

بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

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Sultan urges Muslims to get back to teachings of Prophet Muhammad

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam urged Muslims to get back to the guidance and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in entering the new millennium.

God willing, His Majesty said, Muslim Ummahs and the Islamic world will again see the brightness of their history and ensure a prosperous life for the Ummahs in particular and for mankind in general.

His Majesty made the remarks in his 'titah' (royal address) in conjunction with the nationwide birthday anniversary celebration of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) on 12 Rabiulawal 1420 in the Islamic calendar corresponding to 26 June 1999.

Speaking on the eve of the celebration over radio and television, the Brunei ruler was hopeful that the people in the Sultanate would continue to maintain the healthy characteristics of loving the prophet.

"Our love will be translated directly through our actions and practices in life, individually or collectively within the community," His Majesty emphasised.

His Majesty added that Allah, God the Almighty will not let us down for our faithfulness and would bless us with prosperity, peace and wellbeing.

Earlier in his address, the ruler explained that the opportunity to mark the glorious event of the prophet's birthday along with Muslim Ummahs throughout the world is invaluable.

One of the lessons from the event was the prophet's patience in facing obstacles.

• Continued on centre page



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam mingles with heads of the participating teams at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien before a mass procession marking Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) birthday anniversary.

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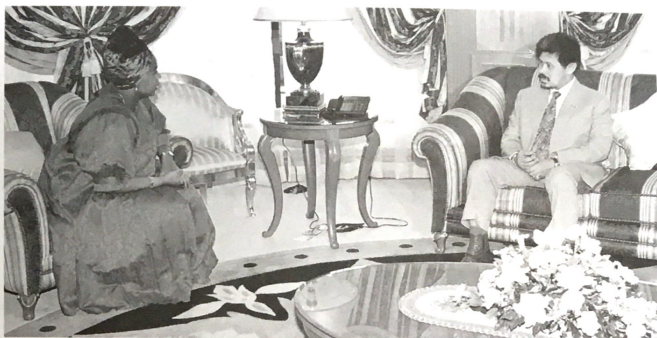
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YOURTURN

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His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan receiving Her Excellency Mrs. Maite Emily Mohale, the outgoing non-resident South African Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam in audience at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

Deputy Sultan grants audiences to the outgoing foreign envoy and Defence and Acting Foreign Affairs Minister of Benin

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan received in audience, Her Excellency Mrs. Maite Emily Mohale, the outgoing non-resident High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa. The ceremony was held at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan on 10 June.

During the audience, His Royal Highness expressed his appreciation to the envoy for her work over the last two years and wished Her Excellency much success in her future undertakings.

Her Excellency Mrs. Maite Emily Mohale, based in Kuala Lumpur has been non-resident High Commis-

sioner of the Republic of South Africa accredited to Brunei Darussalam since February 1997.

On 19 June, the Deputy Sultan received His Excellency Osho Pierre, Minister of Defence and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Benin in audience at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

During the audience, His Royal Highness and His Excellency discussed possible ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Benin.

His Excellency was in the country for a five-day visit to enhance bilateral relations and cooperation with Brunei Darussalam.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Deputy Sultan granting an audience to His Excellency Osho Pierre, the Defence Minister and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Benin.

HM Sultan sends congratulatory message on Queen Elizabeth II birthday anniversary

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has sent a congratulatory message to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the British Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr. Tony Blair in conjunction with the birthday anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II on 15 June.

In his message, the Brunei ruler expressed happiness on the cordial relationship and close understanding that always exist all these whiles between the Sultanate and Great Britain and Northern Ireland. His Majesty believed

that such relationship would be forever and further enhanced in the future for the benefit of the two countries and their peoples.

The monarch hoped that Queen Elizabeth II will always be in good health and that the people of Great Britain and Northern Ireland will always enjoy continuous prosperity and wellbeing.

In his message to the British Premier, His Majesty expressed his congratulation to His Excellency Mr. Tony Blair and the British Government and the people of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Queen's birthday anniversary.

His Majesty also hoped that the British Premier will always enjoy prosperity and wellbeing.

The birthday anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II was marked in the Sultanate with a reception hosted by the British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr Steward Laing at his residence in Kota Batu on 9 June.

His Majesty's Government was represented by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, the Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs chairing the Third Meeting of the Brunei Darussalam Economic Council at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Brunei Darussalam Economic Council holds third and fourth meetings

The Brunei Darussalam Economic Council held its third and fourth meetings this month at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Both meetings were chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

During the third meeting held on 15 June, members of the council considered the report submitted by Pengiran Dato Sharifuddin bin Pengiran Metali, Chairman of the

Committee on Facilitation of Economic Policies, Infrastructure, Finance, Credit, Commerce and Labour.

The report identified several problems areas faced by these sectors such as infrastructure, labour, immigration and tourism. The meeting also heard several recommendations on how to resolve these problems.

The fourth meeting was held the following day. The meeting considered the report submitted by Mr. Luc

Rousselet, Chairman of Finance and Banking Committee.

The report identified several problems areas faced by the banking and finance sectors in the country. The meeting also heard several recommendations on how to improve these sectors of the economy such as the issuance of government bonds, strengthening local banks and improving legislation and procedures relating to finance and banking.



The Special Adviser to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Prime Ministers' Office cum Home Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, standing fifth from left, taking a group photograph with other ASEAN Labour Ministers, who attended the 13th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting in Yangon, Myanmar.

*ASEAN Labour
Ministers express
continued concern:*

Asian financial, economic crisis affect labour and employment

ASEAN Labour Ministers have expressed their continued concern over the wide-ranging social impacts of the Asian financial and economic crisis, which had adversely affected the labour and employment situation in the region.

In a Joint Communique issued a day after the 13th ASEAN Labour Ministers' Meeting held in Yangon, Myanmar on 14 May, the Ministers emphasised the importance of continuing action at the national and international levels to enable ASEAN to get back fully on the path of sustained development and growth.

They also expressed appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for formulating an ASEAN programme to address the labour and employment impacts of the crisis with the elements, such as, firstly by sharing and exchange of experience and best practices in developing social protection and social security system.

Secondly, by promoting tripartite cooperation through increased consultations among the social partners, in relation to economic restructuring including strengthening of tripartite institutions and mediation and conciliation mechanisms, and thirdly, by enhancing capacity for designing programmes or policies on employment generation, focusing on active labour market policies and re-training.

The Ministers emphasised that the

implementation of the programme should be made urgent. As funding and technical assistance from various international donor institutions have become even more important to member countries in view of the crisis, the Ministers requested the ASEAN Secretariat to explore alternative funding sources and encouraged member countries to consider cost-sharing arrangements to implement the programme.

The Ministers also welcomed the decision and assurances by the ILO Director-General that the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at work and its follow-up would be promotional in nature. This is to enable member countries to work towards the objectives of the Declaration, and in long term lead to the eventual ratification of more conventions based on their respective stage of economic and social development.

They also welcomed the assurances that the Declaration and its follow-up mechanism will not impose new obligations on member states nor will it lead to double-scrutiny of the situation.

ILO had set aside more resources for technical assistance to member states, which will help them to enhance their capacity in making the necessary adjustments leading to the ratification and implementation of ILO core conventions.

On the issue of trade and labour standards, the Ministers reiterated that

the promotion of labour standards and workers' right should be the domain solely of the ILO and not of any other international body, and that the Declaration and its follow-up mechanism should not be used for trade protectionist purposes.

The Ministers further highlighted the need for ILO to be streamlined to make it more effective and urged the ILO to review its Conventions to better reflect the current social and economic condition of all ILO member States.

On the extreme forms of child labour, the Ministers reiterated that the most important cause of child labour is poverty, and that the best solution is to eradicate poverty by generating sustainable and gainful employment, expanding and improving the quality of basic education, training, social services and promoting and enhancing regional and international cooperation.

The Ministers welcomed the proposed convention and a recommendation on "Child Labour" which called for the prohibition and elimination of the worst form of child labour, and noted that 'Child Labour' will be included in the Agenda of the 87th Session of the ILC, for its second discussion.

On the 6th ASEAN Summit's call for the maintenance and creation of

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Health Ministry receives donation for cancer research

Brunei Darussalam's Health Ministry has received a donation of some B\$3,000 for cancer research, the funds having been raised at the Terry Fox Run held in the Sultanate last year.

The fund raising Terry Fox Runs and the presentation of the donation to the ministry in particular was aimed at raising awareness about cancer and cancer treatment in Brunei Darussalam.

On hand to receive the donation was the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Ahmad bin Dato Paduka Matnor. The cheque was presented by His Excellency Mr. Gardiner J Wilson, the High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam. Also present at the ceremony was Mr. Paul Andrews, the principal of the International School of Brunei who organised the run and a



Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Ahmad bin Dato Paduka Matnor, the Permanent Secretary of the Health Ministry receiving the donation for cancer research presented by His Excellency Mr. Gardiner J Wilson, the High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam.

young participant of the Terry Fox Run.

The first Terry Fox Run in Brunei Darussalam was held on 23 November 1998. The 5-kilometre run/walk around the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium attracted about 250 participants.

The raising of the funds aimed at finding a cure for cancer was initiated by Terry Fox Terry, who suffered a bone cancer in his right leg in 1977. He was overcome by the suffering of cancer patients that he decided to run across Canada to raise funds for can-

cer research. His journey, the Marathon of Hope began in 1980 but died in June 1981. However, Terry's hope of raising \$1 from every Canadian was realised in February 1981 in which the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope Fund totalled \$24.17 million.

In 1988, the Terry Fox Run became a Trust, Independent from the Canadian cancer society and received tax-exempt charitable registration as a public foundation. The annual event continues to be known as the Terry Fox Run, the structural organisation known as the Terry Fox Foundation.

• From page 4

(Asian financial, economic crisis affect labour, employment)

employment as critical elements in economic recovery, the Ministers emphasised that continuous training and upgrading the region's workforce is important to meet the demands and opportunities of the labour market for today and tomorrow.

Brunei Darussalam was represented at the meeting by the Special Adviser to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Prime Minister's Office cum the Home Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa.

In his statement, the Minister stressed that all ASEAN countries must not allow the gains achieved in

more than two decades of sustained development and economic growth be wiped out by two or three years of financial turmoil and economic downturn.

With appropriate strategies and adjustments, he said, there is no reason why we should not prosper again, as we have prospered in the past.

He said, ASEAN still have those factors which have contributed to rapid economic expansion, such as high levels of saving, a strong work ethic, low inflation rates, and a dynamic and entrepreneurial private sector.

"On top of it all, we have fraternity and cooperation as the driving force in our relations. All these provide the potential for ASEAN to re-transform its economies back to a sus-

tainable growth path," he added.

The Minister also highlighted the need for ASEAN to address the long-term institutional capacity building that will enable it to respond to economic fluctuations and technological changes, on how all stakeholders can work in partnership to formulate and implement programmes that contribute to economic recovery and the problems of those most affected by the crisis, especially those who lost their means of livelihood.

The 13th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting was officially opened on 14 May by His Excellency Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt, Secretary (1) of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar.

His Excellency stated that, in rec-

• Continued on page 9

• From page one (Birthday anniversary celebration of Prophet Muhammad)

He never retreated even an inch despite continuous challenges, His Majesty added.

Apart from the threats he received, the prophet was also offered with sweet promises and persuaded to stop propagating his cause towards Allah the Almighty. But the prophet turned them all down even though the risk to his life was so high, His Majesty further explained.

In this regard, the monarch called on Muslims especially leaders who lead the people to follow the example set by the prophet by not giving up to wrongdoing or getting involve in conspiracy which bring losses to religion, people and the country.

His Majesty pointed out that when the truth is being manipulated, the strength of the Ummah will be weakened as the assistance from Allah the Almighty will only be rendered to sincere people, not to those unfaithful ones.

"Even if the unfaithful people achieve victory, it would only be temporary and limited compared to the major victory gained by those who uphold the truth as Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his followers did," the ruler said.

"Muslim followers who dream of glory should learn from this history because glory will not exist as long as we continue to turn our back on the guidance of the prophet."

"Even though the culture to admire the prophet is still prevailing, the number of those who really accept and follow his teachings is very minimum, in fact there are people who openly reject his teachings," His Majesty la-



mented.

"All these are unhealthy elements which can bring fall and destruction, His Majesty added.

"Therefore, in the new millennium, we Muslims should correct wrong attitude, if there is any, by going back in upholding to the guidance and teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)," urged His Majesty.

The following day, His Majesty attended a mass gathering at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin before leading thousands of Muslims in a mass procession around the Brunei capital of Bandar Seri Begawan marking the birthday anniversary celebration of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) which was also held simultaneously in the country's three other districts namely in Tutong, Belait and Temburong. On arrival at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin, His Majesty was greeted by the Minis-

ter of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd Zain and members of the Executive Organising Committee. Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The function began with the mass recitation of 'Surah Al-Fatihah' led by the State Mufti, Yang Dimuliakan Lagi Di-hormati Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Abdul Aziz. In his welcoming address, Pehin Dato Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd Zain, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the celebration, among other things, touched on the theme "Righteousness and Soli-



Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd Zain, the Minister of Religious Affairs delivering a welcoming speech during the mass gathering.

darity: the Basis for Prosperity". The theme urged muslims to uphold Islamic values in life and that national responsibility is the concern of all. Such realities are essential as part of the preparation in facing challenges in the 21st century.

Later His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was introduced to the leaders of teams participating in the Maulud mass procession. More than 36 thousand people from ministries and government departments, institutes of higher learning, primary, secondary and religious schools, public associations, the private sector as well as uniformed organisations took part in the mass gathering and procession. A 'Dikir Marhaban' was also presented by the students of 'Seri Begawan Religious Teachers Training College followed by a 21 gun salute.

A thanksgiving prayer was read by the State Mufti. Prior to the start of the procession, 'Selawat'

(Continued on page 11)

The Deputy Minister of Defence, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (retired) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith attending the gathering marking the prophet's birthday anniversary in the Tutong district, picture right.



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz accompanied by the Belait District Officer, Awang Haji Abdul Ghani being introduced to leaders of the participating teams before the mass procession, above, while Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Kerma Negara Pengiran Anak Haji Wahab accompanied by the Temburong District Officer, Awang Haji Harun, being introduced to leaders of the participating teams in Temburong, below.



Students of the religious school taking part in the mass procession, above left, and above right, is a 'Zikir Marhaban' (recitation of praises of the prophet) being performed by students of the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers' Training College during the celebration which is also attended by foreign diplomats to Brunei Darussalam, picture right.

The Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) celebrated its 38 anniversary on the 31 May by holding an open day that include a static exhibition and a fun fare.

Present to launch the anniversary celebration was the Deputy Minister of Defence, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja (retired) Major General Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith. The celebration was held at the new Royal Brunei Air Force base in Rimba adjacent to the Brunei International Airport.

The open day was preceeded by a flying formation presentation by helicopters followed by various arena drill formations including one from the Women Company, and a recruit training demonstration.

The Royal Brunei Armed Forces was formed on 31 May 1961 and was first call the Brunei Malay Regiment with first 60 recruits undergoing training at Port Dickson in Malaysia.

On 31 May 1965, the Brunei Malay Regiment was bestowed with the title of "Royal" and became known as The Royal Brunei Malay Regiment. It came under direct administration of the Ministry of Defence when Brunei Darussalam resumed full independence in 1984, by which time its name has yet changed again to the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) until today.

On 1 October 1991, a restructuring of the RBAF was made. The RBAF came to be made up of the Royal Brunei Land Forces, The Royal Brunei Navy, The Royal Brunei Air Force, Royal Brunei Services Force and The Royal Brunei Training Centre, with their own respective commanding officer.

To upgrade the standard of its members' skill and expand their experience in military, the RBAF has sent many to undergo training and courses abroad, especially in aspects of technical knowhow and personnel management.

The RBAF has implemented training inside and outside the country for all its units with a purpose of upgrading and instilling the spirit of nationalism, resilience, team work and gaining knowledge.

Among such training has been joint military exercise with the armed

Royal Brunei Armed Forces celebrates its 38th anniversary



The Deputy Minister of Defence, YAM Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (R) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith, inspecting the guard of honour by members of the Royal Brunei Air Forces.

The Deputy Minister of Defence officiating the new Royal Brunei Air Force's base. The new base costs around \$7 million.



forces of neighbouring countries and friendly states.

Since its formation 38 years ago, the RBAF has developed rapidly from a small unit to a major armed forces equipped with sophisticated and modern artillery and high-tech machinery.

The Royal Brunei Air Force, meanwhile, has a new air base and its opening was officiated by the Deputy Minister of Defence, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja (retired) Major General

Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith during the anniversary celebration.

The new air base which cost about B\$7 million among others is equipped with an air force headquarters, a control centre and two units of hangar to house helicopters and maintenance works.

At present, the Royal Brunei Air Force consists of five operational units, namely, the number one squadron unit, number two squadron unit, basic flying school unit, parachute unit and air technical training Unit.

The Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) has stressed the need to consider changing the outmoded approaches in teachers' education so that the new generation of teachers is better equipped not only with the necessary attitudes, knowledge and pedagogical skills, but also with the awareness of the possibilities offered by new perspectives, taking into account language and cultural issues.

"While it is important to bring about innovative practices in the teaching and learning of science, mathematics and technical subjects, so that more and more pupils can benefit from science, mathematics and technical education, it is imperative that this should go hand-in-hand with effective teacher education," he stressed.

Dato Paduka Seri Setia Professor Dr. Awang Haji Mahmud Saedon bin Awang Othman said, the need for rapid development in education, especially in the area of science, mathematics and technical subjects, as emphasised in the Seventh National Development Plan (NDP), is particularly urgent if Brunei Darussalam is to become the centre of BIMP-EAGA and its people are to be involved in the rapid growth of the economy.

Unfortunately, he pointed, many students are not attracted to the study of these subjects, and one possible reason is that the language and culture of these subjects are seen as foreign and not very meaningful.

"This is especially so in Brunei Darussalam, where science and mathematics are initially taught in the Malay Language from Pre-school to Primary Three, after which the medium of instruction is switched abruptly to English," he said.

"Thus, many students experience difficulties in making the transition. In introducing technical terms, the science and mathematics teachers seldom take into account their students' conceptions or misconceptions of these terms," he added.

In a speech before he declared open the fourth Annual International Conference of the Department of Science and Mathematics Education of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, held at UBD on 7 June,

Consider changing the outmoded approaches in teachers' education

the UBD Vice-Chancellor also called on the conference to consider the relevance of science, mathematics and technical curricula to the varying needs of countries with different social, cultural, moral and religious backgrounds in the region, and the delivery of the curricula to cater for the varying needs and abilities of the students, and the societal demand for equality of opportunity in education.

Another area of concern in these education, he pointed, is the issue of research and its implications for innovation in science, mathematics and technical teaching and learning, for which UBD, as a relatively young university should learn from scholars of other countries, who have a great experience in applying research findings

to the development of innovative approaches in the teaching and learning of science, mathematics and technical subjects.

The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education has just completed reviewing its teacher education programmes for primary programmes, while the review of secondary programme is expected to be completed by early next year.

The conference's theme: 'Cultural and Language Aspects of Science, Mathematics and Technical Education', according to Dato Professor Dr. Awang Hj. Mahmud Saedon, was appropriate as "we become more aware of the critical role played by language and culture in the teaching and learning of science, mathematics and technical subjects".



UBD's Vice-Chancellor, Dato Paduka Seri Setia Professor Dr. Awang Haji Mahmud Saedon, stressing the need to consider changing outmoded approaches in teachers' education before he declares open the fourth Annual International Conference of the Department of Science and Mathematics Education of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education.

• From page 5 (Asian financial, economic crisis affect labour, employment)

ognising the fast-paced progress of globalisation, each region and country must try to develop its full potential if it is not to be marginalised. He noted that economic downturn experienced in the region had drawn forth pessimistic forecasts, but stated his confidence that the setback was temporary in nature and that signs of recovery were already emerging.

His Excellency, however, stressed the importance of enhancing productivity and competitiveness, and in this regard, the upgrading of human resources and the strengthening of capacities and skills of labour force were of great importance.

The meeting was attended by representatives from all ten ASEAN member countries. The 14th ASEAN Labour Ministers Meeting will be held in the Philippines in May 2000.

The Permanent Secretary (Professional and Higher Education) of the Education Ministry has stressed the need to equip students in the country with skills in knowledge and information technology in facing the new millennium.

He said students at all levels in this country are future human resources, and are now encountering information technology that are testing their skill of thinking and challenging their creativity and innovation.

"In view of the world development and progress in communication and information technology taking place at present, we need to equip ourselves with such developments," he said.

APEC in a research to produce an information society, published in October 1998 stated that, information is a producing factor and an agent for economic changes. According to the research, there is an evidence showing significant correlation between the information status of a country with its economic performance, as well as a positive relation between the country's information society advancement and its per capita income.

It is a fact that the future economy is guided by knowledge and information, for which employers are expecting higher skill in information and technology amongst their employees who can utilise the latest technology. Similarly, employees also need to continuously upgrade their skills and training, he said.

Officiating the Education and Information Technology Fair at the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation's Complex, on 3 June, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Putera Maharaja Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Awang Abu Bakar highlighted that awareness towards the importance of information technology in the country has been encouraging.

Some primary schools have taken the initiative to introduce the teaching of computer, while the subject has been included in the secondary school curriculum. At the same time, computer and information technology courses have also been offered at certificate, diploma and degree levels at educational institutions in the Sultanate.

The Permanent Secretary said in

Equip students with skills in knowledge and information technology

The Education Ministry's Permanent Secretary (Professional and Higher Education), Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Putera Maharaja Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Awang Abu Bakar taking a close look on computers and information technology by local companies and technical educational institution.



an effort to further upgrade and develop the knowledge of pupils in information technology, the Education Ministry is planning to provide computers to primary schools, and has identified and trained the teaching manpower. The programme will give an opportunity to all school children to learn computer and avoid computer illiteracy.

"The supply of computer and provision of teaching manpower is only part of information technology development's infrastructure. We have even bigger challenges in several fields. The introduction of IT in schools brings about changes, and teachers shoulder the responsibility to manage these changes," he pointed.

He said, information and technology is only a means to an end. What is more important is how teachers can use information technology effectively to improve students' learning.

The official further acknowledged that the coming century will observe the increase in the use of information and knowledge as a motivator of productivity and economic growth.

"As we continue to live and compete with developed countries, and if we continue to cooperate and stand forward, we therefore, should equip ourselves and our children to become users of information and creators of knowledge," he said.

The Permanent Secretary further stressed that in this respect, one of the

Ministry's strategies through information technology is providing students with the most important and useful skill for their own future, such as creative thinking, the ability to learn independently and continuously, and having effective communication.

Brunei Darussalam has a good and stable educational system, and the introduction and implementation of information technology will develop and upgrade the ability of students in learning, he pointed.

However, he reminded that technology depends largely on the wisdom of its users, and this is why the country's educational system emphasises on the importance of the building of noble moral based on the philosophy of Malay Muslim Monarchy, as a shield towards any unhealthy element or influence brought about by media and communication.

Touching on INFORAMA '99, an Education and IT Fair programme, which carries a theme, "IT in Pursuit of Excellence in Human Resource Development", the Permanent Secretary called on its committee to consider software competition for primary and secondary, so that it will be relevant with the national curriculum.

Twenty local computer dealers and technical educational institutions in the country took part in the four-day Education and IT Fair. Other than INFORAMA, a number of open seminars have also been organised.

UBD and UUM agree to cooperate in the academic and administration aspects

University Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and University Utara Malaysia (UUM) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), establishing cooperation between both sides in the aspects of education and administration.

The MOU will also enable the two universities to understand the culture and arts of the community, besides undertaking comprehensive approach at the higher learning institution level.

The signing ceremony took place at the University of Brunei Darussalam on 7 June this year. The Vice-Chancellor of UBD, Dato Paduka Seri Setia Professor Dr. Awang Haji Mahmud Saedon, signed the MOU. The other signatory was the Vice-Chancellor of University of Utara Malaysia, Dato Professor IR. Dr. Mohamad Noor bin Haji Salleh.

Under the MOU, both universities agree to cooperate in the academic and administration aspects including and exchange programme among faculty staff, materials and students as well as holding joint research.

Apart from upgrading the professional quality, the venture will enable both sides to realise the vision of academic, administration and library members. In the advent of educational infrastructure, both sides agree to exchange experience, technology and human resources.

• From centre page (Birthday anniversary celebration of Prophet Muhammad)

was read by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Imam Datu Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal.

Meanwhile, in the Tutong district more than 14 thousand people took part in the mass gathering and procession held at the Muda Hashim Primary School.

The chief guest was the Deputy Minister of Defence, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (retired) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith. The Tutong District Officer, Pengiran Haji Yusof, in his speech touched on the involvement of the people in the various religious activities. The Co-Chairman of the Maulidur Rasul Celebration also commented on the response of the Ummahs towards the Maulud celebration. He noted the number of participants increased this year compared to the previous years. 40 men's teams and 42 women's groups participated in this gathering comprising of government officials, members of organisations and associations, school students, as well as villagers and resi-

dents in the district.

The mass congregation was also held at the Padang Bandaran of Belait District. The guest of honour was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz. The Belait District Officer, Awang Haji Abdul Ghani, in his address commended on the people's pro-active role in organising various religious activities in glorifying the Maulidur Rasul. Their involvement, he added, showed that they are really committed to Islam and the teachings of the Prophet. More than nine thousand people in the Belait district walked the three-kilometre procession covering the Belait town led by the guest of honour. In conjunction with the celebration, a

UBD and UM sign MOU



UBD's Vice-Chancellor, Dato Paduka Seri Setia Professor Dr. Awang Haji Mahmud Saedon and UM's Vice-Chancellor, Tan Seri Dato' Dr. Haji Abdullah Sanusi Ahmad signing a Memorandum of Understanding, which will enable both universities to cooperate in aspects of academic and administration.

Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and the University of Malaya (UM) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The ceremony took place at UBD's Conference Room, on 2 June.

The MOU will enable UBD and the UM to cooperate in aspects of academic and administration, including the exchange of academic manpower and staff of both institutions, as well as in research, material and students.

Signing on behalf of UBD was its Vice-Chancellor, Dato Paduka Seri Setia Professor Dr. Awang Haji Mahmud Sa'edon bin Awang Othman, while UM was represented by its Vice-Chancellor, Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Haji Abdullah Sanusi Ahmad.

The signing was also witnessed by the Permanent Secretary of Education Ministry, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Putera Maharaja Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar bin Apong, the former UBD's Vice-Chancellor and senior officials from both institutions.

number of religious activities including 'jawi' and 'dikir' competitions were held.

In the Temburong district, the celebration was held at the Civic Centre in Pekan Bangar. The chief guest at the function was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Kerma Negara Pengiran Anak Haji Wahab. The Temburong District Officer, Awang Haji Harun, in his speech urged the community to stay united, and the spirit of solidarity should be strengthened among the multi racial society as it is the factor for fortifying peace and prosperity. He also called on the people to respect to each other, as practised by the Prophet.

More than three thousand people took part in the gathering and the mass procession.



38 days to go to SEA Games

**'Brunei Yakin' –
a slogan of inspiration**



Awang Budiman

20th SEA Games Brunei Darussalam 1999

Brunei Darussalam now feels the excitement of the 20th SEA Games which she is to host from 7 to 15 August. As the Games draws nearer with only 38 days to go - the Sultanate is determined that the Games, which will be participated by more than four thousand athletes and official contingents, would go smoothly right from the 7 August official opening ceremony until the closing of the Games on 15 August.

In this regard, Brunei Darussalam has come up with a 'Brunei Yakin' (Brunei Confident) slogan which will be a source of inspiration not only in merely hosting the Games, but to make the event one of the best and most successful.

The 'Brunei Yakin' slogan was launched by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, the President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council and Chairman of the 20th SEA Games Organising Committee. The prince himself led the signing of the campaign for the slogan, followed by members of the 20th SEA Games Organising Committee.

By August, regional and international sports lovers will focus their attention on the biennial sports meet to watch the region's sportsmen and sportswomen in action, competing against one another in the Brunei capital of Bandar Seri Begawan. The Games is to be covered by broadcasters of the participating countries as well as the ESPN Star Sports.

The national aspiration towards making the Games a memorable one has been received with warm welcome by all sectors both collectively and individually. To date, there are more than five thousand registered volunteers who have come forward to play a role in assisting and coordinating the needs of athletes, officials as well as members of the press and media.

A nation-wide programme to recruit volunteers started early this year. These volunteers are entrusted with specific duties and will be stationed at various venues during the forthcoming Games. The 20th SEA Games Secretariat which is located at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Sta-

dium, the venue for the colourful official opening and closing ceremonies and also the venue of other sports competition, is currently conducting briefings and training of these volunteers to prepare them with specific skills and qualities.

These volunteers will be entrusted to perform tasks ranging from the technical aspects to being receptionists and liaison officials.

At a recent gathering held on 20 June at the Indoor Stadium, the Games venue for badminton event, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah among other things, urged them to render their services sincerely in order to protect and enhance the Sultanate's image and reputation through hosting of the Games.

The prince further urged them to provide quality service and be able to demonstrate to the guests that the Sultanate is capable of hosting the 20th SEA Games successfully even though it has a small population.

The 20th SEA Games Organising Committee and 12 other special committees, various working committees and sub-committees are still putting up final touches as to ensure the Games' success as the slogan says 'Brunei Yakin'.

Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Population : 314,400 (1997)

Official Language : Malay

Official Religion : Islam

May rainfall : 323.1 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.**