaianit Haji Noorkhan  
Painah Paiman

### Photographs

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

### YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 31 April 1991. 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

has stood to tests. Till today, none of its teachings could be degraded with any new discovery."

History has also attested to the fact that the descent of the holy Quran has changed life and the shape of this world, from (a period of) darkness to enlightenment, and from violence to compassion and love and affection, His Majesty asserted.

### Future of the Islamic Community and the Quran

His Majesty later drew the attention of his audience of more than two thousand people made up of cabinet ministers, senior government officials and foreign diplomats based in the country to the importance in examining the relationship of Muslims and the Quran.

Said His Majesty: "What is more important today before us the Islamic community is to look at the existing reality i.e. how is our relationship with the Quran. "In other words whether this relationship is close or otherwise disappointing."

Even though no finding has been conducted, His Majesty said, we ought to be concerned about the future of the Islamic community and the holy Quran. Earlier evidence has demonstrated that the Islamic community has moved further away and become detached from the Quran.

This, however, does not mean that this situation exists in this country alone, but also in many parts of the world, His Majesty said. Often we read or hear about the younger people and the youths in particular, being unable to recite the Quran, His Majesty pointed out. And even though Quran reading competition is held annually both locally and abroad, this could not be made proof that the Islamic community could master the recitation of Quran to perfection.

### National Education Policy to be geared with aim to enable everyone capable of reciting the Quran

Apart from current measures such as religious schools, religious teachers' college and mosques which have been charged with the teachings of the Quran, other efforts have to be taken as well. And in order to realise the noble aim of ultimately having every Muslim in Brunei Darussalam, from every strata of the society, capable of reciting the Quran, the national education policy would have to be geared towards this direction.

His Majesty asserted, "I hold this opinion because it is the responsibility of the country and it is to meet the needs of Muslims themselves to fulfill their 'fardu ain' (religious obligation incumbent upon each Muslim) in the field of Quranic recitation." A lack of knowledge in the recitation of the Quran could affect one's act or deed of piety and devotion to God and to become less perfect or complete.

Such an endeavor would bear fruit as long as it is done in an organised manner and with determined effort.

This effort should also be made the target of this country, consistent with the theme of the Nuzul Al-Quran celebration i.e. "Hidupkan Semangat Jihad untuk Ketahanan dan Kemuliaan" or "Enliven the Spirit of 'Jihad' to attain Resilience and Honour."

Concluding his titah, His Majesty urged all his Muslim subjects to closely observe the remaining days of Ramadhan (with acts and deeds of devotion to God) so that together they could attain Lailatul Kadar (one of the nights in the last week of Ramadhan regarded as the most propitious night by Muslims).

The celebration marking Nuzul Al-Quran at the International Convention Centre, included a nasyid presentation, recitation of the Quran by readers from Malaysia and Indonesia as well as

● continued on page 3



interpretation of the Quranic verses recited earlier.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Ratna Diraja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain said that the

occasion to commemorate Nuzul Al-Quran or the Revelation of the Holy Quran marked part of the efforts towards celebrating historical events in Islam on a larger scale and in a more organised manner as commanded by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

It is hoped that the programmes, said the Minister, would help instill love for Allah - God the Almighty, the Prophet, religion and ruler among the citizens and the people of the country, as well as enhance the faith of believers towards Islam.

(• Pictures on next page)

The vital role of script writers and editors as the key people to first receive information and raw materials and then make decision which of these would be suitable for local transmission was highlighted by a senior government official recently.

Speaking to participants of the sub-regional course on scripting and editing for television news recently, the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Ministers's Office, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar bin Haji Apang said the media plays a major role in the life of every nation, whether developed or developing.

In the developed world and truly in the West, he said, the media plays a dominant role in shaping the opinion of society. The media does not only market certain ideas, they also exert influence.

Television, he told participants of the course has a greater impact than the print media as it has a far larger audience. The Gulf war is an example to which the media plays its role in the dissemination of information within a short space of time.

In this respect, our vision regarding the events in the Gulf are often "coloured" by the ways the events are represented or reported to us, he said. Accessibility in general terms, he said, could sometimes create a problem for an accurate and objective reporting. What is being reported, normally reflects the reporter's judgement, i.e. based on what the reporter feels is important or significant.

"While we are prepared to welcome a free flow of information from the rest of the world," the permanent secretary asserted, "I need to emphasise that we are the best judges of our interests and needs."

## Editor of local media urged to adopt standards in accordance with local needs

And while the objective of the course is to enable script writers to write broadcast scripts according to international standards and for video editors to make a pictorial news story out of the raw materials, a word of caution must be taken here. To this, the permanent secretary had pertinent questions in mind: "Does 'international standard' mean applying and adopting foreign norms and value judgement? Does it refer to the global perceptions or interpretations of events? Or does it only relate to acquiring skills such as style of writing or reporting?"

These questions need to be addressed in order to avoid ambiguity.

Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar offered his personal views. Said he: "... I personally feel that we also need to establish our own standards according to our norms and values based on cultural, social and political milieu of our country. We need to strive and to project ourselves as regional editors with equivalent competence and credibility to those from developed countries."

The permanent secretary went on to explain why he believes local script writers and editors are in a better position to judge what is best for the people in the country. "We must view the value of news and raw materials for news from our own perspectives and not from foreign perspectives."

The judgement of script writers and video editors, he said, should always be guided by their skills and experience, common sense and above all, their value judge-

ment. One needs to evaluate the news not only from the viewpoint of its news worthiness but also to ensure that it is in conformity with our own guidelines, he stressed.

To illustrate his point, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar made this observation, with regard to the daily news feeds. It is simple to distinguish, he said, news from the developed countries to those from developing or third world countries.

The balance of news is weighted against the developing world, he pointed out. Yes, the old adage that "bad news sells" is true of coverage in general. News on natural disasters like floods, earthquakes and the likes, economic and social problems such as AIDS, students' unrest and so forth do exist.

While we cannot deny the reality of the situation, the permanent secretary aptly acknowledged and pointed out: "True, we have problems, but we also have some very positive stories to tell."

"Are disasters and negative stories the only events we are supposed to cover for our people, our neighbours and other viewers in this region?"

"Is there nothing positive that we have achieved over the years that we can project to boost our own morale and convey to the world?"

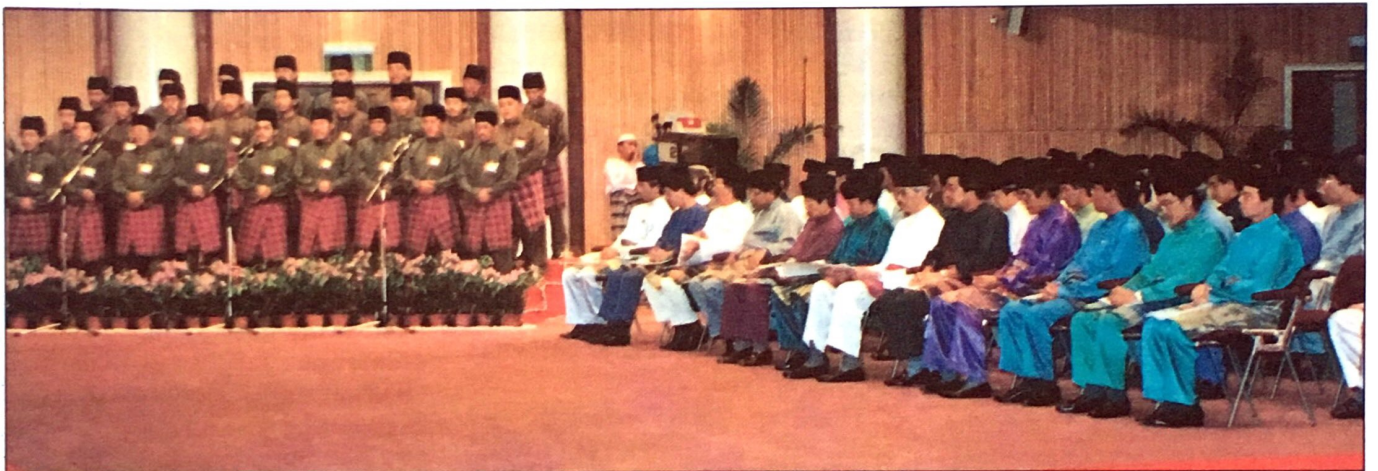
To this, the permanent secretary reiterated the need to develop our own perspectives. News editors and script writers in this region, he said, should not adopt the attitude or standards of those who are only interested in the commercial aspects of news.



Right: His Majesty delivered his message stressing the importance of mastering the recitation of Quran.



Below: Staff of the Religious Affairs Ministry performed nasyid (song with religious theme) to an appreciative audience.



Above left: A good turn out by the public participating in the observance of the Nuzul Quran.

Above right: One of the events on the programme that night was reading of the holy Quran.

Right: Diplomats were among the guest who turn up to celebrate one of the most historic events in the Islamic calendar.



(• Story on pages 1, 2 and 3)



# Muslims urged to keep an eye on publications contrary to Islamic teachings

**M**embers of the public in Brunei Darussalam have been urged to cooperate with the Islamic Dakwah Centre by giving information about publications which run contrary to true Islamic teachings based upon the Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah.

The Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Ratna Diraja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohammad Zain bin Haji Serudin, who made this call on 28 March during the opening of an Islamic Book Fair, explained the need for this cooperation.

"Even though the Islamic Dakwah Centre has its own Censorship Unit and Publications Control which censor all materials coming into this country before they are made available to the public, we need to realize that censorship work is not easy task, rather it requires full attention and a meticulous study i.e. close scrutiny of those publications . . . ." As a result, there are occasions when some publications escapes attention and sometimes books which have already been approved for distribution are found to run contrary to Islamic teachings based on the Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah, the minister said.

The Control and Censorship Section of the Islamic Dakwah Centre is primarily tasked with ensuring that publications brought into the country and those meant for sale and distribution are not in conflict with Islam. These publications should not also create confusion or anxiety among members of the public.

Currently such a cooperation is forthcoming from members of the public. Yang Berhormat Pehin said he hoped this cooperation would continue and could be further enhanced.



Pehin Orang Kaya Ratna Diraja Dato Seri Utama (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Mohammad Zain, the Religious Affairs Minister browses at the books exhibited.

The call to extend cooperation to the Islamic Dakwah Centre was one of the key messages highlighted by the Religious Affairs Minister when he spoke at the opening of the ten-day exhibition of Islamic books at the Islamic Dakwah Centre. Five foreign missions based in Brunei Darussalam namely Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and more than twenty bookstores in the country participated in the exhibition.

## Choice Of Books And Parents' Role

Reading not only enables the reader to acquire knowledge. It also helps to shape maturity of thought and helps put across constructive opinions. Therefore, it is only natural that one who seeks progress is an avid reader who makes reading his habit, the minister said.

Not all reading materials, however, could serve this need. Parents and teachers, thus, play a significant role in the choice of

books suitable for children and youths. Otherwise, the minister stressed, they could fall prey to publications which run contradictory to our way of thought and behaviors in particular those which are supportive of MIB (Melayu Islam Beraja or the Malay Muslim Monarchy concept of governance).

## Objectives In Holding The Islamic Book Fair

The Islamic Book Exhibition organised by the Islamic Dakwah Centre was held to commemorate the revelation of the Holy Quran during the month of Ramadhan (the 17th day).

The book fair has also been organised in response to the titah by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, who commanded that religious occasions should be celebrated on large scales.

The ten-day exhibition which ended on 6 April also seeks to impart Islamic values and inculcate the reading habit among the people, especially the youths of the country.









Darussalam grants an audience to the Malaysian Defence Minister and his wife. Accompanying the visiting minister is Pengiran Datin Rosmah, wife of the Malaysian Defence Minister.



Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam receives Datin Sri Rosmah, wife of the Malaysian Defence Minister at Istana Nurul Izzah.

## Expressed at close cooperation between Brunei and Malaysia

### Visiting Malaysian Defence Minister and his wife

on defence between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia and were satisfied with the existing close cooperation between the two countries.

His Majesty and the Malaysian Defence Minister agreed that the relationship could be enhanced, particularly, among young military personnel in order to strengthen relations between the two countries.

His Majesty and Dato Seri Haji Mohd. Najib also discussed the situation in the Gulf.

The Honourable Dato Seri Haji Mohd. Najib was in Brunei Darussalam as part of his visits to ASEAN countries.

Meanwhile, Datin Sri Rosmah binti Mansor, wife of the Malaysian Defence Minister had separate audiences with Her Majesty

Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam the same day.

The audience with Her Majesty the Raja Isteri took place at the Istana Nurul Iman in Jalan Tutong near the capital, while Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri granted audience to the visiting wife of the Malaysian Defence Minister at the Istana Nurul Izzah at Jerudong.

Industry and Primary Resources is to ensure that all economic activities and development made through industrialisation, do not weaken the function of forestry as a 'moderating factor' to the environment and as a 'natural conservatory' to thousands of flora and fauna in the country. These are considered to contribute to the stability of the eco-system, the minister stressed.

The minister also highlighted that his ministry would continue to upgrade the awareness of the citizens and people in the country on the importance of protecting the forests. The Forestry Department for instance, has already cut down the production of timber in the country to 50 percent or 100 thousand cubic metres from the beginning of 1990.

Yang Berhormat Pehin further pointed out that it is the responsibility of all parties to cooperate to fight illegal logging in the country and to ensure a proper usage of the forests, (not included in the category for forestry under protection and reserved forestry) while taking into consideration their significance to the environment.

● continued on page 9



# Employees-educational institutions urged to collaborate

A senior government official has voiced the need for cooperation and close collaboration between employers and higher institutions of learning in Brunei Darussalam in order to determine and clarify suitable curriculum and courses.

This would not only help them avoid 'mismatch' in term of trained manpower with the demand in the job market, but would also enable the Ministry of Education equip youths with relevant skills training that would be marketable for jobs in the private sector.

Speaking shortly before he officially opened a two-day career exhibition held at the Bumiputera Commercial Complex in Bandar Seri Begawan recently, the Permanent Secretary of the Education Ministry, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Abdul Razak bin Haji Muhammad said that such co-operation would enable the respective educational institutions to plan relevant courses in accordance to the needs of employers. By doing so, a "mismatch" could be avoided and here lies the support given by the ministry to the industrialization efforts of the country. The Ministry of Education, the official asserted, has a role to play in providing the manpower needed in efforts to diversify the economy of the country.

In recent years, the permanent secretary noted, the private sector and technical institutions under the Ministry of Education had forged a positive and symbiotic relationship towards close co-operation.

"The Ministry of Education welcomes such efforts and hopes that more employers and private firms will come forward to forge such ties and hold discussions with institutions of higher learning in this country," Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Razak said.



Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Razak (right), the Permanent Secretary of the Education Ministry accompanied by Awang Haji Zainal, the Commissioner of Labour being greeted by one of a representative at the career and job opportunities exhibition.

Referring to the symbiotic and positive relationship, the permanent secretary pointed out: "This is indeed a positive trend. Statistics from the Labour Department have also indicated that an increasing number of locals are already working in the private sector".

Dato Paduka Haji Abdul Razak further expressed the hope that this healthy and encouraging trend would continue to rise in the future, compatible with the current industrialization development.

## Locals Working In The Private Sector

In 1989 alone, 14,056 locals were employed in the private sector, compared to 36,874 foreigners working in the same sector during that year. Locals numbered 10,008 in the private sector in 1986, with foreigners at 19,591 the same year.

## Exhibition

The exhibition was the first of its kind to be organised by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and the Labour Department. Fifty-seven firms took part in the two-day exhibition.

## Call To Unemployed To Seize Opportunity To Work In The Private Sector

Earlier in his speech, the Education Ministry's Permanent Secretary urged unemployed youths to seize the job opportunities available in the private sector. Jobs that could meet their qualification as well as their interest and skills, could be found in the private sector, he said. Though their parents or guardians could afford to support them, he stressed, these youths should move away from this dependency. The official urged them to earn their own living and become responsible to themselves.

For his part, the Commissioner of Labour highlighted two pertinent matters on employment in the private sector.

In efforts to attract more locals to join the private sector, particularly joint-ventures set up between locals and foreigners, employers should provide an official letter of offer for particular post. Among others, this letter should

● continued on page 9



spell out the salary, the duties and responsibilities of the post. These terms and conditions should be fully understood and agreed by potential job-seeker, so that he could in turn, accept or reject the offer. This issue was raised, the Commissioner of Labour clarified, in order to avoid any ensuing problem in terms of promotion, training, workers' right etc.

Awang Haji Zainal Haji Momin, the Commissioner of Labour, further spoke of employers' role in ensuring job satisfaction to employees.

"To my understanding," he said, "job satisfaction does not only

encompass the duties and responsibilities for a certain post, more significant is the attitude of concern of employers towards their employees including on matters such as wages, fringe benefits, training and the likes."

In relation to training and job satisfaction, the Commissioner of Labour noted the encouraging trend whereby a small number of employers provided training to locals. One of the objectives of these trainings was to equip them with the skills and knowledge so that in turn they could take over the posts currently held by foreigners. Employers should also make plans to ensure that the

foreigners they hire helped in the training of locals.

To employers who have not provided similar trainings, the Commissioner of Labour urged them to do likewise.

### **Objectives Of The Exhibition**

The exhibition aimed at giving members of the public the opportunity to meet employers personally and to find out at first hand information on the various posts, which are currently available in the private sector.

The exhibition also allowed employers in the private sector to inform members of the public about employment opportunities in their firms.

In line with this, said the minister, the Forestry Department has provided several locations of forest land for recreational purposes for the public. It is hoped that the provision of such facilities would strengthen the public's awareness and appreciation towards the protection of the forests. The recreational parks also enable lovers of nature to get a closer look at the various species of plants found in the tropical rain forests.

The minister also stated that the Forestry Department has also published a book called 'In Brunei Forests' which introduces the public to the life of plants found in the tropical forests of the country. The book, among others, is aimed at attracting the interests of readers on the uniqueness, the usage and values of various plants and species found in the country. Subsequently, this would enhance their interest and awareness on the importance in the protection of the environment.

This year's theme for World Forestry Day is 'Hutan Kekal Negara Indah', which means "The country is beautiful as long as the

forests in the country remain and do not perish. Some of the programmes which have been organised in the country to inculcate awareness on the importance of World Forestry Day include the planting of trees, an essay writing competition, a poster drawing competition and a photographic competition.

The Director of the Forestry Department, Dr. Morni bin Othman said that Brunei Darussalam is most fortunate for it could offer a destination whose industry in ecotourism has great potential.

He further noted that the Bukit Shahbandar Recreational Park and other recreational parks in the country have received wide and encouraging attention at the international level. The official called on the private sectors to provide facilities for tourists, other than those provided by the government.

He said visitors could see department for assistance to find out about the management of natural forests in the country. Those who are interested in conducting relevant research on the unique eco-

system in the country are also welcome to do so, Dr. Morni said.

In relation to the development of industry based on biodiversity, the director informed that steps to determine the plants and species with the commercial potential, particularly in terms of their horticultural and medical aspects, are currently being conducted with cooperation from experts in the Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Morni pointed out that our ability in laboratory research especially in bio-technology and pharmacy at the moment is rather limited and far from satisfactory. He further expressed the hope for concerned parties to take appropriate measures on this matter in order to achieve our objective of establishing an industry based on biodiversity.

The Bukit Shahbandar Recreational Park covers an area of some 70 hectares. It could be further developed to 580 hectares. Places of interest in the park include some historical sites as an ancient cemetery. A tower has also been built at the summit of Bukit Shahbandar for members of the public and tourists.





Night after night for the whole month of Ramadan, Muslims gather in mosques or home recites verses from the holy Quran known as tadarus.



## Numerous religious activities in conjunction with the fasting month of Ramadan

The month of Ramadan - the ninth month in the Muslim calendar, is especially a season of pious consciousness throughout the Muslim world.

Throughout the month, Muslims perform Islam's third tenet or pillar - the dawn to dusk fast, whereby all Muslims refrain from eating and drinking as well as other pleasures as commanded by Islam.

Muslims in Brunei Darussalam also annually observe the fasting month by performing several religious related activities.

Everyone tries extra hard to avoid committing sins, and in every heart arises the desire to do more good works than usual and ardently desire to perform acts of kindness as Ramadan suffuses the whole environment with a spirit of righteousness, virtue and piety.

After breaking their fast in the evening, Muslims perform long late evening prayers congregationally at mosques or homes called "Tarawih prayers" after which they recite verses from the holy Quran known as "Tadarus" nightly throughout Ramadan.

It is also during Ramadan that Muslims in this country frequently pay homage to their ancestors and loved ones who have departed from this life.

At the gravesites, a little weeding to tidy them up are done and if needed, renovations to the gravesites are carried out. After that prayers are offered such as the recital of the Surah Yasin (verses from the Quran).

In Brunei Darussalam, the recital of the Surah Yasin and Bertahlil are also performed at the

Royal Mausoleum for His Majesty the Sultan's late father and mother.

Helping the needy and alleviating the suffering constitutes an integral part of social service doctrines of the Islamic teaching. Hence, through the spirit of mutual affection that the public who are well to do give away donations especially to orphans in preparation for them to celebrate the "Eid Mubarak" - the big festival which follows Ramadan.

So the month of Ramadan is the time of the year for the growth and flourishing of goodness and righteousness.

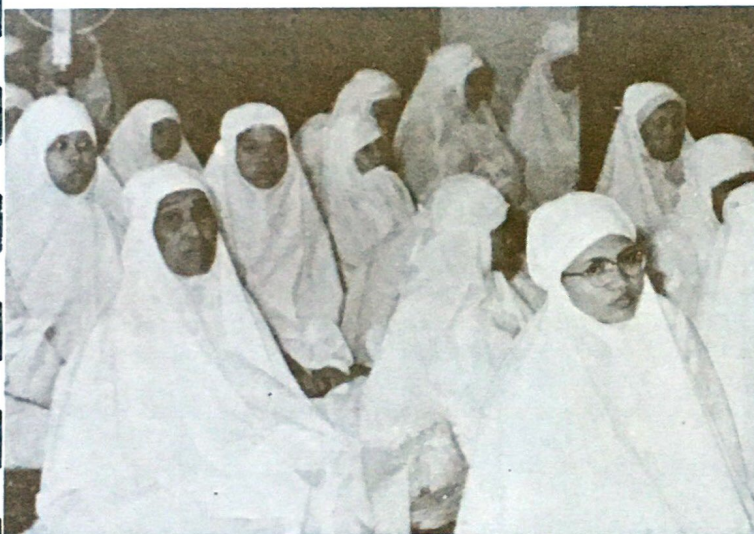


Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerna Raja Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain, the Culture, Youth and Sport Minister hand out cash gifts to orphans donated by the public in preparation for them to enjoy the coming "Eid Mubarak"





Muslim pay homage and offered graveside prayer by reciting Surah Yasin and tahlil to their ancestors and loved one.



Above left: Women were also not left out to performed the tarawih prayer.

Above right: Before the tadarus session, tarawih prayer are offered congregationally.



Left: Grave site are tidy up especially during the fasting month by the community and usually done in group known as gotong-royong.



# HM Sultan wins BISAM's special pistol shooting event

There was plenty of action at the Binturan Shooting range on March 14 as sharpshooters and marksmen from a number of armed forces put their skills to the test.

The occasion was the Fourth Brunei International Skill-At-Arms Shooting Competition (BISAM) which was participated in by teams from the armed forces of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, the British Forces in Hongkong, the Gurkha Reserve Unit, the Royal Brunei Police Force as well as the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

The competition was divided into various categories including a special pistol shooting event in which His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam led his team to victory.

The Royal Brunei Armed Forces and the Indonesian Armed Forces met in the finals of the two other events of the competition - the falling plate for rifles and falling plates for pistol.

The Royal Brunei Armed Forces team took the title in rifle event, but



Set his eyes and took aim at the target . . . Bang! His Majesty emerged as champion in the pistol event and lead his team as winner at the tournament.

the Indonesian avenged their defeat by winning the falling plate event for pistols.

The Brunei ruler, who was accompanied by one of his

brothers, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, gave-away the prizes.

Below left: His Majesty the Sultan being briefed of events in the championship by Pehin Dato Indera Setia Major-General Haji Awang Sulaiman while His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah looks on at the shooting events. (HRH is holding a binocular).

Below right: His Majesty meets leaders of the participating teams before the tournament began.







# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

Produced by the Department of Information  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE NUMBER 70

30 April, 1991



## Security and peace cannot be viewed lightly - HM Sultan

Above: His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam exchanged greetings with each and everyone of the more than 38,000 people from all walks of life who had come when the palace held a three-day 'open house' in conjunction with the Hari Raya (Eid Mubarak) celebration this year. Standing to His Majesty's left is oldest son, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee-Billah. Below: With smiling faces true to the spirit of the season, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (seated nearest to camera) and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam led the women members of the royal family to receive well-wishers who had come to Istana Nurul Iman to extend their Hari Raya greetings.

Matters pertaining to security and peace cannot be regarded lightly, especially if such matters have definitely been identified as potential threats to the already firm stability, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has said.

The Brunei ruler was speaking in an address in conjunction with Hari Raya (Eid Mubarak) which was telecast to the nation over television and radio on April 16, the eve of the festival, which marked the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.





## **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 write to Information Department, Jalan Stoney, Bandar Seri Begawan 2041, Brunei Darussalam.

### **Editorial Staff**

Chief Editor:  
Mahari Haji Ismail

Senior Editor:  
Aishah Mohamed

Editors:  
Ishak Othman  
Aisah Haji Piee

Asst. Editors/Layout:  
Zaianit Haji Noorkhan  
Painah Paiman

### **Photographs**

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

### **YOUR TURN**

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 15 May, 1991. 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

### **Police role, no matter how small, is appreciated**

In this respect, His Majesty both expressed his appreciation and praised the Royal Brunei Police Force for successfully fighting various social crimes committed by irresponsible elements.

An example of such success, cited His Majesty, was the police's recent success in foiling an attempt to smuggle liquors into Brunei Darussalam.

"Such an attempt seemed to be challenging the integrity of laws and regulations", His Majesty said.

All the happenings, regardless of their nature, give the police department especially and the society in general the more reason to increase their guard against elements who have no respect for the law.

"To me, no matter how small their (police) role might be but they are very meaningful", said His Majesty.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan further said that he follows closely all the activities of the police in their efforts to maintain national security and peace and that he will continue untiringly to watch closely further developments and efforts by the police to stamp out crimes in the country.

### **Resolve cases through proper legal process**

At the same time, the Brunei ruler reminded that any arrest or criminal case should be resolved in accordance with the legal process and not at will or through the discretion of individuals.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan also expressed satisfaction and gratitude that by the Will of Allah, God the Almighty, "we in Brunei Darussalam live in everlasting peace and tranquility because not everyone can enjoy such a situation".

### **Petty matters can become cancerous to society**

In recent decades, said His Majesty, almost all parts of the world have been plagued by various crises which inevitably culminate in wars either on small scales such as a civil war or wars between countries, all of which cause sufferings to their peoples.

Nevertheless, His Majesty emphasised the need for efforts towards curing social ills to be intensified because such ills can disrupt and threaten security and peace if allowed to grow.

"Therefore, our prime obligation is to prevent such ills and clean-up to the fullest extent crimes which have their obvious dangers such as robberies, murders and kidnappings as well as crimes such as consuming liquors, disturbing the peace and vandalism."

His Majesty added that what are regarded as trivial or petty matters can grow and become 'cancerous to the society'.

His Majesty had earlier said that Muslims had undergone a heavy test by way of fasting during the month of Ramadan and he hoped such deeds would be blessed by Allah, God the Almighty.

### **Do not forget religious obligations**

He reminded his subjects and people of Brunei Darussalam that in their celebrating the Hari Raya (Eid Mubarak), they should not forget their obligations, especially those obligations to Allah.

He also reminded Muslims not to resort to negative practices such as over spending and extravagance in their celebrating the festival.

Although fasting and the Hari Raya differ in nature, said His Majesty, they are nonetheless interconnected in the sense that they both serve to bring us closer to Allah, God the Almighty.



# More than 38,000 convey greetings to His Majesty and royal family

Muslims in Brunei Darussalam began celebrating Hari Raya (Eid Mubarak) on 1 Syawal, 1411 in the Muslim calendar, which corresponded to 17 April, 1991.

The festival, which followed the month of Ramadan during which Muslims performed the dawn to dusk fast daily throughout the month, began with prayers at all mosques, suraus and other places of worship throughout the country.

In the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam led the male members of the royal family in joining thousands of his subjects in the prayers at the Omar Ali Saifuddien mosque.

They included his oldest son, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah and three brothers, 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 Permaisua Pengiran

Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

After the prayers, His Majesty was joined by Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam as well as the other members of the royal family in receiving state dignitaries, foreign diplomats and other VIPs who had come to Istana Nurul Iman to extend their greetings.

One of the features of the Hari Raya celebrations is for Muslims to hold open house to enable them to receive relatives and friends, not only for exchanging greetings but also to ask for forgiveness and renew goodwill and strengthen friendships.

Istana Nurul Iman was opened for three days to enable citizens and people of Brunei Darussalam convey their greetings to the royal family.

While His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam led the male members of the royal family in exchanging greetings with the male members of the public, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda

Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam likewise led the women royalty to receive the women well-wishers in another part of the palace.

At the end of the three days, more than 38 thousand people had extended their greetings to the royal family.

His Majesty, his oldest son and brothers, as they had done in previous years, also offered the tahlil prayers at the royal mausoleum for His Majesty's late father and mother.

Also like in previous years, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam hosted a Hari Raya gathering at Istana Nurul Izzah for some 2,000 orphans, the disabled and handicapped as well as the elderly people.

His Majesty constantly gives due attention and care to the welfare of these less fortunate members of society. In his titah, His Majesty has often reminded that the joy and happiness of the Hari Raya should not only be enjoyed by the fortunate members of society but shared with their less fortunate counterparts.



## How to behave in Brunei Darussalam

This section is intended to provide readers, especially those visiting Brunei Darussalam for the first time, with information on some of the do's and don'ts of the

country.

This month we take a look at beckoning. If you have to beckon at someone, never beckon with the

index finger. But beckoning at someone using all four fingers with the palm down and motioning them towards yourself is acceptable.



Many researches/studies already completed

# Establishment of the Brunei Darussalam Research Council

The Brunei Darussalam Research Council (BDRC) whose establishment was announced by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Second Convocation Ceremony of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) on September 27, 1990, has to date processed no less than 10 applications for research and studies to be conducted in Brunei Darussalam, four of them had been already approved, and the research completed.

These are the Royal Air Force Ornithological Society of the United Kingdom expedition (RAFOS) which involved a group of twelve people conducting training and studies on Brunei Darussalam's birds from June 1988 to July the same year.

From 10 September 1988 to 28 November 1990, a study entitled "An ecological Study of the Plant-Prey Relationship of the *Nepenthes Rafflesiana* in a Karangas Forest in Brunei Darussalam" was completed by a PHD student of Scotland's Aberdeen University, Mr. J. A. Moran.

A research on Insects associated with *Nepenthes Bicalcarate* in Brunei Darussalam" was also completed by a PHD student of the University of New England, Armidale in Australia, Mr. Charles Maxwell who conducted his research for about one year from 27 July 1989.

This was followed by a study conducted at the Language and Literature Bureau in Bandar Seri Begawan on literature written in verse forms "Syair Awang Semaun" by Professor Siti Hawa

Haji Salleh of University Kebangsaan Malaysia.

The BDRC, currently located at Universiti Brunei Darussalam which functions as its secretariat, is under the ambit of the Prime Minister's Department and is assisted by a working committee.

The council is responsible for formulating and determining national policies on research and guidelines for promoting, facilitating, co-ordinating and regulating the conduct of research activities in Brunei Darussalam.

It is also the body responsible for processing and deciding on applications from foreign and local researchers for permission to conduct research in the country.

## The council has the following objectives:

- To promote, facilitate, co-ordinate and regulate the conduct of research activities so as to maximise the use of research studies and findings for formulating policies for national development planning, administration and implementation, and for general reference;
- To maximise benefits from research activities in the interest of the nation and the researcher, in terms of quality, cost and speed;
- To provide opportunities for local researchers to collaborate with foreign researchers so as to acquire experience and increase their effectiveness in research activities;
- To encourage joint research by institutions in the public and private sectors, and, wherever possible, between such institutions and similar bodies in approved foreign countries;



The Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong chairs the newly established Brunei Darussalam Research Council.

- To build up a data bank of research materials relevant to national development for use by the Government and researchers;
- To co-operate and collaborate in research matters with research bodies in approved foreign countries, particularly ASEAN-member countries; and
- To ensure the preservation of the nation's culture, religion and heritage.

## Research or research activities include:

- Research by students to fulfil academic course requirements;
- Research by individuals in pursuit of their professional interests, including post-doctoral research by academics and researchers;
- Research by universities and research bodies, normally long-term in nature;
- Research to seek practical solutions for a specific problem;
- Research to assess the viability of a specific project; and

● continued on page 5



- Surveys to gather information, including opinion survey, normally of a short duration.

All researchers are required to obtain the prior approval of the Brunei Darussalam Research Council before conducting research in this country except when conducting research of the following categories:

- Research by staff of Universiti Brunei Darussalam related to their academic discipline or speciality, or undertaken for the university;
- Research by students of Universiti Brunei Darussalam to fulfil an academic course requirement;
- Research by employees of Brunei Government agencies for the agencies;

Research or specific studies by experts or consultants engaged by Brunei Government agencies, whose visits have been processed and approved by the relevant Government Ministries/departments;

- Research by Brunei citizens or permanent residents studying abroad to fulfil an academic course requirement;
- Research by employees of companies registered or incorporated in Brunei Darussalam, which is directly related to the business of the companies; and
- Research of such other categories as may be determined from time to time by the council.

Notwithstanding the above provisions, the prior approval of Universiti Brunei Darussalam

Research Committee has to be obtained for research of categories (a) and (b).

Researchers of the exempted categories are, however, required to submit to the Brunei Darussalam Research Council basic information about the research to be undertaken such as scope, objectives, name of principal researchers and any other relevant information, as well as a copy of any report, dissertation or thesis resulting from the said research.

### Application Procedure

The procedure for application is as follows:

- Every researcher involved in any research project is required to submit a separate application form unless exempted;
- Foreign researchers who are not resident in Brunei Darussalam are required to submit their applications on the prescribed application form at least six (6) months prior to the commencement of the proposed research;
- For citizens, permanent residents and temporary residents of Brunei Darussalam (unless exempted), applications on prescribed application forms must be made at least two (2) months prior to the commencement of the proposed research. Applications from employees of His Majesty's Government must be submitted through the respective heads of Departments.

Applications forms are obtainable from the Brunei Darussalam Research Council Secretariat at

Universiti Brunei Darussalam or from any Brunei Embassy or High Commission.

Enquiries should be addressed to:

**The Secretary,  
Brunei Darussalam Research Council,  
Universiti Brunei Darussalam,  
Gadong 3186,  
Negara Brunei Darussalam.**

### Membership:

The Brunei Darussalam Research Council is presently made up of the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong as its Chairman, while the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries of Home Affairs; Foreign Affairs; Culture, Youth and Sports; Education; Development; Industry and Primary Resources and the Director of the Economic Planning Unit are its other members and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam its secretary.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam is also the Chairman of the BDRC's working committee with the other members comprising UBD's Permanent Academic Advisor, Head of the History Centre, Director of Museums, Director of Language and Literature Bureau, Director of Forestry and representatives from the Ministries of Education, Home Affairs, and Foreign Affairs. The Registrar of UBD is the working committee's secretary.

The new commodity classification system known as the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding or Harmonised System will soon replace the Customs Cooperation Council of Classification and Nomenclature (CCCN) as a means of coding goods in Brunei Darussalam.

The adoption of the new system was announced by the Controller of Customs, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibon

## Brunei Darussalam to adopt new system for coding of goods

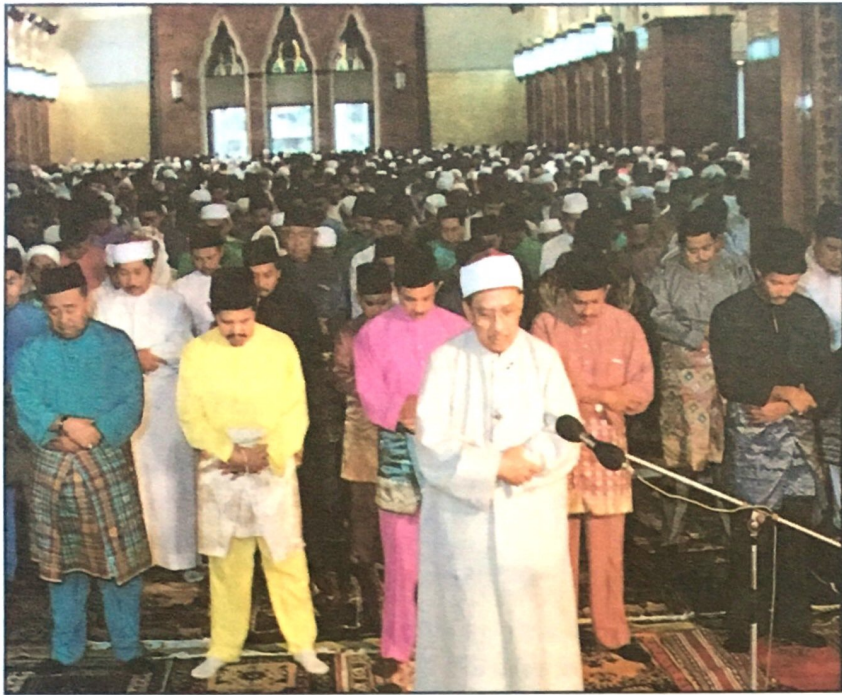
Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz when he opened a seminar on Harmonised System of National Based Tariff which took place at the Customs Training Section in Bandar Seri Begawan on March 14.

He stressed that once the system has been adopted, it would serve as

an "integrated internationally accepted commodity coding system" that would standardize and greatly facilitate the conduct of international trade.

Yang Amat Mulia also high-





Above: His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam (centre in row behind mosque official) joined thousands of his Muslim subjects in the Hari Raya prayer on the morning of April 17, 1991 at the Omar Ali Saifuddien mosque in Bandar Seri Begawan. On His Majesty's immediate right is his brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah and flanking His Majesty to the left are his two other brothers, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah (extreme right).



Above: As soon as the date of the Hari Raya was announced, cabinet ministers, deputy ministers and other VIPs including foreign diplomats went to Istana Nurul Iman to extend their greetings to His Majesty and other members of the royal family.

## The joy and solemnity of Hari Raya Aidilfitri



Above: Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam exchange greetings with the thousands of well-wishers during Istana Nurul Iman's open house in conjunction with the Hari Raya celebration.

A typical scene for three

BRUNEI/DARUSSALAM





Right: His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam flanked to the left by HRH Prince Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah, HRH Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, HRH Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and HRH Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah lead the male members of the royal family in exchanging the Hari Raya festive greetings with members of the public.



Left: The very-spacious Omar Ali Saifuddien mosque in Bandar Seri Begawan over-flowed with devout Muslims performing the Hari Raya prayers to the point that hundreds even had to pray outside the mosque. Right: His Majesty and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam seen with one of their children in picture, hosted a Hari Raya gathering at Istana Nurul Izzah for the less-fortunate members of society including orphans, the disabled and handicapped as well as elderly people.



Three days at Istana Nurul Iman as long lines of people formed awaiting their respective turns to wish the royal family 'Selamat Hari Raya'.



lighted the objectives of the change from the CCCN. The change provides international uniformity in the classification of goods. It also provides a common international system for coding, declaration and the classification of goods for commercial purposes, as in freight tariff, transport requirement, documents etc.



The Controller of Customs and Excise, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibon Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz announced Brunei Darussalam's adoption soon of a new system for coding goods.

The change to the Harmonised System will also make it easier to collect, analyse and compare world trade statistics.

The three-day seminar was organised jointly by the Royal Customs and Excise Department of Brunei Darussalam and the United Nations Conference of Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It was conducted to help importers and forwarding agents to understand the new classification system.

Two lecturers conducted the seminar. They were Mr. Michael Welling, who is Senior Advisor on Trade Facilitation, Customs Procedures and Foreign Trade Statistics of UNCTAD and Mr. Wolfgang Kattenbusch, Deputy Director of Nomenclature and Classification of the Customs Cooperation Council.

## Jeddah, Bali and Ho Chi Minh City included in RBA's new planned destinations

The list of destinations being served by Brunei Darussalam's national carrier - Royal Brunei Airline (RBA) is rapidly growing with at least two more cities to be added, possibly later this year.

These are Jeddah in Saudi Arabia and Bali in Indonesia.

And subject to inter-government negotiations, the airline's network may also be expanded to include services from Bandar Seri Begawan to Miri in the East Malaysian State of Sarawak, to the Vietnamese capital, Ho Chi Minh City and to Taipei.

These developments were announced recently by the airline's Commercial Manager, Pengiran Ali bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad at the opening of RBA's new sales, reservations and ticketing office in Kota Kinabalu in Sabah.

He noted that the changes would further strengthen interest in Brunei Darussalam as a regional hub.

During the past twelve months, RBA which was established 16 years ago and one of the world's youngest airlines, had launched three new routes - to Frankfurt, London and to the southern Australian city of Perth.

"Our plan is to open new direct services to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and to Vietnam, additional destinations in Indonesia and East Malaysia, and new routings to Taipei will provide regional passengers and cargo customers with greater choice and flexibility", said Pengiran Ali.

He added that a successful hub must offer many frequencies.

Pengiran Ali disclosed that to support RBA's plans to serve new destinations, plans are also at the same time being made for a number of development at Brunei International Airport aimed at improving facilities for passengers.

Royal Brunei's original fleet of Boeing 737s has now been replaced by B757s which were introduced last May on the Kuching and Kota Kinabalu routes.

The airline has also taken delivery of two new wide-bodied B767 aircraft which are now flying on services to London and Frankfurt.

Apart from the traditional movement of passengers visiting friends and relatives between Brunei Darussalam and its East Malaysian neighbours, a growing number of overseas operators are including Kota Kinabalu on tour itineraries using Royal Brunei services. Travellers from Darwin, Perth, Singapore, London and Jakarta can make same day connections in Brunei for Kota Kinabalu. The same convenience applies to outbound passengers from Sabah travelling to Jakarta, Perth and London.



Royal Brunei Airline aims to offer passengers and customers greater choice and flexibility - Pengiran Ali bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad, RBA's Commercial Manager.

RBA opened its first office in Sabah last month though it has been serving the Bandar Seri Begawan-Kota Kinabalu route for the past 16 years, commencing May 14, 1975.

The opening of the office - located at the Kuwasa Shopping Complex in Kota Kinabalu is aimed at further upgrading the airline's services to Sabah.

RBA currently serve a total of 14 destinations which include all the ASEAN capitals and May 10 this year will see the airline introduce twice-weekly service to London Heathrow airport.

Prior to this, RBA had operated a weekly service to London-Gatwick.



The Minister of Development, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail has said that the construction industry in Brunei Darussalam plays a pivotal role in the economic growth of the country, particularly in providing a positive contribution towards the Gross National Product (GDP).

The construction sector, he said, is also the third largest employer in the country after the Government and the oil and gas industry, taking in some 20 percent of the total workforce.

Like other developing countries, Brunei Darussalam is still in need of infrastructure facilities to support the economic growth and development. In this respect, the construction industry is one of the main contributors towards the physical development of the country.

The minister made these statements at the opening of an exhibition on construction materials and products of Indonesia on March 6.

The exhibition was the first of its kind to be held in Brunei Darussalam and was a follow-up to the minister's visit to Indonesia in November 1989.

During that visit, one of the issues discussed was the possibility of using construction materials from Indonesia in Brunei Darussalam. The matter was raised, said the minister, because it was well-known that the Republic of Indonesia could produce various construction materials which are suitable for use in this region.

### **Challenge For Those In The Construction Industry**

The minister also spoke of the challenge facing the construction industry in the country. Said he: "... the challenge which we have to face is to obtain construction materials from various sources in the region which could be accepted not only in terms of their quality but also in terms of price and an assurance in their supplies."

## **Brunei Darussalam takes a close look at construction materials from Indonesia**

"For those of us in the construction industry, it is our responsibility to ensure that materials to be used do meet certain standards and specifications so that the quality in construction work are maintained."

In this regard, the minister added, architects, engineers and those in the construction sector play a significant role in determining which standard is suitable for the projects which they are charged with.

"The standards to be taken to determine the construction materials that will be used and thereby the quality of construction ought to be examined so that these will be relevant and suitable in our own context of environment."

"What ought to be avoided," the minister stressed, is the mentality or perception that only materials from the developed countries in the West for instance, which meet the standards of those countries, are of high quality, thereby can be accepted. I believe that there are materials from this region which are of no less quality which meet the needs of our climate here."

The minister went on to state that these materials ought to be given the chance to be seriously considered, at least in terms of their quality. More so, he emphasised, if these materials had already been used in neighbouring countries having the same climate, condition and possibly almost the same needs as ours.

We are not proposing that we lower our expectations or that we use materials which are of no quality. What should be stressed in this case, he said is that our selection and use of construction materials should always be based upon the relevant quality to meet our needs.

### **Need To Give Feedback To Local Suppliers**

Such a mentality or attitude should be inculcated in its early



**Yang Berhormat, Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail bin Pengiran Haji Damit, Minister of Development of Brunei Darussalam.**

stage. The reason, according to the minister, is because, in the industrialization efforts of this country, it is not impossible that our local entrepreneurs would one day produce the materials from this country. The opportunities, support and the appropriate response should be given to them. If they do not meet our needs, the minister said, then our feedback would be useful for them to upgrade the quality of their supplies. All these are essential, he said, for the success of our country in all aspects will definitely bring us closer towards our aspiration leading to national resilience.

### **Invitation To Set Up Joint Ventures**

The minister, in his speech, also invited members of the Asosiasi Industri Bahan Bangunan Indonesia or the Indonesian Association Industry for Construction Materials to consider the possibility of setting up joint ventures with their counterparts in Brunei Darussalam, i.e. in order to market their products here. The association was the organiser of the exhibition.

For local entrepreneurs, the minister urged them to learn from their Indonesian counterparts, especially on matters pertaining to construction materials.



# Creation of Single European Market will bring about need for linkages programmes between ASEAN and EC

Linkages programmes will have to be established in order to promote economic cooperation between the private sectors of this region and the European Community (EC) when the Single European Market comes into being in 1992, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Malai Ali bin Haji Malai Othman has said.

He said this at the start of a seminar on the Single European Market 1992, which was held at the International Convention Centre near the Brunei Darussalam capital, Bandar Seri Begawan on February 19.

Earlier in the morning, the Permanent Secretary was guest-of-honour at the opening of an exhibition of town squares in Europe, held at the Brunei International Airport. The exhibition was organised by the Commission of the European Communities delegation for Indonesia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam.

## Seminar

The seminar was organised by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources. His Excellency Mr. Robert van der Meulen, Head of Delegation of the Commission of the EC based in Jakarta also addressed the seminar. Among other things, His Excellency touched on the main features of the Single European Market and its global impact particularly its economic implications to ASEAN countries. Mr. Emmanuel Mersch, the Economic Commercial and Information Counsellor briefed the audience on the EC International Investment Partners Scheme.



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Malai Ali bin Haji Malai Othman says linkages programmes will be needed between EC and this region.

## The EC International Investment Partners Scheme

The EC International Investment Partners Scheme is basically the European Community's financial facility to promote joint ventures in Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean region.

The scheme, created in September 1988, is aimed at contributing to development by stimulating direct European investments in these countries, encouraging the transfer of knowledge and know-how, and facilitating access of local enterprises to the international markets.

In Mexico for example, the EC-International Investment Partners Scheme helped to provide its first modern industrial dairies as an effort to improve the quality of nutrition for children. Nearer home in



Mr. Emmanuel Mersch, Economic Commercial Information Counsellor of the Commission of the European Community.

Indonesia, this instrument helped the furniture industry to develop according to international forestry standards. In Malaysia, a toxic waste treatment plant is in the process of receiving the go-ahead from the public authorities (according to the latest edition of EC Newsletter, Special Edition).

In an exclusive interview with the Daily News Digest of Brunei Darussalam/the bimonthly Brunei Darussalam Newsletter, the Economic Commercial and Information Counsellor, Mr. Emmanuel Mersch spoke of the scheme's principal features and how it could benefit potential joint-partners. Mr Mersch also gave tips on how to start and where to go for information should interested parties wish to further explore the scheme.

● continued on page 11



## **EC International Investment Partners Scheme Eligibility and Facilities Available**

Projects both in the service and the industrial sectors may qualify for the scheme. Applicant should preferably have five years of proven experience in sector relevant to the investment project. Medium sized enterprises are the main target of the scheme.

The form of financing will vary according to the type of operation.

### **Identification of Potential Projects and Partners**

This aid or "type 1" facility is reserved mainly for financial institutions, chambers of commerce, professional associations, public agencies and development organisations (not for individual investment project firms) interested in the promotion of investments. Only for this facility is there an award of non-returnable funds of up to 50 percent of cost for the search of projects and partners. The ceiling limit is ecu 100,000 (the European Currency Unit, introduced in 1979 is used in the European Monetary System to determine exchange rate parities and functions both as a reserve asset and a means of settlement. The ecu is a weighted average of the currencies of ten member states).

### **For Feasibility Studies and other Operations Prior to Launching of Joint Venture**

These are awarded to firms, either individually or jointly, local or European, wishing to undertake a joint venture investment project. An interest free advance of up to 50 percent of cost is available, with a ceiling of ecu 250,000. The interest

from loans are also non-refundable in case of failure. The upper limit for this facility together with facilities in the financing of capital requirements and the training and management expertise is ecu 500,000 per investment project.

If the investment takes place and if the financial institution decides to fund the project, resulting from the study financed, the advance must either be repaid to the EC or the sponsoring firm may apply to the EC, via the financial institution, to convert it either into an equity loan or into an equity holding by the EC in the capital of the joint venture.

### **Financing of Capital Requirements**

This facility is for joint ventures established by partners from EC from the eligible countries to support the setting up of new joint ventures or the renovation and the expansion of an existing one by providing part of its capital. The European sponsor must have or take an equity holding of at least 10 percent of the joint venture's capital. The type of finance for this facility is either an equity holding or an equity loan. The ceiling limit for this facility is ecu 500,000. The upper limit for this facility together with operations prior to launching of joint venture and training and management expertise is ecu 500,000 per investment project.

### **Training and Management Expertise**

This is for joint ventures established by partners from EC from countries eligible for the scheme to support the setting up of new joint ventures or the renovation and expansion of existing ones by providing assistance with staff training and management. An equity loan is available of up to 50 percent of cost with a ceiling of ecu 250,000. The upper limit for this facility together with facilities on operations prior to launching a joint

venture and the financing of capital requirements is ecu 500,000 per investment project.

## **How To Get Started**

Interested parties could approach financial institutions which have signed a framework of agreement with the EC. The financial institution will assess the company's proposal and decide whether it would be eligible for the scheme. The financial institution will then send an application to the EC Commission. An answer within 20 working days can be expected if everything is in order.

A specific financial agreement is later made between the EC and the financial institution, i.e. when all terms and conditions are met. The financial institution then makes a "back-to-back" financial agreement with the firm to benefit from the funding. Finally, the funds for the particular application will be released.

### **Financial institutions**

These financial institutions are official development banks, and private sector investment banks either in EC member states or in other eligible countries, or multilateral bodies.

To date, there are 37 such financial institutions. Within the ASEAN region, the financial institutions include the ASEAN Finance Corporation in Singapore (180 Cecil Street Bangkok Bank Building), the Bangkok Bank Limited in Thailand (333 Silom Street, 10500 Bangkok), the Deutsche Bank in Singapore, Regional Head Office (8 Shenton Way 20-01, Treasury Building), the Industrial Finance Corporation of Thailand (17470 New Petchburi Road, Bangkok) and the Private Development Corporation of the Philippines (PDCP Building, 6758 Ayala Avenue, Makati-Metro Manila 1200).



## Plaited mats are made from this plant

Pandan or Gadur as it is known among Bruneians, a common seaside screw pines with slit like aerial roots, is of the Pandanaceae family.

Easily recognised by their leaves with prickly edges which are arranged in three rows that spiral up the stem, is a usual component of this vegetation which grows along the coast and in marshy areas.

Pandan leaves, when dried and bleached constitutes the raw material for making plaited mats, light-duty basketry items and sometimes for thatching.

The heavy fruit-heads, superficially resembling pineapples, dangle from the tips of branches and disintegrate as they ripen. This bright orange fruit looks savoury and welcoming, however, it is toxic to the palate.

Pandan has a sister plant called Mengkuang which is stemless and its leaves are also treated to extract fibre used in the making of mats.

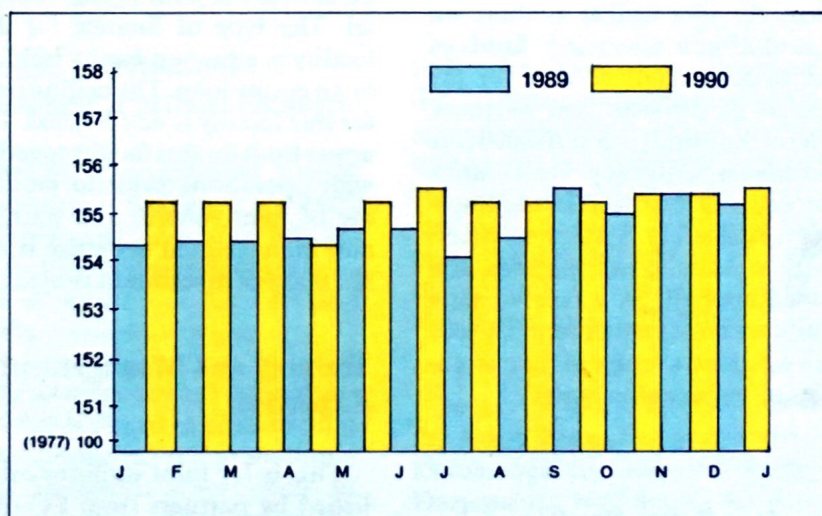


### BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Capital :	Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size :	5765 sq.km
Population :	241,400 (1988)
Official Language :	Malay
Official Religion :	Islam
February 1990 rainfall :	53.2 mm. (annual 2,818mm)

### PRIME LENDING RATE

March 7.00%. (quoted by Bankers' Association).



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

**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.**