



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presents the honorary Doctor of Letters degree to the Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz in recognition of his contribution to the development of education and in other fields.

will be lack of ideas and vision in carrying out their goals, the monarch added.

But even though we are bounded by the needs of era and country, we should also take seriously our values which we are proud of all these whiles and make

them the basis for all our achievements, said His Majesty.

The monarch stressed that this should not be ignored, because if we fail to strengthen these values, new cultures which are contradictory to the teachings of Islam may take root.

NOBLE VALUES AS PREREQUISITE OF ALL ACHIEVEMENTS

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has been speaking on the important role of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) in enhancing noble virtues which are a prerequisite towards all achievements, including in the academic field, besides its role of fulfilling the country's needs.

The monarch pointed that as a place of producing academicians, the university should consider the country's aspiration and the age we live in.

All countries need educated people in order to achieve their visions, for without them, a country

In order to build a civilisation for the future, it is, therefore, important for us to instil Islamic values by giving priority to the

• Continued on page 5

**BRUNEI
DARUSSALAM
NEWSLETTER**

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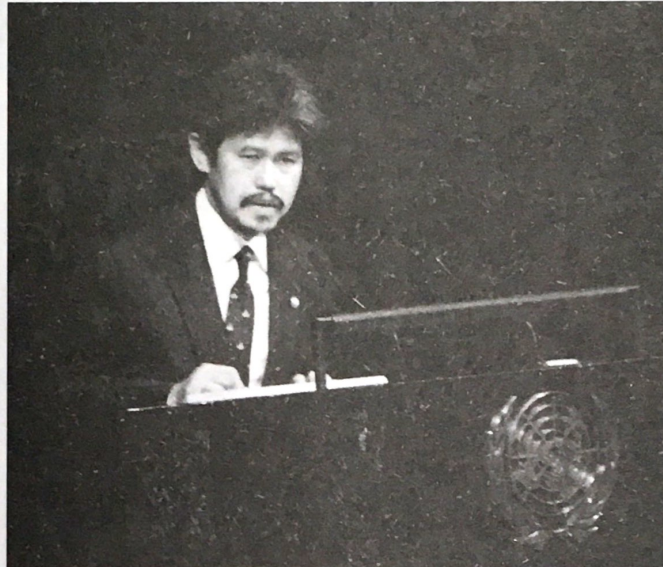
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YOUR TURN

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UN reform needed to enable it better handle world affairs



Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah addresses the 51st session of the United Nations General Assembly, in which he spoke of the need for UN reform to enable it better deal with growing world problems.

Brunei Darussalam has added its voice to those of other members of the United Nations in calling for reform of the world body to enable it better handle world affairs.

In an address on 26 September in New York, the Sultanate's Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah told the fifty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly, UNGA, that the organisation needed a new approach to solve problems in many areas of international concern.

"This can only be developed, we feel, when the United Nations is reformed", he said, adding, "I say this because we are seeing a new type of international community, far more diverse than the one our

founders knew. At the same time, it is one which is being drawn closer together through the advance of technology and communications - the global village of popular description".

The need is urgent, the minister went on, while pointing to mounting tension and conflicts within nations as well as various social, economic and sometimes even criminal problems of international concerns which transcend national borders. The United Nations, he said, is increasingly being asked to solve these.

In trying to do all these work, which represents a deep commitment to the cause of peace and stability in the world, the UN resources are over-stretched.

• *Continued on page 3*



Left: His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah at the Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, held at the United Nations headquarters, at which the Brunei Darussalam delegation was also represented by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Below: The ASEAN Foreign Ministers attending the 51st UNGA also held their own meeting. Picture shows the Brunei Darussalam Foreign Minister with his delegation.

"I also tend to think that maybe we are asking them to take on new tasks with old or out-dated tools. If they are not provided with the means to manage our affairs well, then we at the United Nations are at fault".

He cited the Bosnian tragedy as a warning to the international community and described the current situation in the Middle East as another possible emblem of failure though there are still hopes for peace in the troubled region. The Middle East peace agreement, he said, gave a realistic glimpse of hope and optimism.

"However, a new government in Israel now appears to be challenging the very basis on which our fragile hopes for peace were founded".

Brunei Darussalam, he stressed, adds its voice to the many in urging Israeli leaders



Below: His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and his wife, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah greeting guests to a dinner hosted by ASEAN Foreign Ministers for ministers and officials attending the 51st UNGA. Seen at extreme left facing camera is Indonesia's Foreign Affairs Minister, His Excellency Mr. Ali Alatas and on extreme right, the Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister, Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, who chaired the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting.



• Continued on page 4



The Brunei Darussalam Minister of Foreign Affairs granting audiences to his counterparts from the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, above, from the West African Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Mr. Theo Ben Gurirab, below; and to the Foreign Affairs Minister of Portugal, His Excellency Dr. Jaime Gama, bottom.



to continue the peace process, "not just by statement, but in the full spirit of the agreements reached in Madrid and Oslo".

His Royal Highness also urged the UN Security Council to begin to insist that all agreements are resolutely kept.

He had earlier in the address expressed pleasure at the UNGA President's statements on the role of the General Assembly which emphasised on practical economic and social development.

"It was also most encouraging to hear you say that you intend to do all you can for the cause of the United Nations' reform", said the minister, while at the same time reminding that the General Assembly must not be paralysed by the analysis of reform.

"We need concrete proposals from our Working Groups. Then we can spend our time on the hard work of building consensus".

The Brunei Darussalam Foreign Minister said the emergence of the global village is welcomed, for it could mean that "we all learn to acknowledge and appreciate our diversity and take on the best aspects of a real village".

However, he also warned that there is no guarantee this can happen and villages are not always pleasant places to live in.

"Modern technology may well encourage neighbourly cooperation, but it is just as capable of enhancing the hostile elements of primitive life. It could set up a permanent

• Continued on page 5

division between the developed and developing worlds”.

These tremendous changes taking place today call for a new effective approach.

In Southeast Asia, the minister explained, an approach chosen has enabled the promotion of programmes aimed at preventive diplomacy and economic cooperation in the region.

His Royal Highness referred

His Royal Highness also granted audiences to the Foreign Affairs Ministers of Mozambique, His Excellency Mr. Leonardo Simao, top picture, Republic of Cuba, His Excellency Mr. Roberto Robaina Gunzalez centre, and the People's Republic of Bangladesh, His Excellency Mr. Alhaj Abdus Samad Azad, bottom picture.

• from page 1
(Noble Values as Prequisite
of all Achievement)

educational aspect. This is because education is an effective determining factor, said His Majesty during UBD's Eighth Convocation, held at the International Convention Centre on 28 September.

We must succeed in realising this aspect, and one way to make it successful is by producing an academically-quality manpower resources.

In this respect, His Majesty was pleased to note the increasing number of academically-qualified local manpower who have succeeded in obtaining the post-graduate in the Master and PhD degrees.

Serving the society

His Majesty also spoke on the important role of UBD in serving the society.

He said that the cooperation between the university and the society outside the university

to the intention of Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar to join the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN, a move that will see the whole of Southeast Asia working together.

While in New York, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah also attended a meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement or NAM.

In a brief address at the

NAM Meeting, the Brunei Darussalam Foreign Affairs Minister said that the movement has gone a long way towards fulfilling what were called for at the NAM Summit in Cartagena, Colombia last year.

As well he granted audiences to several ministers who were in New York for the fifty-first UNGA.



• Continued on page 12



His Majesty The Sultan, in his speech on Teachers' Day, urged teachers to constantly upgrade their quality by acquiring knowledge continuously.

Teachers: provider of education and exemplary qualities

Teachers have been urged to be at the forefront always in knowledge, skills and good qualities.

Speaking at the annual Teachers' Day gathering at the Brunei International Convention Centre on 23 September, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam told teachers that their role is becoming ever more challenging not only as the provider of education, but also of good qualities to their proteges, especially in this age of constant change and rapid development in various fields.

He urged teachers to equip themselves with adequate skills and good qualities as well as to continuously upgrade their knowledge in order to be the role model to others.

The monarch further urged teachers to be alert and always willing to keep abreast of the rapid development in the information technology, otherwise they would be left behind, possibly even by their own students.

In spite of the various changes and the rapid development of information technology, modern

education will still need genuinely committed teachers, said His Majesty.

"I am of the opinion that technology alone will not be adequate to assume the role of the teacher as an educator no matter what changes time may bring".

Towards producing qualified teachers, His Majesty explained that the government, through the Ministry of Education, is providing a special scholarship scheme to attract qualified and interested students to take up teaching courses in science, mathematics and English language.

He further explained that the effort is designed to obtain teachers from select students.

"This scheme does not limit opportunities towards enabling students become mere classroom teachers, but would also enable them pursue studies in teaching up to the first degree level and further".

His Majesty touched on the theme of this year's Teachers' Day celebration - "Towards shaping noble morals".

He said moral problems are not



easily solved, even schools and high learning institutions sometimes fail to address them. But among the effective means of instilling good morals he pointed, are through education and examples set by both parents and teachers.

"Parents and teachers and the family are responsible towards setting good examples to their children", said His Majesty, while pointing that the good examples they set will produce good people and vice-versa.

Earlier in his address, the monarch called on Islamic scholars throughout the world to come forward and project the right impression that all forms of

• *Continued on page 7*

Right : His Majesty followed by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah being greeted by officials on arrival at the International Convention Centre for the annual Teachers' Day gathering. In recognition of their outstanding contribution to the teaching field, Dayang Hajjah Aisah binti Haji Mohd. Yusof, left below, and Awang Haji Mohd. Hashim bin Haji Tahir, right below, respectively received the 'Tokoh Guru Cemerlang' and 'Tokoh Guru Tua' awards.



discoveries which have been made for the benefit of mankind are derived from the Al-Qur'an, although they may not have been stated directly in the holy book.

"Today we have come face to face with the reality that many subjects which at first man did not think of but have now come into existence, such as motorised transportation as trains, motor cars, airplanes and spacecraft are new phenomena which the Al-Qur'an made reference to", said His Majesty.

This is the secret of the Koran in

pointing to the technology of communications.

"But, it is regrettable that sometimes people do not see it from this aspect, only as far as regarding that such discoveries are made by other people and not inspired from the sources of the holy book", lamented the ruler.

Islamic scholars need to point to and correct these vague perceptions, he stressed.

His Majesty spoke of the challenges the 21st century may bring.

While illiteracy was something to be feared in olden days, today people are talking about emotional and computer literacy. It is therefore not improbable that the next century will bring discoveries that are even more sublime.

The gathering was attended by some 3,000 teachers from throughout the country. The highlight was the presentation of awards to three teachers - both serving and retired - for their contribution and excellence in the teaching profession.

His Majesty, flanked to his right by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, at the start of the key and land grant presentation ceremony.



New houses and land grants for residents in Tutong district

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has presented more house keys and land grants: this time to residents in the Tutong district.

Some 126 families on 1 October

received the keys to houses under the National Housing Scheme at Kampong Bukit Beruang, 62 others received the houses under the Housing Scheme for Landless Citizens at Kampong Telisai, while a further 141 people received land grants.

The presentation was held at the

Bukit Udal Primary School.

After presenting the keys and land grants, His Majesty, accompanied by his brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, toured the school.

His Majesty also dropped in at the house of the headman of Kampong Bukit Udal, Awang Jian bin Runtop and at the house of the headman of Kampong Telisai, Awang Haji Mohamad bin Damit.

Like in previous visits, the Brunei monarch also went inside the houses of some the recipients of the land grants, and the new houses at the two housing areas.



Left : A recipient of new house receiving the key to the house from His Majesty.



The monarch taking a close look at children at work when he visited the Kampong Bukit Udal Primary School, and at right, shaking hand with a little boy who was among hundreds of villagers who had turned out to greet him.



Collaborative Research Sought To Face Complex Education Problems

The Minister of Education has stressed the importance of conserving the limited pool of researchers in the Sultanate by investing in collaborative research in facing complex educational problems that require long-term solutions.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, the Minister of Education made this remark amid concern over whether the variety of research studies that have been conducted could have helped, or are helpful, in developing and further improving the country's educational system.

"By the same token, we should involve the large pool of practitioners who have the potential of becoming partners in collaborative research," the minister further said in his speech at the opening of the National Colloquium: Towards Developing and Strengthening Partnerships in Teacher Education held on 16 September.

He cited that two workshops have already been conducted involving representatives from University Brunei Darussalam, the Ministry of Education and schools in developing collaborative agenda for research in education.

Major areas of research

He said five major areas for research have emerged, namely motivation to learn, motivation to teach, developing professional competence, developing language proficiency and enhancing research and planning.

He went on to say that these areas address the more significant and persistent problems facing the educational system.

While some projects are already underway and several more are in the pipeline, other serious researchers and potential researchers, too, would make a genuine effort to undertake studies



The Education Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz calling for pooling and conservation of research manpower towards more effective research projects.

that could become part of the collaborative agenda, stressed the minister.

In this regard, he urged for concerted effort to deal with the problems systematically, on what really works or does not work in Brunei Darussalam.

The minister also expressed concern over the danger of viewing research as the panacea for all educational ills.

"However, research would have even less to contribute if each researcher goes his or her own separate way, without attempting to relate to each other and to the priority areas of research," he said.

Therefore, greater commitment should be shown towards the agenda that has already been identified, he pointed.

Research on effective partnership urged

The minister noted that one such area which could be included to the agenda on research of teacher education is research on effective partnerships in teacher education.

"If teacher educators are to set a good example for teachers to follow, they should take the initiative to conduct research to improve their own professional practice before they attempt to urge teachers to be involved in reflective action research."

He added: "The research on teacher education could also be a collaborative effort, for school and

the ministry are as much involved in teacher professional development as the university."

Earlier in his speech, he welcomed efforts by University Brunei Darussalam to involve school personnel as well as education officers from the Education Ministry in its many teacher education programmes.

Collaborative efforts by ministry towards teacher education

He pointed that from time to time his ministry would also initiate some special projects in teacher education, which would invariably be conceived as collaborative projects involving the university, the ministry and schools.

For instance, the Education Ministry has been collaborating with the university to introduce a Certificate in Special Education programme for preparing Learning Assistance Teachers for all schools in effort to provide for the special needs of children with learning difficulties.

Another recent initiative was the in-service training of specialist science and mathematics teachers.

He said that it is encouraging that the teachers are asking for more and with the help of equally enthusiastic university dons and ministry officers, follow-up school-based workshops are continuing to be held.

Another initiative was a teacher induction programme held last year

• Continued on page 10

for all newly-graduating teachers.

Besides briefings by the ministry's officers on the roles of different departments vis-a-vis schools, five workshops were conducted by university lecturers, school principals and headteachers.

Using such techniques as brainstorming, case study and role play, the workshops help the new teachers answer many questions, including the most basic but extremely important, such as, on how should a teacher prepare himself/herself for the first day of schools or for the first few months of the profession.

Importance of collaborative endeavours

The minister further noted that one interesting and important feature in these collaborative endeavours is the incorporation of research and evaluation.

For example, in conducting the Certificate in Special Education programme, the participants are

involved in gathering useful data, such as the basic levels of reading and mathematics among school children.

In the in-service courses for specialist science and mathematics teachers, the participants are involved in conducting action research in their respective schools. And for the teacher induction workshops, the beginner teachers have been sensitised to the possibilities of utilising and conducting research in seeking answers to some of their problems in the classrooms. Besides the end-of-course evaluation, a follow-up evaluation is being envisaged, the minister said.

Ministry undertakes major review of primary education

In his speech, the Minister of Education also announced that his ministry is currently undertaking a major review of primary education, conducted also by representatives from the university and schools, which is nearing completion.

He noted that one major finding is that the system is too examination-oriented, whereby much time is being spent in preparing for examinations instead of real learning, especially in important areas of development of the whole child that are non-examinable at present.

In order to find a viable alternative to such a deep-rooted problem, he said, longer term research studies are necessary.

National Colloquium

The National Colloquium was organised by Universiti Brunei Darussalam. It was attended by some 200 participants comprising officials of the Education Ministry and the Institute of Education as well as school teachers from both the primary and the secondary. The participants, among others heard lectures from local and foreign education experts, such as from Britain and Australia.

Ministry of Education to support human resources development in agriculture, fisheries and forestry

The Ministry of education is now undertaking important initiative to support human resources development in the agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors of the country's economy.

Towards this end, a new Vocational School under the provision of the Sixth National Development Plan, is currently being built on a spacious site at Wasan in the Brunei-Muara district. The school is expected to operate in mid 1998.

The Permanent Secretary of the Education Ministry, Dato Paduka Haji Ali Hashim said that in the agricultural field, the Ministry will offer young adults two-year training programmes in Nursery Operation, Farm Operation for fruits, vegetables, poultry and food handling and processing.

The Ministry expects an annual intake of 100 students into these agricultural programmes and each student will be given the opportunity to specialize in the second year of studies.

He said that the new school and other vocational schools are primarily aimed at training young people for employment. With the promising opportunity, graduates of the agricultural programmes will be in a position to seek employment as competent assistants in greenhouses, nurseries, garden centres and landscaping organisations or as lands maintenance personnel.

In a speech read by the Acting Director of Examinations, Pengiran Haji Mohammad Zain bin Pengiran Haji Lampoh, as his personal representative during the 42nd Meeting of the Governing Board of the Southeast East Asian Ministers of Education Organisation regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) held at the SEAMEO-VOCTECH Centre on 1st October, the official stressed the need for concurrent parallel development in agricultural research to follow graduate study



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Dato Paduka Haji Ali Hashim outlined the numerous initiatives being taken by the ministry in support of the country's human resources development efforts.

activities.

In this way, he said, training obtained through SEARCA can continue and be further extended into research and development to produce innovative technologies to better serve farming communities.

He said that Brunei Darussalam is now working forward to actively collaborate with researchers and institutions through SEARCA to accelerate research in areas such as integrated pest management, QAQC in poultry production, post-harvest research in food crops and livestock and development of indigenous fruits for niche markets.

• Continued on page 22



The Commander of the British Armed Forces, Field Marshall Sir Peter Inge exchanges greeting with His Majesty The Sultan and yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on arrival at Istana Nurul Iman for an audience with the Brunei monarch. His wife, Lady Inge, meanwhile, had separate audiences with Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha at Istana Nurul Iman, below left, and with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at Istana Nurul Izzah.



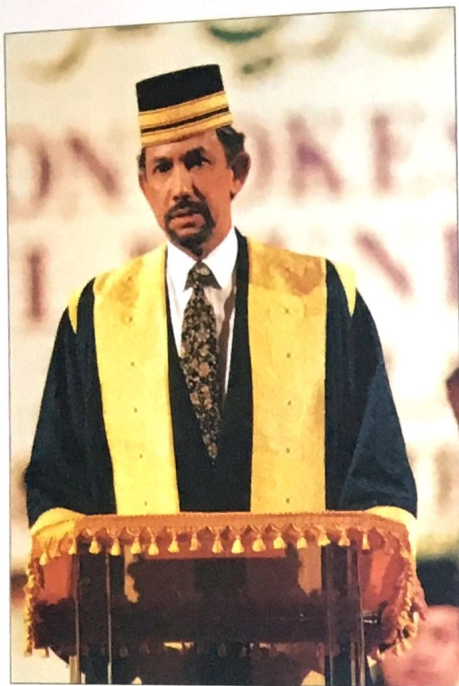
Sultan grants audience to British Armed Forces' Commander

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granted an audience to the Commander of the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom, Field-Marshal Sir Peter Inge, GCB, at Istana Nurul Iman on 5 October.

The visiting military chief, who was accompanied at the audience by the British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Ivan Callan, was on a three-day visit prior to his retirement.

Sir Peter Inge has been Commander of the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom since March 1994, and his visit has further strengthened the relations, especially in military aspects, between Brunei Darussalam and the United Kingdom.

Military cooperation between the two countries were formally affirmed with the signing of a five-year Defence Agreement in 1992.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam speaking on the role of Universiti Brunei Darussalam towards meeting the country's needs, left. Above: The monarch takes a close look at the new mace of the university, which has taken the form of the "Mushaf Al-Quran" - a specially hand-written Koran.

• from page 5 (Noble values as prerequisite of all achievements)

campus is going well and many of "our academicians are conducting studies and at the same time they are providing consultative services to the society.

Besides this, the society is also rapidly utilising the existing resources and expertise available at the university, His Majesty added.

"This mutual relationship is very beneficial to both sides"

His Majesty went to say that learning centres

• Continued on page 13



• from page 12 (Noble values as prerequisite of all achievements)

are no longer separated from the society. Learning centres are not merely a producer, rather, they should become the provider or an active machinery in the society, and recognise the difficulties and needs of the people.

UBD's Mace replaced by 'Mushaf Al-Qur'an'

This year's convocation is an historic one because UBD's 'Cokmar' (Mace) is replaced by a hand-written Mushaf Al-Qur'an, said the ruler further.

This replacement is based upon the desire to get the blessings from the Al-Qur'an which comes from Allah, God the Almighty, and is the most complete source of knowledge.

That is why it (the Al Qur'an) should be related with all forms of educational activities, as a torch or guidance to our learning centre.

Education needs objective and motivation

His Majesty also emphasised that in education "we need clear objective and ambition. We do not



want to be restricted by the traditional concept of just being able to write and read, rather, we also want to produce a scientific society founded on the aspects of knowledge, religion, culture and vision.

This is not just a theory or a new matter, but it has become evident in parts of the world, with

• Continued on page 23



Another state figure honoured with The Doctor of Letters degree was the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman, seen above receiving the honorary degree from His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. Right: The pool of graduates, Convention Centre as they proudly await to receive their degrees and certificates.



Koranic generation needs to be produced for revival of Muslim ummahs' superiority

The pre-eminence of the Muslim ummahs can be revived only if the goal of producing a Koranic generation is achieved world-wide, where every Muslim is able not only to read the Al-Qur'an (Koran) but also practises its teachings fully, stressed His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The Koran, added His Majesty, is not merely meant to be possessed, but it should be read and its teachings absorbed and put into practice.

The mere act of every Muslim reading the holy book and practising its teachings is greater than triggering a weapon, the ruler further said in his titah (royal address) on 13 October, at the end of the two-day Annual Koran Reading Competition, held at the Brunei International Convention Centre.

"This is because all the glory and victory of Muslims and the humiliation inflicted upon their enemies are handed down by Allah the Almighty".

His Majesty reminded, however, this did not mean that Muslims did not need weapons to defend themselves, on the contrary they are indeed required to strengthen their defences and security.

Hence, Muslims should intensify their involvement and relationships with the Koran by reading it and making it a guide so that their every struggle and activity will be blessed and assisted by Allah the Almighty.

Efforts to create learned generation on Al-Qur'an

Domestically, His Majesty pointed that the approach emphasises on more efforts on conducting various incentive schemes to promote the learning of the Al-Qur'an. This includes the provision of places for learning, distribution of the 'Mushaf Al-Qur'an' (A specially-handwritten edition of the al-Qur'an undertaken by His Majesty's Government and have been distributed since its launching in 1992) to Muslim families, and the formation of the Tahfiz Al-Quran Institut (Institute



Before he presented prizes to the winners of the Annual National Koran Reading Competition, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, in his address, emphasised on the need for the Islamic world to produce a so-called 'Koranic Generation'.

• Continued on page 15

• from page 14
(Koranic generation needs to be produced for revival of Muslim ummahs' superiority)

for studies and Memorizing of the Al-Qur'an) and others.

The monarch noted that all these are important towards producing a learned generation in the Al-Qur'an, who are truly committed with its teachings.

"Our primary aspiration is to see this generation of the Al-Quran is shared together by all people and, in particular the youths" His Majesty stressed.

We will be proud in being able to produce pious youths, because one of the characteristics of piety is one's involvement with the Al-Qur'an, as mere readers, and at the same time, observing and putting its teachings into practice.

In entering the 21st Century, it is not suitable for a small country like ours to have illiterate youths, likewise, we can not afford to have youths who are not able to read the Al-Qur'an, His Majesty reminded.

Seeking knowledge from the Al-Qur'an should not be restricted by time or age. Even though we live in this so-called development era, learning it is still an obligation, and becomes 'fardu-ain' (religious obligation of every individual Muslim).

At the ceremony, the Brunei ruler presented prizes to the winners. The champion in the mens' category was Pehin Khatib Haji Awang Mustapha, while Dayang Hajah Rakiah won the women's section.

Al-Qur'an helps ummahs to progress

The Minister of Development, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Wijaya Pengiran Dr. Haji Ismail in his speech at the opening of the competition the previous evening, pointed that observing the teachings of the Al-Qur'an can help contribute towards the progress of the ummahs

in not being dependent on others any longer.

• Continued on page 23



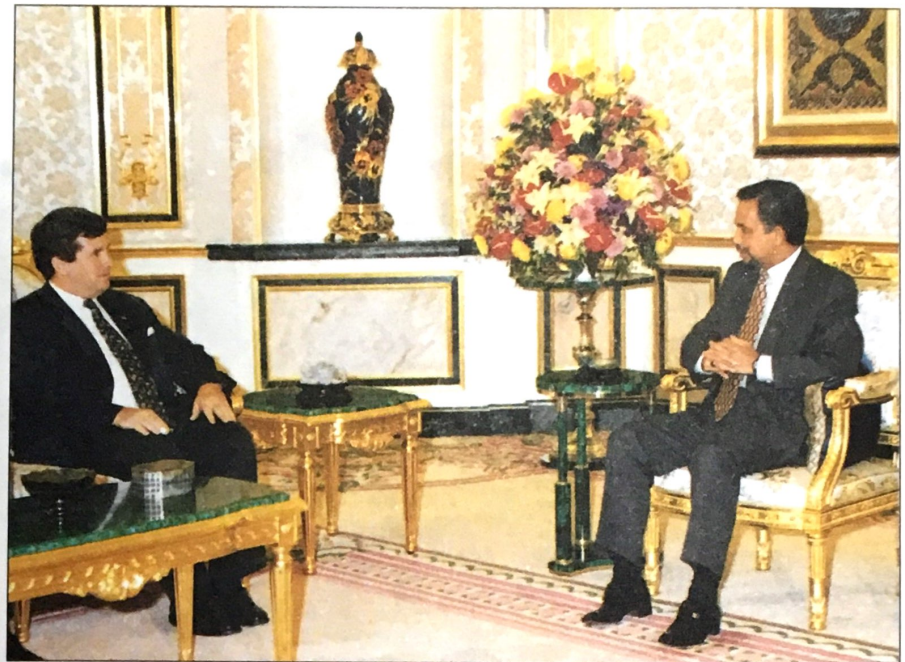
Above : Officials welcome His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on arrival at the Brunei International Convention centre. Also in attendance at the Koran reading competition were Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.



Above : The champion in the women's section of the competition receiving her prizes from His Majesty. In his speech at the opening of the competition the previous evening, the Minister of Development, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Wijaya Pengiran Dr. Haji Ismail, right, said Islamic ummahs can be guided by the Koran towards achieving progress.



His Majesty and the Chief Minister of Australia's Northern Territory, The Hon. Mr. Shane Stone in discussion when the latter had an audience with the ruler at Istana Nurul Iman. In the meantime, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha, below left, and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, below right, granted separate audiences to Mrs. Josephine Stone at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah respectively.



Another boost for Brunei Darussalam-Australia relations

The existing relations between Brunei Darussalam and Australia were stepped up further recently with the visit of the Chief Minister of Australia's Northern Territory, The Honourable Mr. Shane Stone.

During the two-day working visit, commencing 19 October, the minister was granted an audience at Istana Nurul Iman by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

He also had an audience with the Foreign Affairs Minister, His

Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah at the Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan near the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

During the audience with the Foreign Affairs Minister, the visiting Australian minister was accompanied by the Director of the Paspaley Group of Companies, Mr. Nick Paspaley. Their discussions focussed on matters of mutual interest to the two countries, as well as on Australia's involvement in the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area or BIMP-EAGA.

Brunei Darussalam is currently

the country-coordinator of the ASEAN-Australia dialogue on a three-year tenure.

In June this year, the Sultanate hosted the 17th ASEAN-Australia Forum - during which the head of the Australian delegation emphasised that the Australian government placed high priority towards maintaining close relationship with its ASEAN neighbours, and noted that Australia's interest in doing business with ASEAN was evident in the strong private sector participation at the forum.

Prince presents foundation's assistance in Temburong

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the eldest son of His Majesty presented the keys of two houses built under the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation's Housing Scheme to help needy residents in the Temburong district on 3 October.

The houses are for two families who have embraced Islam, and who the foundation's Board of Directors had identified as being eligible for assistance.

Awang Muhammad Yasib bin Abdullah, aged 52, and Awang Muhammad Jamil bin Abdullah, 48, both received the twenty five thousand dollar houses at Kampong Sibut and Kampong Kenua respectively.

The houses are built with the aim of ensuring that these new-Muslim converts will enjoy new life as Muslims and to enable them perform religious obligations comfortably, apart from helping them to improve their living quality.

His Royal Highness presented the keys during a ceremony held at the Kampong Amo Primary School. The Prince later went inside the two houses.

The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation was established on 5 October, 1992 in conjunction with the Silver Jubilee Anniversary of His

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah presenting one of the two converts with the key to his new house which has been built by the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation under its assistance scheme for the needy.

Below: Watching children at work at the Kampong Amo Primary School.



Majesty's accession to the throne.

Like in the Temburong district, similar houses for needy Muslim

converts are also under construction in the Tutong and Belait districts.

Families : Engines and Motors of Socio-Economic Development Process

The Acting Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Selamat said: families are the engines and motors of economic and social development process, and therefore, must be taken into consideration when establishing policies and priorities for economic and social development.

"Families are a basic social unit of production and consumption and, as such, are the heart of the economic process", he stressed.

The Acting Minister was speaking at the opening ceremony of a Seminar-Forum on the Family and the changing

times, designed especially to sensitise and raise the awareness of the policy makers from various government agencies and private organisations about the importance of the family institution.

He said, the Seminar-Forum is a timely event in view of the socio-economic problems faced by the nation.

Speaking at length on the role of families, the Acting Minister pointed out that vital, productive families are essential to the world's future and are the cradle of the generation to come. Their strengths and weaknesses largely reflect the fabric of society of each country.

"The family must be viewed as a living, evolving institution, which is affected by socio-economic factors as

well the changes that shape social environment in which it functions", he added.

It has not escaped the impact of the complex problems brought about by the advancement of civilization. Families are undergoing constant change due to factors, which include demographic trends, socio-cultural changes, unemployment, migration, technological innovation, globalisation, the quest for equality between men and women, and widening of opportunity for women.

He pointed out that the conditions of the family life have an immediate impact on the quality of life of every individual and are also critical

• Continued on page 21



Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and other members of the royal family at the start of the 1996 Girl Guides Day gathering, above, and right, cutting her birthday cake. Centre right : Her Majesty presents prize to a member of the girl guide during the gathering, which was attended by members of the organisation as well as senior scouts officials from throughout the country, bottom.



Stability and strength of a country also rely upon socio-cultural factors

Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha has said that the stability and strength of a country does not rely upon its economic stability and development alone, but also on socio-cultural factors.

Her Majesty said that Bruneians who uphold noble cultural values are still able to enjoy the closeness of family life in a society where people give due care for the elderly and the less fortunate and children respect their parents.

Her Majesty expressed hope that these values can be cultivated and instilled through activities conducted by associations such as the Girl Guides Movement, while at the same time instil goodwill and the spirit of love for the country.

In a titah (royal address) at a ceremony marking the Girl Guides Day at the Conference Hall of the International Convention Centre on 11 October, Her Majesty stressed that the activities of the Girl Guides are beneficial and in no way less important to the country as they can contribute harmony and peace to social and family life.

Her Majesty, who is Patron of the Girl Guides Association, expressed pride over the acceptance of Brunei Darussalam's Girl Guides Association as a member of the World's Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Association, beginning July 1996.





Her Majesty The Raja Isteri said parents should give their time wisely for the benefit of their children in her speech at the opening of a new building for the BISTARI Women's Association, which coincided with her birthday. At the event, Her Majesty presented prizes and toured an exhibition pertaining to the development of the association as well as on handicrafts by women.



Give due concern and time on children

Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha said that parents should give due concern and spare their time wisely on their children, especially the teenagers.

This is important because at this age, teenagers will face various influences and problems, she said.

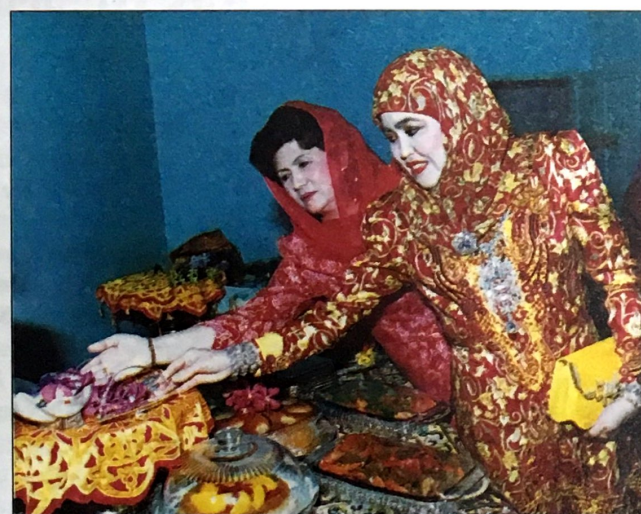
Only with proper guidance and attention from parents can we ensure that our teenagers live their teenage years in the best possible way," Her Majesty stressed.

Her Majesty was speaking before she officially opened the new building for BISTARI (Wives of Government officials and Women Officials' Welfare Body) on 18 October in Gadong. The ceremony was also organised in conjunction with Her Majesty's birthday.

Touching on the plan of BISTARI to conduct kindergarten classes in the new building, Her Majesty said that such a step will also contribute positively to the development process and building of children, who will be the future builders and leaders of society and country.

Her Majesty hoped that with the new building, BISTARI will continue to conduct activities which are beneficial for its members in particular, and the society in general.

The BISTARI new building which cost nearly \$1 million, is located on a 1.5 hectare site in Jalan Gadong, just outside the Brunei capital. Construction of the building began in October 1995 and was completed last July. The building is facilitated with a multi-purpose hall, conference room and several offices.





Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam listening to a briefing on the development of the RBAF's Women's Company as well as on its future course. Her Royal Highness afterwards toured an exhibition which was held at the company's headquarters.



HRH Visits Women's Company of RBAF

Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam has visited the Women's Company of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), of which she is Colonel-Commandant.

The visit on 25 September was in conjunction with the 15th anniversary of the company's formation.

Her Royal Highness was welcomed at the company's headquarters by the Commander of the RBAF, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Harimau Padang Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Husin and the Commanding Officer of the Women's Company, Major Hajjah Sopiah Haji Hussaini.

In a briefing, Major Hajjah Sopiah

said that the company will continue to make effort to be more progressive and keep abreast with the development in various aspects of the military in order to be able to face challenges of the 21st century.

To date, the company has 600 personnel, stationed in Muara, Penanjong and Berakas attached to the several units, including the administration, finance, training and logistics. They are also attached to the fields of communications, technical (aircraft and electronics), dental, medical, military police, logistic accountants, storekeeping, transportation as well as training.

The Women's Company was formed

on 29 June, 1981. The first intake consisted of five locals as Cadet Officers and 22 recruits.

On 1 January 1995, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to give women personnel bonuses and pensions after 15 years service, aimed at attracting more capable females to the army. Other benefits include personal loans, housing and posting opportunity similar to those for male personnel.

After the briefing, Her Royal Highness toured an exhibition on the development of the company.

She also visited the Hangar of the Royal Brunei Air Force at the Berakas Garrison, as well as the Dental and Medical Centre.

Malnutrition remained a problem among children:

Health Minister

The Minister of Health has said that malnutrition is still a problem among children living in certain parts of the country

The problem was due to insufficient dietary intake which may be related to social condition and insufficient vital food source, including financial problem and the preference on buying the less needed items, he pointed out.

The observation was based on the findings of a nutritional study conducted in 1995, involving pregnant mothers and children below the age of five years.

The study also showed that some pregnant mothers are still exposed to anaemia.

Expressing the concern before he officially launched the Survey on National Nutritional Status 1996 at the International Convention Centre on 10 October, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Johar highlighted that obesity resulting

from over eating also remained a problem in the country. Obesity may cause heart disease, cerebrovascular and diabetes, which are the nation's major health problems

The Ministry of Health, he added, is making an effort to study and analyse nutritional problems in order to update and further strengthen programmes and nutritional policy in the country.

The Ministry also gives concern to the upgrading of nutritional status of the citizens and people of the country, particularly among children, pregnant mothers and the elderly and conduct programmes on a balanced and healthy nutrition.

He hoped that the study will produce in-depth findings, involving all levels of age, which in turn will enable concerned party to analyse the existing situation and provide more comprehensive programmes.



The Minister of Health, Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Johar says malnutrition is still a problem among some of the population.

• from page 17 (*Families: Engines and motors of socio-economic development process*)



The Acting Culture, Youths and Sports Minister, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Selamat emphasised the importance of the family institution.

determinants of the quality of community life.

"At the same, the family, as the basic social and economic institution, is greatly affected by the social problems associated with economic change, whether it be rapid economic growth or economic stagnation, especially in the context of advancing globalisation of the world economy", said the Acting Minister.

In a ceremony held at the Riverview Inn in Gadong on 24th September, he said that it has become necessary for both family function and structure to adapt to the processes of change in order to ensure family survival.

The Acting Minister also spoke on changes in the relationship between women and men, resulting from major advances in education among women and significant increases in their participation in the labour force.

The boundaries of the gender

division of labour between productive and reproductive roles are gradually being crossed as women have started to enter formerly male-dominated areas of work and men have started to accept greater responsibility for domestic tasks, including child care.

The Seminar-Forum seeks to promote an enabling environment and support systems for women's entry into non-traditional occupations notwithstanding the diverse roles they have to play in society.

He hoped that the forum would see the start of the creation of networks among government agencies and private organisations leading to greater understanding and concerted efforts at dealing with issues and problems of common interest, that is the family.

Business community urged to make 'SHuTT' a reality

The business community in Brunei Darussalam has been urged to make the Sultanate's vision of becoming the service Hub for Trade and Tourism or 'SHuTT' a reality.

The call was made by the Permanent Secretary of the Communications Ministry, Dato Paduka Malai Haji Ali, at a gathering session between officials from the ministry and trading community which was held at the ministry on 7 October.

The Permanent Secretary pointed out that the year-old concept was fully endorsed by his Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam when the monarch emphasised it in his 50th birthday speech, in which he said that the Government through the Ministry of Communications is implementing its plans to develop the country to become the centre for services, trade and tourism by the year 2003.

The official said that His Majesty has commanded the business community to adopt the centre for services, trade and tourism as their central business strategy.

Dato Paduka Malai Haji Ali further urged the business community to promote the concept of "import and export through Brunei, travel to and through Brunei, do business in

and through Brunei and communicate through Brunei."

"This is the formula for success and growth for the future," he stressed.

The official pointed out that his ministry adopts SHuTT as its strategic intent.

He said that the ministry's officials have become the infrastructural 'link' between the people of Brunei Darussalam and the rest of the world, and as the 'bridge' between the world community and the BIMP-EAGA (Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area) community.

He added that SHuTT 2003 has given his ministry and its people a sense of direction, a sense of destiny and a sense of discovery.

SHuTT 2003, he went on to say, has given the staff the emotional and intellectual energy for the journey into the future.

"The strategy is working for the ministry in that we are more progressive, we are more outward looking, we are more competitive, we are pro business and we are more innovative,".

He added: "This is very much unusual for a government department. I believe we are setting the new benchmark for government services."

At the gathering, the business community had question-and-answer session with ministry officials on topics pertaining to civil aviation, development of ports and maritime transportation.

The gathering was aimed at creating awareness of the ministry's programme in the transportation sector, intensifying the private sector's participation, getting feed back from the community as well as fostering closer partnership between the ministry and the business sector.



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communication, Dato Paduka Haji Malai Ali urged support from the business community to make SHuTT a reality.

• from page 10 (Ministry of Education to support Human Resources Development in agriculture, fisheries and forestry)

SEARCA was established to promote graduate study and research in agriculture in the Southeast Asian region, the activities of which have benefited many scientists in the areas of training and research, and have strengthened Southeast Asian cooperation through the sharing of experiences, expertise, resources, training and research in the agricultural field.

It has hoped that SEARCA will be able to give every consideration to expanding its training programmes to include a wider range of subjects which have a stronger impact on

modernising agriculture in the region, he said.

With the establishment of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), new opportunities for economic growth have been created through respective government initiatives to harmonise regulations and expand markets, the Permanent Secretary said, while adding that, farmers too should meet and benefit from these emerging economic changes.

SEARCA therefore, should take the necessary measures and formulate strategies towards their successful implementation.

He also hoped that SEAMEO,

other contributing agencies and individuals will continue to support SEARCA to enable it forge ahead as one of the leading institutions of its kind in the region.

The major part of the meeting was to review and discuss the progress, constraints and other related matters of various SEARCA projects and member countries' needs. It also decided on future undertakings that would have the greatest impact to benefit the people of ASEAN, and issues related to funding of new project proposals for the future in order to better serve the agricultural communities in the region.

the births of learned people who had become founders of great civilisations.

For instance, the civilisation of Greece was founded from the thoughts of Socrates, Aristotle and others. The Islamic Civilisation is based on the Al-Qur'an and the Al-Hadis as well as from the prophet's companions, and the thoughts of Al-Farabi, Ibnu Sina, Al-Ghazali and others. Meanwhile, the Civilisation of the West, right from middle ages up to modern times is brought about by such names as Scotus and Newton.

These people were founders of different civilisations based on their respective ideas and thoughts, said His Majesty.

The ruler went on to say that education is dynamic and even developing and it is essential for us to keep abreast of its development.

"We should not let the progress of knowledge and education to leave us behind. We should participate in it," His Majesty urged.

Development and progress of UBD

The UBD Vice-Chancellor,

Pehin Orang Kaya Putera Maharaja Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Abu Bakar, among others, outlined the development and progress of UBD.

He said that the ten-year old institution was initially aimed at meeting the country's needs, especially in education and management.

Now, the university is able to expand its programme by offering courses in various levels, namely the first degrees, advanced degrees and post-graduate degrees and it aims to continue offering its advanced degree programme annually.

In line with the various needs in the post-graduate programme, commencing this year, he said, the Master Degree in Education involves the specialisation in curriculum studies, science and mathematics as well as on management education. And for the first time, too, the Faculty of Islamic Studies offers its Master Degree programme.

Meanwhile, with the rapid pace of technical education and in order to meet the need for lecturers and technical teachers, a post-graduate programme in technical education will be implemented next year.

Relevant courses are also offered at the certificate level, such as in creative writing.

In the field of research, UBD has placed Brunei Darussalam in the world map through its Tropical Rain Forest Research Centre at Kuala Belalong.

Research-related activities on relevant fields pertaining to the country also continue - The Brunei Academy Studies will continue conducting studies on the development of the people and the country.

The UBD Vice-Chancellor also pointed that several research centres are to be established such as the Applied Research in Education Centre and the Bilingual Education and Learning Method Research Centre.

Already, several universities in the region as well as in America and Sweden have expressed their interest and commitment to cooperate in the bilingualism and learning method fields, the Vice-Chancellor said.

Ceremony

During the ceremony, some 391 graduates received their degrees and certificates.

The monarch also presented honorary doctorate degrees to three people - two of them ministers and the other a statesman.

He said that "we can only be independent when we become an active producer, instead of a mere consumer. When this succeeds then we can influence and show others of the truth of the teachings of the Al-Qur'an, as our basis towards progress.

Towards this end, he called for diligent efforts, especially towards facing the challenges of 21st century such as in trade, acquisition of science and technology, increase in world population, environment pollution, the media and cultural diversity and other challenges.

He pointed that if we are not able to deal with these issues, then we will not

only lag behind, but we will also be unable to protect ourselves from deviationist influences that contradict the teachings of the Al-Qur'an.

We should, therefore, equip ourselves with knowledge and will towards progress in order to compete with others, and likewise, uphold the teachings enjoined by Allah the Almighty, the minister added.

Theme of the competition

The minister also spoke on the theme of the competition - 'Upgrading the Quality of Life Based on the Teachings of Islam.'

He said that in order to produce a knowledgeable and stable generation, children and the young generation should be trained and guided properly right from reading and memorizing the Al-Qur'an

to teaching it in depth, so that they are aware of how relevant the Al-Quran is in their daily lives.

Learning the Al-Quran in religious schools and mosques in a systematic and effective way can result in the students being able to read, understand and observe its teachings, the minister stressed.

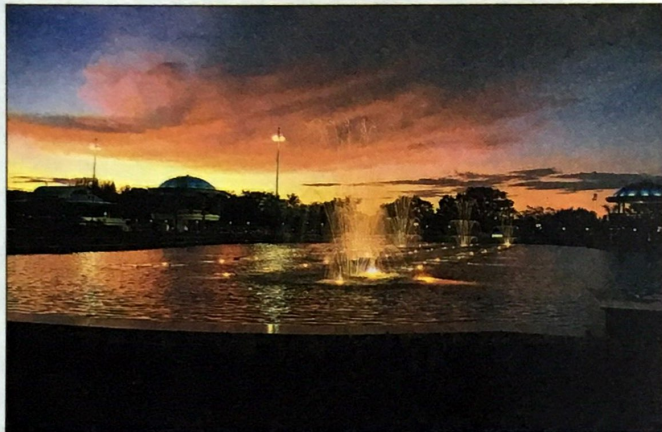
Religious knowledge, and observation of the teachings of the Al-Quran should be instilled in children from the primary school level and their love for the holy book should always be moulded and protected, the minister urged.

Adults, too, should upgrade their reading skills, because without their involvement or interest, it will be impossible for the young generation to be attracted to the holy book, the minister reminded.

Water in step with the music . . . or is it music following the rhythm of the water!



The Jerudong Playground and Amusement Park is further beautified with the addition of the Jerudong Park Garden, where one will find, among other things, a fountain which dances to the rhythm of music. Very pleasing to the eye and ear, to see and hear both in synchronisation, to the point one could be mesmerised by the unison of sight and sound. If it is peace of mind and a brief get-away-from-it-all that you need, this is the place where you should be at.



Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Population : 267,800 (Mid-1992)

Official Language : Malay

Official Religion : Islam

October rainfall : 396.0mm
(annual 2,818mm)

Brunei Malay in a minute

In each edition of the Brunei Darussalam Newsletter, we introduce our readers to a Brunei Malay word that is used only in the Sultanate.

We have chosen the word **angkis** for this edition.

Angkis is a quality of being arrogant or proud. In stan-

dard Malay, **angkis** means angkuh or bongkak.

Let's use the word on a sentence: *Orang yang **angkis** tidak digemari masyarakat.*

An arrogant person is disliked by the society.

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.