



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

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Observe lessons of Hijrah at all times: HM Sultan

The new year of Hijrah 1415 hopefully will bring about more positive changes where observing Islamic values such as the 'ibadat' (acts of worship) are concerned. It is also hoped that Islamic values too would serve as a guide in governing and developing the country.

In his recent 'titah' (royal address), His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stressed that "Hijrah" constitutes an extraordinary manifestation of the prominence of Muslims and signifies a declaration by the "mukmin" (believers or pious people) to be faithful to Allah, the Almighty. There are many obstacles leading to the right path, the monarch said, as these are paved with restrictions based on "syara" (laws based on Islamic teachings), which are aimed at limiting [excessive] freedom [that run contrary to Islam].

The 'titah' was telecast on 10 June nationwide over radio and television on the eve of the Muslim new Year of Hijrah 1415 (the flight of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) from Mecca to Medina in A.D. 622).

In going about with their lives,



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam called on his Muslim subjects to observe and emulate the lessons of Hijrah.

Muslims have two options, both of which will determine the way they lead their lives in this world, His Majesty pointed out. The rightful path based on "syara" leads to heaven, while the other leading to hell, is dominated by unlimited sense of freedom and lustful desires and

gratifications.

"Hijrah" taught us to completely avoid the temptations of wanton desires, such as the practice of reaping profits by taking the easiest way out even though these are not

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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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YOUR TURN

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• From page 1 (Hijrah)

"halal" [permissible in Islam]; like corruption, bribery, fraud, robbery, usury, gambling and many other vices.

All these acts have been wilfully undertaken without due regard to "hukum" (Islamic laws) and regulations, the ruler added.

The lessons brought about by Hijrah should be observed at all times, the monarch stressed, especially during this period where greed and non-faith have become the dominant theme or norm in a community and country.

This is precisely the reason which has motivated the Government to organise seminars or courses so as to promote understanding on Islamic values and ethics in management, the monarch said.

Various systems have been tried, yet the results have been disappointing. Corruptions and financial

scandals for instance, have become progressively worse creating havoc to many countries in the world, regretted His Majesty.

That is why His Majesty had reiterated that [the teachings of] the Al-Quran should be observed and the "ibadat" of prayer should become the cornerstone of ethics as both have assured the welfare [of the believers] not found anywhere else.

His Majesty expressed his appreciation on the recent homecoming reception accorded to him after performing the haj.

Performing the haj is not an easy trip as there are various [unforeseen] risks and difficulties to be encountered such as the 1990 Mu'aisim Tunnel tragedy and this year's unfortunate stampede in Mina, His Majesty added.

Perhaps this is why Muslims are obliged to perform the haj only once in his or her lifetime, the monarch concluded.

Brunei Darussalam and Thailand Exchange views on political and economic issues

His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Foreign

Affairs Minister has made a courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Mr. Chuan

• Continued on page 3



Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and his wife, YTM Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah (rear-most) being greeted by his Thai counterpart, His Excellency Prasong Soonsiri at Bangkok's Don Muang International airport.



• From page 2 (Brunei-Thailand)

Leekpai. The ceremony took place at the Ivory Room of Thai Koofah Building in Bangkok on 10 June.

On arrival for the courtesy call, His Royal Highness was greeted by the Foreign Affairs Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Prasong Soonsiri.

During the meeting, His Royal Highness and His Excellency Chuan Leekpai exchanged views on political and economic issues between the two countries.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah expressed his satisfaction on the friendly relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, His Excellency Chuan Leekpai also expressed gratitude to the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for accepting Thai workers in the Sultanate. It is estimated that more than 20,000 Thai nationals, mostly construction labourers, are now working in the Sultanate.

His Excellency hoped that more visits at the ministerial level would be made.

His Royal Highness and his wife, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah also had an audience with His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit at Dusit Palace, Chitlada Villa in Bangkok.



Top picture: The Thai Prime Minister, His Excellency Chuan Leekpai consulting his Foreign Minister during his meeting with visiting Brunei Darussalam Foreign Affairs Minister. Above: The Foreign Ministers of Brunei Darussalam and Thailand in discussion while the Permanent Secretary of Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Ministry, Dato Paduka Awang Lim Jock Seng and the Sultanate's ambassador to Thailand, His Excellency Awang Haji Yahya (extreme right) look on.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah also held a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, His Excellency Prasong Soonsiri, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand at Saranrom Palace in the Thai capital.

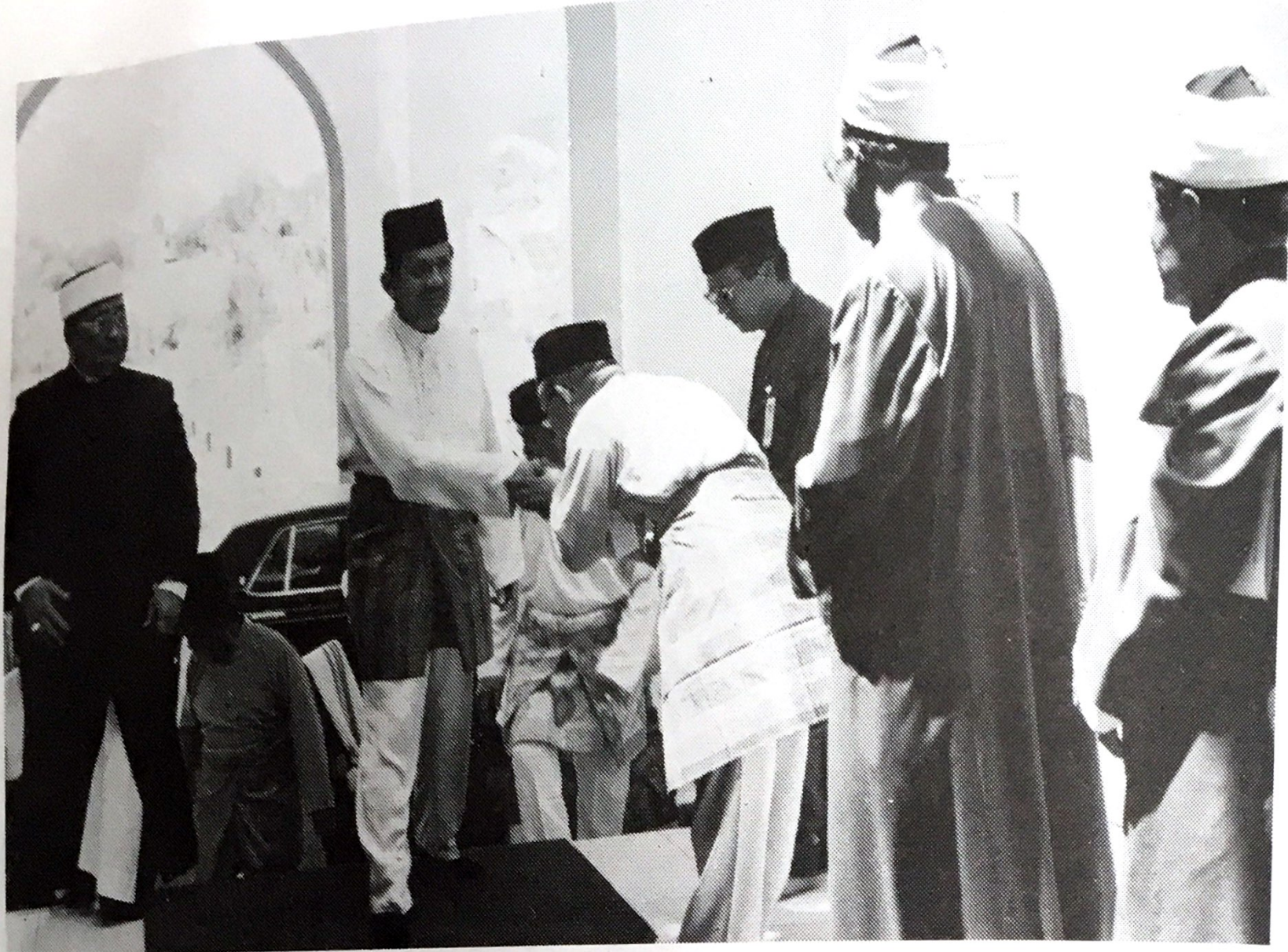
During the meeting, His Royal Highness and His Excellency discussed, among other matters, the need to further promote and strengthen bilateral cooperation, particularly in the political and economic fields, and to further upgrade trade relations between the two countries.

They also touched on the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, ASEAN Ministerial Meeting with

dialogue countries (PMC) and the ASEAN Regional Forum, which are to take place in Bangkok next month.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah was on a three-day working visit to Bangkok, beginning June 9, at the invitation of His Excellency Prasong Soonsiri, who visited Brunei Darussalam in February this year. His Royal Highness had previously officially visited Thailand in 1986.

The visit is aimed at further enhancing the existing cooperation in the political and economic fields between the two countries, both of which are members of ASEAN.



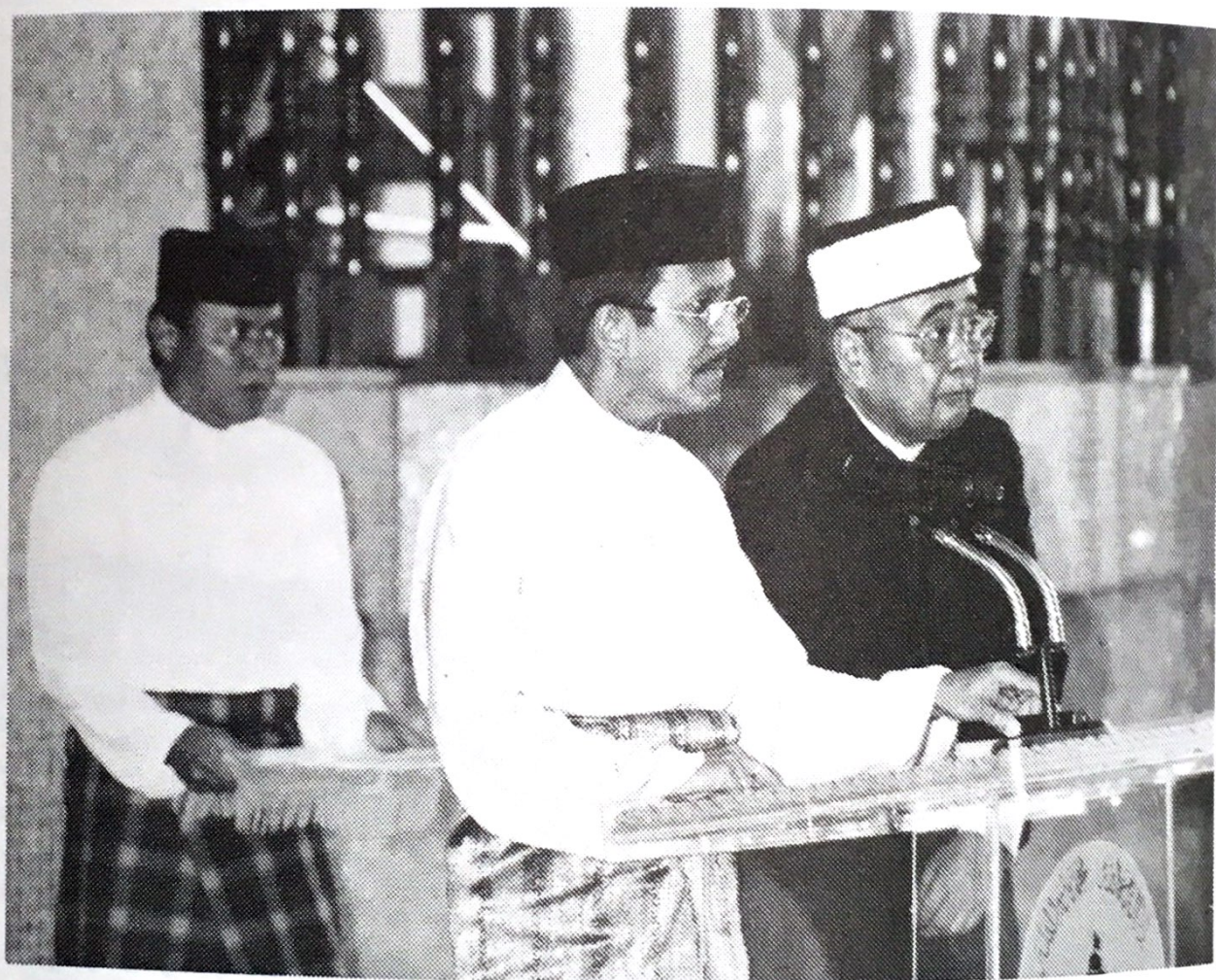
Left: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah being greeted by committee members as he arrived to open the new mosque at Kampung Lambak, 11 kilometres from the Brunei capital. Below: His Royal Highness unveils the plaque commemorating the mosque's official opening. To HRH's left is the Minister of Religious Affairs.

Mosque is a place of worship for all Muslims

The mosque is a place of worship for all "mukmin" (believers or pious people), and should not cater to any particular group or community as this would cause conflict among other worshippers, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah stressed recently. Such an act should be strongly prohibited.

Mosques should not be the cause of Muslims to disintegrate and as a place of worship that provides a place [for solace] for anyone who wishes to be closer to Allah, the Almighty; it is also a place where Muslims could reach consensus, for strengthening the solidarity of Muslims in the pursuit of exalting the position of Islam, His Royal Highness reminded.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah was speaking in his capacity as the Deputy Sultan shortly before he officially opened a new mosque in Kampong Lambak near Bandar Seri Begawan on 11 June.



The opening of the mosque also coincided with the Muslim New Year of Hijrah 1415.

As many Muslims frequent the mosque, as enjoined by "syarak" (laws based on Islamic teachings), the congregational prayer could promote a sense of unity among Muslims, said His Royal Highness further.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah urged Muslims in the country to elevate the position of mosques by regularly visiting them to perform the "amal ibadat" (acts of worship) and other religious and related activities which are benefi-

cial.

His Royal Highness said that the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has been extensively building mosques in the effort to provide Muslims with appropriate facilities for "ibadat".

The people should be committed to looking after mosques by not leaving these responsibilities to relevant authorities or the Mosque Committee alone, as it is an obligation of all, he stressed.

A recitation of the Al-Quran

• Continued on page 5

started off the opening ceremony. It was followed by a welcoming speech by the Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Mohd. Zain bin Haji Serudin.

Construction of the Kampong Lambak Mosque

In his speech the minister, among other things, spoke about the construction of the Kampong Lambak Mosque, one of many which comes under the Sixth National Development Plan. It is aimed at providing

Muslims with suitable and comfortable place for "ibadat".

The construction of the Kampong Lambak Mosque began in November 1992 and was completed in February 1994 at a cost of about B\$3.2 million. It could accomodate some 1,200 worshippers.

Effective leadership in villages as cornerstone for peace, prosperity and harmony

The Special Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Prime Minister's Office and Home Affairs Minister has highlighted the importance of effective leadership at village level as a cornerstone of the efforts to maintain peace, prosperity and harmonious way of life in the country.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, the Special Adviser to His Majesty at the Prime Minister's Office and Home Affairs Minister, made the remark shortly before he officially opened a civic course on leadership for newly-elected village leaders on June 27. The five-day course was organised by the Information Department with the coopertion of the Home Affairs Ministry, and was held at the Government Rest House in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Yang Berhormat also stressed the importance for village leaders to seek the best possible way of carrying out their duties and responsibilities as entrusted to the Consultative Councils, and to ensure that they will be

fully implemented.

To this end, Yang

Berhormat called on the Consultative Councils of "Mukim" (Group of villages) and "Kampong" (Individual village) to consider ways of implementing beneficial projects and activities including those specifically designed for youths in order to make them familiar with the way of life within a village and community, and to ensure that they would not get involved in anti-social activities.

The aspiration of the society changes due to the changes of time and conditions, and if these changes are not dealt with effectively, they can create problem and bring about negative impact, the minister said.

The duty of a leader in a village is not an easy task and should not be carried out carelessly. However, the newly-elected village chiefs had already gained experience and capability in leadership aspects and management through their previous services as officials in the government or the private sector, he added.

Touching on the course the theme



The Special Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan in the Prime Minister's Office and Home Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa speaks of the importance of effective leadership.

of which was : "Towards the Development of Outstanding Leadership", the minister hoped that it would expose them to matters related to their roles within the community.

Like Penghulu-Penghulu of Mukim (Paramount leader of groups of villages) who are chairmen of the Consultative Councils of Mukim, the newly-appointed village chiefs are also themselves chairmen of the Consultative Council of Kampong (Individual villages).

Village chiefs are also responsible towards determining the effectiveness of respective Consultative Councils of Kampong, aimed among others at instilling the spirit of nationalism in upholding the leadership of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and to plan and implement the projects for the well-being of the "rakyat" (subjects) and people, the minister

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pointed out.

Earlier, he noted that the election of these village chiefs is based on the Brunei Darussalam Village Heads Services Scheme consented by His Majesty with effect in 1992.

In return to this new services scheme, His Majesty's Government hope that the village heads would be able to provide services effectively and efficiently.

Speech by Director of Information Department

In a welcoming speech, the Director of Information Department noted that the civic course was organised based on a series of His Majesty's "titah" (royal addresses) emphasising the importance of leadership in facing the present challenges through the experiences that those countries which are stable have possessed quality leaders, while a leadership that fails will continue to expand the gap between followers and their leaders.

Awang Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, the information Director, said that the institution of village chiefs is one of the leadership groups that has an important role in creating stability and harmony for a community and the country, besides fostering close relationships between the government and the people.

The effectiveness of leadership from the grassroot level could also promote the efficiency of His Majesty's Government in its efforts towards caring for and ensuring the welfare and prosperity of the "rakyat" and people in the country.

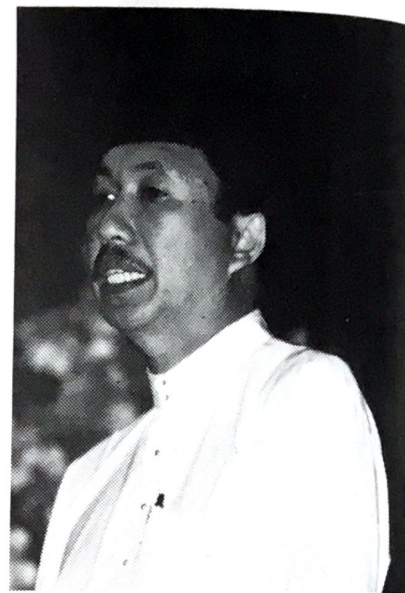
The official added that the role played by the village chiefs could not be implemented effectively without their having a general sense of knowledge and expertise in management and planning. In carrying out their daily duties as community leaders and in the process of growth and

development, village chiefs are not exempted from administrative-related matters of organising meetings and gatherings as well as conducting strategies and planning for the development and welfare of the villagers under their charge.

At the same time, the village chiefs, as the official government's tool of disseminating messages, should also have basic understanding and information on government's policies and objectives especially on current issues.

The credibility and leadership of village chiefs in facing present challenges of growth and development should not rest upon their personality alone, but should be accompanied by their ability to gather, plan, and implement various programmes for the prosperity of the village involving all community members under their supervision and administration.

The Director of Information further noted that the course has placed emphasis on the administration, management and planning aspects in view of the scope of expanded duty and responsibility of the village chiefs with the formation and their involvement in the Consultative Councils of Mukim and



The Director of Information, Awang Haji Hazair: Village leaders have important role in creating stability and harmony within a community.

Kampong.

More than 40 newly-elected village chiefs attended the course.

During the course, the participants heard lectures on various topics given by officials from the Information Department, the Home Affairs Ministry, the Religious Affairs Ministry, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UDB) and the Ministry of Defence. They also participated in question-and-answers sessions, and attended several workshops as well as religious activities.



Government officials and some of the village leaders at the civic course raise their hands to the do'a prayer at the start of one of their lecture sessions.



The Minister of Communication, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria taking a close look at an exhibit during the recent Communication and Information Technology Exhibition organised by his ministry.

Communications play important role towards the country's development

The Minister of Communications has stressed the important role played by communications in the development of a country, especially on the international trade aspect which enables neighbouring countries to communicate any information. With the utilisation of modern technology such as 'fibre optic', said the minister, we are not only able to communicate through conversation but to obtain information easily.

Speaking shortly before launching a four-day exhibition on Communication and Information Technology at the Ministry of Communications on June 16, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Awang Zakaria also emphasised that the Communications Ministry has an important role in providing infrastructure and in assimilating modern technologies.

The Communications and Information Technology Exhibition

organised jointly by the Communications Ministry and the Information Technology Department is aimed at providing exposure to members of the public the present development and utilization of technology of telecommunications and information.

The exhibition, the minister said, has indirectly served as a meeting centre for interaction between the country's community and the international community specifically involved in the communications and information technology. It is also aimed at providing understanding on the function and role of the Communications Ministry and its departments, the Information Technology Department in particular, he added.

Earlier, the minister noted that the "global village" concept will become a reality with the possibility of the 'launching of low orbit satellite', which would enable us to communi-

cate anywhere.

Such facilities will open up an opportunity for economic growth of a country as communication will help contribute to the country's aspiration for economic development and trade relation with others.

Investment in communications infrastructure, transportation aimed at global economic development

For Brunei Darussalam, the minister stressed, the investment in infrastructure of communications and transportation are aimed at making this country as an active member in this global community. Development in this new era should be integrated in the context of global economy, he said.

Transportation infrastructure facility and communication provided

• *Continued on page 8*

by the various departments under the Communications Ministry have enabled us to communicate directly with the international community.

The minister further noted that our way of life is dependent on telecommunications advancement, computer and television, which have changed our life-style and methods of working.

The assimilation of information technology in industrial management has become necessary in order to enable us to compete internationally. The advancement of electronic media has speeded up the development of transportation industry and information technology.

Brunei Darussalam, the minister stressed, should forge and participate in these developments in order to meet the community's needs which are increasingly sophisticated.

Country's communications infrastructure to be given priority in future.

The minister disclosed that the country's investment to enhance communications infrastructure; civil aviation and post services will be given priority in the future.

Communications infrastructure and information technology constitute a driving force towards ensuring the flow of goods and a smooth, fast and secure operation carried out by the people.

The infrastructure of electronic and satellite communications enable us to witness events happening around the world. The "World Cup", for instance, will be witnessed directly by all people around the world and no longer limited only to those who are present at the stadiums, the minister pointed out.

This is the kind of development where long distance is no longer a problem and such concept as the "global village" enables us to communicate with anyone anywhere.

The trend of development in the fields of transportation and communications is meant to meet the need

for facility of communication at anytime, anywhere and with anyone.

In this relation, the minister said, the latest development, "the Information Superhighway" could be carried out through the flow of information in the form of vocal, data, texts and video images.

Information technology useful for postal management

The advancement of information technology will make postal management convenient in providing global communication services in line with the present need of the community.

The minister said efforts were continuing towards organising the "Global Postal Telecommunications Network", apart from providing new services such as "EDI Clearing Facilities", "Postal Electronic Mail System" and "Postal Data Base Inquiry Facilities."

These developments are aimed at assimilating business philosophy in providing facility for members of the public to communicate and deal their businesses.

Information technology as 'driving force' to social and economic development

Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Awang Zakaria further noted that the utilization of information technology signifies a 'driving force' to social and economic development of a country. The world economy, which is heading for free trade system and the practice of a liberal economic policy, have open up opportunities for our benefits, the minister said.

In order to seize these opportunities, we should move quickly and act more aggressively in enhancing our capability in the face of increasing competitiveness among the countries in the region.

More than 30 firms from within Brunei Darussalam and overseas took part in the exhibition. The exhibition was organised in conjunction with the country's National Day.

Minister urges development of skills

The Minister of Communications, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria highlighted recently the importance of developing sufficient skills among staff and officials of his ministry, so as to be able to keep pace and operate the high technology hardware.

The Ministry of Communications along with the departments under it, he said, is a high technology organisation, and the Communications sector is in the forefront of the technological development.

Officiating at the launching of the Computer Literacy Programme at the Communications Ministry on June 18, the Minister spoke about efforts carried out by the Government to upgrade the telecommunications network in the country, air traffic management surveillance and control system, as well as those which are aimed at upgrading and enhancing services in other areas. These developments, he said, are all computer based.

"To keep pace with and to operate these high technology hardware, it is important that we develop sufficient skills in ourselves, thus the importance of human resource development", the Minister stressed.

Dato Seri Laila Jasa further touched on the development of communications infrastructure in the country, which is going through a process of technological upgrading in keeping pace with the rapid changes in technology.

"We are entering a new economic era. Developments in the international economy structure rely heavily upon advances in science and technology. The international economy or regional economies are now subject to major technological advances," said the Minister. The example of this, he said, is the emergence of the

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• From page 8 (Skills development)

computer and communication technology which have begun to restructure our thinking and approach to economic development.

He said that the heavy investment in the telecommunication infrastructure has brought the country towards the global economy and not just being limited to domestic and inward looking approach.

In today's world, he stressed, we must be able to respond to the needs of the modern, sophisticated society.

Dato Seri Laila Jasa earlier touched on the programme of system upgrading, which is a sample of merger between computer and communication technology. The digitalisation of our communication network, he said, has made effective use of computer technology in the receiving, switching and transfer of

information.

The Computer Literacy Programme was organised by the Telecommunications Department, Ministry of Communications and was conducted by speakers from the Information Technology Section, Ministry of Finance, Micronet Computer School and Oracle Asia Pacific, Australia; and lecturers from the Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

ASEAN Postal Administration to work closely with UPU towards providing commercial electronic mail

The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Communications, Dato Paduka Malai Ali bin Malai Haji Othman said that ASEAN Postal Administration will work closely with the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in providing commercial electronic mail, such as for postal customers, postal electronic money order and bureau fax services.

He also highlighted the consideration to implement the Global Postal Telecommunication Network and its associated services. These include Electronic Database Inquiry Clearing Facilities (Message Management Services), Postal Electronic Mail System and Postal Data Base Inquiry facilities.

Speaking before declaring open the 3rd ASEAN Postal Business Meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan on June 6, Dato Paduka Malai Ali stressed the need for the post offices to adapt to the new mode of communications: the electronic media.

The postal administration, he said, is moving fast forward to provide global interconnectivity under the Post Net, Post Star and Post Mail with the close cooperation with the Global telecommunication provider, resulting in combining the post and telecom services.

"Thus the post offices must now adapt to the new mode of communications, that is the electronic media,"



Dato Paduka Malai Ali, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communication.

he said.

The Permanent Secretary also spoke about the country's full support for the establishment of the ASEAN Postal Business Forum, in view of the need for Postal Administration to cooperate as a global business and to develop new products for their domestic, regional and global business.

The business forum is a good start in providing a mechanism for a more intensive and effective cooperation among Postal Administration in ASEAN, he said.

The Permanent Secretary earlier spoke at length about the telecommunications industry and postal

services, which once were combined services.

As technology evolves, he said, the electronic media has revolutionise our mode of 'keeping in touch'. Telecommunications services (telecoms) have broken away from the postal services, but the core business for both organisations are still, 'keeping people in touch', he added.

The telecom industry is for people to 'keep in touch any time, any where' for any one who can afford it, whilst the postal services is for people to 'keep in touch some time some where', he explained.

Dato Paduka Malai Ali also highlighted the need for post offices in the country to consider providing services and facilities to accommodate the increasingly diverse needs of the public.

The international postal community, he said, is now in the process of providing services such as Electronic Mail, Electronic Data Inquiry Clearing Facilities and Postal Database Inquiry Facilities.

"Therefore, the post offices in Brunei Darussalam should also consider providing similar services and facilities including Bureau Fax and other services to accommodate the increasingly diverse needs of the public."

• Continued on page 10



In concentration are delegates of the Third ASEAN Postal Business Meeting during one of the meeting's sessions.

• *From page 9 (Postal)*

He further touched on the recent programme of developing post offices in the country as payment centre for the general public. This includes payment for telephone bills

which will create a wider customer base. This he said, will lead to the development of a one-stop business centre.

"The post offices can become a one-stop business centre which will provide multi-services to the general

public," he said.

He reiterated that the post offices must keep in pace with the new commercial media to provide the services required for the public who needs them once in a while.

Teachers urged to be sensitive towards country's educational development

The Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education has called on all teachers in the country to be sensitive towards the country's educational development and its problems. Teachers, he said, should be ready to change their attitude in making the teaching profession even more dynamic, effective and should have greater knowledge of education.

Speaking shortly before he officially opened the 44th General Meeting of the Brunei Malay

Teachers' Association on June 26, Dato Paduka Haji Ali Hashim, the Permanent Secretary, also disclosed that the Education Ministry continues to give due attention to sending teachers on courses and trainings in the country and overseas as part of a re-training programme aimed at upgrading their teaching standard so as to enhance their teaching competence.

The permanent secretary said teachers are given professional training and at present many are

graduates and are teaching at the primary and secondary levels. This constitutes a kind of development in the effort to enhance the quality of education, he added.

One of the challenges faced by teachers at present is how to make their teaching more effective, the classroom atmosphere interesting and the lessons more meaningful, said the official.

In this regard, appropriate teach-

• *Continued on page 11*

• From page 10 (Teachers' meeting)

ing methods and utilization of teaching aids could help contribute towards achieving the teaching objective.

The Acting Permanent Secretary noted that there are teachers who are teaching diligently and adopting methods that are not dependent on the "chalk and talk" approach and are also able to interest their pupils by using appropriate teaching equipment.

However, there are also teachers who are still using ordinary approach and not giving due attention to the utilization of teaching aids, the Permanent Secretary lamented.

Though the number is not large, and if such a problem is not overcome urgently, teachers would not achieve the desired teaching quality and the pupils would not gain meaningful knowledge and learning experience. In the end, this will bring about undesired impact to the country's educational system and quality.

The permanent secretary revealed that the Ministry of Education has found the quality of education to be unsatisfactory as shown by the examination results of the primary and secondary schools.

He said in order to upgrade these examination results, teachers at all levels should enhance and improve

their teaching quality.

Country's development depends on peoples' educational development

Earlier in his speech, Dato Paduka Haji Ali Hashim had stressed that development and growth of a country is dependent on the educational development of the people. With the development of education, the progress in other fields, too, would be expanded such as the economy, politics, civics and culture.

The advancement of education lies in the hands of teachers who play an important role towards educational development. Its quality and standard is determined by the quality and willingness of the teachers in fulfilling their responsibilities as entrusted to them, he added.

The permanent secretary urged teachers to play a major role especially in the learning and teaching processes so as to upgrade further their teaching quality and ensure that the aim and objective of the country's education could be achieved effectively.

The duty and responsibility of a teacher is a heavy one due to the learning and teaching processes involving a teacher and students. A teacher will be facing tens of students and even hundreds in large schools. Each student has different character

and personality in terms of capability, needs and interest, the permanent secretary said.

Today the challenges faced by teachers are increasingly complex than those in the past as a result of modernisation influences such as television, video, laser disc, computer, supermarket and the high expectation of the parents.

In view of these challenges and the present needs, the role of a teacher is expanding not merely as a teacher alone, but also as supervisor and guide, psychologist, counsellor, researcher and others, the permanent secretary concluded.

Royal Brunei Airlines flies to 25th destination

Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) has made its first flight to Brisbane, Australia – its 25th destination, on June 15.

The inaugural flight carried a delegation that included the Development Minister, Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail bin Pengiran Haji Damit, the RBA Managing Director, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Tengah bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Metassim and several senior government officials.

On arrival at the Brisbane International Airport on June 16, they were greeted by the Deputy Prime Minister of Queensland, the Honourable Tom Burns, the High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Australia, His Excellency Haji Yusof bin Haji Abd. Hamid and representatives from the Federation Airport Committee (FAC), Brisbane Visitors and Conference Bureau (BVCB) and



Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali Hashim.

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NAM urged to make changes in facing post cold war era



Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and his delegation during a session of NAM's Meeting in Cairo.

His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmal Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister has attended the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Conference in Cairo. Brunei Darussalam attended the conference for the first time in 1992 on becoming its 106th member.

During the conference, the Foreign Ministers stressed the need for NAM to continue its role and ensure its development.

In a speech before declaring open the 11th NAM Conference, held at the Cairo International Convention Centre on May 31, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency Mohamed Hosni Mubarak urged NAM to make

changes in facing the post Cold War era.

He said NAM, which was formed in 1961 to protect countries for refusing to align themselves in the east west conflict, must be ready to face new reality amidst world changes.

Failure to do so, would not only affect the credibility of NAM but also its existence.

The 11th Conference of NAM Foreign Ministers also saw the acceptance of South Africa as the 109th member. The four-day conference was chaired by the Foreign Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency Amre Moussa.

The four-day NAM Ministerial Conference issued two documents on the final day - the Cairo Declaration and the Final Communiqué.

The Cairo Declaration

The Cairo Declaration stated that having reviewed the current international situation in all its political, economic and social dimensions, the NAM Foreign Affairs Ministers agreed that responding to the changes in international relations represents the most important challenge before the Movement in the years to come.

It said that the fundamental principles of the Movement have stood the test of time. Its commitment to its ideals remains firm. The Movement is determined to build upon its achievements to seek the full participation of all in shaping the common destiny of human kind.

The Foreign Ministers of NAM

• *Continued on page 13*



His Royal Highness met with Egypt's Foreign Affairs Minister, His Excellency Amre Moussa, who chaired the 11th NAM Meeting in the Egyptian capital.

countries were also convinced that the International Community at the threshold of the Twenty-First Century, must find an appropriate balance between the need for continuity and the imperative of change. The declaration said that the Community must address the contradiction between the evolving momentum towards international coopera-

tion and economic integration, on the one hand, and the crippling effects of domestic and regional conflicts on the other. It must also promote national security in wider terms, encompassing economic and social dimensions, common interests and shared responsibilities, the declaration stated.

The Ministers were determined

to closely coordinate their countries' approaches towards the global issues of international peace and security, colonizations and occupation, disarmament, development, trade, poverty, human rights and the environment. They were resolved to ensure that the international response to these issues took into account the interests of the NAM members.

The Cairo Declaration also highlighted the Mininisters' determination to further strengthen South-South cooperation and to pursue North-South dialogue for promoting international economic cooperation for development based on mutuality of interests and benefit, genuine interdependence, shared responsibility and partnership.

• *Continued on page 14*



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah in conversation with his Vietnamese counterpart, His Excellency Nguhen Manh Cam, who was just one of the many senior NAM delegates making courtesy calls and holding bilateral meetings with His Royal Highness while in Cairo for the NAM Meeting.

The NAM Ministers reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation in the area of social development. To this end, the Ministers agreed to recommend the Heads of State or Government to attend the World Summit for Social Development to be held in Copenhagen in March, 1995.

The Ministers also reaffirmed the importance of attending the International Conference on Population and Development, which will be held in Cairo in September this year and the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing, in September 1995. They were resolved to coordinate their efforts with a view to ensuring their successful outcome.

The Declaration further highlighted the Ministers' determination to continue enhancing the Movement's ability to respond to new realities in order to attain its objectives, while abiding by the fundamental principles of the Movement, whose validity has been fully vindicated by current international realities.

The Ministers reaffirmed their belief that the United Nations, as the embodiment of multilateralism, has a unique opportunity to play a catalytic role in developing a more just, equitable, prosperous and secure world order, the Declaration went on to state.

The NAM Ministers reiterated their commitment to the process of democratization of the United Nations and to enhancing the role and participation of the Non-Aligned Countries in the world body.

The Ministers were resolved to impart a new dynamism to the Movement to enable its members enter the twenty-first century as a vibrant and constructive force on the world scene. They decided to continue aiming at stimulating fresh approaches to old problems and devising collective creative responses to the new challenges in pursuance of their joint efforts to contribute to

the definition and realization of a new world order which must rest on the twin pillars of peace and development.

The Final Communique

According to the Final Communique, the 11th NAM Ministerial Conference recalled its previous decisions, and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council, particularly resolutions 46/242, 47/121 and 48/88.

The Conference reaffirmed the imperative of respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Communique also expressed the Conference's deep concern over the persistent grave situation prevailing in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It further stressed the solidarity with the Republic in exercising its legitimate right of self-defence.

It also noted various endeavours to find a negotiated settlement to the ongoing hostilities.

The Communique also highlighted the Conference's awareness of the need for a new mechanism to ensure a fair and balanced basis for negotiation to arrive at a just and lasting settlement, in line with the principles of the Charter, international law and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The Conference called for the immediate convening, under the United Nations auspices of an appropriately structured international conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina with the participation of the conflicting parties in the republic, troop contributing countries to UNPROFOR, representative of NAM, OIC Contact Group and the European Union, the Five Permanent Members of the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Communique said that appropriate measures should be taken

to establish an immediate ceasefire and bring about cessation of all military activities under the supervision of UNPROFOR and to make Bosnia-Herzegovina a safe haven.

Appropriate measures should also be taken to ensure the inviolability, territorial integrity, political independence and overall viability of Bosnia-Herzegovina, to ensure a just settlement for all parties and to develop a program of action for the implementation of the settlement, the Communique said.

Resolution on Rwanda

The 11th NAM Ministerial Conference in Cairo also issued a Resolution on Rwanda.

The Conference strongly urged the United Nations (UN) Security Council to urgently take all necessary steps to put an immediate stop to the carnage in Rwanda and to provide all the necessary means and resources for the effective and urgent deployment of peace-keeping forces in Rwanda.

The Conference also urged the international community to respond, in support of peace and humanitarian efforts in Rwanda by providing all material and financial resources and to render every practical assistance which will ensure that the public health and environmental hazards and pollution caused by the human carnage in Rwanda are immediately contained.

The Resolution further highlighted the need to support the convening of a Round Table conference with the participation of all parties to the conflict.

The Conference further called for the formulation of an Action Plan for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country.

It also appealed to the international community as a matter of urgency to back the laudable initiative of President Moi of Kenya concerning his call for a Mini-Sum-

• Continued on page 21

New battalion further strengthens Sultanate's defence system

Brunei Darussalam's defence strength has been further boosted with the formation of the third battalion of the Land Forces of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, RBAF.

The establishment of the new battalion was announced on the forces' thirty-third anniversary on 31 May, during anniversary celebrations at the Pananjong Garrison in the Tutong district.

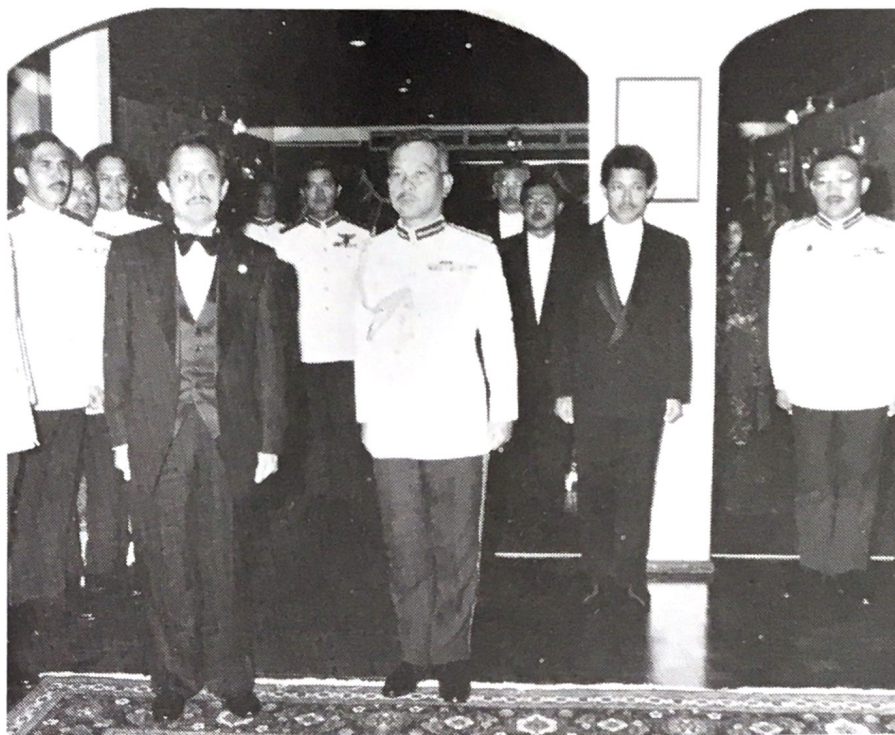
His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah in his capacity as the acting Minister of Defence then, presented the new battalion its Letter of Establishment in a ceremony that also saw the hoisting of the battalion's own flag.

The presentation of the letter and flag hoisting were preceded by an inspection by the prince of a guard of honour mounted by 310 men of the newly-formed battalion. His Royal Highness also returned the salute as the contingent staged a march past.

The Royal Brunei Armed Forces was formed on 31 May, 1961, with only a handful of men and was then known as the Brunei Malay Regiment. It was later changed to the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment.

In the more than three decades since its formation, the RBAF has grown from strength to strength and undergone various changes and developments.

Among these was the formation of the RBAF's Women's Company,



Their Royal Highnesses Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah (foreground) and Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah (2nd from right) stand in honour of the National Anthem on arrival at the officers' mess of Berakas Garrison for the RBAF's anniversary dinner.

on 26 June, 1986. In November 1986, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to yet another change of name for the regiment to what it is known today: the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

In October 1991, the RBAF underwent a major re-organisation so as to be made up of five major divisions, namely the Royal Brunei Land Forces, the Royal Brunei Navy, the Royal Brunei Air Force,

the Royal Brunei Armed Forces' Service and the Royal Brunei Armed Forces' Training Centre.

The Royal Brunei Armed Forces has close and friendly relations with its counterparts in ASEAN with which it conducts regular joint-military exercises as well as with the armed forces of other countries such as Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness

• *Continued on page 16*



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah presenting the document of the establishment of the third battalion of the RBAF's Land Forces.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah inspects an honour guard mounted by men of the newly-formed third battalion of the RBAF's Land Forces.

• From page 15 (RBAF)

Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah, then as the Deputy Sultan, attended a dinner on

June 4 at the officers' mess of the Berakas Garrison in conjunction with the forces' anniversary.

The anniversary was also marked with an open day at the Penanjong Garrison, at which members of the

public saw various military events and exhibition. These included parachute jumps by men of the Royal Brunei Air Force, drills, aerobatic displays of model airplanes and fitness exercises by the soldiers.

Brunei Darussalam establishes more diplomnatic relations

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Palestine have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, with effect 24 May, 1994.

The joint statement was signed at the Brunei Darussalam High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, at which Brunei Darussalam was represented by its High Commissioner to Malaysia, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Setia Raja Pengiran Haji Jaya bin Pengiran Haji Rajid. Likewise, the Palestinian ambassador to Malaysia, His Excellency Ahmad Al-Farra signed the statement for the Govern-

ment of Palestine.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has also agreed to establish diplomatic relations with the Governments of the Republic of Cote D'ivoire and the Republic of Guinea Bissau, both at the ambassadorial level, as of 3 June, 1994.

The signing of the statements on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the two West African republics took place at the Brunei Darussalam embassy in the French Capital, Paris the same day.

Brunei Darussalam's ambassador to France, His Excellency Awang

Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman signed for His Majesty's Government, while his Cote D'ivoire counterpart in Paris His Excellency Eugene Aidara signed on behalf of the Government of Cote D'ivoire. The Guinea Bissau ambassador to France, His Excellency Leonel S. Vierra signed the statement for the Government of the Republic of Guinea Bissau.

Since assuming its responsibility as a fully independent and sovereign nation on 1 January 1984, Brunei Darussalam has forged formal diplomatic relations with several dozen countries across five continents.

Instil the awareness of protecting and determining peace of the country

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Masna highlighted recently the importance of instilling awareness among members of the public of the responsibility in protecting and determining the peace of the country.

Such awareness is important in view of the increase in crimes, such as housebreaking, robbery, theft and vandalism, said Her Royal Highness.

In a sabda (speech) at a ceremony marking the completion of training for men recruits Squad 3/93 and women recruits Squad 4/93 held at the Drill Ground, Royal Brunei Police Forces' (RBAF) Training



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna takes the salute with the Commissioner of Police, Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Abdul Rahman as the parade staged a march past.

• Continued on page 18

Literary Works should oppose all forms of hypocrisy and atrocity

The Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports has highlighted that literary works during this post-modern period should be viewed on a global perspective so as to oppose all forms of hypocrisy and atrocity, and promote all good virtues and norms, as these would be in line with the rational character of mankind. Literary figures, he urged, should therefore be steadfast in upholding truth and justice.

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Selamat bin Haji Munap, the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports made the remarks while officiating the opening of the Eighth Meeting of Literary Experts of the Malay Archipelago in Bandar Seri Begawan on June 11. The theme of the three-day conference was "The Image and Reputation of the Malay Archipelago."

The image and reputation of the Malay Archipelago could not be promoted if literary figures took literature purely as a means of satisfying their own artistic instincts or as mere propaganda which would only result in vengeance.

The contemporary era has often been associated with changes which are influenced by the development in science and technology. These two have become the yardstick in the development and growth of a community.

A community known as "marginal" or weak is often due to a low level of achievement in the science and technology.

However, our lives will be balanced and meaningful if we understand the benefits contributed by science and technology and if we are convinced of the fact that other areas, too, have their own significant roles.

One of these areas is literature, and poets and writers are the responsible people in this field.

Literary figures who are mature would be able to translate and describe in a vivid manner the different kinds of life experiences of mankind such as violence, men's struggle and various other facets of human feelings. Literature cannot be separated from our lives, he stressed.

The Deputy Minister of Culture,

Youth and Sports further noted that the advancement in science and technology could help promote the development of literature especially for the "leisure" class or the affluent who take such an enjoyment in literature.

More than 200 participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Spain, the United States, United Kingdom and the host country, Brunei Darussalam took part at the conference. Seventeen working papers were presented.

This was the second such conference hosted by Brunei Darussalam. The first was in 1985.

At the end of the conference, participants agreed to implement those resolutions made during the First to the Sixth Meeting of Literary Experts of the Malay Archipelago which have not yet been carried out.

The conference agreed to create a Malay Archipelago Literary Figure Award to be organised ASTERAWANI, the Brunei Darussalam's local writers' association with the cooperation of the Language and Literature Bureau of Brunei Darussalam.

Centre on June 24, Her Royal Highness, who is Commandant of the Women's Police, said that these crimes are also taking place in the country. We need to handle them cautiously and efficiently, she stressed.

What is more worrying is that most of the crimes, including those related to drugs, involve our youths and students, she added.

Her Royal Highness stressed that besides the security forces, parents and teachers should also play their role effectively and seriously.

She hoped that their involvement in the moral and spiritual aspects of their children and youths in the country would be fruitful.

Her Royal Highness also noted efforts carried out by RBPF through the Public Relations Department and the Neighbourhood Crime Watch Scheme, which have helped promote the awareness among members of the public of their responsibility in maintaining and determining the peace of the country.

The RBPF, she said, has maintained its reputation as a well-respected force and has enabled it enforce rules and laws of the country effectively. By doing so, the country and its people can enjoy peace and harmony, said Her Royal Highness.

Earlier in the speech, Her Royal Highness highlighted the significance of training. The effectiveness of a force relies much upon the quality of management, leadership and training, she pointed out. Training is an agent towards changes which bring about mental and physical development, she added.

Her Royal Highness later reminded the recruits that their future is full of challenges and they should make use of what they had gained during their training.

She also called on recruits to give concern to the developments which occur both in the country and overseas, particularly those which are related to their duty, as this would increase their ability and efficiency.



Top: The most outstanding recruit receives her award from the Commandant of the Women's Police, HRH Princess Hajjah Masna. Centre: An inspection of the women police who had just joined the rank and file of fully fledged police personnel, and above, Her Royal Highness has a friendly chat with some of the newly joining policemen at the end of their training.

His Majesty's Government to introduce new nursing service scheme next year



Above: The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Dato Paduka Haji Chuchu announces introduction of new Nursing Service Scheme.

Below: Some of the community health nurses and voluntary workers attending a course organised by the Ministry of Health.



The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam will introduce a new Nursing Service Scheme with effect from 1 January, 1995. The scheme includes the creating of new posts and upgrading of salary scale for nursing staff.

This was disclosed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Chuchu bin Panglima Asgar Dato Paduka Haji Abdullah, shortly before declaring a course for community health nurses and community health voluntary workers open on June 30.

The Permanent Secretary hoped that the implementation of the new scheme would further upgrade the nursing service in the country, a service that is steadfast, dedicated and with excellent prestige, incorporated to courteous, honest, trustworthy and caring characteristics.

The scheme is also aimed at giving due care to the welfare of staff in the nursing field, he said.

In his speech at the ceremony held at the Orientation/Primary Health Care Training Centre at Subok near Bandar Seri Begawan, the Permanent Secretary stressed that manpower resources play an important role in achieving the objective of the National Health Programme, particularly to upgrade the quality of service towards the objective of "Health for all by the year 2000".

To achieve the objective, the Health Ministry has taken measures in organising well-planned programme to ensure that the quantity and quality of skilled manpower would be sufficient to carry out health strategies, particularly in primary health care, said the official.

This includes the community health nurses training programme aimed at creating health community nurses with wider responsibility whereby they will be closer to the community in such roles as teacher, manager and be more responsible towards their health.

Health community nurses should also plan and carry out their service

• *Continued on page 20*

relevant to the current development and hand-in-hand with the needs of the residents under them.

Besides local training, he said, the Ministry also continues to send its officials and staff overseas to upgrade their skill, broaden their knowledge and expose them to up-to-date treatment techniques in specific fields.

With the increasing number of

trained and capable community health nurses, the health service could then be delivered more effectively and comprehensively by posting the nurses at health centres and clinics in the country.

The Permanent Secretary also spoke about the 'decentralisation' programme, whereby outpatient services which at present are mostly provided in hospitals, will be transferred to health centres and clinics. This will enable the residents to visit the

centres and clinics near them more easily and thus reduce the overcrowdedness at hospitals.

Such a programme for example, is being carried out at the Silver Jubilee Health Centre in Sengkurong, which provides a comprehensive primary health care service, including outpatient treatment for the nearby residents, he said. This programme will be extended to other health centres which are now under construction.

Agriculture for livelihood and brighter future

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Ahmad has said that the agricultural sector could ensure one's livelihood and provide an opportunity towards a bright future.

Bold, hardworking

To ensure success, he said, one should be bold in attitude and mentally, and possess a lively spirit, be honest and hardworking.

Speaking at the launching ceremony of an attachment programme for students and graduates at the Sinaut Agricultural Training Centre in Tutong recently, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Ahmad bin Pehin Dato Haji Awang Mohd. Yussof, said that students should always be ready to work the land and disregard the toils and labour, as these would be fruitful, thus, upgrade their standard of living.

They should also be confident that working in the agricultural sector is a unique and challenging experience, he added.

Agricultural development is stable

The Permanent Secretary further pointed out that the development of agricultural sector in the country could be considered as stable, whereby its activities would not be affected by the change in demand in food supply.

The competition in food supply is at the minimum and will not create any problem which is difficult to solve either by the entrepreneurs, private agency and the government, as the produced materials can be processed, preserved and packaged as required by the market segment, he added.

The Permanent Secretary had earlier highlighted that the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources has a most important responsibility in managing and providing the guidelines of food production in the country.

We should be aware that Brunei Darussalam is still dependent on the importation of food, even though we have sufficient basic resources to upgrade agricultural production, he said.

The potential industrial areas and sites which are now being developed are part of the main production resources. "The project which is being launched today, with its theme, Experiencing the World of Agriculture" is for us to give due concern and interest on cultivation and farming activities, he said.

Ample opportunity for engaging in agriculture

Dato Paduka further reminded that locals who wish to engage in and make agriculture as their source of income have wide opportunities.

The Government, through va-

rious agencies and institutions, is providing opportunities to today's generation and the younger people in the country, particularly students, to gain knowledge in academic and practical fields.

His Majesty's Government, the official said, is always sensitive towards the necessary measures for technical support and others, to ensure increased quality and quantity of production, in order to be able to meet the need of the local market.

He hoped that the attachment project would continue with the involvement of more students, which in turn, would increase the quantity of local entrepreneurship involved full-time in the agricultural sector.



Dato Paduka Haji Awang Ahmad, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources highlighted the opportunities available in the agricultural sector.

A scheme for youths needs to be created

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs has recently highlighted the need to create a scheme to enable youths to contribute to the country.

The scheme, he said, will provide all well-qualified youths with degrees and diplomas the opportunity to do social services, such as by participating in associations or doing welfare works once or twice a month, particularly during the weekends over a period of one year.

"By so doing, we could train them to get themselves familiar with an organisation or welfare works," he said.

In his speech before declaring this year's national meeting of the Scouts Association of Brunei Darussalam open on June 19, at the association's headquarters in Gadong, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Ali bin Haji Mohd. Daud, who is also the President of the Association, expressed regret over the small involvement of youths, particularly those with high academic qualifications and experience in their field, in so-



The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ali called for more youth involvement in social and community works.

cial fields or associations.

Even though there are some members with high education and experience, he stressed, it is because they have long been active in such field already, he stressed.

Presently, many youth leaders and members of youth associations are moderately-educated, he said.

"The small involvement of youths with high education in welfare or

voluntary bodies is a sad state of affairs," the Deputy Minister lamented.

Dato Paduka Haji Ali also touched on the participation into the Scouts Association, saying it was improving and increasing each year, particularly among children and youths in the country.

"Brunei Darussalam has taken over its responsibility in the foreign affairs and defence for the past ten years and has become an independent and sovereign country," he said.

As independent citizens, we do not have to be persuaded to hand out our service to the people and the country, he said, adding that we should make our own efforts to contribute our energy, thoughts, time and materials willingly.

In this way, he said, we will always be able to develop the country in the necessary and relevant fields in return for the good deeds of the country that has given a prosperous, peaceful and successful life to its citizens and people.

• From page 14 (NAM)

mit of Surrounding States, which was held recently in Nairobi to address the issue.

Bilateral meetings with Foreign Ministers of NAM

While in Cairo, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah also held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from NAM member countries.

His Royal Highness first met and exchanged views with the Deputy Foreign Minister of Italy, His Excellency Livio Caputo. Both countries agreed to upgrade bilateral relations.

His Royal Highness also held a meeting with the Foreign Minister of the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Korea, His Excellency Kim Yong Nam. During the meeting, His Royal Highness and His Excellency discussed ways of enhancing bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Brunei Darussalam Foreign Affairs Minister later held a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Myanmar, His Excellency U Ohn Gyan.

On the second day of the conference, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah had bilateral meetings with the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Maldives, His Excellency Fathulla Jameel and

the Mauritius Foreign Minister, His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Kasenally.

There were also bilateral discussions with the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jordan, His Excellency Talal S. Al-Hasan, the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, His Excellency Mostafizur Rahman and the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, His Excellency A. C. Shahul Hameed.

Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sirivudh, and the Foreign Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency Amre Moussa also met with their Brunei Darussalam counterpart.

• From page 11 (RBA)

Queensland Tourism Committee (QTTC).

Services twice weekly

The service to Brisbane is twice

weekly, operated by RBA's Boeing 757-200ER, leaving Bandar Seri Begawan on Wednesday at 3.20 in the afternoon, and on Sunday at 12.55 in the morning.

Brisbane is the airlines' third destination in Australia in addition to Darwin and Perth.



The Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Selamat with ASEAN officials and guests shortly before he opened the 29th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information at the Brunei International Convention Centre.

Be alert against post-modernist trends eroding ASEAN values and cultures, minister calls

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN, should always be alert to the need for more effective action to be taken to contain the negative trends and to rise to the

challenges of the post-modernist culture and trends that could erode ASEAN ways of life and values.

The call was made by the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Selamat bin Haji Munap when he officially opened the Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (ASEAN-COCI), at the Brunei International Convention Centre on 20 June.

ASEAN have own way of life

He said that like other peoples all over the world, we in Brunei Darussalam, too, have our own set of core cultural principles, rules and norms which serve to sustain us in our economic growth, social development and political stability.

Likewise, he stressed, other peoples in ASEAN have their own core cultural values, rules and norms which have served their

societies well and of which they are justifiably proud.

The Deputy Minister went on to say that the further process of integration of ASEAN countries into the mainstream of the global community through the increasing introduction of technology, international movement of capital entrepreneurship and increasing global trade should further strengthen the economies and deepen the development of the ASEAN countries generally.

Repercussion of integration a cause for concern

"However, to what extent such increasing integration into the global system would cost the ASEAN Societies in terms of possible adverse repercussions on our cherished cultural values and ways of life and hence on social stability and cohe-



In his speech, The Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, among other things, urged ASEAN to be on guard against negative modernist trends.

• Continued on page 23



Some of the delegates attending the 29th Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information.

• *From page 22 (ASEAN-COCI)*

siveness especially in this so-called post-modern era would surely be a matter of on-going concern to us all in ASEAN", he pointed out.

He expressed confidence that ASEAN Societies are strong, stable, cohesive and, not least, sophisticated enough to withstand the tidal wave of pressures and challenges in the fields of culture, information and the arts from the modernist trend.

Through effective action, ASEAN values and our way of life would instead become the bridge that would sustain the flow of inspiration, trends, styles and ideas between ASEAN and other societies, he said.

He felt confident that the ASEAN-COCI will have important contribution to make now and in the future towards that kind of concerted action.

ASEAN-COCI making progress

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Selamat noted that since the last meeting held in Brunei Darussalam four years ago, there has been encouraging progress in the work of the ASEAN-COCI in term of endeavour to promote ASEAN image to the rest of the world in response to the call

of the Fourth ASEAN Summit.

An increasing number of projects and programmes have been undertaken by the committee in the fields of Literary Works and ASEAN Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, Radio and Television, Films and Video and Print and Interpersonal Media primarily to bring our countries, peoples and societies closer together in the spirit of the founding of ASEAN.

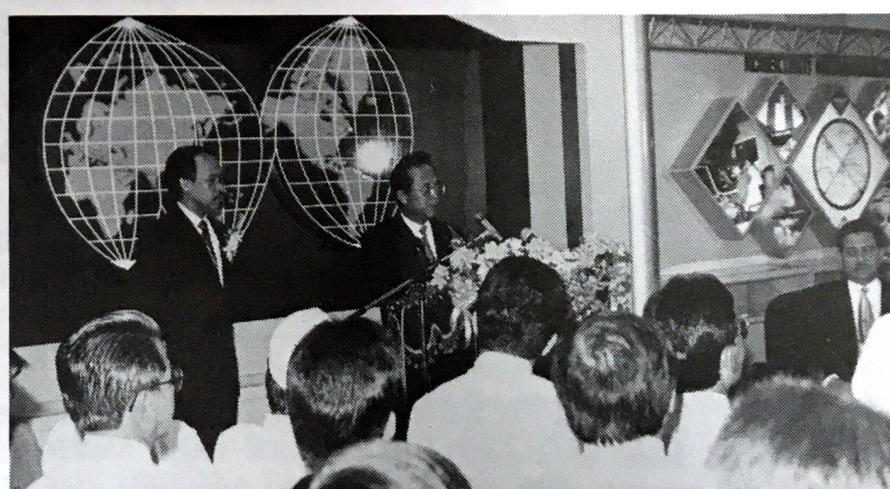
Giving sense of belonging

He added that on top of ASEAN's shared historical experiences, shared linguistic and socio-cultural links, the

efforts of the ASEAN-COCI have added to the sense of belonging and shared destiny among the ASEAN peoples.

The meeting was held for four days and was attended by delegations from all the six member countries of ASEAN comprising host Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Republic of Philippines, the Republic of Singapore and Thailand.

It adopted many resolutions on carrying out existing projects and programmes and agreed on new ones in the fields of culture and information.



The Communication Minister, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria speaking at a seminar on Computer Literacy Programme (full story on page 8).



MOSQUES

Lasting symbols of Brunei's adherence to Islam

To a Bruneian Muslim, the mosques are not merely places of worship but are also symbols of Brunei's perpetual adherence to Islam and reminders that the religion plays a central role in the life of every Muslim man, woman and child.

Today, almost every community

in the country has its own mosque or other places of Muslim worship, such as surau. The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is building many more mosques under the on-going Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan, such as the

Kampong Lambak Mosque, picture above, which has just been officially opened.

Construction of the magnificent mosque took 15 months, having been completed in February this year, at a cost of B\$3.2 million. It was officially opened on 11 June, 1994.

Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size : 5765 sq. km
Population : 267,800 (Mid-1992)
Official Language : Malay
Official Religion : Islam
May rainfall : 158.9mm
(annual 2,818mm)

PRIME LENDING RATE

May 5.75%

(quoted by Bankers' Association)

Brunei Malay in a minute

Each fortnight, our readers have the opportunity to learn a Brunei Malay word, which we publish in this newsletter. As the name suggests, the word is used only in Brunei Darussalam.

We have selected the word **Pajah** for this issue. **Pajah** means to extinguish or put out,

e.g. a light, fire. In standard Malay **Pajah** is padam.

In a sentence: Kebakaran belukar itu **pajah** dalam masa kira-kira lima jam.

The bush fire was extinguished within about five hours.

**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.**