



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in conversation with the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who had an audience with the ruler at Istana Nurul Iman on January 17.

Bilateral issues between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia, in particular on upgrading their economic cooperation, were under discussion earlier this month between His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Brunei monarch granted an audience to the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister at the Istana Nurul Iman on January 17, shortly after he

Further enhancement of Brunei-Malaysia relations at centre of discussion

arrived in Bandar Seri Begawan to start a two-day official visit.

Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar led an eight-man delegation that included his wife, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Dr. Wan

Azizah Ismail, who was herself granted audiences separately by Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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YOUR TURN

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TAIB Introduces haj package

The Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei or the Brunei Islamic Trust Fund, known as TAIB, is introducing a Haj package to manage haj matters in Mecca for Brunei Darussalam.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Perbadanan Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei issued joint statement on the haj package on Saturday, 22 January.

The statement said, "By command of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, The Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Perbadanan Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei will be offering this haj season (Hijrah 1414/1994) a haj package to citizens of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and their families, at B\$6,500 (Brunei Ringgit Six Thousand and Five Hundred) each.

This package known as the PAKEJ DARUSSALAM is managed by the Darussalam Holdings Sendirian Berhad, a subsidiary company of the Perbadanan Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei.

The cost of PAKEJ DARUSSALAM covers a return ticket from Bandar Seri Begawan and Jeddah, Jeddah and Medinah, accommodation, transport in Mecca, food and the 'dam', payment for the 'haji tamattu'.

All matters of the pilgrims in the holy land will be managed by the Darussalam Holdings Sendirian Berhad. [Other] matters [on haj] will be managed, as has been previously done, by the Ministry of Religious Affairs. Darussalam Holdings Sendirian Berhad has made all the necessary preparations needed in the holy land with the cooperation of the authorities there.

Intending pilgrims who wish to take this package are requested to open a savings account and keep their savings with the Perbadanan Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei in order to facilitate payment at the Perbadanan later. The date for pay-

ment will be announced by the Department on Haj Management of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and subsequently payment forms will be issued to those wishing to take this package.

Intending pilgrims who wish to take other haj packages which are approved by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, payment for the ticket and draft to the United Agent Office should be made through the Perbadanan Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei."

The haj package is the latest in a series of services offered by the Perbadanan TAIB, which are run along "hukum syariah" or Islamic lines. Ever since its inception on 29 September 1991, TAIB has offered various facilities such as loans for cars, housing, renovation, land purchase and personal loans with competitive monthly payments. Since last year, through its subsidiary the Takaful TAIB Sendirian Berhad, Perbadanan TAIB is participating in insurance along Islamic lines with its customers.

Private sector plays a role in strengthening friendly relations with other countries

The private sector, besides the Government, also plays a role in strengthening friendly relations with other countries, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said this month.

The Brunei International Consumer Week held at the Bumiputra Trade Centre from 26-30 January 94, with countries like Iran, Egypt, Pakistan, Singapore, Italy, Austria, Thailand, Malaysia and Brunei, taking part, could further strengthen friendly ties between Brunei Darussalam and other countries through the existing diplomatic relations, he added.

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"From time to time, and in order to meet interests and needs of the country, the Government of His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, has already and will continue to establish diplomatic relations with any country that wishes to establish diplomatic relations (with Brunei) based on several specified principles."

Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mohd Ali bin Haji Awang Mohd Daud, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, in his speech at the opening ceremony, Wednesday 26 January, further said:

"The private sector could forge business relations as this would help to boost the economic growth of both countries. In fact, in cases where for some reasons diplomatic relations have not yet been established, business links could pave the way in the initial stage towards establishing diplomatic relations in the future."

Consumer Association

The Deputy Minister further said that the time has come to have a consumer association to look after the interests of all consumers in the country. The association, should among others, ensure the quality of goods, that there is no arbitrary price increase and that goods are fit for human consumption.

The consumer association should also act as a watchdog in ensuring that Brunei is not a dumping ground for goods though cheap but have not been accepted elsewhere for reasons such as having passed their expiry date and for not meeting the approved and required standard.

For a start, he continued, the Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other chambers of commerce could start a consumer body based on their experience and links with other chambers of commerce and consumers overseas.

If there is no place to lodge a complaint, no relevant regulations, no consumer body to look after the interests of consumers, then we have



The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mohd Ali bin Haji Awang Mohd Daud

to revert to "caveat emptor:" the latin phrase for consumers to be alert and take their own responsibility should they feel dissatisfied with any goods purchased, the Deputy Minister added.

Need to produce own goods

Dato Haji Mohd Ali further underlined the need to produce their own goods. Because we rely on oil and gas, we will have to face the adverse [consequences] if we do not make any effort to be a producer to meet not only the domestic market but also for export, he stressed.

Producing our own daily necessities such as food is important in terms of "food security", for should there be for some reasons any disorder or chaos in this region, we may not be able to continue to depend on our supplies, and with shortage of goods, we would realise the need to be producers not mere consumers, added the Deputy Minister.

Taking advantage of AFTA and APEC

In his 1994 titah, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, among others, touched on trade and investment in this region and the international scene. His Majesty spoke on the need for efforts to be made to upgrade the quality of goods produced in the country so that they can be exported abroad and to ensure

that we do not have to rely on imported goods alone. The private sector, in particular should find ways to support this titah, said the Deputy Minister.

He further urged local businessmen to be far-sighted and take advantage of AFTA which has a ready market of 300 million consumers and APEC, with 2,000 million consumers.

World Trade Organisation

As the Government is aware of the importance of regional and international trade, His Majesty's Government is already a member of GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariff) and is now making effort to be a full member of the World Trade Organisation. The objective is to enhance Brunei's trade with other countries and to safeguard the interests of the country.

With the country's participation (in these international organisations), local entrepreneurs would have a wider market and yield more profits, he said.

For instance, in order to end any doubt about "halal haram" (permissible for Muslim consumption) we could have our own chicken poultry, produce our own beef and mutton not only for domestic needs but also for export overseas especially to Islamic countries.

We already have the desire to do this, he noted but there is a shortage of capital and "know how" and [business] link is not wide enough.

To boost export

There are four organisations which could become more effective producers to meet the domestic and export market, in particular if they make use of sophisticated technology, the Deputy Minister said.

Firstly these include the Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry and or other chambers of commerce, that have the experience and business links with their counterparts

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HM Sultan grants audience to Bosnian President

The Bosnian President, His Excellency Alija Izetbegovic in audience with His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Istana Nurul Iman on 24 January.



The President of the Republic of Bosnia Herzegovina, making a two-day visit to Brunei Darussalam on 24-25 January, has had an audience with His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The ruler granted the audience to His Excellency Alija Izetbegovic, who was accompanied by several officials, at Istana Nurul Iman shortly after his arrival.

During the audience, the Bosnian leader among other things, briefed His Majesty on the latest developments in Bosnia Herzegovina.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, on behalf of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting Bosnian leader. It took place at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan near the Brunei Darussalam capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Brunei Darussalam and Bosnia Herzegovina establish diplomatic relations

Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Bosnia Herzegovina have established diplomatic relations.

A Brunei Darussalam Foreign Affairs Ministry statement issued on 25 January said, "The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang

Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in conformity with the interest and desire of the two peoples, have decided to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries at the ambassadorial level as from 25 January 1994.

The two Governments have agreed to develop friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries on the basis of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations."



His Excellency Alija Izetbegovic being entertained to a dinner by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah on behalf of His Majesty.

• From page 1 (Visit)

and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam the same day.

Meeting with Foreign Affairs Minister

The visiting Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister later called on His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Foreign Affairs Minister, at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah and Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim also discussed bilateral issues.

The Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister and delegation's arrival at the Brunei International Airport was welcomed by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, the Finance Minister. Also present at the airport were Dato Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Haji Ahmad

Below: The wife of the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister, Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Dr. Wan Azizah Ismail, in a separate itinerary, visited the Brunei Arts and Handicraft Centre while her husband visited the Brunei LNG complex at Lumut, about 75 kilometres from the Brunei capital.



Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Dr. Wan Azizah Ismail being entertained at a dinner by the President of the Brunei Women's Council, Datin Hajjah Masni binti Haji Ali. It took place at the Royal Brunei Police Officers' Mess in Gadong near the capital.



Brunei Museum officials brief the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister as he and his wife toured the Royal Regalias building in Bandar Seri Begawan as part of their itinerary during their two day official visit.

Wally Skinner, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Encik Kamarudin Mustafa, Charge d' Affaires at the Malaysian High Commission in Bandar Seri Begawan and Dato Paduka Awang Lim Jock Seng, Permanent Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

In the evening, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah hosted a dinner for the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister. It was held at the Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club in Jerudong, about 11 kilometres outside the Brunei Darussalam capital.

Present at the function were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin, the Law Minister, the Deputy Finance Minister, Charge d' Affaires at Malaysian High Commission, permanent secretaries and senior officials.

At a separate dinner held at the Police Officers' Mess in Gadong, Datin Hajjah Masni, the President of the Brunei Darussalam Womens' Council entertained the wife of the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister.

Among those present at the function were wives of the cabinet

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Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Dr. Wan Azizah Ismail during her audiences with Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha at Istana Nurul Iman on January 17 (picture above left), and with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at Istana Nurul Izzah the same day.

• From page 5 (Visit)

ministers.

While in the country, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim visited the Brunei LNG complex at Lumut while his wife visited the Arts and Handicraft Training Centre in the capital. The Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister and wife also toured the Royal Regalia building, also in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar was making his first visit as Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister.

His visit comes within one week of

another visit by a high-level Malaysian delegation led by the country's Minister of International Trade and Industry, Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz.

She was at the head of a trade mission to all the ASEAN member nations. The delegation was in Bandar Seri Begawan for three days.

Formation of business council

Arising from the visit, the two countries agreed on the proposal on the setting up of a joint business council designed to enhance their economic relations.

Existing areas of cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia

Many areas of cooperation already exist between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. To date they have signed memoranda of understanding in the fields of defence, air services, education and training, and information and broadcasting.

Yet another memorandum of understanding - this time on the establishment of a joint commission, is expected to be signed. This MOU followed a visit by the Malaysian Prime Minister to Brunei Darussalam last August.



Right: The Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister paying a courtesy call on His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan in the Brunei Darussalam capital. Above: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, the Minister of Finance, entertained the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister at a dinner at the Royal Brunei Golf and Country Club. The prince had earlier led the welcome at the Brunei International airport for the visiting minister.



The Quran encourages business and trade

One of the teachings of the Quran which is compatible with today's development is the strong encouragement given to "bidang iktisad" or economy such as business and trade.

In a titah at the final of the National Quran reading competition on 16 January, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, recalled that one Hadis (records of actions or sayings of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him) urged the people to participate in business as one ninth of our "rezeki" or sustenance, are derived from it.

The main source of wealth is therefore in trade and business, a field which many big and powerful [countries] are engaged in, said the monarch at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien in the capital.

They are aware that the strength of their countries depend on a great deal on the strength of the economy. If the economy is weak, not many development efforts could be carried out, stressed His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan

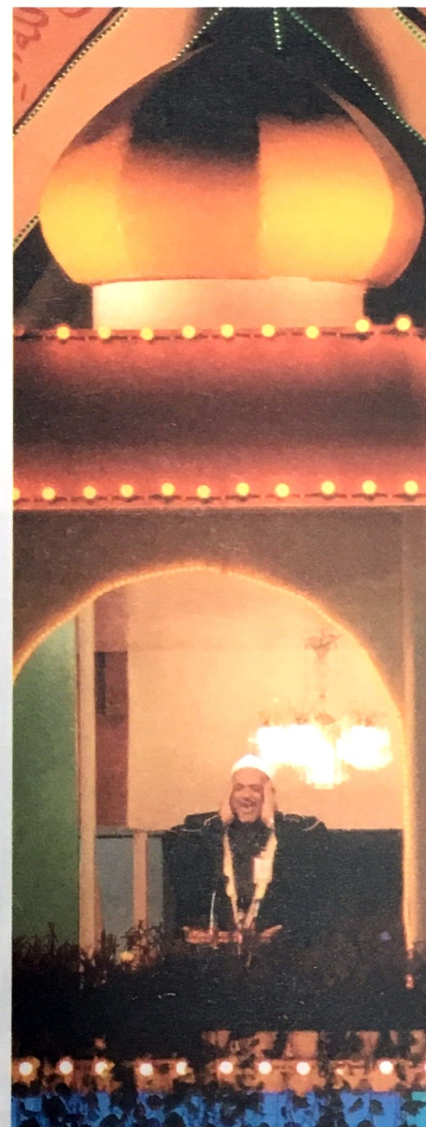


His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering his titah (royal address) shortly before presenting prizes at the National Koran Reading competition.

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Above and below: The men and women's winners of the National Koran Reading competition receive their prizes from the Brunei monarch. One of the highlights of the competition was a presentation of Koran reading by a guest reader from the Arab Republic of Egypt (picture at right) which also sent judges to the competition alongside Malaysia and Indonesia.



Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in the titah, telecast live by Radio Television Brunei.

"This is the major factor for us to establish an Islamic bank, the Tabung Amanah Islam (The Islamic Trust Fund), and subsequently the Islamic Insurance Company or the Syarikat Takaful IBB Berhad."

We are thankful that these three financial institutions are now running smoothly, an evidence that the Islamic financial system is suitable at all times, the monarch added.

There are also several non-Muslim companies and individuals participating in these institutions, further evidence that non-Muslims are beginning to understand the merits of the Islamic financial system as one that is best and most just, the monarch further stated.

His Majesty hoped that they would keep on this success and continue to improve in the management of these institutions so as members of the public will continue to have faith and confidence on the financial institutions.

His Majesty also stressed the importance for each and everyone in the country to tirelessly study the Quran as it a great source of boundless knowledge and information from Allah, God The Almighty. The knowledge of men, on the other hand, he pointed out, is limited, and that

too depends on God's mercy.

We should make this one of our aims so that within a specified period of time, each and every Muslim in the country would be able to read the Quran, the monarch also said.

Four men and as many women readers competed in the final, held over two nights commencing 15 January, when it was officially opened by Yang Amat Muia Pengiran Pekerma Setia Diraja Sahibul Bandar Pengiran Haji Ali bin Pengiran Haji Mohd. Daud.

In his speech, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Pekerma Setia Diraja Sahibul Bandar Pengiran Haji Ali, among other things, highlighted that the systematic religious education in Brunei Darussalam began in 1956, with the establishment of seven

Islamic religious schools.

Many Bruneians have since obtained high qualification in the Islamic religious field through such a system to the point where today the administration and development of the religion are being conducted by Brunei and themselves, he said.

The Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain bin Haji Serudin, Chairman of the Executive Organising Committee of the National Koran Reading Competition, spoke of the improved quality of reading as shown during preliminary competition leading to the final.

The competition was the thirty second to be held at national level annually.



Left: His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Haimmah Wal Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah at the Koran Reading Competition.



Above: Some of the pengiran-pengiran cheteria, cabinet ministers and dignitaries who were among the large number of people who filled the Taman Haji Sir Omar Ali Saifuddin in the capital watching the competition.

HM Sultan grants audience to Indonesia's Military Chief



Left: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in discussion with the Chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces while the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces looks on.

Puan Ida Tanjung, wife of the Indonesian Armed Forces Chief, had separate audiences with Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha at Istana Nurul Iman (picture at left, below) and with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at Istana Nurul Izzah. Both audiences took place on January 12.



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on January 12 granted an audience at Istana Nurul Iman to the Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia (TNI), General Feisal Tanjung.

The general was accompanied by his wife, Puan Ida Tanjung on the visit, aimed at further strengthening the already close relations and co-operation between the two countries, both of which are members of ASEAN.

On the same day, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam also granted audiences separately to Puan Ida Tanjung.

Her Majesty granted her audience at Istana Nurul Iman, while the audience with her Royal Highness was at Istana Nurul Izzah.

General Feisal Tanjung, who was making his first visit, also

called on the Deputy Minister of Defence, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (R) Pengiran Haji Ibnu at his office at the Ministry of Defence.

Reported cases and traffic offences on the increase

Reported cases and traffic offences in Brunei Darussalam increased by 8.4 per cent and 7 per cent respectively in 1993 compared to those in 1992.

The statistics compiled by the Royal Brunei Police Force showed that 2,601 cases were reported in 1993 compared to 2,400 cases in 1992. The large increase was in statutory

offences such as contravention of Municipal and Immigration laws, which represent 29 per cent increase or 221 cases. Majority of these cases were solved by the Police.

There was, however, a reduction in the number of sexual offences from 36 cases in 1992 down to 26 in

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1993. Offences involving properties also decreased by 1.5 per cent.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of this year's Legal Year, the Minister of Law and Attorney General, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin said that separate statistics compiled by the police also showed a total of 3864 cases on traffic offences in 1993, which represent 7 per cent over the 1992 figures. Fatal accidents also increased by 49 per cent resulting in 53 deaths.

The Narcotics Control Bureau, on the other hand, made 681 arrests last year compared to 595 in the previous year, and there were 333 convictions compared to 302 in 1992. Meanwhile, the Royal Customs and Excise dealt with 136 cases in 1993.

Dependence on retired Hongkong Judges

Yang Amat Mulia also pointed out that even though Brunei Darussalam has officially ended the long standing judicial arrangements with Hong Kong last year, the country has, however, continued to rely on the services of retired Hong Kong judges to fill appointments in the Brunei Supreme Court. We also retain appeals to the Privy Council in London in both civil and criminal matters, he said.

As part of the steps taken to train local judges and provide them with experience, the law was amended last year to permit judges of the Intermediate Courts to sit with a Judge of the High Court when the High Court tries a capital offence. This opportunity will be extended to other senior members of the Judiciary and the Attorney General's Chambers by temporarily appointing them as Acting Judges of the Intermediate Courts.

"As a small country with limited manpower resources we have to use whatever available resources we have at our disposal and in so doing we may have to resort to measures not normally adopted in larger jurisdiction. If we were to follow the

practice in other jurisdictions without taking into account our peculiar circumstances it would be difficult to operate our Government machineries without unnecessarily incurring enormous costs," the Minister pointed out.

Legislation

Yang Amat Mulia further underlined various proposals for legislation, which have been submitted to the Attorney General and some of which have been submitted to the Attorney General and some of which have been introduced. These include, among others the Law on the Commissioners for Oaths, whereby some members of the Attorney General's Chambers as well as private practitioners have been appointed as Commissioners for Oaths, thus easing the pressure on Magistrates and other judicial officers.

An amendment to the Banker's Books (Evidence) Act was also made to provide for the reception of microfilm, magnetic tape or any other form of mechanical or electronic data retrieval system as evidence of court, said the Minister.

Touching on the other proposals, Yang Amat Mulia said they have been considered and their translation prepared. It is hoped to introduce them in the future, he said. He further noted that some of these proposals deal with enforcement of foreign judgements and orders.

The Minister later touched on the need to bring the revised Edition of the Laws up to date and proposal of transferring the laws into computer database. This should make updating the laws quicker and the current provision of any law readily available, he said.

The project is being implemented in three stages. The stages I and II are to convert the existing data from its printing format to a computer database, while stage III is to make access to this database available to other users initially within the Ministry of Law but consideration will be given to extending access to others.

With regard to the Brunei Law Reports, it was proposed that the printing be done by the Government Printing Department, and should proceed on a current basis beginning with 1994. As with the Revised Edition of the Laws, it was also proposed to store the Law Reports in the computer as part of the computerisation project, said the Minister.

Legal aid

Touching on legal aid, Yang Amat Mulia highlighted that his ministry only received four applications and enquiries on legal aid in 1993, which remained very low. It is proposed to define that legal aid is available only in the High Court and that it is not available in cases such as defamation, he pointed out.

Yang Amat Mulia said that as the present scheme is a pilot project to find out the extent of the need for legal aid, it is therefore, necessarily limited in scope to remain within the fund allocated to it.

The Minister also underlined the need to look into the circumstances of Brunei, which at the moment has no income tax and therefore no contribution from the public for such a scheme which would be costly if implemented fully as is found in many jurisdictions. The other point to consider is that any such scheme needs to be carried out by lawyers in the private sector, he said.

"We need therefore to find our own solution and not simply follow the practice in other established jurisdictions particularly in terms of the size of our population and the manpower resources available," he stressed.

Yang Amat Mulia later congratulated the Chief Registrar for his excellent report which contains the Committee's recommendations for the introduction of a scheme whereby lawyers may charge contingency fees. He said that he had no objection to adopting the recommendations which will need the approval of His Majesty's Government for its implementation.

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Brunei Darussalam's ambassador to the US presents his credential

Brunei Darussalam's new ambassador to the United States of America, His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Jaya bin Abdul Latif, his wife and their youngest son posing with the United States' President, His Excellency Mr. Bill Clinton shortly after the Brunei diplomat presented his credential to the American leader at the White House in Washington on December 9. Dato Paduka Awang Haji Jaya, who was appointed by His Majesty



The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to his latest posting in last November, was previously

the Sultanate's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.

• From page 3 (Private Sector)

overseas; secondly, local entrepreneurs could joint ventures with businessmen abroad; thirdly, the bank for instance could invest with a suitable company or entrepreneur and fourthly, by setting up a national body with member of the public as share-

holders. It is hoped that this national body would be able to have a large amount of capital and penetrate the overseas market. Such efforts, could increase the income of the country and thus the importance of cooperation between the private sector and the Government to boost the country's economic growth.

With the existing world situation, [doing] trade and business is similar to [engaging in a] war; only those who are industrious, learned and skilful will be successful, and become prosperous, the rest will be defeated and some will even be left behind with the regret of having lost so much, the Deputy Minister concluded.

• From page 10 (Offences)

tion. The scheme should overcome some of the present difficulties relating to the absense of a full Legal Aid Scheme, he added. In relation to this, the Legal Profession Act will need to be amended, and rules made under it to give effect to the proposed scheme, he added.

Speech by the Chief Justice

The Chief Justice, Dato Paduka Seri Sir Denis Roberts, among others said the Court of Appeal as in 1992 sat on two occasions, and dealt with seven criminal and four civil appeals, compared to 16 appeals in 1992, while in the High Court there were three criminal trials, compared with nine in 1992 and 12 in 1991.

The Intermediate Court dealt with

18 criminal matters last year compared with five in 1992. In the High Court, ten civil cases were set down for trial compared to 14 the previous year and 18 in 1991. The number of civil suits instituted was 77, compared with 128 in 1992 and 206 in 1991.

The decline in civil cases was due to the establishment of the Intermediate Court which dealt in 1993 with seven civil matters, which were fixed for trial. 133 civil actions were instituted before it compared with eight and 143 in 1992.

The Chief Justice also pointed out that in 1993, the Registrars heard 676 interlocutory matters, compared with 814 in 1992 and 846 in 1991, deciding a wide variety of subjects, often of much difficulty with their usual skill and patience.

The amount of work done in the Court of Appeal were 48 judge days

compared with 115 in 1992 and 52 in 1991. For the High Court judges attended for a total of 198 days, compared with 323 in 1991 and 115 in 1991, while in the Intermediate Court, the judges sat for 83 days compared with 38 days in 1992.

Touching on the waiting times between the first appearance of a defendant and the beginning of his trial, it was on the average in 1993 about two months in serious and ordinary matters, compared with about three months in both types of cases in 1992.

In 1993, there were 3,471 matters of which 2,783 were criminal and 688 were civil matters in the Magistrate Courts, compared with 4,071 in 1992 and 4,440 in 1991, he said.

The Chief Justice also spoke at length on Legislation, contingency fees and the Legal Profession.

New attractions – here and there!

The crystal arch

Tourists and local Bruneians have been flocking to see the crystal arch at Jerudong, especially in the evening. A marvel to the eyes, the arch is indeed an added beauty to the landscape - one not to be missed,

Right: Nothing but splendour is radiated by the lit-up crystal arch at Jerudong, about 11 kilometres from the Brunei Darussalam capital of Bandar Seri Begawan. Inset: the arch, even when unlit, still looks prominent.



Weekend open market in town



The busy scenes of the weekend open markets, above and right, designed to attract tourists and offer more shopping opportunities to the local people.

The Commercial Centre and its immediate vicinity in the heart of Bandar Seri Begawan has become a hub of activities, with the introduction on 1 January of the Tamu Hujung Minggu or Weekend Open Markets. Selling a wide variety of goods from food, clothes to live flowers, the Tamu is held from six in the evening to midnight on Saturday, and from six in the morning to midnight on Sunday.



Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size : 5765 sq. km
Population : 267,800 (Mid-1992)
Official Language : Malay
Official Religion : Islam
January rainfall : 358.2mm
(annual 2,818mm)

PRIME LENDING RATE

January 5.75%
(quoted by Bankers' Association)

Brunei Malay in a minute

Each fortnightly we introduce our readers to a new Brunei Malay word.

In this edition we have selected the word **barubut**.

Barubut is stripe i.e., rubbery wall of the stomach of the cow, buffalo etc.

In standard Malay **barubut** is babat.

Let's use the word in a sentence.

Barubut boleh dijadikan makanan.

stripe can be eaten as food.

**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.**