



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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Shared attributes and experiences strengthen friendship

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has said that shared attributes and experiences have underpinned the long-standing close ties between Brunei Darussalam and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

His Majesty asserted that, in this turbulent and interdependent world, such ties and close cooperation are extremely valuable and important.

"We share a common faith. We also have similar concerns as developing nations," His Majesty pointed in His titah (royal address) during an official dinner in honour of His Excellency Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime

Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, held at the Banquet Hall of Nurul Iman Palace on 11 May.

His Majesty went on to say that amongst the most challenging of these is the need to reconcile modernization and economic development with the values that are cherished by both nations.

The changes that development has brought to Brunei Darussalam are enormous, and for a country as large and diverse as Pakistan, the globalisation of the world economy and the impact of the IT (Information Technology) revolution must have posed great challenges, His Majesty added.

Yet, Pakistan has shown itself to be able to keep pace with these rapid developments brought about by technology and economic integration, added the Brunei monarch.

The financial crisis that has swept through this region has left its mark on every country, His Majesty said and Brunei Darussalam has not been spared, adding that thankfully, there are tentative signs of recovery.

"We have taken active measures to revitalize our economy and position ourselves for a strong recovery. We have to stay outward looking, and more important, forward looking," His Majesty further asserted.

• Continued on centre page



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam granting an audience to Pakistani's Prime Minister, His Excellency Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and wife, Begum Kulsoom Nawaz Sharif at Nurul Iman Palace.

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YOURTURN

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His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving a credential of the newly appointed non-resident Sudanese Ambassador to the country, His Excellency Abdel-Hamied Ibrahim Gibreel.

HM Sultan receives credentials and grants an audience to outgoing ambassador

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive the credentials of two foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman on 29 April.

His Majesty first received the credential of the newly appointed non-resident Sudanese Ambassador, His Excellency Abdel-Hamied Ibrahim Gibreel. His Excellency, 50 is also Sudan's ambassador to the Republic of Korea based in Seoul.

His Majesty then received the cre-

dential of the non-resident ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea to the country, His Excellency Kim Pyong Hong. The 63 year-old diplomat is also the Republic's ambassador to Indonesia.

After receiving the credentials, His Majesty granted separate audiences to the two envoys.

Brunei Darussalam and Sudan established diplomatic relations in August 1998, while diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea were established in January this year.



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive a credential of the non-resident Ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea to the country, His Excellency Kim Pyong Hong.



Monarch grants audiences to outgoing foreign envoys

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted separate audiences to outgoing foreign envoys to the country. The ceremonies took place at Istana Nurul Iman, on 29 April.

His Majesty first granted an audience to the Ambassador of the Republic of the Federation of Germany to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Ingmar Brentle. His Excellency has served the country since 1996.

During the audience, His Majesty expressed appreciation for His Excellency's contribution during his service, particularly in strengthening bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and Germany.

His Majesty then granted an audience to the outgoing non-resident High Commissioner of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Nimal Wijayaratne.

Meanwhile, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, received separate courtesy calls from

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 Ambassador of the Republic of the Federation of Germany to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Ingmar Brentle (above left), and to the outgoing non-resident High Commissioner of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka to the country, His Excellency Nimal Wijayaratne (above).



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, receiving the Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Abdel-Hamed Ibrahim Gibreel, above, the outgoing High Commissioner of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Nimal Wijayaratne, below right, and a courtesy call from the new ambassador of the people's Democratic Republic of Korea, His Excellency Mr. Kim Pyong Hong, below left.



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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 visiting Malaysian Minister of Youth and Sports Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Dato Haji Muhyiddin at Istana Nurul Iman, above, while His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah received Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Dato Haji Muhyiddin, at Baitul Afiah in Jerudong, below.



His Majesty grants audience to Malaysian Minister of Youth And Sports

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to grant an audience to the visiting Malaysian Minister of Youth and Sport on 19 April.

His Majesty received Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Dato Haji Muhyiddin bin Haji Mohammad Yassin at Istana Nurul Iman.

During the audience the Malaysian Minister informed His Majesty of Malaysia's readiness to provide assistance in the form of personnel, technical and facilities to Brunei Darussalam for the successful hosting of the upcoming 20th Sea Games.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, during the audience His Majesty also expressed gratitude to the Malaysian Government for its readiness to assist Brunei Darussalam during the upcoming Sea Games. His Majesty also stated that the cooperation is in line with the ex-

• Continued on page 10

Crown Prince grants audience to newly-appointed ambassadors

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah has granted an audience to the new ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Enrique A. Zaldiver at Istana Nurul Iman, on 1 May (bottom right of page).

His Excellency presented his credential to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on March 18.

On 29 April, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince granted an audience to the newly-appointed ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the Sultanate, His Excellency Tran Tien Vinh at Istana Nurul Iman (bottom left of page).



HM Sultan grants audiences to visiting high-ranking foreign defence officials

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted audiences to high-ranking defence officials who were on separate visits to the Sultanate this month, namely from Malaysia, Australia and Britain. The audiences were held at Istana Nurul Iman.

On 8 May, His Majesty consented to grant an audience to the Malaysian Defence Minister, His Excellency Datuk Abang Abu Bakar. During the audience, the Brunei ruler and the minister exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and defence, particularly on security in the region. His Majesty also expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Malaysian Government for their assistance on military matters.

The minister was on a two-day official visit to Brunei Darussalam. He was accompanied by his wife, Tunku Maziah, who was also granted sepa-

• Continued on page 8

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granting audiences to Datuk Abang Abu Bakar, the Minister of Defence of Malaysia, above, and below to Admiral C. A. Barrie, the Chief of the Australian Defence Forces.



Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam receiving the wife of the Malaysian Defence Minister, Tunku Maziah in audiences, below left and below right. Bottom left of page: Her Majesty the Raja Isteri granting an audience to the wife of Chief of the Australian Defence Forces, Mrs Maxine Barrie, who is also being granted an audience by Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri.





His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at a banquet in honour of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's Prime Minister and wife. Also attending the banquet were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufi Bolkiah.



His Majesty delivering his titah during the banquet held in honour of the Pakistani Prime Minister at Nurul Iman Palace (left). His Majesty and His Excellency Mohammad Nawaz Sharif during their audience (picture below).



• From page one
(HM titah)

"Asian countries need to adjust to this changing world and restructure their economies."

His Majesty went on to say that for her part Brunei Darussalam has to persevere to succeed and improve the life of her people.

His Majesty believed that the right reforms and the will to see them through, the region should recover and the two years of economic difficulty have not wiped out decades of sustained growth."



His Excellency Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani Prime Minister receiving the salute upon arriving at the Brunei International airport. His Excellency was received at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran anak Hajjah Zariah.



His Majesty and His Excellency Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in the midst of conversation during the banquet.



His Majesty bidding farewell to His Excellency Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani Prime Minister, at the end of the latter's three-day visit to Brunei Darussalam.



Her Majesty, Her Royal Highness and Begum Kulsoom Nawaz Sharif walk past guests as they leave the Banquet.

"We have prospered before and we will prosper again, Insya Allah."

Still on the crisis, His Majesty said it has highlighted the need for developing countries to support and work closely with each other.

Cooperation, His Majesty said gives added strength to withstand shocks and helps to rebuild the economies of those concerned.

His Majesty made clear that this has been precisely the spirit in which Brunei Darussalam and Pakistan have approached cooperation with another.

His Excellency Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan arrived in the country on 11 May for a three-day official visit, at the head of a 47 member-delegation on a mission to strengthen ties with Brunei Darussalam.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his delegation were welcomed on arrival by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah. Also at the airport were cabinet ministers, foreign diplomats and senior government officials.

While in the country, His Excellency Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, and his wife, Begum Kulsoom had both joint separate programmes.

The Prime Minister have held four eyes meeting with His Majesty, attended a recital of Surah Yassin (verses from the

Koran) and Bertahlil (recital of words of prayer) ceremony at the Royal Mausoleum, visited the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque, meet the Pakistani community, attended a luncheon with the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Brunei Darussalam, visited the Jerudong Playground and recreational park and went on a river cruise to see the Sultanate's famous Kampong Ayer (Chains of village built on water).

Meanwhile, Begum Kulsoom itinerary included a visit to the Handicapped Guidance and Training Centre and the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation.

Before leaving the country on 13 May, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's Prime Minister and wife had a farewell audience with His Majesty the Sultan And Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman.

Brunei Darussalam and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan recently agreed to establish a Joint Commission to follow-up on many co-operative agreements in the fields of economics, commerce and education as well as in the technical, cultural and manpower cooperation.

The two countries also signed a MOU (Memorandum of understanding) on economic and commercial cooperation between their chambers of Commerce.



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving the British Secretary of State for Defence, Mr. George Robertson in audience at Istana Nurul Iman.

rate audiences by Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah respectively.

On 10 May, His Majesty granted an audience to Admiral C. A. Barrie, the Chief of the Australian Defence Forces. His Majesty and Admiral C. A. Barrie exchanged views on matters of defence especially on regional security. His Majesty also expressed his appreciation to the Australian Government on the assistance extended by the Australian Defence Force to the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, especially in training, courses and joint military exercises.

The admiral was accompanied by his wife, Mrs Maxine Barrie.

She was also received by Her Majesty the Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri in separate audiences.

On 15 May, His Majesty granted an audience to the British Secretary of State for Defence, His Excellency Mr. George Robertson, during which they exchanged views on bilateral and regional issues especially on security in the region. His Majesty also emphasised the importance of bilateral relationship between the two countries.

Mr. Robertson also made a courtesy call on His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan. They discussed bilateral matters and exchanged views on the current international issues.

Monarch receives Bangladesh and Malaysian Foreign Ministers in audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has received the visiting Bangladeshi and Malaysian Foreign Affairs Ministers in audiences at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty first granted an audience to His Excellency Alhaj Abdus Samad Azad, the Foreign Affairs Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, who was on a three-day visit. During the audience on 8 May, His Majesty and the minister exchanged views on bilateral relationship and cooperation between the two countries.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister hosted a luncheon in honour of his Bangladeshi counterpart at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan. They also discussed bilateral and regional issues.

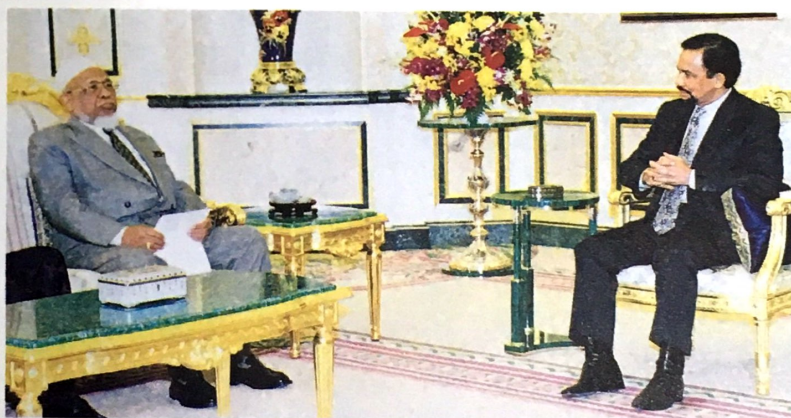
While in the country, the Bangladeshi minister was also received in audience by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

The other foreign minister granted an audience by His Majesty was His Excellency Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar of Malaysia. The minister who was on a three-day official visit to the country was received in audience by His Majesty on 17 May. During the audience, His Majesty and Dato' Seri Syed Hamid exchanged views on bilateral issues and on issues of mutual interest in the region.

Meanwhile, the minister's wife, Datin Seri Sharifah Aziah was granted separate audiences by Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah respectively.

Dato' Seri Syed Hamid and wife were entertained to a luncheon by his Brunei counterpart, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan.

Dato' Seri Syed Hamid, who has held the post of Malaysian Foreign Minister since January, was in the country as part of a series of visits to ASEAN member countries.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granting audiences to Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs Minister, His Excellency Alhaj Abdus Samad Azad, above and the Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister, His Excellency Dato' Seri Syed Hamid Albar, below.



Sultan visits RBA training and technical centres

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visited the Royal Brunei Airlines' (RBA) training and technical centres at Jalan Kustin in Berakas, on 12 May.

His Majesty was greeted on arrival at Royal Brunei's simulator building on 12 May by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, the Special Adviser to His Majesty at the Prime Minister's Office cum Home Affairs Minister, and members of RBA's Board of Directors.

The visit began with the reading of the 'Doa Selamat' (words of prayer) by the State Mufti, Yang Dimuliakan Lagi Dihormati Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz. This was followed by a welcoming remarks from RBA's Chairman, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Alimin and a briefing on the airline's recent performance by its Acting Executive Director, Pengiran Ali bin Pengiran Haji Ahmad.

His Majesty then went on board the B767-300ER simulator, for a simulated flight around Brunei and London. The simulation included an 'engine failure' and a 'low visibility' landing at and take-off from London's Heathrow airport. RBA is the only airline in the region with a simulator for 757 and 767 aircraft.

The Simulator is certified for training on both B757 and B767 aircraft types, which significantly reduces training costs for the airline and improves training capabilities and can simulate all known aircraft malfunctions, emergencies and weather conditions.

Despite providing training using a simulator for the RBA staff, the airline also offers the same opportunity for pilots from Holland and England, among others. To date, 130 pilots including 44 locals have undergone training using the simulator since its operation in 1977.

His Majesty also visited the cabin crew section and watched a safety and



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visited and observed the interior of one of the airline's aircrafts.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being briefed on the gold-plating machine by RBA's official during his visit to the Engineering Department of the airline, right.



emergency procedures (SEP) demonstration, which included a cabin mock-up fire drill and emergency evacuation of an aircraft. RBA at present has 217 local cabin crew and 198 cabin crew from other ASEAN countries.

The monarch then proceeded to the RBA Technical Centre and observed the interior of one of the airline's Boeing 767-300ER aircraft undergoing maintenance and toured the Engineering Department's wheel and brake, cleaning bay, engine, machine and gold-plating workshops.

The Department handles the airline's own B767 and B757 maintenance requirements and also actively pursues third party work on these aircraft types. It is the only aircraft maintenance organisation in Southeast Asia capable of carrying out full maintenance support for B767 and B757 aircraft.

Its capabilities include line maintenance for aircraft at Brunei International airport, heavy maintenance, an

aircraft simulator, workshop facilities, technical support services and technical training.

Royal Brunei Engineering is the primary maintenance organisation for Royal Nepal Airlines and Vitenam Airlines, and provides third party services for other customers such as Air Mauritius, Britannia Airways and Brunei Shell.

His Majesty concluded his visit with a tour of the Management Information Services Department which provides hardware, software and networking computer services to the airline. It runs several computer servers with both packaged and in-house developed system with on-line links to all RBA overseas offices.

Since its establishment 25 years ago, RBA is now a fully government-owned carrier with 1,900 employees. Presently it has a fleet of eight boeing 767-300 aircraft, two 757-200 aircraft and several Fokker 100s.

• From page 3 (audiences)

two newly-appointed non-resident ambassadors to Brunei Darussalam at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 1 May.

The new ambassadors were His Excellency Abdel-Hamied Ibrahim Gibreel from the Republic of Sudan who is based in Seoul and His Excellency Mr. Kim Pyong Hong from the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, based in Jakarta.

During the calls, Her Royal Highness discussed bilateral matters with each of the two ambassadors.

Both envoys presented their credentials to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in separate ceremonies on 29 April at Istana Nurul Iman.

On 29 April, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna received a farewell call from His Excellency Nimal Wijayaratne, the outgoing non-resident High Commissioner of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka to Brunei Darussalam, at the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

His Excellency, based in the Republic of Singapore, has been Sri Lanka's High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam since 1996.

• From page 4
(Sultan grants audience)

isting cooperation in various fields between the two ASEAN neighbours.

Also present at the audience was the Minister of Culture Youth And Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya DiGadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussin. Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Dato Haji Muhyiddin was leading a seven-member delegation for a two-day official visit to the country.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, also received a courtesy call from Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Dato Haji Muhyiddin at Baitul Afiah in Jerudong, on 19 April.

During the meeting, His Royal Highness who is also the President of the country's National Olympic Council and Chairman of the 20th Sea Games Organising Committee discussed with the Malaysian Minister the preparation and intensive training for the games.

During the stay in the country, Yang Berhormat and delegation took a closer look at the sports venues for the Sea Games match.

The success of an organisation relies upon proper and well-organised plannings



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah taking a close look at an exhibition on activities of members of the Scout Associations at the 3rd National Jamboree.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah has said the success of an organisation relies upon specific factors such as proper and well-organised plannings, as well as a dynamic leadership and having vision.

Not less important, he said, is the members' determination in carrying out their duty and responsibility faithfully and trustworthily.

Officiating at the National Jamboree held at Kampong Parit Mini Park in the Brunei-Muara district on 28 April, His Royal Highness said that the country's Scout Association has developed rapidly, with more than 2000 members at present.

The Association has also been accepted as full member of the World Scout Association, while several of its members have been appointed to the Islamic Scout International Union and the Scout Movement for the Asia-Pacific.

His Royal Highness hoped that such achievements will encourage young leaders and generation in the association to further upgrade their achievements in the future.

He said, with the coming of the year 2000, the world generally em-

phasises more on the development of technology, particularly information technology and computer.

However, activities conducted by voluntary associations, such as the Scout Movement, are not less important for the country's interest, because some elements of dedication and guidance depend on activities, which are excluded in the formal educational syllabus.

Besides leadership elements and noble values which are frequently emphasised, such as loyalty and discipline, being responsible and having the identity is very important for the development of the country and its community, said His Royal Highness.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince has also consented to present 'Bintang Rakis' (Rakis Award) to eight active members of the Brunei Darussalam Scout Association, and 'Pingat Jasawan' (Meritorious Medal) to seven recipients.

His Royal Highness later watched performances by members of the association and toured camps of participating teams from within the country as well as those from Sarawak, Sabah, Labuan, Pahang and Malacca.

Parents reminded not to ignore responsibility in educating their children

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah has reminded parents in the country not to ignore their responsibility in educating their children, as they are useful and effective contributors to various government efforts in developing the community and upgrading the country's prosperity.

Making the reminder before she officially declared open the Women Council's Day and presented Model Mother Award at the International Convention Centre on 11 April, Her Royal Highness said, it is acknowledged that mothers play an important role in humanity building through various processes, including the building of moral and personality, as well as in providing formal education.

She hoped that mothers' concern in educating their children will keep them away from unbeneficial doings not only to themselves but also to the country and the community.

Her Royal Highness also called on the Women Council to make relevant planning and vision, particularly in humanity and community building, which is part of their contribution in supporting the continuing government effort in the country's social development.

This is important for the Council which acts as an umbrella to other women organisations in the country and to enable the Council to be always

relevant in the current environmental situation and be capable of giving meaningful contribution to the people and the country.

Her Royal Highness also welcomed the move by the Council in giving a recognition and manifestation to mothers by way of the Model Mother Award.

The President of Brunei Darussalam's Women Council, Datin Hajjah Edah Haji Mohd. Noor, meanwhile, underlined that the number of women literates in the country has increased to 62.4 per cent in 1991. The number of educated women has also consistently increased annually, whereby the rate of women's admission to higher educational institutions increased to 67 per cent between 1981 to 1991.

She said, this positive development opens more choices and employment opportunities for women. Women have engaged in various jobs from clerical and technical fields to careers in management and professional fields, as well as in more challenging businesses and entrepreneurship, which were previously dominated by men.

This development is obvious whereby the statistics of women manpower involved in economic activity increased from 31.3 per cent in 1981 to 46.4 per cent in 1991. This shows that women are now more educated, and that they do not merely play their

role in building their family but also participate actively in developing the country's economy.

The President of the Council further highlighted that as the 21st century approaches, it is relevant for the the Council to evaluate the developments that have been achieved, its weakness and its future direction, and to prepare effective programmes which can contribute to the development of women in the country.

Meanwhile, women also need to grab the opportunity to upgrade their skill in the information technology and use those information the best possible way to improve themselves, she said.

She further called for efforts to be carried out for capacity building of the Council's member, so that they will be able to successfully manage the increasing activities and members numbers, and in handling the development in national forums, such as in APEC 2000, in which the Council has been invited to together conduct the 'Small and Medium Enterprise Business Forum to be held in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Touching on the formation of Brunei Darussalam's Women Council, Datin Hajjah Edah said that it is one of the positive developments to speed up women development in the country, through which women will have an official source to put forward issues on women development more systematically and effectively at the local and international forums.

The Women Council, even though still young, has successfully united women associations in the country and play their part in putting forward several social issues which contribute to the status of social development and women's health in particular and the local community in general. These include issues on the protection for women from household abuse, child abuse, the instillation of awareness on the danger of HIV/AIDS, breast cancer and the control of environmental pollution.

The Model Mother Award, conducted for the first time by the Council was aimed at respecting and appreciating mothers' contribution. It does not only help to promote the status of mothers, but also to honour mothers' attitude of resiliency which should be emulated by the young generation.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah presenting Model Mother Award to Dayang Hajjah Hajibah bte Umar. The Award was in conjunction with the Brunei Darussalam's Women Council Day this year.



68 days to go to SEA Games



Awang Budiman

Venues of the Games

20TH SEA GAMES BRUNEI DARUSSALAM 1999

Brunei Darussalam, the seventh host country of the SEA Games is indeed ready to stage the forthcoming 20th SEA Games with determination and confidence to ensure that the region's most prestigious sports meet, a finale for the millennium, would be as successful as other host nations and perhaps, a most memorable one in the Games' entire history during the century.

Preparations have long been on-going until today not only to accommodate athletes and sports contingents of the 10-member participating countries, namely at the Games Village, but also to ensure that the more than three thousand athletes perform in the best of sports facilities while competing with one another.

The Sultanate's capabilities in hosting major sports events had already been tested - the latest of which was the successful hosting of the world's prestigious badminton tournament, the Baiduri World Grand Prix Badminton in February this year, at the Indoor Stadium. The Indoor Stadium which is next to the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium had subsequently gained recognition as a world class badminton venue, as did the way it was organised. The indoor stadium, too, is to be the venue for badminton event in the upcoming 20th SEA Games.

The other major and prestigious sports event that Brunei Darussalam had hosted was the UIT World Cup in Shotgun, the first in Southeast Asia. It was held for the first time at the Jerudong Park Trap and Skeet Shooting Range in May last year. Similar recognition was conveyed for the Sultanate's achievement in conducting it, likewise the facilities available at the shooting range which were regarded as the world's best. The Jerudong Park Trap and Skeet Shooting Range will be the venue for the 20th SEA Games shooting events.

Meanwhile, the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium is undergoing a major face lift for the purpose of the upcoming Games. The stadium itself is to be the central venue of the 20th SEA Games as it houses not only the 20th SEA Games' Secretariat, but for the opening and closing ceremonies' extravaganza as well as other sports events namely athletics, billiards, snooker and football.

Games venues

Athletics : HBNS*
Badminton : Indoor Stadium
Basketball : Multi Purpose Sports Hall,
Universiti Brunei Darussalam
Billiards & Snooker : HBNS*

Bowls : HBNSC**
Boxing : Hassanal Bolkiah Stadium, Police Headquarters Gadong
Cycling : i. Start & End, Youth Centre
ii. Muara-Tutong Highway
iii. Jalan Sultan/Jalan Cator
Football : HBNS*
Golf : Pantai Mentiri Golf Club
Hockey : Hockey Stadium, HBNSC**
Karaté-do : Royal Brunei Airlines Sports Complex
Pencak Silat : Multi Purpose Hall, HBNSC**
Sepak Takraw : Muhibbah Hall, Brunei Muara District Office
Shooting : Jerudong Park Skeet & Trap Shooting Range
Squash : Squash Centre, HBNSC**
Swimming, Diving & Water Polo : Swimming Pool, HBNSC**
Table Tennis : Multi Purpose Hall Menglait Sports Complex
Taekwan-do : Multi Purpose Hall, Fire Brigade Headquarters
Tennis : Tennis Centre, HBNSC**
Ten Pin Bowling : Utama Bowling Centre
Traditional Boat Race : Water Sports Complex, Serasa

* HBNS (Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium)

** HBNSC (Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium Complex)

Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Population : 314,400 (1997)

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.**