



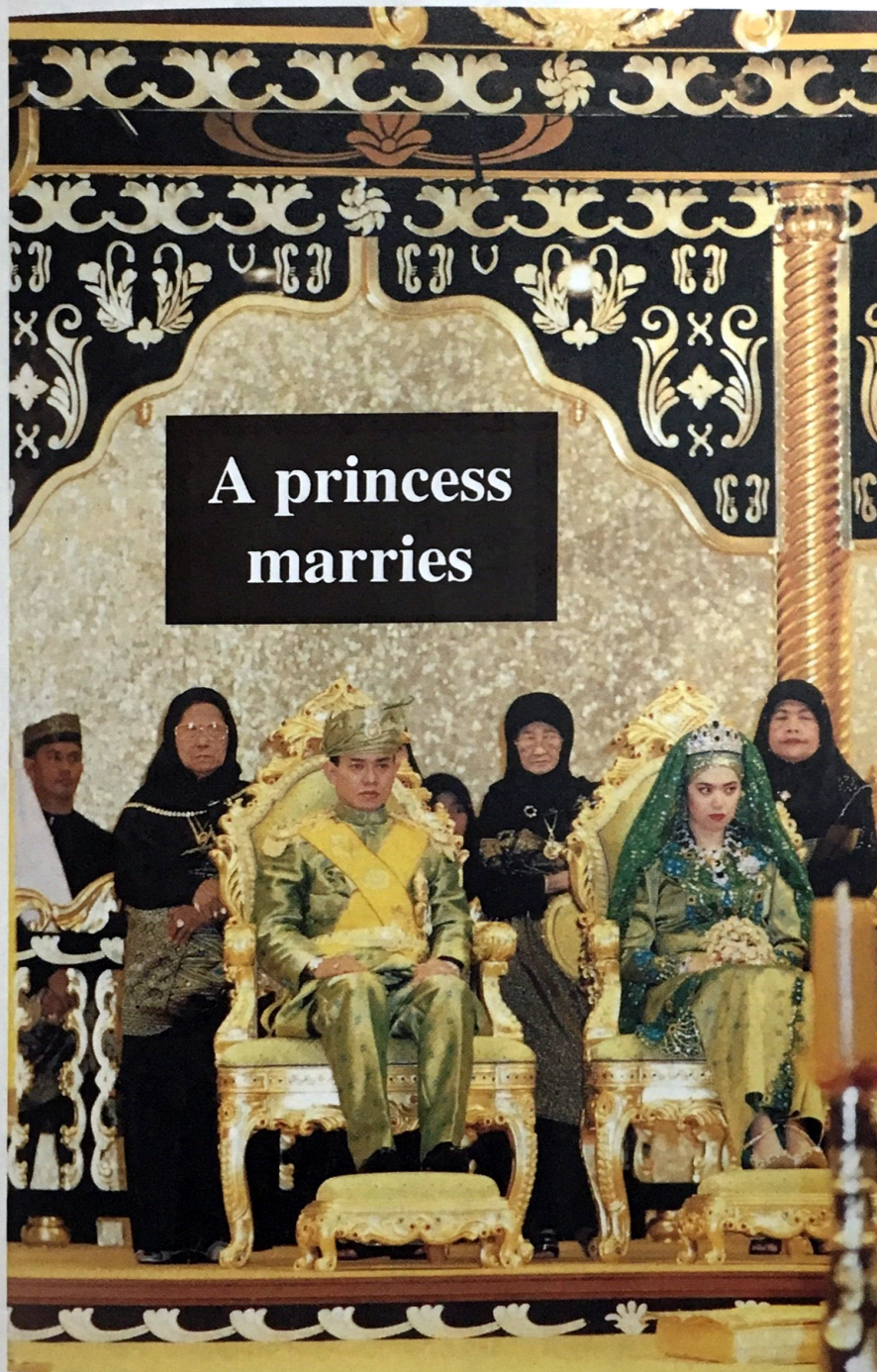
بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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A princess marries

*Magnificent
ceremonial displays
brought to life the
wealth of traditions
and customs Brunei
Darussalam possesses*

Brunei Darussalam celebrated for two weeks earlier this month the wedding of Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, the eldest daughter of His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha. The Princess married Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim bin Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Anak Haji Kemaludin.

The high point of the wedding ceremonies, which were spread over two weeks, was on 18 August when the 'Istiadat Bersanding' or sitting-in-state ceremony took place in full pomp and pageantry truly depicting the splendour and richness of the traditions and custom of Brunei's royal court, passed down over many centuries.

The sitting-in-state ceremony, at the throne room of Istana Nurul Iman (Nurul Iman Palace) came four days after the couple took their marriage vows in an 'akad nikah' (solemnisation of marriage) ritual at the Omar

In their first appearance together, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah and Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim sit on the throne for the 'Istiadat bersanding diraja' (sitting-in-state) ceremony at the throne room of Nurul Iman Palace as several thousand guests watched.

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear 30 September 1996. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.



Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and his Malaysian opposite number, Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi exchange documents at the end of the Brunei Darussalam-Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia Have Excellent Relations and Cooperation

Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia have excellent relations and cooperation, a joint press statement said at the end of the Second Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between the two countries, held in Bandar Seri Begawan from 30 July to 1 August.

At the two-day meeting, Brunei Darussalam's delegation was led by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister, while Malaysia was led by its Foreign Affairs Minister, His Excellency Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi.

The joint press statement issued on 1 August said: "In reviewing the progress of the implementation of the decisions taken at the First JMC held in Langkawi in 1994, both Foreign Ministers expressed their satisfaction on the excellent relations and cooperation prevailing between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.

The statement added that the ministers also noted the success achieved in a number of areas such as in defence, education, agriculture,

trade and investment, technical cooperation, and information and broadcasting.

Both ministers also expressed the importance of strengthening economic cooperation between the two sides. In addition, they identified health as a new area for cooperation.

The statement further said that the ministers welcomed the progress made in expanding and enhancing direct trade and investment between the two countries, in particular, the formation of the Brunei Darussalam-Malaysia Business Council, the increase in frequency of direct shipping between Muara Port in Brunei and Port Klang in Malaysia, and the conclusion of the negotiations on the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement.

The ministers were satisfied with the existing cooperation in education, especially the increase in the number of Bruneian students studying in Malaysia and Malaysian students studying in Brunei Darussalam as well as the increased number of Malaysian teachers working in various institutions and schools in the Sultanate.

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His Majesty The Sultan Officially Opens The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has officially opened the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation) complex, situated at the heart of the Brunei Darussalam capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

The foundation which has been established to commemorate the silver jubilee of His Majesty's accession to the throne, is an 'amal jariyah' (contribution for religious purposes) of His Majesty and his family.

"It is timely for me to do something that symbolises our gratitude to Allah, God the Almighty, that would be beneficial to my subjects and people of Brunei Darussalam, and which will serve as a permanent testimony to my reign," said the Brunei monarch when he announced the formation of the foundation on 12 October, 1992 during his silver jubilee celebrations.

After declaring the foundation officially open, right, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam toured the complex, meeting employees and business operators within, and viewing various exhibitions put up especially in conjunction with the occasion.



• Continued on page 4

• From page 3 (*His Majesty The Sultan Officially Opens The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation*)

Be sincere and trustworthy in administration of foundation

Speaking briefly at the opening ceremony, His Majesty expressed pleasure at the completion of the foundation, which he said, would serve as an additional means of facilitating welfare matters to the people for a long time to come, not just over a period of a few generations.

The ruler urged all those concerned in the foundation's management to always be sincere and trustworthy in carrying out their duties and services.

An architectural marvel, the multi-million dollar foundation is among the largest single complex in Brunei Darussalam, consisting of six main blocks and two smaller blocks, in which are housed dozens of shophouses and offices which are rented out. Its other facilities include exhibition rooms and an underground car park capable of accommodating nearly 1,400 cars.

Construction of the complex was begun in April 1993 and it was completed in March this year. His Majesty himself laid the foundation stone on 12 October 1992.

In his welcoming speech, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Yang Dimuliakan Lagi Dihormati Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Abdul Rahman said all of the foundation's commercial spaces have now been rented out and some of the businesses have opened.

Foundation conducts many activities

He added that with the opening of the complex, the foundation can now actively engage in investment, which is one of its objectives.

He further said that prior to this, the foundation has already successfully implemented several projects and activities in the religious, welfare and educational areas.

"At present the foundation is actively helping to build new houses for Muslim converts in the interiors,



The monarch being presented a painting of the foundation (Top picture) and taking a close look at Brunei's famous 'kain songket' (woven gold brocade) on display. Bottom of page: His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah attending the function.



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Above: Standing as religious officials chant the 'Dzikir', His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on the dais with Their Royal Highnesses Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim as well as local dignitaries including cabinet ministers.



Significant Events in Islam Enhance the Faith of Muslims

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has been speaking on the importance of projecting the eminence of significant events in Islam

which could mould and enhance the faith of every Muslim.

The monarch pointed, Muslims should not disregard this eminence or deal with it half-heartedly, but it should always be considered seriously, or if needed, it should be studied from

time to time in order to make it more prominent.

In this regard, the monarch urged the relevant authorities to think of conducting effort to change the format of highlighting such eminence in a more effective way.

• *Continued on page 8*



Centre picture: His Majesty leading the 40 thousand-strong procession around the capital.

Left: Some of the participants taking part in the 6 kilometre procession head back for the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddin to finish the march.



Ceremonies when His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam bestows titles do not only show the grandeur of the occasions but they bring to life the wealth and culture which Brunei Darussalam possesses. Top picture: One of the honoured men pays homage to His Majesty in full traditional custom, and the ruler responds likewise. Above: One of the Sultan's brothers, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah officiating at a 'mengagai' ceremony which usually precedes the actual bestowal of titles by the ruler. Bottom picture: The 'menapakkan gangsa sirih' upon the head of the recipient of title is part of the ceremony of the bestowal of title.



Civil Servants and Citizens Honoured

*Many get titles,
others have
titles upgraded*

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has conferred various titles on nearly 70 people, while nearly a dozen others have had their titles upgraded.

In ceremonies held between 7 May and 27 July this year, the ruler bestowed titles on 67 people, while 9 others have had their titles – received over the years previously, upgraded.

The ceremonies, held at the Lapau (Parliament House) in the capital Bandar Seri Begawan in full pomp and pageantry, did not only portray the grandeur of the occasion, but also brought to life the wealth of age-old tradition and custom which Brunei Darussalam possesses as one of the world's oldest monarchies.

Among the new title recipients and those who had had their titles promoted were cabinet ministers, military personnel, religious figures and community leaders.

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• From page 6 (*Civil Servants and Citizens Honoured*)

The titles ranged from those under the category of Pengiran-Pengiran Cheteria, Pehin to Mudim, Penglima, Perwira, Hulubalang, Pahlawan, Pateh, Damong and Pengarah as well as Juru Laki and Juru Bini.

Meanwhile, a number of people were also conferred the title 'Dato' by His Majesty during the audience and investiture ceremony at the throne room of Istana Nurul Iman on the monarch's 50th birthday anniversary on 15 July.



Top: One of those who has had his title upgraded receiving the letter of declaration of title upgrading from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Above: His Majesty's second brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah officiating at one of the 'mengagai' ceremonies at the Lapau (Parliament House) in Bandar Seri Begawan.



Below: 'Menapakkan gangsa sirih' on the shoulder of a title recipient is also another part of a title bestowal ceremony, and left, a title recipient listening as the declaration of his being bestowed a title is read aloud.



• From page 3 (*His Majesty The Sultan Officially Opens The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation*)

whereas in education, plans are being implemented towards building a nursery school," he disclosed.

Built on a 10-acre site made up partly of reclaimed land and partly the site of two age-old villages that formed a part of the scenic Kampong Ayer (water village) which were burnt down in fires in 1991, the foundation has five main objectives covering religion, welfare, education, development and finance.

In the religious area, the foundation is to extend assistance for religious education, assist in the enhancement of Islamic dakwah (missionary work) and assist towards the construction, maintenance and management of religious schools and mosques.

In welfare matters, the foundation would assist towards enhancing the quality of life through aid schemes for less fortunate citizens and those affected by disasters; enhancing the involvement of youths in social development; and extending assistance to the sick who are not eligible for the government medical assistance scheme.

In education, it would provide scholarships for needy students and provide assistance for research and development carried out by the high institutions of learning for scientific, technological and social purposes.

The foundation would also take part in development activities, and participate in commercial and industrial entrepreneurship. It also buys stocks and shares, and from time to time, forms a company or body to carry out or implement a project, scheme or entrepreneurship.

Benefits of foundation already being enjoyed

Indeed, many people have benefited from the establishment of the foundation. Among the first to taste such benefit are fire victims, many of whom are now living in houses built under the foundation's housing scheme.

Half way through 1994, 168 families who had lost their houses in fires in September 1993 and early 1994, moved into new houses of the scheme at Kampong Buang Sakar, which was renamed Kampong Bolkiah A on 22 August of the same year, and where a total of 226 houses have now been built.

By November 1994, a further 250 houses, also under the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Housing Scheme, were completed at an area formerly called Pulau Berambang until it was renamed Kampong Bolkiah B on 22 May last year, which lies opposite the first scheme. A first batch of 147 fire-stricken families moved in soon after the completion of the second project.

These families also received financial assistance from the

foundation. The houses are low-cost and are repayable through low, interest-free instalments stretched over a period of up to 20 years.

At Kampong Bolkiah A, the houses come in two types – type A are two bedroomed, while type B are of four bedrooms, costing B\$26 thousand and B\$33 thousand respectively. Meanwhile, only type B houses have been built in Kampong Bolkiah B, and due to certain modifications, cost higher at B\$38 thousand.

Houses built on retaining family ties concept

The houses are built in neat rows, six metres apart from one another and besides providing proper and comfortable living environment for the residents, they also provide a model for the reorganisation of the Kampong Ayer, of which they are a part, with emphasis on retaining the extended family concept, whereby related families are located close to one another, therefore, strengthening the family ties.

Each of the two settlements has been provided with branch offices, a general store, a surau (Islamic prayer hall) and a multi-purpose hall.

To date, the foundation has rendered financial support to mosques and surau, fire victims, orphans and the handicapped, while presently a number of Bruneian students are studying for their Master degrees at the Islamic International University in Islamabad, Pakistan, on foundation scholarships.

• From page 5 (*Significant Events in Islam Enhance The Faith of Muslims*)

"Highlighting such eminence is not merely confined to one particular format or just like the routine one, but it can be changed or modified into an effective one as long as it does not contradict with the Islamic teachings," said His Majesty before a mass gathering of more than forty thousand Muslims in conjunction with the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) on 12 Rabiulawal (the third month of the Muslim calendar) which coincided with July 28.

In his address at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, the monarch also called on the mass media to be more effective and wise in their coverage. His Majesty said, the mass media should learn and recognise truly which needs to be highlighted or made the headline, and which is worth covering and given extensive comment.

The monarch added, the approach of the mass media is vital to give effective understanding to members of the public. The mass media people who are wise, are those capable in picking up what are hidden and not just exposing the obvious.

When all these are fulfilled effectively, the monarch believed that Muslim ummah and the people will benefit from either religious or other welfare-related celebrations.

Earlier in his 'titah', the Brunei ruler pointed, that even though we are busy, our time and spirit can still be devoted to this significant event.

His Majesty stressed: "We do not want to be left behind from commemorating Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), being the great leader who had brought justice and blessings to all of us."

His Majesty pointed that with such intention, we are rewarded by Allah

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• From page 8 (*Significant Events in Islam Enhance The Faith of Muslims*)

the Almighty. This is because commemorating this historic day means that we have highlighted the eminence [of Islam] which could mould our affection and obedience to his teachings.

The monarch went on to say that every good deeds pertaining to religion is an eminence, such as commemorating the significant days in Islam, presenting awards to outstanding religious figures and others. The eminence in Islam is broad and not only in the forms of mosques, prayer halls and religious schools.

Thus, the ceremonies or events conducted by Muslims to offer their sacrifices on every Aidiladha celebration (the Day of Sacrifice) is also an eminence which is beneficial and has an impact in terms of faith when events such as these are projected.

The monarch later consented to meet his subjects taking part in the rally.

The highlight of the celebration was a mass procession around the capital led by the ruler and members of the royal family.

The celebration was held simultaneously in the country's three other districts namely Belait, Tutong and Temburong.

Role of knowledge and Islamic education

In a similar rally in the Belait district, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Raja Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mohd. Ali, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs among others spoke on the important role of knowledge and Islamic education.

He said that Islam encourages its followers to seek knowledge in various fields as it is the source of civilisation and development.

However, he pointed that knowledge itself is not sufficient because if it is misused, it can bring havoc and destruction.

Therefore, Islamic education should be instilled or given due attention by every individual Muslim as it could prevent oneself from doing wicked and sinful acts, he stressed.

Spread of Islam by His Majesty's Government

The Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang

Haji Selamat, the chief guest in the Temburong district among others, pointed that the spread of Islam by His Majesty's Government in providing various facilities has produced people with high moral values and know how to respect the values of life and the facilities provided.

This is the basis towards the development of the ummah with quality and who are blessed by Allah the Almighty, he stressed.

Islam leads Muslims to prosperity

In the Tutong district, the Permanent Secretary (Policy and Administration) at the Ministry of Defence, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Lela Raja Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Awang Abdul Rahman in his speech as chief guest said that Islam emphasises on justice, trust, cleanliness, peacefulness, competence, diligence and development which lead to prosperity to the Muslim ummahs.

He added that the aspect of development consists of values such as courtesy, trustworthiness, discipline, diligence, education and knowledge for the effective implementation of the country's planning policies.

Economic progress linked to educational level and active participation of citizens

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs has said that the achievement of developing countries in the economic progress in the modern era is closely related to the educational level and active participation of the people in the well-planned activities of development.

He said, knowledge is an important source in the effort to upgrade man's standard of living. With knowledge, countries with natural resources are able to develop

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Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Mohd. Ali plants a tree to commemorate the official naming of Sultan Bolkiah Vocational School.





Right on opposite page: Her Majesty The Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha tints her daughter's palms with henna during the 'Istiadat berinai diraja' – another significant part of any Brunei Malay wedding ceremony, followed by Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, picture far right. His Majesty had earlier done the same. Wearing a Malay dress made of songket, the princess also wore an elaborate headgear.

Above: In keeping with one of Brunei Darussalam's age-old traditions, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah sprinkles scented flowers and applies scented powder on his daughter's palms during the 'Istiadat berbedak diraja' (Royal powdering ceremony) to the accompaniment of religious officials chanting the 'Dzikir merhaban'. Other members of the royal family followed. For the occasion the princess wore a red Brunei dress made from woven gold brocade called 'kain songket' for which Brunei is famed.



Above – from left to right: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Mateen at their eldest sister's wedding ceremonies.



Left – from left to right: Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Muta-Wakilah Hayatul Bolkiah, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Hafizah Sururul Bolqiah, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah also watched the various ceremonies of their sister's wedding.



Above, from right to left: His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Masna, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam and other members of the royal family witnessing the various proceedings.



Left, from left to right: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajjah Mazuin, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul Azim, His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Malik, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Nor'ain and Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Norihsani.

Grandeurs and splendours of pageantry highlighted at royal wedding



Left: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri at the 'Istiadat bersanding diraja' (sitting-in-state) ceremony.



Above: Flanked on either side by two of her aunts, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah walks down the aisle of the throne room of Nurul Iman Palace towards the throne for the sitting-in-state.



Centre-left: The bridegroom making his entrance to join the princess for the sitting-in-state ceremony.



Top right: A touching moment as His Majesty holds the groom's hand when the groom reached the throne for the sitting-in-state ceremony, placing the hand on the princess' forehead.



Above: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah leads the royal couple out of the palace for the procession around the capital, during which the princess and her groom rode in a specially-converted car, picture at right. Smiling and looking radiant, the royal newly-weds smiled at the huge crowds that lined the four-mile routes.

Far right: The gold and two-shade of grey Rolls Royce winds its way through the streets of the capital to the cheers of the crowds.



Above: The newlyweds, Princess Hajjah Rashidah and Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim at their wedding reception at Nurul Iman Palace's banquet hall. Seen with them are His Majesty The Sultan, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri and Mrs. Amelita Ramos, wife of His Excellency Philippine President Fidel Ramos, himself seen in picture at left with His Majesty prior to the banquet.



Other foreign VIP guests, left picture, at the wedding had included The Senior Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Mr. Lee Kuan Yew and his wife, and Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Dr. Amnuay Viravan and above, Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his wife.



Top right: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam putting down his signature at the solemnisation of his daughter's marriage to Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim, himself seen on right, making his marriage vows in a ceremony held at The Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque in the capital. Bottom picture: The Yang Dipertua of the Malaysian State of Sabah, His Excellency Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Sakaran Dandai (second from right), Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Amnuay Viravan (fourth from right), The Vietnamese Government representative, His Excellency Mr. Tran Duc Luong (6th from right) and Ibu Siti Hadiati Prabowo (extreme right) at the royal wedding.



• From page 1
(Royal Wedding)

Ali Saifuddien mosque in the capital.

Watched by several thousand guests at the palace, the sitting-in-state of the royal newly-weds was also televised to some 16 countries by Radio Television Brunei as well as nationally.

The sitting-in-state was followed by a procession around the capital, in which the couple was driven in a specially-decorated carriage, accompanied along the four-mile routes by palace officials in brightly coloured uniforms bearing royal regalias, each of which has its own meaning.

A glittering wedding reception followed in the evening at the banquet hall of Nurul Iman Palace, attended by some 5,000 guests



including a number of foreign dignitaries.

The sitting-in-state ceremony was preceded the previous evening by another important part of Malay wedding ceremonies called the 'Istiadat Berinai' in which the palms of the bride and bridegroom's hands are tinted with henna.

The royal wedding celebrations ended on 24 August with the closing of the 'gendang jaga-jaga' (royal court musicians playing traditional musical instruments daily and nightly), the opening of which on 9 August also heralded the celebrations.

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Above: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri in conversation with His Excellency President Fidel Ramos and Mrs. Amelita Ramos when the Philippine leader and first lady were in Brunei to attend His Majesty's daughter's wedding.

Right: His Majesty in discussion with Singapore's Senior Minister, His Excellency Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, whose wife (picture second from bottom) was granted a separate audience by Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri, also at Istana Nurul Iman.



Bottom of page picture: Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri granting an audience to Ibu Siti Hediati Prabowo.

• From page 15 (Royal Wedding)

With the opening of the 'gendang jaga-jaga' also came the 'Istiadat Berjaga-Jaga', where family members and guests kept nightly vigils to indulge in various activities including reciting the Koran and playing traditional indoor games, while outside the palace the sounds of the 'gendang jaga-jaga' filled the air as did the sound of various religious and cultural stage performances on the palace ground.

The 'Istiadat Bersuruh Diraja' (ceremony to propose marriage) followed the opening of the 'gendang jaga-jaga', in which a delegation

• Continued on page 18

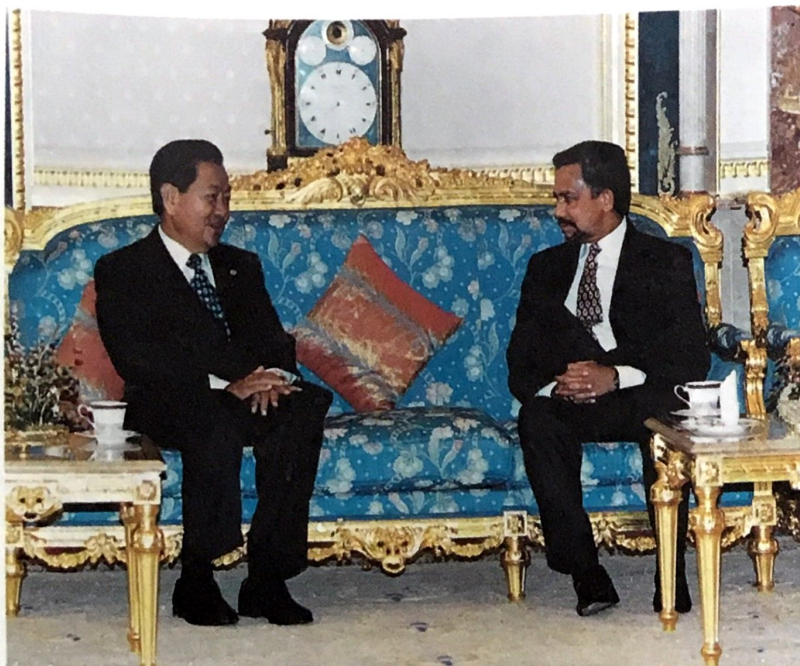


Right: His Majesty, Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness when they granted an audience at Istana Nurul Iman to the Yang Dipertua of the Malaysian State of Sabah, His Excellency Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Sakaran Dandai and his wife, Yang Berbahagia Puan Sri Datin Seri Panglima Hajjah Rukaiyah and Dayangku Mahani Pengiran Haji Ahmad, who was special guest at the wedding.



Left: The Socialist Republic of Vietnam's representative, His Excellency Mr. Tran Duc Luong also had an audience with His Majesty, as did Ibu Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana and her husband, Bapak Indra Rukmana, below.





Left: The Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Dr. Amnuay Viravan in discussion with His Majesty during his audience with the Brunei Monarch, at Istana Nurul Iman.

Below: Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri granting an audience to Mrs. Khunying Samsonari Viravan, wife of the Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

• From page 16 (Royal Wedding)

representing the groom-to-be went to the palace with the marriage proposal.

Then on 13 August the 'Istiadat Pertunangan Diraja' (Royal engagement) ensued, in which trays of gifts were presented as part of the official dowry.

This was followed the next evening by the 'Istiadat Berbedak Diraja' (powdering ceremony) at both Nurul Iman Palace and residence of the bridegroom.

Her Royal Highness is the eldest daughter of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha. She was born on 26th July, 1969, at the General Hospital in Bandar Seri Begawan.

She received her early education at Istana Darul Hana. From 1973 to 1980, Her Royal Highness attended primary school education at St. Andrew's School. Then she attended lower and upper secondary education at the Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College from 1981 to 1987.

Her Royal Highness later went for her university education at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 'Public



Policy and Administration' in 1992. She proceeded to do her Master's degree in 'Public Policy and Administration' at the same university, where in 1994 she became the first member of His Majesty's family to succeed with a Master's degree.

She attended working attachments at the Public Service Department, Prime Minister's Office in 1994 and subsequently at the Ministry of Development in 1995.

In 1992, she performed the pilgrimage to Mecca together with His Majesty, Her Majesty the Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri and other members of the royal family.

In sports, Her Royal Highness likes badminton and bowling.

Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim is the fifth child of Yang

Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Anak Haji Kemaludin and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Datin Paduka Hajjah Siti Rafeah. He was born on 1st January 1970, in Bandar Seri Begawan.

He received his formal education at Muhammad Jamalul Alam Secondary School and then continued at Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien College.

Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim proceeded to do his further studies in London where he received his Higher National Diploma in Business Studies.

Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim now runs his family business interests.

In 1986, he performed the pilgrimage to Mecca together with his family.

He likes playing polo.



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha being greeted as she arrives at the International Convention Centre for the exhibition, and viewing some of the items on display.

Teach Young Generation Skills in Domestic Science

Women organisations in the country have been urged to give due attention towards domestic science arts and skills, such as in cookery, tailoring and handicraft, in the efforts to preserve these traditional skills which have been inherited over many generations.

Making the call, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha said, "If we do not take such measures as to guide and teach our younger generations, the knowledge and skills that have been passed down to us will surely disappear with time".

Speaking at the official opening of a domestic science exhibition at the International Convention Centre on 29 July, Her Majesty at the same time urged women in the country to give as much attention to proper management of their time so that it is not wasted in vain.

"And the most important task which should not be ignored by women is their children's education and management of the household," Her Majesty stressed.

Her Majesty pointed out the country's need for a productive manpower capable of contributing a quality productivity.

"Serving the country does not mean only working with the government or private sector, but it also can be done through various means, including involvement in activities of voluntary organisations", said Her Majesty.

Such services, she added, are no less important for a developing country like Brunei Darussalam.





Maintain Green and Healthy Environment

Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha has underscored the importance of maintaining and preserving a clean and healthy environment.

Speaking at the opening of an exhibition of live flowers and agricultural produce on 4 August, Her Majesty said the quality of life in a society is not measured from its achievement in material aspects alone.

“Equally important is the tranquillity and peace of mind that can be enjoyed from the green surroundings and beauty of an environment that is free from pollution”.

Her Majesty said that this aside, it was also just as important to ensure that agricultural and farm produce are also free from pollution so that the health of the people is not jeopardised.

Her Majesty hoped that activities such as the holding of live flowers and farm produce exhibitions will not only promote such products to the people of the country, but also to tourists who visit the country.

“In this way”, said Her Majesty, “not only will we be able to show our agricultural produce to outsiders, but share experiences and knowledge with them on ways to care for similar produce in their countries”.

The exhibition was held as part of the celebrations of the 50th birthday anniversary of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, and was held at the Horticulture Business Centre at Gadong, just outside the Brunei capital.



Pictures: Her Majesty The Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha declaring the exhibition officially open and presenting prizes to best entrants; and touring various sections of the exhibition which included live flowers and a wide range of farm produce.



Attention Towards Development and Building of Characters of Children

Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam has urged mothers to give due concern to the development and building of characters of their children, apart from their physical and health care.

Our children are the souls, spirit and life of the country in the future, and therefore, the physical perfection alone would not be sufficient to make them ideal members of the society, said Her Royal Highness.

• Continued on page 22



Top picture: Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam urges parents to give attention to the development and character-building of their children.

Above: A royal pat for one of the lucky winners, receiving her prize from Her Royal Highness.



Centre right and above: Her Royal Highness being greeted by The Brunei Women Institute's members and viewing various displays exhibited at the baby show.

The role of parents in instilling noble characters within their children is most important, especially in situations where children are exposed to negative elements brought about by today's electronic media and information technology, she stressed.

Parents should keep close observation and control on matters related to the development of characters of their children, including their social mixing.

An effective way to create a balance in the upbringing and care of children is by strengthening the family institution through creating harmony and love, said Her Royal Highness.

Parents need to pay attention to the moral values, characters, akidah (faith) and physical health among members of their family, she emphasised.

In a sabda (speech) before presenting prizes to winners of a baby show and competition at the International Convention Centre on 2 August, Her Royal Highness also highlighted the need for mothers to follow the current development on children's health care both through reading and watching and listening to special radio and television programmes on the health and upbringing of their infants.

"Mothers need to be sensitive on the need for a better upbringing and health care of their infants."

Her Royal Highness earlier pointed out the importance of giving attention to the health and physical growth of their infants as this will produce a healthy and active generation and society.

This is especially important as we face the 21st century, which is predicted to be full of challenges and competition in various fields, for which we need to equip ourselves by producing a determined, strong young generation with sound mind and well-built physical characters.

The baby show was organised by the Brunei Women's Institute (WI) in conjunction with the 50th birthday anniversary of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Commercialisation and Privatisation for Future Success: Minister

The Minister of Communications has announced that the transportation and communications industry as a whole is undergoing a transformation and restructuring through commercialisation and privatisation of the activities of departments under his ministry, moves which are appropriate towards attaining future success.

Some of the activities have been identified and are in the process of commercialisation while others are to be privatised, said Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria, the Communications Minister shortly before he launched a new phone card service called 'Hallo Kad' on 27 June.

The minister pointed that the ministry has opted to commercialise the activities of the departments rather than privatise the departments as this would be more practical and cause minimal disruption to the activities concerned.

This is the most appropriate way for future success, the minister stressed. The commercialisation and privatisation of the activities of the various departments including the Ports, Postal Services, Land Transport and Telecommunications have so far been encouraging, he added.

On the launching of the 'Hallo Kad', introduced by the Telecommunications Department, the minister pointed that this will bring us even closer to our target of making Brunei Darussalam a centre for communications in the region.

'Hallo Kad' service allows card users to use any touch-tones telephones including payphone to make domestic or international calls to 130 destinations. Card users can also use telephones which do not have International Direct Dialling (IDD) or Subscriber Trunk Dialed (STD) services.

The minister went on to say that the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam will continue effort to turn the Sultanate into a major centre for communications, especially in the BIMP-EAGA (Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines - East ASEAN Growth Area).

Earlier, the minister pointed that globalisation of industries, centralisation



The Communications Minister, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Zakaria launches the 'hallo kad' phone service.

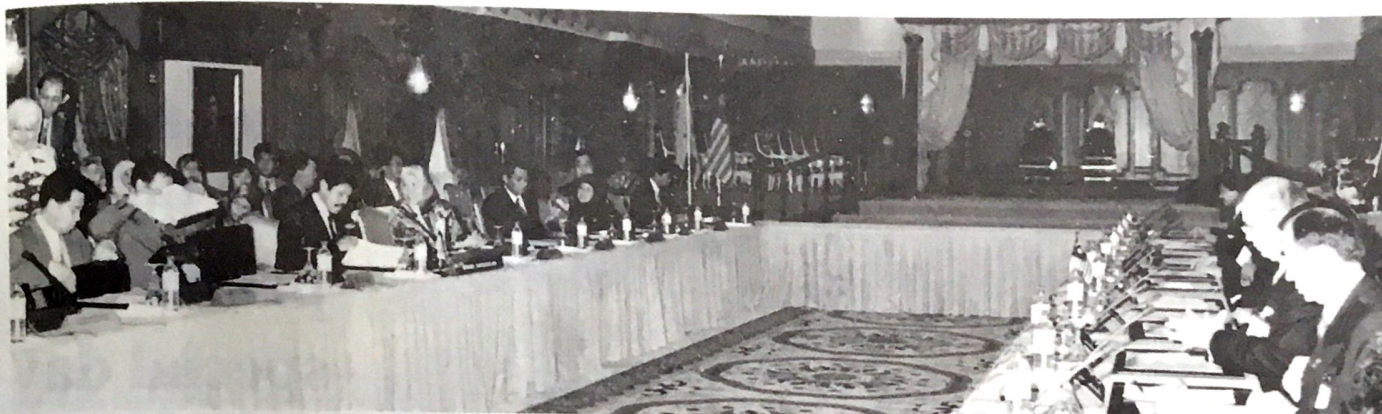
of communication technologies and utilisation of computers extensively, as well as the privatisation activities and competitiveness have brought about major impact on transportation and communication industries and the lifestyle in the country.

The minister also stressed that Brunei Darussalam is part of the global community and it is no longer isolated.

He said that in this new world economic order, economic interdependence among one another in a more liberalised world trade is a reality. Brunei Darussalam's memberships in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines - East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) ensure it a place in the global economic community which will bring about more benefits and encourage more trade and businesses.

The minister also spoke on the importance of establishing a constructive and productive relationships between the Government and the private sector and among the latter themselves.

He urged the private sector to give support on efforts by the ministry in restructuring the transportation and communications sectors toward achieving convenient, accurate, safe and satisfactory services.



A session of the Brunei Darussalam-Malaysia Joint Commission Meeting underway, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

• From page 2 (*Brunei and Malaysia have Excellent Relations and Cooperation*)

The statement also stated that Malaysia has renewed its offer to students from Brunei Darussalam to study in various Malaysian institutions in engineering and applied sciences.

In the tourism sector, the ministers welcomed the idea of promoting the island of Borneo as a single tourist destination.

The ministers noted efforts undertaken by both governments to strengthen cooperation in transport and

communications, particularly in harmonising and recognising rules and regulations pertaining to land transport as well as efforts to develop shipping services between the two countries.

In the area of information and broadcasting, both ministers expressed their satisfaction with the current level of cooperation and agreed on an exchange of journalists between the two countries.

In his opening remarks, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah among others noted that both countries have a great deal of common understanding and mutual respect, and

that the Sultanate much appreciated the leading role Malaysia is playing in regional and international affairs.

His Royal Highness also noted that there is a fund of goodwill between both countries which "brings us very close together indeed not only as neighbours and partners but, above, all, as true relations."

"Our Joint Commission therefore, is a fine opportunity for us to turn this spirit into practical form. The more successful it is, the deeper will be the commitment of our two countries to sharing ideas, and working together for the mutual benefit of our people."

• From page 9 (*Economic progress linked to educational level and active participation of citizens*)

industries for economic well-being.

However, countries without natural resources, he said, will rely upon their manpower resources, for which capability and knowledge play a role.

It is therefore important for every country to upgrade the thinking ability of its citizens both for progress and prosperity, and face every problem; and equally important seek solution to bilateral, regional and international issues, stressed the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Raja Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mohd. Ali.

Officiating at the naming ceremony for the Lorong Lima Vocational School in Seria to Sultan Bolkiah Vocational School on 7 August, he further touched on the existence of the 'battle of the

mind' after the Cold War, for which we should continue to upgrade our knowledge to produce intelligent citizens.

He said that Brunei Darussalam is annually investing large sums of money for education in order to produce citizens with knowledge in various aspects including medical, technical and vocational, business and entrepreneurship.

The Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister earlier spoke about the age of excellence during the rule of Sultan Bolkiah, the fifth Sultan of Brunei Darussalam who was regarded as a dedicated, courageous and determined leader with vision and concern towards the progress and development of the citizens and country.

Today's generations, he stressed, should not just look back at these qualities in nostalgia, but should instill them within themselves to show that we too are capable of achieving such excellence.

The Deputy Minister hoped that technical and vocational institutions in the country would be able to live up to their identity truly as centres of excellence in various areas of training.

His Majesty's Government has spent B\$22 million for the construction of the Sultan Bolkiah Vocational School. Located on a 12.68 hectare site, construction of the building began on 11 July, 1994 and it was completed on 5 August, 1995.

Facilities provided include an administration block, a prayer hall, multi-purpose hall and science, computer and language laboratories, library and workshops for practical works.

The school will shortly conduct eight courses namely on Automotive, Vehicle Body Engineering, Refrigeration and Airconditioning, Machining and Fitting, General Clerk, Accounting Clerk, Computer Clerk and Basic Dress Making.



Car fit for a princess and her prince on special day

With lines of soldiers in full ceremonial dress walking alongside it as well as palace court officials carrying insignia of royalty, the car carrying Brunei's royal newlyweds gleamed in the mid-morning sun as it moved through the streets of the capital.

The car – a Rolls Royce – was especially converted for the occasion. Resembling a chariot, it was decorated elaborately, portraying the wealth of culture and tradition of this ancient state.

Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan
 Land size : 5765 sq. km
 Population : 267,800 (Mid-1992)
 Official Language : Malay
 Official Religion : Islam
 August rainfall : 295 mm
 (annual average : 2,818 mm)

Brunei Malay in a minute

Readers have the opportunity to learn a Brunei Malay word that is particularly peculiar to the country, through each edition of the Brunei Darussalam Newsletter.

The word **mangga-mangga** has been selected for this issue.

Mangga-mangga means spider for which the standard Malay word is labah-labah.

Trying to shorten the word could end you up complaining about a harmless fruit in your room because the word 'mangga' means 'mango'.

**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.**