



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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## HM the Sultan Announces Formation of Highest Islamic Courts

*To implement administration  
of family laws and Qanun  
Jina'-i Islam*

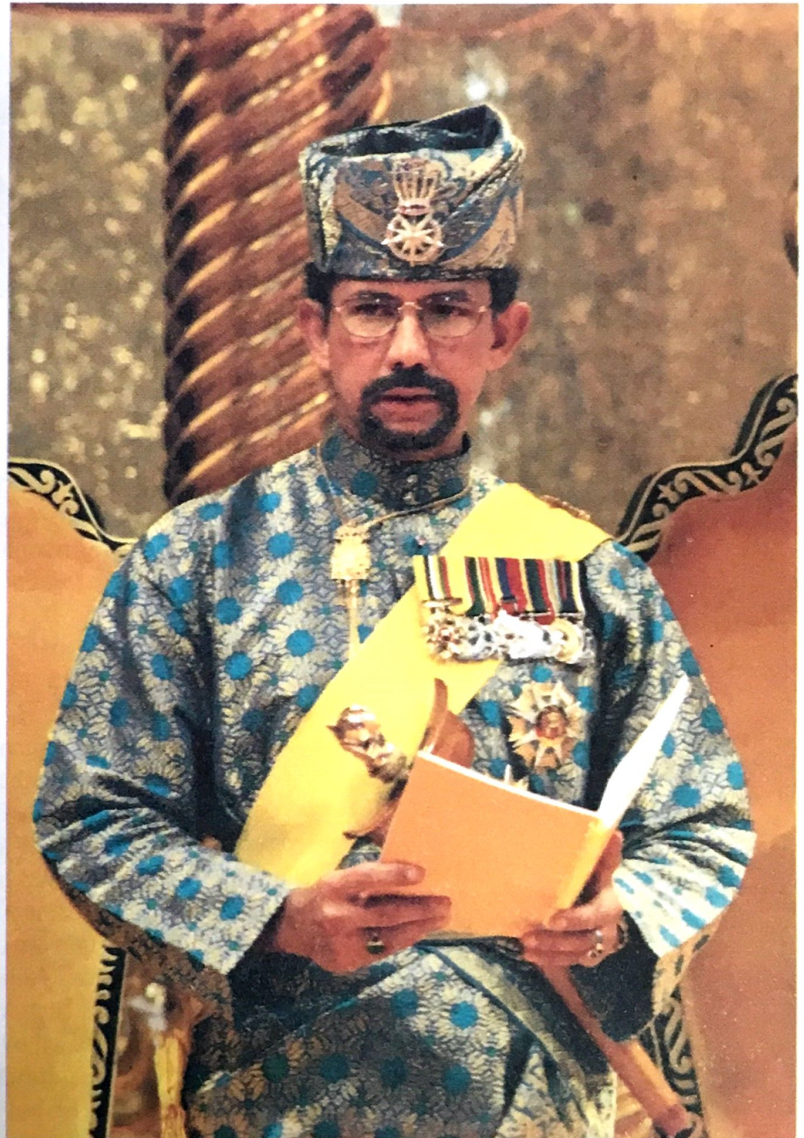
**B**runei Darussalam is to establish syariah (Islamic law) courts to the highest possible levels.

Announcing the formation of the courts in his birthday speech, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said they will implement not only the administration of family laws, but will also handle Qanun Jina'-i Islam or the Islamic Criminal Act.

The monarch said the act will be implemented in its entirety, as required by Allah (God) the Almighty.

"We are confident that this good intention will become a source of blessing to the country and the people in it", said His Majesty, speaking from the throne room of Istana Nurul Iman (Nurul Iman Palace) during the traditional audience and investiture ceremony on the anniversary of his 50th birthday on 15 July.

His Majesty explained that though efforts to combat various ailments and anti-social, anti-civilisation and anti-God wrong doings including the provision of laws and legal penalties and the promulgation of legal acts are not lacking, those which serve to embarrass the



*His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam announces the formation of Islamic Courts to the highest possible levels in his 50th birthday speech at the throne room of Nurul Iman Palace on 15 July.*

criminals in the eyes of the public and therefore have immediate impact seem not to have been tried or considered.

"Islam, on the other hand, has taken this factor into consideration".

His Majesty cited, as an example, that the rate of drug addiction continues to remain unabated and indeed, have increased in certain countries in spite of severe penalties imposed

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### **YOUR TURN**

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 31 August 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.

#### **• From page 1 (Sultan's Birthday Speech)**

on drug addicts and drug traffickers, including the death penalty. So are other anti-social acts such as triads, break-ins, robberies and murders worldwide, all of which bring about trepidation and anxiety.

"As the world advances and as human civilisation supposedly rises to a higher plane, much damage is apparently being done by elements of anti-civilisation and anti-God", the ruler lamented.

#### **Balanced material and spiritual development**

The Brunei ruler emphasised on the need to achieve a balance between material and spiritual development, saying that too often countries which have achieved rapid growth and modernisation, have also experienced chronic social illnesses to the extent that they need to work even harder and allocate more expenditure to overcome those problems.

"This type of progress is certainly not one that we have in mind, because progress must mean also the enhancement of the people's moral values, not their erosion". Brunei Darussalam, stressed the ruler, will always believe in balanced development, which will not only cater for material betterment, but also spiritual and religious enhancement.

Indeed, such an approach has been proven to be the right one, as evidenced by what has been happening around the world, he continued. "We have been witnessing the erosion of moral values, and social ailments that are cancerous to society such as drug addiction and AIDS, which befoul human dignity, and which may be caused by the habit of putting economic development first and foremost, above social development".

#### **Keep unity uppermost**

In the speech to several thousand guests invited to the palace and telecast live over television to the nation, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam urged that unity remain uppermost and maintained, especially in a situation where "we are ever-exposed to foreign influence, where the influences may

become a poison to the unity of the people".

It is through unity that we are able to enjoy three important elements that may only be dreamed by certain countries, explained His Majesty while citing the three elements as stability in the country, sustainable socio-economic growth, and harmony and unity that enable the continuance of peace and prosperity.

However, the ruler reminded his subjects and people of Brunei Darussalam not to allow this comfortable well-being to weaken their sense of resilience, survival and competition.

"If we lost them", pointed the monarch "then we will be left behind by the rest of the world. Because, the present and the future constitute the age of competition".

#### **Work as a team**

With this in mind, the ruler further urged all ministries and government departments to always work as a team to attain and maintain an efficient, clean and honest administration, and the people to be diligent and resolute towards exploring various activities so that the vision of diversifying the national economy can be achieved, hence, reduce the dependence on the oil and gas industries.

#### **Involvement and participation of youths**

His Majesty expressed confidence that this can be achieved with proper planning and management. Hence, the need for the most able human resources.

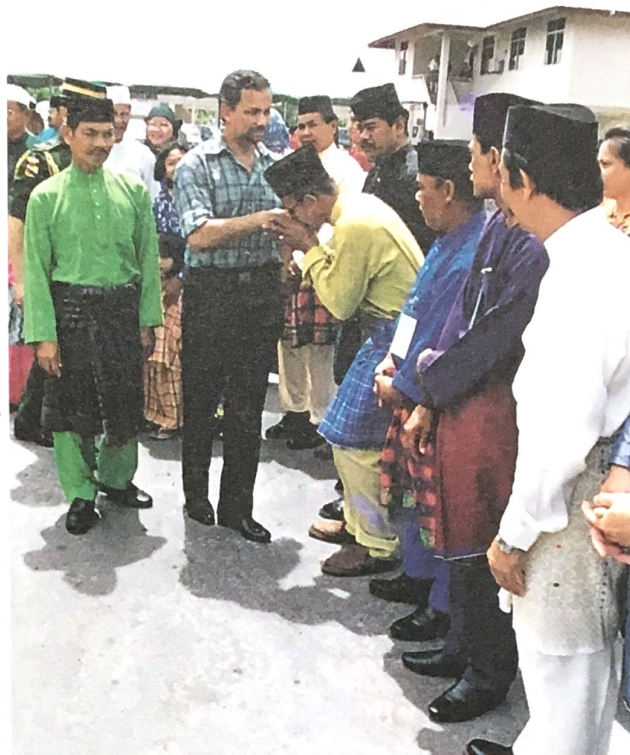
The government will always place great emphasis on the need to equip the young generation or youths with the necessary skills and expertise, but at the same time the youths must be exposed to the many opportunities made available by the rapid changes taking place within the region and the increasing globalisation of the world economy. "Even though at present the time is more opportune for Brunei Darussalam to diversify its economy compared with 20 years ago, it will only be achievable if the youths of today change their attitude and avail themselves of the opportunities available", His Majesty emphasised.

*• Continued on page 4*





Left: His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting house key to one of the recipients during the ceremony in which he presented keys to new houses under the National Housing Programme as well as under the Landless Indigenous Citizens' Housing Scheme and land titles in Belait District.



Above: The monarch being greeted by crowds, and stopping to watch various activities during the visit.

## Monarch Presents House Keys and Land Grants in Belait District

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam recently consented to present more house keys and land grants to residents in the Belait district, some 108 kilometres from the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

The ceremony which was held at the community hall of the National Housing Scheme in Kampong Pandan on 9 July, saw the monarch presenting some 294 house keys. One hundred and thirty four families received keys for houses under the National Housing Programme at Kampong Pandan and the rest under the Housing Scheme for Landless Citizens in Kampong Mumong, while 112 people received their land title deeds for lands which they have been occupying under TOL (Temporary Occupation Licence) at Kampong Mumong.

• Continued on page 19





• *From page 2 (Sultan's Birthday Speech)*

#### **International relations**

Brunei Darussalam has been able to contribute to regional and international fora to which it is associated as a member while at the same time benefited tremendously through its interaction with members of the international community. His Majesty referred to the BIMP-EAGA (East ASEAN Growth Area bringing together Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and The Philippines) of which Brunei Darussalam is capable of becoming the prime hub.

Brunei Darussalam is also gearing to become a centre of services, trade and tourism by the year 2003, the ruler went to say. With regard to finance, the country has become a member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank and memberships to these will enable it obtain technical expertise on fiscal and money matters to help strengthen the economic and financial foundation through sound policies.

While continuing to be committed to providing quality medical and health services so that the people in the country can enjoy a high level of health, Brunei Darussalam will also be applying an even tighter control to eliminate the possibilities of detrimental diseases brought in from outside, as experienced by some countries.

#### **Birthday parade, audience and investiture**

The audience and investiture ceremony was preceded by a parade at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien in the Brunei Darussalam capital of Bandar Seri Begawan at which His Majesty The Sultan inspected contingents of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Royal Brunei Police Force and uniformed government departments and civil organisations taking part and took the salute as the contingents staged a march past in front of the royal dais.

Also in attendance at the parade were other male members of the royal family – His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah

and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and a number of foreign dignitaries including His Royal Highness Prince Charles as well as local dignitaries, cabinet ministers, government officials, village and community leaders and leading members of the business community.

At the investiture ceremony after delivering his titah (speech), His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presented 29 people with state honours in recognition of their service to the country. With His Majesty on the throne were Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness

Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam. Also present were other members of the royal family as well as foreign and local guests.

In the evening following the parade, and the audience and investiture ceremony, His Majesty hosted a reception at the banquet hall of Istana Nurul Iman.

#### **Thanks giving prayers to mark ruler's birthday**

Meanwhile, on the eve of his birthday anniversary, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined his Muslim subjects in thanksgiving prayers at Jame' 'Asr Hassanal Bolkiah Mosque just outside the capital.

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## **Sultan Attends Bersama Rakyat (together with the people sessions) in Four Districts on Birthday Anniversary**

As part of his birthday celebrations, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has attended get-together sessions with his subjects and people of Brunei Darussalam in all four districts that make up Negara Brunei Darussalam, which means The nation of Brunei – abode of peace.

#### **Bersama Rakyat in Brunei-Muara District**

The gathering for residents of the Brunei-Muara District, the seat of the capital Bandar Seri Begawan, took place at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien in the capital itself on 21 July (pictures on page 7).

On arrival at the taman (park) His Majesty, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Abdul Azim and His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Malik, was greeted by the Brunei Muara District Officer, Dato Paduka

Awang Haji Mohd. Kassim bin Haji Johan who among other things, pledged undivided loyalty on behalf of the residents in his district.

Various activities were presented at the gathering, which was the highlight of the ruler's 50th birthday celebrations for the district. These activities had included dances which conveyed certain meanings performed by school-children as well as by older residents.

The monarch also toured an exhibition of a collection of portraits and photographs of himself. The exhibition was put up by a local photographer.

#### **Bersama Rakyat in Tutong District**

Some 4,000 cheering and flag-waving schoolchildren greeted His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as he arrived at the Tutong civic centre's compound on 18 July for the get-together session with the district's residents (pictures on page 5).

The ruler was accompanied by two of his brothers, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

• *Continued on page 5*





## HM Sultan with Subjects

*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam watching various programmes of activities presented during his get-together-session with Tutong District residents, with whom the ruler mingled and chatted freely. With His Majesty were two of his brothers, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.*



### • From page 4 (Sultan with Subjects)

The monarch watched various cultural activities by the residents and walked from one marquee to another while pausing frequently to chat informally with the residents.

His Majesty also heard the District Officer, Awang Adnan bin Haji Hanafiah pledging oath of loyalty on behalf of the residents in his charge.

### **Temburong District's Get-Together**

The following day – 19 July, His Majesty was at Bangar's civic centre for the gathering with the Temburong district residents (pictures on page 6). Again the monarch was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

As with the gathering in Tutong, His Majesty watched an array of presentations including choir singing by the district's youths, schoolchildren and older residents, and chatted freely with the residents.

The District Officer, Awang Haji Maidin bin Haji Ahmad also pledged, on behalf of the residents, undivided loyalty to the march.

### **Gathering in Belait District**

The residents of the Belait District had their opportunity to get together with His Majesty on 22 July – at the Kuala Belait Municipal compound (pictures on page 20).

As with the other three districts, the Belait residents staged various activities including exhibitions and such sporting events as fancy dress soccer for the ruler's visit.

While touring the activities, the ruler paused frequently to mingle and chat freely with the residents.

The Belait District is the largest among the four districts. It is the seat of the country's oil and gas industries.

The District Officer, Awang Haji Dani bin Haji Ibrahim also pledged undivided loyalty before the monarch, on behalf of the residents there.



## Audiences and Messages of Congratulations



**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted audiences to several foreign dignitaries, who were in the country for the monarch's 50th birthday anniversary celebrations (pictures on pages 9 and 10).

Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, in the meantime, granted separate audiences to the wives of the dignitaries (pictures on pages 10 and 11).

They included His Royal Highness Prince Charles of Great Britain, who was bestowed one of Brunei Darussalam's highest honours – The Darjah Kerabat Laila Utama Yang Amat Dihormati (D.K.) by the Brunei monarch.

### Congratulatory messages from world leaders

Foreign leaders have also sent congratulatory messages to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on his 50th birthday anniversary.

They included messages from His Majesty The Yang Dipertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar Ibni Almarhum Tuanku

• *Continued on page 7*



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being presented a souvenir and meeting subjects of all walks of life and races during his birthday anniversary get-together session with residents in Temburong District, where various other celebratory programmes were also presented by residents of all ages.





## HM Sultan with Subjects



Left: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being thronged by his subjects during a get-together session with residents of the Brunei-Muara District at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien.

Below: The ruler being presented a souvenir by a prominent community leader. Second from bottom picture shows His Majesty viewing an exhibition of some 200 of his own photographs and portraits put on display by a well-known local photographer.

Bottom: One of the dance displays being staged by residents especially for the get-together session with His Majesty.

• From page 6  
(Audiences and Messages  
of Congratulations)

Abdul Rahman of Malaysia, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, His Majesty King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, His Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan, His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, His Excellency President Fidel Ramos of the Republic of Philippines, His Excellency President Ong Teng Cheong of the Republic of Singapore. His Excellency President Lec Duc Anh of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Messages of congratulations were also conveyed by The President of the Republic of India, His Excellency Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, His Excellency President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency President Kim Young Sam of the Republic of Korea, His Excellency President Jiang Zemin of The People's Republic of China, His Excellency Mr.



• Continued on page 20





ASEAN's Foreign Minister taking turns to deliver their respective country statement at the opening session of the 29th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) in Jakarta. Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah is third from left, and seen delivering his speech is Malaysia's Foreign Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi.

## ASEAN Enters New Period of Development

**T**he Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, is entering a new period of development as it no longer seem to be pre-occupied with the challenges presented by the end of the cold war, said His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister in his opening statement at the 29th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) on 20 July, in Jakarta.

His Royal Highness continued: "We are in a position to realise something which was central to the founders' vision – a lasting sense of community throughout Southeast Asia, probably for the first time in many centuries."

"If we can work successfully together and continue in our constructive engagement throughout Southeast Asia, it may not be long before we are able to take a common approach to every situation which affects us as partners and neighbours."

His Royal Highness also noted that their work on AFTA (ASEAN Free Trade Area), the growth areas, APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation), the ARF (ASEAN Regional Forum), and the new Asia-Europe Meeting, is taking shape and that they are broadening the economic, political and functional base.

He added that the last few years have been a trying period in the region, but the forces of reason and compromise are generally prevailing and ASEAN has emerged as one of these forces.

The minister also pointed, that ASEAN-10 (an enlarged ASEAN) could lead to greater opportunities for development among all the Southeast Asian people, while adding that the hope it offers of lasting peace and stability for their people and their families could redirect the history of the region.

This is because for most of the century, this region has been a testing ground for political theory, military strategy, and even for new weapons, His Royal Highness stressed.

"Today, in some ways, it still tends to be regarded as a test site, only this time it is for working out new economic theory, modern market strategy, and new technology."

He added that the people and governments who once were called 'dominoes', ready to fall at the slightest touch, are watched carefully – as interesting, but maybe a little disturbing, 'tigers' and 'dragons' roaring through the stock markets.

These, he said, are inconsistent images. The true picture of ASEAN-10 is like the growth process of young bamboo shoots gaining strength in the protection of their surroundings.

"No tigers or dragons but almost 500 million people of complex racial, cultural and political backgrounds attempting a crucial and equally complex task – to learn to live together and try to approach every situation in harmony and common purpose.

"It may take some years yet to become a reality but Southeast Asia needs its identity. Not one given to it by others. Its defining feature must be a Southeast Asian community of shared interests. Not a fortress but a heartland from which we can look out with confidence and make our own contribution to wider affairs," His Royal Highness said.

His Royal Highness went on to say that the smooth passage to an enlarged ASEAN as preventive diplomacy is vital to the region and the Asia Pacific as a whole.

In this regard, he called on for the most effective way to work alongside with each other and facilitate the admission of those of the neighbours who decide to become full members of this association.

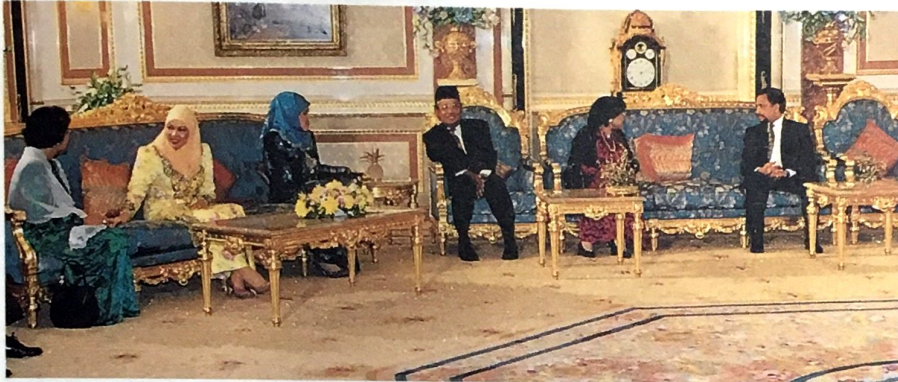
His Royal Highness described this "as a critical element in constructive engagement, the approach to which we have committed ourselves in our relations with our friends, partners and neighbours."

"ASEAN-10 gives this concept strength and deep meaning. Above all, it provides us as the countries of Southeast Asia what we have often been denied in the past time to evolve together and in our own way. I am sure it is a prospect which excites all our imaginations," His Royal Highness concluded.

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Right: An audience with HM The Sultan, HM The Raja Isteri and HRH Pengiran Isteri for Princess Basma, HE Al-Syed Walid Ismail Al-Kurdi and Farah Daghistan of Jordan.

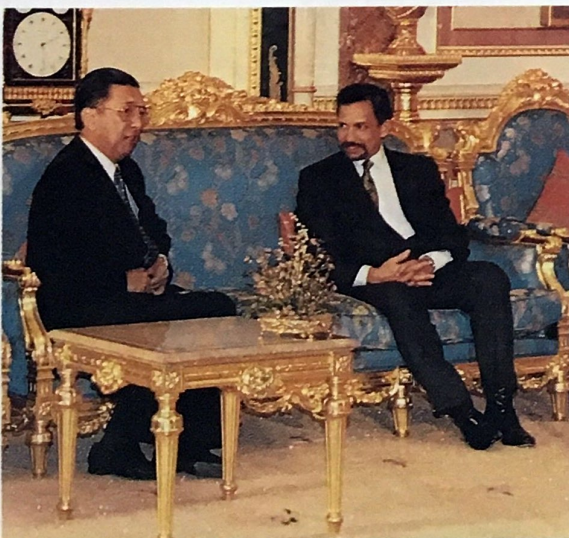


Left: His Majesty The Sultan, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri grant an audience to Malaysia's Minister of International Trade and Industry, Yang Berbahagia Dato Seri Rafidah Aziz and her husband, Yang Berbahagia Dato Basir bin Ahmad.

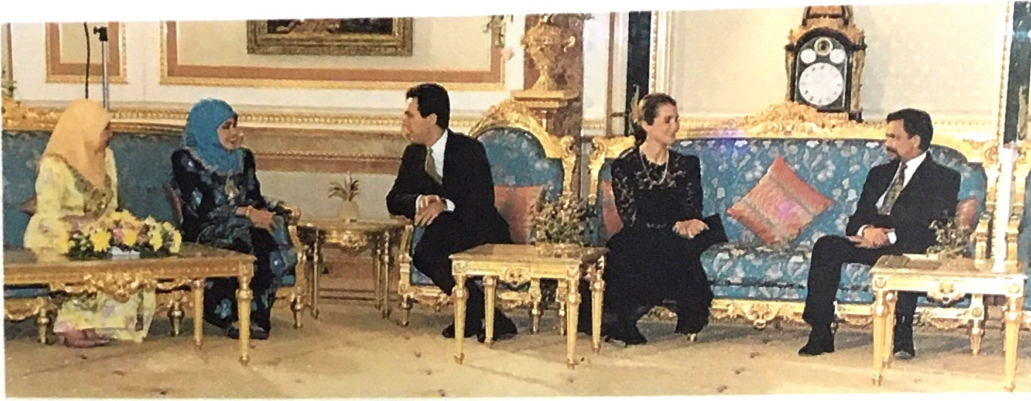


Left: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with The Senior Minister of the West Indian Island of Saint Lucia, The Rt. Hon. John G. Compton and above, the Brunei ruler granting an audience to Malaysian Education Minister, Dato Sri Haji Mohd. Najib.

The Brunei monarch also granted audiences to the Foreign Secretary of the Republic of Philippines, His Excellency Mr. Domingo L. Saizon (below left) and to Indonesia's Minister of Information, Yang Berhormat Tuan Haji Harmoko (below right)







*Left: His Majesty The Sultan, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri grant an audience to Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Lugo, Princess Elena and His Excellency The Duke of Lugo (Spain).*



*Clockwise, from left: His Majesty granting audiences to the Communications Minister of Singapore, His Excellency Mr. Mah Mow Tan, Sarawak's Chief Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Petinggi Haji Mohd. Taib Mahmud, Thailand's Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Dr. Amnuay Viravan and Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Datuk Abang Haji Ahmad Urai bin Datu Hakim Abang Haji Mohideen (right).*

*Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri with Puan Sri Datin Hajjah Siti Mumiat binti Abdullah (below right) and with Mrs Sheryn Mah, wife of the Singapore Communications Minister.*





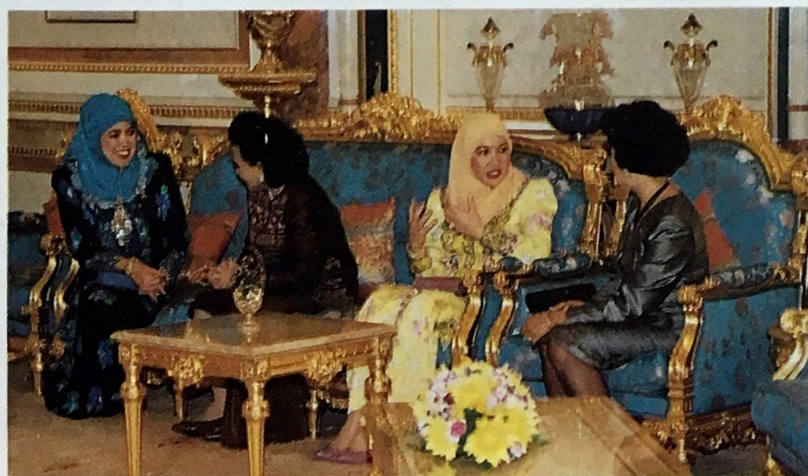


Left: Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam granting an audience to Yang Amat Berbahagia Puan Sri Hajjah Laila Taib, wife of Sarawak's Chief Minister.



## Audiences for foreign guests at birthday celebration

Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness granting audiences to Mrs. Kazuko, wife of the Foreign Secretary of the Republic of Philippines (top right); Mrs Compton, wife of the Senior Minister of the West Indian Island of Saint Lucia (above); Datin Sri Rosmah binti Mansor, wife of the Education Minister of Malaysia (above right picture).



Also granted audiences by Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness were Puan Hajjah Sri Romadhiyati Harmoko, wife of Indonesian Information Minister (above) and Puan Smomsri, wife of Thailand's Foreign Affairs Minister (left).





Left: His Majesty pinning medal on the Minister of Development, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Wijaya Pengiran Dr. Haji Ismail, who was one of 29 recipients of top birthday honours. Above, from right to left: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zanah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati, Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah at the audience and investiture ceremony.



Above left: His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam flanked on the throne to his right by Her Majesty The Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and to his left by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at the audience and investiture ceremony on 15 July. Left: The monarch inspecting contingents taking part in his birthday parade at the Taman Haji Sir Omar Ali Saifuddin.



Left: from left to right: His Majesty with Their Royal Highnesses Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim and Prince 'Abdul Malik to his right and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah to his left at a thanksgiving prayer in conjunction with the ruler's birthday. Centre, from left to right: His Royal Highness Prince Charles, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajjah Mazuin, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, Her Royal Highness Princess Elena The Duchess of Lugo and other members of the royal family at the audience and investiture ceremony.



Left: Sarawak's Chief Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Petinggi Haji Mohd. Taib Mahmud and his wife, Yang Amat Berbahagia Puan Sn Laila Taib (extreme left, front row) and Malaysia's Education Minister, Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Haji Mohd. Najib and his wife, Datin Sn Rosmah binti Mansor (extreme left, second row) were among foreign dignitaries attending His Majesty's birthday celebration. Above: Yang Teramat Mulia (YTM) Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, YTM Princess Hajjah Mute-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah, YTM Princess Hajjah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah, YTM Princess Hajjah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah, YTM Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah, YTM Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah, YTM Princess Hajjah Masna, YTM Princess Hajjah Nor'ain, YTM Princess Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam, YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Amal Nasibah, YTM Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Nonhsani and other members of the royal family and guests leaving the throne room after the audience and investiture ceremony.





*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam during His Majesty's 50th birthday reception at the banquet hall of Istana Nurul Iman. Seen at far right is Britain's Prince Charles, who was one of many foreign guests at the celebration. Other members of the royal family were also at the reception, as were His Majesty's other guests.*



*Centre-left: His Majesty exchanging greetings during another reception, also at Istana Nurul Iman, for members of the security forces as well as uniformed government departments and uniformed civil organisations.*

*Below: His Majesty exchanging greetings during a thanksgiving dinner held to mark the ruler's 50th birthday anniversary. The function took place at the International Convention Centre near the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.*





# Sultanate to be a Popular Destination for Tourists

**B**runei Darussalam is inclined to make itself a popular destination for tourists apart from being a hub for other activities, said the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources to the visiting Minister for Tourism of the Republic of Maldives on 25 June.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman pointed out that Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Maldives have important relationships, especially in the tourism industry.

"In this regard, Brunei Darussalam wish to share experience with the Republic of Maldives, which indeed has vast experience in the tourism sector."

The minister pointed out that tourism industry in Brunei Darussalam is still

at its early stage and several critical strategies towards its success have been identified.

Touching further on the vision to make the Sultanate a popular destination for tourists, the minister said the challenge would be "to create support services, including the required infrastructure in maintaining the country's stable development."

This will in turn create job opportunities, upgrade foreign exchange reserve and enhance the national image of Brunei Darussalam as a major tourist destination as well as an entry point for this region.

The Minister for Tourism of the Republic of Maldives, Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki was leading a delegation on a three-day visit to Brunei Darussalam.



*The Industry and Primary Resources Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman (left) in discussion with Maldives' Tourism Minister, His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki.*

## Select Educational Computer 'Software' for Children, says Minister

**T**he Minister of Education has called on parents to select more educationally-oriented computer softwares rather than those which can distract their children, such as videogames containing violent elements and matters conflicting with the noble values of the people and religion.

Speaking at a computer quiz competition for secondary schools and colleges throughout the country or INFORAMA '96, held at Radio Television Brunei (RTB) in Bandar Seri Begawan on 22 June, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, the Minister of Education urged parents to ensure that computer and the INTERNET facilities should not be misused and ruin the morals of small children.

The minister pointed out there are certain irresponsible sectors that are taking the opportunity to pursue material gains out of this sophisticated facility.

Efforts to overcome the problems through censorship and prevention of negative elements on the INTERNET which undermine the behaviour and moral of children and youths in particular would be a waste of time, energy and money, he said.

Even though the negative impact is still not a worrying factor in the country due to the limited number of INTERNET users at present, nonetheless, we should curb it before the menace becomes more terrifying as some of its 'germs' are already prevailing, reminded the minister.

If developed countries are also worried by the increasing negative elements, more so would be our country which is highly disciplined in accordance with Islamic norms.

Earlier, the minister stressed that the computer quiz activity is in line with the effort to encourage awareness and utilization of information technology among students.

He said that the development of information technology in computer, micro-electronic and telecommunications has changed the life-styles of mankind in various aspects including education. He added, computer has made the world a smaller planet and communications could be made faster and easier.

With the existence of the 'information superhighway' and through the 'open sky policy', information and knowledge are obtainable by people regardless of age including children, as long as they have the skills to use this information technology.

He also said that in principle the advancement of information technology is beneficial to mankind as it can be used as a means of learning the Al-Quran, compiling the 'Hadith' as well as obtaining information and knowledge pertaining to religion and welfare.

But then there are those who consider only the material benefits, he lamented.



• From page 8 (ASEAN Enters New Period of Development)

The meeting was officially opened by President Soeharto of Indonesia shortly after he gave a joint audience to the ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

The two-day meeting was attended by all ASEAN Foreign Ministers as well as the Foreign Ministers of Observer countries namely Papua New Guinea, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar.

#### **Joint Communique issued at the end of meeting**

A joint communique issued at the end of the 29th AMM, among others noted the grouping's achievements and progress as well as enhanced cooperation in the political, security, economic and on external relations.

It said the foreign ministers accepted the formal applications of Cambodia and Laos to become members of ASEAN in 1997, and that they also granted observer status of ASEAN to Myanmar.

#### **Political and Security Cooperation**

On political and security cooperation, the ministers among others noted the increasingly important role of ASEAN in the maintenance of peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia and Pacific region. In this regard, they reaffirmed their commitment to working closely with others, particularly with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and Observers.

The ministers welcomed China, India and Russia as the new Dialogue Partners of ASEAN. They looked forward to the broadening of the scope and intensifying of cooperation between ASEAN and its three new dialogue partners.

They expressed satisfaction on the progress made by the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in promoting confidence-building measures among its participants.

The ministers further expressed satisfaction on the progress made in the implementation of ASEAN's "Programme of Action on ZOPFAN" (Zone of peace, Freedom and Neutrality). They cited that the signing of the SEANWFZ (Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-free Zone) Treaty by all Heads of Government of Southeast Asian countries on 15 December 1995, as another contribution towards strengthen-



*Above: Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah chairing a meeting between ASEAN and Australia – one of ASEAN's dialogue partners. Below: The Brunei Darussalam Foreign Affairs Minister together with his counterparts in ASEAN and dialogue countries during a press conference.*



ing security in the region and to the maintenance of world peace and stability.

The Foreign Ministers also had a wide-ranging exchange of views on the current regional and international situations. They noted that the political and security situation in the Asia Pacific region was relatively stable and peaceful, and believe that this was largely attributed to the endeavours of ASEAN to cultivate the habits of dialogue, consensus and cooperation among the countries in the region and to encourage the solution of disputes through negotiations and other peaceful means.

#### **Economic Cooperation**

On economic cooperation, the joint communique among others stated on the progress on AFTA and other related issues.

It said that the Foreign Ministers were pleased over the rapid increase of

21 percent in intra-ASEAN exports of CEPT products in 1995, from US\$49.1 billion in 1994 to US\$59.3 billion in 1995.

They were also satisfied with the progress made on the decision of the 5th ASEAN Summit in Bangkok to accelerate the CEPT-AFTA (Common Effective Preferential Tariffs for ASEAN Free Trade Area) whereby tariffs of items in the CEPT Inclusion List will be reduced to the 0-5 percent range by the year 2000, thus enabling ASEAN to achieve the AFTA even before the target date of 2003.

For new members the schedule for the implementation of CEPT for AFTA will be carried out in accordance with the agreement and commitment between ASEAN and new members.

• Continued on page 17





*His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah paying a courtesy call on His Excellency President Soeharto, left, and granting an audience to India's Foreign Affairs Minister.*

• *From page 16 (ASEAN Enters New Period of Development)*

The minister noted with satisfaction the substantial progress made in the negotiations to liberalise trade in unprocessed agricultural products, and welcomed the decision to phase-in these products into the CEPT Scheme by the year 2010 and encouraged member countries to intensify efforts to realise this decision.

The ministers called on for continued efforts to reduce the impediments to trade and investment in ASEAN and urged the private sector to actively participate in ASEAN economic cooperation programmes and activities and to take advantage of the business opportunities.

The ministers noted the progress made on food, agriculture, forestry, energy, transport and tourism sectors, and welcomed the signing of the Basic Agreement on ASEAN Industrial Cooperation (AICO) which broadens the scope of industrial cooperation in ASEAN.

They noted the progress of the establishment of trade and investment linkages between AFTA and countries of the Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA), and encouraged the establishment as such with other regional groupings and trading arrangements.

The joint communique also stated on topics pertaining to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), ASEAN Common Time Zone, functional

cooperation, Transnational issues, ASEANWEB, ASEAN's 30th anniversary celebrations, as well as on the external relations such as the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and cooperation with the Dialogue Partners.

**The Third ASEAN Regional Forum**

Meanwhile, the Third ASEAN Regional Forum was held on 23 July. The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Mr. Ali Alatas, Indonesia's Foreign Affairs Minister.

The meeting was attended by all ARF participants comprising the ASEAN member countries, the Dialogue Partners namely the United States, Australia, Canada, India, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, European Union, China and Russia, as well as Observer countries which comprise Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea.

The chairman of the meeting, among others stated that a wide range of issues was discussed on the question of peace and security of the Asia-Pacific which included the SEANWFZ Treaty, nuclear testing, South China Sea and on the Korean Peninsula.

The ministers also welcomed India and Myanmar as new participants in the ARF.

**Post Ministerial Conferences**

The following day, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah along with his ASEAN counterparts attended the Post Ministerial Conferences between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners. The meetings were held on 24-25 July.

Brunei Darussalam was the coordinator of ASEAN-Australia

dialogue; Indonesia, was coordinator for ASEAN-United States; Malaysia coordinated the ASEAN-Canada and ASEAN-China; the Philippines coordinated ASEAN-Republic of Korea; Singapore coordinated ASEAN-European Union and ASEAN-India; Thailand coordinated ASEAN-Japan; and Vietnam was the coordinator of ASEAN-New Zealand and ASEAN-Russia dialogues.

**Sultanate enjoys working with Australia**

In his speech during the ASEAN-Australia dialogue, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah stated that Brunei Darussalam enjoyed working with Australia and that the close professional relationship which has developed between the officials has "certainly contributed to the success of our dialogue activities."

His Royal Highness stressed that the meeting would enable them to exchange views on regional and international issues, enhancing the dialogue relations as well as to strengthen cooperation.

On regional developments, His Royal Highness pointed that there has been political stability leading to infrastructural development and economic growth.

He said, ASEAN itself will be expanding and the vision of its founders of an association of all ten South-East Asian countries is nearer to reality, and lead to enhance cooperation

• *Continued on page 22*





*Left: His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam speaking at the official opening of the Lambak Kanan mosque, where he joined Muslims subjects in the Friday congregational prayer together with His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufrin Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.*

*Below: Worshippers at their mosque's official opening.*

## Religious Institutions – A Prerequisite to Facing Challenges of 21st Century

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has highlighted the important roles of religious institutions including mosques as a prerequisite to facing challenges of the 21st Century amid increasing erosion of moral values besetting the world, the impact of which, too, can affect the Sultanate's future.

Speaking at the opening of the new mosque at the Lambak Kanan National Housing Project on 19 July, the monarch said that the institution of mosque can be used as a place to mould discipline because it is not merely a place for performing prayers, but also for carrying out various religious activities.

### **Use mosque for moulding virtues**

His Majesty stressed: "All Muslim ummahs should be committed to the mosque. We should not only regard it as a mere pride or to be decorated and providing it with all the facilities, but more importantly, the mosque should be used for beneficial purposes, as a place of

worship and a place for moulding and developing moral virtues."

His Majesty further said that the provision of effective guidance by mosque gives brighter hope for us to be able to reject undesirable social ailments in future.

### **Make programmes for all levels and permanent**

Therefore, mosques should not be void with its programmes such as lectures or family counselling services to the community. In short, the role of the mosque is extensive, the monarch pointed.

His Majesty also reminded that the contents of the programme

should be able to attract all levels so that they will not only be attended by certain people such as older ones, but also youngsters and youths because it is with the latter group that our hopes lie towards bringing about more effective changes to the society.

To this end, the manpower handling the programmes should be upgraded and enhanced from time to time, so that it will not be too heavily dependent on foreigners, and when this succeeds, the programmes could become permanent, His Majesty stressed.

• *Continued on page 19*





# Media Enhance Development and Progress

**T**he Director of Information has said that the participation of local media and press in the global information network is not merely out of passion of getting into the race of the free and no-holds-barred global press and media. But it is influenced by a commitment towards enhancing development and progress, as well as towards protecting and elevating the image and status of the people and country.

"Our participation is also because of our awareness to highlight our values and identity as a country and people in the global community where everyone is interacting with one another, and promoting oneself to the other", said Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, the Director of Information during a press and media gathering at a Bandar Seri Begawan leading hotel, organised by the Brunei Shell Petroleum Company on 6 July.

## Media have many roles

In his speech as chief guest and personal representative of the Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, the Information



*The Director of Information, Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah spoke of the advantages and disadvantages of information technology during a gathering of media and pressmen in Bandar Seri Begawan.*

Director stressed that the government and the country hope that the local press and media play their role as agent, prime-mover, platform and promoter of solidarity, harmony, stability, development and progress of the society and people.

Clearly, he said, the press in the country do not adopt the values and practices of those in Western countries, which dwell on sensationalism, emotion, reaction and extremism while ignoring social values, discretion,

respect, morality, compromise and truth. More important to them are profits from the sales of newspapers and news items.

## Media to maintain harmonious government-people relationships

Media people, therefore, should be sensitive and cautious in their writings and styles of conveying the news, for without these considerations the news being presented can be unpleasing and

• *Continued on page 21*

## • From page 18 (Roles of Mosques)

Earlier, in his 'titah', His Majesty urged Muslims to give due attention to discipline as emphasized by Islam.

## Discipline in leadership

The monarch said: "All acts of religious obligations lead to discipline. For instance, the prayer embraces discipline in leadership, as illustrated in congregational prayer when the

leadership of the 'iman' (leader of prayer in a group) is prominent wherein followers are prohibited to act before the 'iman', regardless of their numbers."

It is, therefore, a unique and beautiful sight when Muslims perform the congregational prayer. The larger the congregation the better. Even if there are tens or even hundreds of thousands of worshippers, they still have to obey the 'iman'. But if they

act as they wish and disobey the 'iman', its uniqueness and beauty will not be a reality, said His Majesty.

Later, His Majesty joined Muslims in performing the Friday congregational prayer.

The more than B\$11-million mosque began construction in mid-1994 and it was completed at the end of last year. The mosque can accommodate some 2,400 worshippers.

## • From page 3 (House keys)

At present 1,137 houses have been occupied in the district under both the National Housing Scheme in Kampong Pandan and the Housing Scheme for Landless Citizens in Kampong Mumong.

With the latest addition, the National Housing Scheme in Kampong Pandan has now a total of 563 houses.

A further 200 houses are still under construction and will be completed by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, there are now 574 houses occupied under the Housing Scheme for Landless Citizens, and 70 more will be completed by early next year.

His Majesty was accompanied by his brother, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong

Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

After presenting the keys and land grants, the monarch visited a school of the Kuala Belait Teachers' Association, went inside several houses at the housing schemes and toured the Suri Seri Begawan hospital.

As with other visits, the monarch received a warm welcome from his subjects of all walks of life.





His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam watches from the dais various programmes of celebration presented by Belait District residents for the ruler's 50th birthday. The programmes included exhibitions and sports events. At the get-together session at Kuala Belait, the ruler was accompanied by His royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.



*HM Sultan with Subjects*

• From page 7  
(Audiences and  
Messages of  
Congratulations)

Bill Clinton, President of the United States of America, His Excellency President Roman Herzog of the Federal German Republic, His Excellency President Jacques Chirac of France and His Excellency Mr. Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa.

His Excellency President Cassam Uteem of the Republic of Mauritius, His Excellency Governor-General Romeo Leblanc of Canada, The Australian Governor-General, His Excellency Mr. William Deane, The Malaysian Prime Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohammad, The Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, His Excellency Mr. Goh Chok Tong, The Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Mr. Banharn Silpa-Archa, His Excellency Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, The Prime Minister of New Zealand, The Rt. Hon. James B. Bolger and Her Excellency Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of the Republic of Pakistan also sent congratulatory messages to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on the occasion of the anniversary of his 50th birthday on 15 July.



# Special Education Essential Towards Educational for All

**T**he Minister of Education has underscored the importance of special education in Brunei Darussalam as an essential element of the drive towards education for all.

Speaking at the opening of the National Conference on Special Education on 18 June, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, the Education Minister said, special education is aimed at providing assistance to all learners who have difficulties within the school system, including children with severe special needs.

He said that the emphasis is on inclusive education, where the aim is to respond to the needs of all children.

This inclusive orientation was a strong feature in a statement produced at the UNESCO Conference on Special Needs Education in Salamanca, Spain, in 1994, which was agreed to by representatives of 92 governments and 25 international organisations, whereby regular schools with an inclusive orientation can provide an effective education for all children.

The Special Education Unit of the Ministry of Education was established in 1995 as an effort of His Majesty's Government to improve the quality of learning with the aim of helping each and every child to achieve his/her social, emotional and academic potential.

Special Education is based on the assumption that all children are special



*The Education Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Aziz.*

and should receive a good education in order to develop their potential to

• *Continued on page 22*

• *From page 19 (Media Enhance Development and Progress)*

should this happen, "nobody likes the bringer of bad news", he stressed.

The official pointed out that a major role of the press and media is to uphold the solidarity and harmonious relationships among the people and avoid any gap which may separate the government and the people from emerging.

He urged press and media organisations in the country to cooperate among one another in protecting national interests and upgrading the socio-economy, especially in this age of global information.

## **Ways to counter negative press needed**

The Director of Information also urged for ways to be found towards collectively disseminating information effectively in the country, as well as in dealing with negative forms of media and press which can be damaging to the society, and on how to promote and elevate the image of the country to the world.

## **Development of expertise**

He said cooperation is also essential in developing the skills and expertise of local media and press people by way of conducting training, workshops and seminars designed to producing young talents, apart from upgrading the professionalism among journalists, reporters and editors regardless of whether they are serving in the government or private sector.

Earlier, Awang Haji Hazair pointed that the gathering indicates an awareness among the press and media people of the need to make efforts jointly towards facing global challenges and the onslaught of information technology, which no longer recognises national borders.

"We cannot shy away from facing the phenomena which beset the world community and which are making the global village a reality through barrages of information technology spearheaded by the multi-media INTERNET Network", he said.

The rapid growth of information technology has rendered information being disseminated, delivered, received and stored in varied ways speedily.

## **Changes brought by information technology**

The development of information technology has globally changed the formats of education, trade, industrialisation, investments and business, including the press and media realms, the official further said.

He continued, "Brunei Darussalam will not sit back and be left behind but will keep abreast and get involved directly in this rapid development of information technology, taking into consideration the benefits it contributes to socio-economic growth in the fields of trade, tourism, investment, industry and education.

"Brunei Darussalam has responded with measures being undertaken by various sectors involved in communications, the press and media such as by joining the BRUNET service, through transmission of television by satellite, providing home-page in the INTERNET as well as through the provision of news items in the INTERNET by the government's weekly newspaper Pelita Brunei and the privately-run daily newspaper the Borneo Bulletin", he said.



• *From page 17 (ASEAN Enters New Period of Development)*

and a common Southeast Asian approach to various regional and international issues.

Touching on the sustainment of peace and stability, His Royal Highness commended Australia's contribution especially in the current efforts to promote confidence-building and preventive diplomacy in the region.

"I am pleased to note that we continue to share common views on many international and regional concerns," he said.

This is important as the formation of ASEAN-10 will increase our association's economic size and should intensify trade regionally and internationally, he added.

At this stage we are particularly happy to see Australian involvement in the activities of the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines – East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).

His Royal Highness was pleased to note the Australian Government's willingness to take part in ASEAN Mekong Development Cooperation as stated during the recent ASEAN-Australian forum held in the Brunei capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

He also hoped that the implementation of a greater economic cooperation as has been discussed at last year's Fifth ASEAN Summit, will lead

to further progress in economic cooperation and development among ASEAN members themselves as well as between ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners.

**Australia urged to seize opportunities offered by AFTA**

His Royal Highness later urged Australia to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and hoped that Australian investors will recognise that AFTA's success will benefit not only ASEAN but also the entire Asia-Pacific region including Australia.

He cited that through the dialogue relations, economic cooperation has continued to progress, as shown by the steady increase in the volume of trade and the establishment of the AFTA-CER (ASEAN Free Trade Area-Closer Economic Relations) linkage at the 27th ASEAN Economic Minister's Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan.

"With a current population of more than 400 million, ASEAN promises a larger added market for Australian exports," His Royal Highness said.

Nonetheless, His Royal Highness expressed concern over access to the Australian market which has been a major obstacle in the growth of ASEAN exports to Australia.

The minister also spoke on the importance of maintaining the ASEAN-

Australia Economic Co-operation Programme which has done much in the development of both relations. The AAECF, he said, has provided significant benefits by promoting the awareness of ASEAN institutions and the public in general, and encourage business people to become involved.

The minister also pointed that other areas of cooperation such as education, environment and culture and information have helped create better understanding among the people.

He said that these are all positive developments and indicate the healthy state of current ASEAN-Australia relations.

"They also reflect Australia's very welcome engagement in our region and our recognition of the importance we place on Australia's role in the development of Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific as a whole," His Royal Highness concluded.

Also present at the meeting was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, the Ambassador-at-Large.

While in Jakarta, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkhiah also held bilateral talks separately with the His Excellency Mr. Amnuay Virawan, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and with His Excellency Mr. I.K. Gujral, Minister of External Affairs of India.

• *From page 21 (Special Education Essential Towards Educational for All)*

become full, active and contributing members of society.

Currently, all children are being treated equally and receive the same education. However, although children are receiving the same education, "we must remember that there is a difference in sameness."

It is this difference that makes all children unique and exceptional, with different physical, emotional, social and intellectual development.

With these differences in mind, the minister urged for the adoption of the philosophy that all children be given the opportunity to learn, whether they are bright, average, dull, learning

disabled, visually impaired, hearing impaired, physically handicapped, or otherwise limited in their ability to learn.

"We must look at how the system can better serve children, including children with special needs who require special education and related services if they are to realise their full potential," he urged.

The minister also urged that school accommodate those learners with special needs who included those learning English and Malay as a second language respectively, those who live in remote areas, those with normal intelligence who encounter difficulties in school, those with special needs, such as intellectual disabilities, behavioural disorders, sensory impairment, physical or health

impairments or learning disabilities, and those with exceptional talents and abilities.

The minister added that there must be a shared responsibility and commitment on the part of all those who are directly involved in the education of the child to ensure success socially, emotionally and academically. These include the commitment on the part of the school, the teachers, parents, and a multi-disciplinary team of service providers.

It was the first of such conference to be organised by the Ministry of Education, and was attended by more than 200 participants comprising senior education officials, principals, head-masters, teachers as well as parents. It was held for three days.





## IBB to Make Net Profit of More Than B\$20 Million

*The Law Minister, who is also Chairman of the Islamic Bank of Brunei, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin opens the bank's ninth branch.*

**T**he Islamic Bank of Brunei (IBB) is expected to make a net profit of more than B\$20 million this year, compared to only B\$15 million in 1995, said the Law Minister, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin.

Asset of IBB is also expected to increase to B\$1,000 million next year, an achievement which is encouraging, he added.

Disclosing the figures before he declared open the IBB Seria branch in

the Belait District on 12 July, the Minister, who is also the Chairman of the IBB said, based on the result which has not been audited for the first six months of 1996, the profit after tax and tithe has increased by 42 percent, which is B\$8.69 million compared to B\$6.11 million for the same period in 1995.

He said the IBB has been developing rapidly and has become a pioneer towards introducing new financial services and investment in the country.

The development and strength of the IBB was partly due to the hardwork and cooperation as well as dedication of its officials and staff, and support from the local people.

The Seria branch is the ninth which also provides an Automatic Transaction Machine (ATM) and 'takaful' services.

The renovation of the building, designed by the IBB Architecture Unit, cost B\$1.13 million. The new branch is conducted by two officials and six staff.

## His Majesty Pardons Political Detainee

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted pardon to a political detainee, detained under the country's Internal Security Act.

Awang Haji Zaini bin Haji Ahmad was released after swearing allegiance to His Majesty The Sultan and yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and his government, in a ceremony held at the Mohamed Bolkiah mosque near the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan on 19 July.

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Awang Haji Zaini, a former member of the banned Partai Rakyat Brunei (PRB) or Brunei Peoples' Party, along with several other political detainees escaped from the Berakas Detention



*Holding the Al-Qur'an aloft over his head, former detainee Awang Haji Zaini bin Haji Ahmad swears allegiance to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and his government.*

Camp on 12 July, 1973, and has since been living abroad.

The press release added that while abroad, Awang Haji Zaini continued to play an active role with his propaganda writings apart from being involved in circulating subversives.

Before being pardoned, Awang Haji Zaini had undergone a rehabilitation programme at the

Jerudong Detention Centre.

At the allegiance swearing ceremony, Awang Haji Zaini confessed that he regretted his political doings due to the outbreak of the December 8, 1962 rebellion, which has caused trouble to His Majesty's government and subjects.

He also pledged that he will cooperate in any welfare activity.





## Jerudong Park Garden...a magical land

**B**arely three years old, the Jerudong Park Garden has become a magical land for many – both old and young. With its

wide array of playground and facilities not to mention the foodstalls, the park is visited by large number of people including tourists every day.

At night, the park is truly a magical land that glitters – the lights will just take one's breath away.

### *Brunei in Brief*

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan  
 Land size : 5765 sq. km  
 Population : 267,800 (Mid-1992)  
 Official Language : Malay  
 Official Religion : Islam  
 July rainfall : 252.9 mm  
 (annual 2,818mm)

### *Brunei Malay in a minute*

**E**ach month we introduce readers to common Malay words as used in this country. This month the word selected is **jalama**.

**Jalama** means people or human beings and the standard Malay equivalent would be orang or manusia.

Let us use the word **jalama** in a sentence:

Ramai **jalama** menyaksikan perlawanan bola sepak itu.

Many people watched the soccer match.

**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.**