



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

Published by the Department of Information  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

15 MAY 1999



*His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a 'titah' during a state banquet at Istana Nurul Iman in honour of His Excellency President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Republic of Maldives, (seated on His Majesty's right) while His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah on right of picture.*

## Maldives President on state visit to Sultanate

### Sultan expresses optimism for cooperation and sharing of experiences

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has expressed optimism that the Sultanate and Maldives could share each other's experiences and work with one another.

Speaking at a banquet in honour of His Excellency President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Republic of Maldives, on a three-day state visit to

Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty said that the two countries face many similar challenges in meeting the demands of today's rapidly changing world.

"As a result, there are many experiences we can share and many opportunities for us to work together, both bilaterally and as members of our respective regional associations," the ruler said.

The Maldives President arrived in the Brunei capital on 20 March at the

head of a more than ten-member delegation including Their Excellencies Fathulla Jameel, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister at the President's Office, Abdulla Jameel. The president last visited the Sultanate in 1984 to attend the full independence celebration of Brunei Darussalam.

In his 'titah' (royal address) at Istana Nurul Iman, His Majesty said the presi-

• Continued on centre page



## **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER**

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### **YOURTURN**

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 31 May 1999. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

## **Sultanate discovers centuries-old artifacts**

**M**ore than 13,500 centuries-old artifacts have been recovered from a shipwreck in the Brunei waters.

The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, in partnership with the Government of France and Elf Aquitaine announced that the discovery of a shipwreck in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries as important in the history of the Brunei's offshore. In conjunction with the discovery, an in-depth archeological research project is ongoing, the Prime Minister's Office said in a press release.

During a two-month period of full excavation, divers recovered jugs, bowls, saucers, plates, teacups, ivory, gongs, grinding stones, bronze rifle bores, beads, glass and iron bracelets, the press release said.

The number and types of artifacts found indicate that Brunei was a rapid trade centre during the end of the 15th Century. The discovery of the shipwreck also recalled the glory of the reign of Sultan Bolkiah, the fifth Sultan of Brunei. It, too, reflects the importance and strong influence of Brunei in the region during that period.

The recovery project was carried out by a team of experts headed by a representative of the French Ministry of Culture, while logistic support was provided by the Brunei authorities.

The Prime Minister's Office disclosed that the shipwreck was found by the Elf Petroleum Asia during its offshore survey related to the development of a gas field in Brunei Darussalam.

"An initial study of the site found out that the wreck to be of important to historical value and contained many well-preserved artifacts."

Thereafter, a committee of top Brunei officials from the Prime Minister's Office and other Brunei authorities was formed which oversaw the systematic excavation of the site under the sponsorship and general supervision of Elf Petroleum Asia, thus resulting in a full evaluation of the historical significance of the wreck.

Meanwhile, the recovered objects have been catalogued, using the latest computer technology.

"They will serve as an unprec-

edented source of historical information for scholars and are guaranteed to boost interest in Brunei Darussalam's history," the Prime Minister's Office added.

The whole operation was recorded and a documentary film will be screened on television later this year, while publication of a detailed technical report is planned.

Meanwhile, the Government is currently displaying the artifacts at the Brunei Museum in Jalan Kota Batu, a few kilometers away from the Brunei capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

The exhibition was officially opened by the Honourable Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain on 24 April.

During the ceremony, Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Yahya, the Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, in his capacity as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for the project to discover the artifacts, among other things, highlighted that the exhibition was timely and appropriate.

He said that the exhibition will give exposure to the people including news reporters from within and outside Brunei Darussalam to witness the actual artifacts which were reported inaccurately that they comprise of gold components.

Pehin Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Yahya further outlined that the achievements of the project was based on the involvement of several agencies from His Majesty's Government, the Government of France and Elf Petroleum Asia.

He further pointed out that the presence of the Managing Director of the Elf Aquitaine at the ceremony as not merely meaningful for the project, but rather for the oil and gas industry and economic and development of the country as a whole.

He said that the recovered artifacts will attract more tourists to Brunei Darussalam interested to conduct in-depth studies of the Sultanate's heritage.

The exhibition is open to the public until August this year.



# Sultan grants audience to visiting Commander of US Land Forces

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, has consented to grant an audience to the Commander of the United States Land Forces in the Pacific, Lieutenant General E. P. Smith. The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman on 20 April.

During the audience, His Majesty and Lieutenant General E. P. Smith exchanged views on defence issues, particularly on the region's security.

Lieutenant General E. P. Smith who was on a three-day visit to the country, was accompanied by Madam Georgia



*His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, granting an audience to the Commander of the US Land Forces, Lt. General E.P. Smith (above), while Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha (below left), and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam (below right), grant audiences to the wife of US Land Forces Commander, Mrs. Janet Smith.*



T. Wright, Temporary Charge de Affairs of the United States in Brunei Darussalam and Colonel Christopher Hill, Defence Attache of the United States Embassy to Brunei Darussalam.

The ceremony was also attended by the Special Adviser to His Majesty at the Prime Minister's Office cum the Home Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Utama Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang

Yahya, Permanent Secretary of the Defence Ministry, Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Alimin and the Commander of the Royal Brunei Land Forces, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Paduka Raja Major General Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Awang Shari.

Meanwhile, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam granted separate audiences to the wife of the United States Land Forces Commander, Mrs. Janet Smith on the same day, at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah respectively.

While in the country, Lieutenant General E. P. Smith also paid a courtesy call on His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

During the courtesy call held at Balai Penghadapan Bukit Kayangan near the capital, His Royal Highness and Lt. General E.P. Smith discussed issues on the security of the region.

Lt. General E. P. Smith also met the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Major General Pengiran Dato Paduka Seri Haji Abidin at Berakas Garrison and attended a dinner given by the Commander of the Royal Brunei Land Forces, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Paduka Raja Major General Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Awang Shari.

During the visit to the country, Lt. General E. P. Smith and the delegation visited several sectors in the Defence Ministry and other places of interest in the Sultanate.

*His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister, receives a courtesy call from Lt. General E.P. Smith (left).*





# Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation builds more houses to needy citizens

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, as a caring monarch, continues to ensure the wellbeing and prosperity of the people, not just by providing infrastructures, facilities and services through his government, but by providing houses for needy citizens.

Among the houses are those built under the housing scheme of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation. The project was introduced in 1996, but was at first mainly dedicated to assist Muslim converts. However, the project was extended two years later to people who are unable to build their own houses.

The latest to benefit from the scheme were 14 residents in the Temburong district comprising of 13 converts and a 50-year-old unmarried woman, who could not afford to build a house.

His Majesty consented to present the house keys in a ceremony held at the multi-purpose hall of Kampong Selangan on 28 April, thus bringing the total number of houses built under the scheme to 58, with 25 houses in Temburong, 2 in Belait, 17 in Tutong and 14 in the Brunei-Muara district. The houses had been built at a cost of about \$30,000 each.

After presenting the keys, His Majesty watched an exhibition on various aspects of the scheme, followed by a visit to the nearby Kampong Selangan Primary School. His Majesty also went to the houses of the 14 recipients, who reside in nine different villages and



*His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting a house key to one of the recipients of the Housing Scheme of the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation.*



*A thanksgiving prayer being read by the State Mufti after two families of 14 embrace the Islamic faith before His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.*

mingled with them and other residents.

During the visit, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also witnessed 19 people embrace the Islamic faith. His Majesty first witnessed the conversion of two families of 14 in Kampong Amo 'A'.

A recipient of one of the new houses, Awang Mohd Azlan told the 'newsletter' that he was very thankful to His Majesty for such assistance. The visit of His Majesty to his house, too, was a very memorable occasion for him and his family, especially on the occasion of the conversion to Islam of 14 of his relatives in his house.

Another recipient – a woman, who lives in Kampong Sumbiling Baru expressed her gratitude to Allah, God the Almighty for the assistance rendered by the Brunei ruler to her and her family. The 43-year-old clerk at the Kampong Amo Primary School, said in the past she lived in a long house

before she moved to a house in Kampong Sibut built through the assistance of the Religious Affairs Ministry.

She pointed out that with the new house granted through His Majesty's foundation, she and her nine family members could live happily and comfortably. The new house is more spacious compared to the old one, she added.

While at her house, His Majesty witnessed two other families of 5 convert to Islam.

The conversion ceremonies held at their respective houses were conducted by the State Mufti, Yang Dimuliakan Lagi Dihormati Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz.

Another house recipient, a 46-year-old education inspector pointed out that the housing scheme has enabled him

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**H**is Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah consented to visit the Brunei Information Technology Exhibition (BITEK) '99 on 3 April. The four-day exhibition, held at the Seri Kenangan Shopping Centre in Kiulap in the capital of Bandar Seri Begawan, began on 1 April.

His Royal Highness was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.

Before touring the exhibition's galleries, the Crown Prince consented to receive a contribution of B\$1000 from the Brunei Darussalam Computer Association, for the Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for orphans.

His Royal Highness also presented prizes to the best gallery which was won by the Apple Centre, while the prize for the 'highly-commended' went to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

BITEK '99, organised for the seventh time by the Brunei Darussalam Computer Association, was officially opened by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah.

Before declaring open the exhibition, the Permanent Secretary urged the association to instil noble values among computer users in the country, especially children.

He said that in this sophisticated era, in which information revolution could no longer be controlled, the com-

## Crown Prince visits BITEK '99



*His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah tries to operate one of the computers displayed at BITEK '99, while His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim looks on.*

munity needs to be cautious in selecting good values through information technology facilities.

He further called on the association to upgrade their effort to make the Brunei community computer-literate and to inculcate interest towards the use of computer.

The official earlier said that the present sophisticated technology has brought many advantages to the global community. Information technology, for example, has helped its consumers in gathering required information.

Meanwhile, the President of Brunei Darussalam Computer Association, Awang Mohammed Mahathir

Abdullah, expressed the association's willingness to play an active role in enhancing the development and progress of the information technology knowledge in the country, which is one of the important visions of the association since its establishment in 1983.

More than twenty local computer businesses in the country took part in the exhibition. During the exhibition, over ten workshops and lectures were conducted by computer experts from within the country and overseas, including education specialists from Australia.

## Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah International Prize awards Indian-born leading Islamic scholar

**T**he Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah International Prize for Islamic Scholarship has been awarded to Syed Abul Hassan Ali Nadwi, for excellence in 'Biographical Studies of Major Figures in Islamic Thought', the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies in the United Kingdom announced in a press release recently.

Syed Abul Hassan Ali Nadwi, Rector of Dar Al-Ulum Nadwat al-Ulama, India, is one of the leading scholars in the contemporary Islamic world.

The Indian-born scholar has written about 50 books extensively in Arabic, Urdu and English. Among his famous works are 'Islam and the World' and 'Saviours of the Islamic Spirit -

biographical accounts of the companions of the prophet and leading scholars in Muslim history'.

The 85-year-old award recipient has previously received the King Faisal Prize for Service to Islam (1980) and the Muslim Personality of the Year Award (1999). He is Founding Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, and a member of the Academy of Arts and Letters, Damascus, and of the Higher Council of Medina University.

He is also a founder member of the Muslim World League in Mecca, a member of the Executive Committee of the Islamic Universities Federation in Rabat, and of the Academy of Ara-

bic Language in Amman.

The press release added that the Prize Selection Committee considered a large number of nominations from academics and institutions throughout the world and was unanimous in its choice of Syed Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi as the recipient of the Prize.

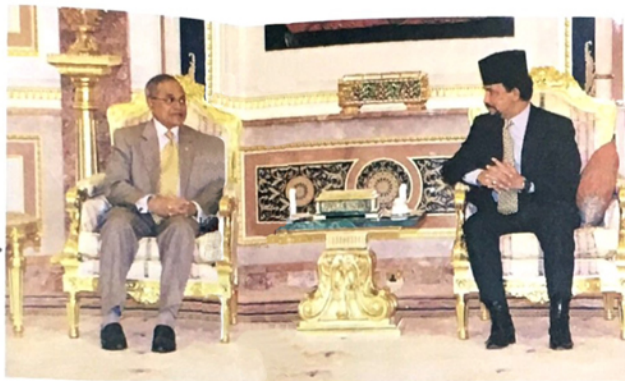
The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah International Prize was formed aims at recognising and encouraging academic excellence in any branch of the arts, social sciences and humanities concerned with the study of Islamic civilisation.

The prize has been awarded in previous years for excellence in 'Hadith Studies', 'Qur'anic Studies' and 'Islamic Jurisprudence (Fiqh)'.





His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam accompanying His Excellency President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Republic of Maldives as the visiting leader inspects a guard of honour at the courtyard of Istana Nurul Iman, left. The Brunei monarch and the visiting president exchanging mementos before proceeding to the banquet hall of Istana Nurul Iman (picture below and below right).



Picture above His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granting a farewell audience to Maldives' President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, who is being greeted below left by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister as a personal representative of His Majesty on arrival at the Brunei International airport. The Maldives President visiting the Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque, (picture above right), and meeting Maldives students studying in Brunei Darussalam (picture below right).



• From page one  
(Maldives President on state visit to Sultanate)

dent's visit was a renewal of friendship and strengthening of relations between the two countries.

His Majesty further noted that both countries' national aims have a great deal in common. Like Brunei Darussalam, Maldives, too, recognises the need to open up to modern developments in order to achieve progress.

The ruler said that Maldives, which was once almost totally dependent on its marine resources has transformed itself as a modern nation playing a role in regional and international affairs and enjoying accelerated economic growth. Maldives, too, has skillfully established for itself a major tourist industry not merely based on its outstanding natural attractions, but rather the use of the latest services available through the information super-highway.

"In this regard, we would very much like you to share your thoughts on how

you have gone about this, as we, too, are engaged in a long-term national programmes of economic diversification," His Majesty explained.

"In our case, this involves becoming a service hub for trade and tourism for the Borneo Island and its surrounding areas. In fact, our theme for the year 2001 will be Visit Brunei Year," he further disclosed.

On the role of Maldives towards promoting regional cooperation, His Majesty said like Brunei Darussalam, some of Maldives' neighbours are very big countries, "yet this has not deterred you from playing an active role in regional affairs and the overall development of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation."

In this regard, the monarch congratulated the President on the successful hosting of the SAARC Summits of 1990 and 1997 and on the efforts of the people to promote regional culture, arts and sport.

"We feel that, if we are to enjoy peaceful progress and stability, it is important to support all regional efforts and development programmes, whether it be in hosting ministerial and summit meetings or in staging sports and cultural events," stressed His Majesty.

"This is why we are committed to full involvement not just in ASEAN and APEC, but also in important regional processes such as the ASEAN Regional Forum and the Asia Europe Meeting," the monarch added.

In his address, His Majesty also spoke on the importance of playing an active role in the regional associations.

On the effort by Maldives in raising international awareness of environmental issues, especially on global warming and the rise in sea levels, His Majesty assured that the Sul-

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• From page 6

tanate views the need to protect and preserve the environment very seriously.

"We have instituted many of the long-term measures needed to combat the adverse effects of rapid physical and economic development on the country's eco-system," His Majesty pointed out.

Meanwhile, President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, in his reply among other things, spoke on a strong record of bilateral cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Maldives for the past fifteen years which included bilateral agreements to pave the way for trade and other exchanges between the people of both countries.

The president also recalled his visit to Brunei Darussalam in 1984 and a year later of His Majesty's visit to Maldives to participate in the Com-



monwealth Finance Ministers' Meeting in 1985. He believed that the exchanges of visit have played a crucial role in laying the foundation for a very strong and firm friendship between the two countries.

The visiting president expressed his appreciation on the generosity extended by the Brunei ruler in the construction of an Islamic Centre in the Maldives' capital, Male'.

"The personal interest taken by Your Majesty in that project showed the importance of the spirit of Islamic solidarity in our bilateral relations. Brunei has also helped the Maldives in a key civil aviation project," explained the president.

Prior to the banquet, His Majesty and the President of Maldives exchanged mementos.

The president was received at the Brunei International airport by His

Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs as His Majesty's personal representative.

His Majesty welcomed him at the Istana Nurul Iman before they proceeded to a royal dais to receive the royal salute as both countries' national anthems were played and a 21-gun royal salute was fired. At the courtyard of the palace, the visiting president accompanied by His Majesty, inspected a guard of honour which was followed by an audience.

While in Brunei Darussalam, the Maldives' President toured several places including Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque, the Royal Regalia building and went on a river cruise along the Brunei river to see Brunei's famous water village. The president also took time off to meet Maldives students studying in Brunei Darussalam.





HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister, holding an official discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam (picture left).



During a two-day working visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, met the Laotian Prime Minister, His Excellency Sisavath Keabounpanh (left).

Picture below shows His Royal Highness being greeted by His Excellency Mr. Somsavat Lengsavad at a dinner hosted by His Excellency and wife during his working visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and being welcomed by the Singapore Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr. Goh Chok Tong when he calls on His Excellency at the Prime Minister's Office during his working visit to Singapore ( picture bottom of page).



• **From page 10 (Working visit)**

Following the meeting, His Royal Highness stated that the discussions had been most friendly and had covered a wide range of bilateral matters and current regional affairs.

His Royal Highness and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah later visited the Friendship Bridge which links the Republic with the Kingdom of Thailand across the Mekong River. They were accompanied on the visit by His Excellency Somsavat Lengsavad and Madam Bounkongmany Lengsavad.

The 1.7-kilometer bridge costing 32 million Australian dollar, was donated by the Australian Government to the people of Lao and the Kingdom of Thailand. It was officially handed over by the Governor of Australia and was witnessed by the Prime Minister of Lao and King of Thailand.

His Royal Highness and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah also attended a dinner given by His Excellency Somsavat Lengsavad and Madam Bounkongmany Lengsavad, at one of the leading hotels in Vientiane.

Before leaving for Hanoi on 28 April, His Royal Highness met the Laotian Prime Minister, His Excellency Sisavath Keabounpanh at the Prime Minister's Office.

The meeting focused on ways in which bilateral relations can be enhanced, especially through exchange of visits and people to people contacts. His Royal Highness and His Excellency also discussed various aspects of economic cooperation between the two countries.

**Working visit to the Republic of Singapore**

During a two-day working visit to the Republic of Singapore beginning 25 April, His Royal Highness met the Singapore Minister For Foreign Affairs and Minister of Law, His Excellency Professor S. Jayakumar at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting His Royal Highness and His Excellency discussed bilateral matters and regional and international issues. His Royal Highness also attended a briefing session by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, particularly on Contingency Planning and Information Technology.

In the afternoon, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah called on His Excellency Mr. Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and on His Excellency Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, the Senior Minister.

On 25 April, His Royal Highness and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran



Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah attended a dinner hosted by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Law Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Professor S. Jayakumar and wife at one of the leading hotels in Singapore.



# British business delegation looks at trade and investment opportunities

A British Business Delegation comprised of eleven entrepreneurs was recently in the country to seek various business and investment opportunities.

The delegation, led by the Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board (BOTB), Sir Martin Laing, first visited the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and departments under the Ministry on 31 March.

At the meeting chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Danial, the delegation was briefed on the Ministry's plan towards the country's economic diversification as well as its effort in identifying sectors to be developed. They were also briefed about the role and responsibilities of the ministry and its departments.

The Chairman of BOTD, Sir Martin Laing hoped that the visit would further strengthen the existing relations and investment of both countries, and would enable them to seek business and investment opportunities, particularly in privatisation, corporation and commercial.

Prior to the meeting, the delegation made a courtesy call on the minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman at the ministry.

The delegation also held a business meeting with the Brunei Darussalam's National Chamber of Commerce and

Industry.

At the meeting chaired by the Deputy President of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman bin Pengiran Haji Abas, both parties exchanged views on sectors which have been developed and on identified sectors for the purpose of mutual cooperation.

They were also briefed on the country's involvement in the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines – East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) by a representative from the East ASEAN Business Council (EABC) in line with the country's vision to make Brunei Darussalam as a

Service Hub for Trade and Tourism (SHuTT) by 2001.

During the visit to the Ministry of Development, the British Business Delegation was briefed on the country's 7th National Development Plan. They were also informed of the role, responsibilities and function of the ministry pertaining to the country's development and diversification of the economic growth.

At the ministry, the delegation first met with the Minister of Development, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Wijaya Pengiran Dr. Haji Ismail, and held a meeting with members of the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



*Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board (BOTD), Sir Martin Laing, met with the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman.*

• From page 4  
(SHHB foundation builds more houses to needy citizens)

and his family to enjoy a more comfortable life-style which was different when he lived with his parents-in-law.

He told the 'newsletter' that besides other benefits rendered for Muslim converts by His Majesty's Government, he too is entitled to a 'haj' pilgrimage fare to Mecca.

While in Temburong, His Majesty also dropped in at the houses of the headmen of Kampong Bokok,

Kampong Piasau-Piasau and the house of Penghulu (paramount chief) of Kampong Kenua.

The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation was established in conjunction with the commemoration of the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty's Accession to the throne on 5 October 1992. Among the functions of the foundation is to handle all applications for financial assistance which are not included in the government's schemes. These include assistance for religious, welfare and educational pur-

poses.

The people of Brunei Darussalam also enjoy the benefit of two other housing schemes provided by the Government of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, namely the National Housing Development Programme and the Housing Scheme for Landless Indigenous Citizens. The houses which are subsidised, are repayable over a 20 to 30 year period.





# 84 days to go to SEA Games



## Press and International Broadcasting centres set up for guest-media personnel 20TH SEA GAMES BRUNEI DARUSSALAM 1999

**B**runei Darussalam is ready to stage the forthcoming 20th SEA Games, which she is entrusted to host from 7 - 15 August this year. Preparations not merely involve taking care of guest-athletes and official contingents of participating countries, but also a large number of media representatives of various media and press organisations, news agencies and broadcasters from abroad, who will be covering the most prestigious regional sports event.

With only 84 days left to the Games' official opening on the evening of 7 August, Brunei Darussalam has allocated for the press and media personnel of organisations a newly-completed purpose-built Main Press Centre and International Broadcasting Centre to ensure that their coverage of the Games go smoothly.

The building is located next to the International Convention Centre (ICC), overlooking the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium, where the opening and closing ceremonies will

be held, as well as several sports events including soccer and athletics, and is just a short distance away from other sports complexes for the Games.

The media and international broadcasting centres are located separately in the building, with the International Broadcasting Centre (IBC) occupying the ground floor while the Main Press Centre (MPC) the upper level.

The building is also to be facilitated with various facilities such as post office, bank, grocery shop, prayer room, souvenir shop, lounge and cafeteria.

Brunei Darussalam is expecting more than one thousand media and press representatives and media support personnel to cover the Games. Some 30 foreign broadcasters representatives in the region had already been in the Sultanate to attend a meeting with the host-broadcaster, Radio Television Brunei (RTB), as part of the preparation for coverage

of the upcoming Games. During the meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan in March this year, they among other things, discussed matters on 'live' television coverage and daily transmissions to various countries. They also visited the venues and other facilities of the upcoming 20th SEA Games.

### Previous host cities of the Games

1959	Bangkok, Thailand
1961	Rangoon (Yangon), Burma (Myanmar)
1965	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
1967	Bangkok, Thailand
1969	Rangoon (Yangon), Burma (Myanmar)
1971	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
1973	Singapore
1975	Bangkok, Thailand
1977	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
1979	Jakarta, Indonesia
1981	Manila, Philippines
1983	Singapore
1985	Bangkok, Thailand
1987	Jakarta, Indonesia
1989	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
1991	Manila, Philippines
1993	Singapore
1995	Chiang Mai, Thailand
1997	Jakarta, Indonesia

## Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Population : 296,000 (1995)

Official Language : Malay

Official Religion : Islam

April rainfall : 191.8 mm (annual 2,818mm)

**THE TRAFFICKING IN AND THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF  
CONTROLLED DRUGS ARE VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES IN  
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AND THE PENALTY  
FOR SUCH OFFENCES IS DEATH.**