



# بروني دارالسلام BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

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## Tonga's Crown Prince on official visit



**B**runei Darussalam played host to a member of a foreign royal household recently.

His Royal Highness Prince Tupouto'a, who is the Crown Prince of the Pacific Island of Tonga, made a three-day official visit to the Sultanate from May 28.

The highlight of his visit was an audience at Istana Nurul Iman with His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam (in the picture).

Prince Tupouto'a (on left in the picture) also paid courtesy call on His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister, and visited the Malay Technology Museum and the Arts and Handicraft Training Centre, both at Jalan Kota Batu in the capital.

## Brunei, Malaysia work to further strengthen long-existing relations

**T**he fulfilment of defining the land and sea boundaries of Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia is vital in clarifying the sovereignty, authority and responsibility of both countries on their respective rights.

This was stated by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister, when he addressed the plenary session of a two-day bilateral talks between the two ASEAN neighbours recently in

Bandar Seri Begawan.

He said, "Whilst affirming the sovereignty and authority of territorial integrity for political and economic interests, the security of the people of both countries would also be guaranteed because such incidents as illegal entries, fishing and logging outside one another's territory, or other forms of encroachment would not occur".

He told the meeting that the question of land borders has been discussed informally by the two sides, especially the technicality aspect.

"I hope a solution to this question as well as on the issue of maritime delimitation will be in conformity with legal principles and international practices", he said, adding, "a solution should also be based on the principles of sincerity and trust in accordance with Islamic teachings so that a satisfactory, just and comprehensive solution is achieved to further enhanced the already longstanding and close relations between the two countries".

The Brunei Darussalam Foreign Affairs Minister said

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His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, the Brunei Darussalam Foreign Affairs Minister in discussion with his Malaysian opposite number, Datuk Haji Abu Hassan Omar shortly after the latter's arrival in Bandar Seri Begawan for the two days of bilateral talks.

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Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia have for long enjoyed close relations and such relations "have been further strengthened through personal friendships between their leaders".

He expressed pleasure that the two-day meeting was being held on the account that it can fulfill the wishes of both countries to discuss various issues of mutual interests.

He said even though discussions were on serious matters, they should not be interpreted as intractable problems which cannot be solved through negotiations.

"The recognition of the existence of issues being discussed should be seen both from the positive and constructive aspects towards further strengthening the concept of neighbourliness based

on mutual respect", Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah said.

In his address, the Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister, Datuk Haji Abu Hassan bin Omar said Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia have special relations that cannot be compared with their relations with any other country.

He hoped the two-day talks will be able to contribute towards examining some of the outstanding problems and enhance cooperation and understanding.

Apart from the border question, the meeting also discussed other matters such as restricted passports for travels between the two countries and the Pan-Borneo highway.

Both sides agreed to hold further talks in Kuala Lumpur at a later date to further look into these issues.

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# Literacy among Brunei Darussalam's population increases

Brunei Darussalam has a high literacy rate, according to Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz, the Education Minister.

He said about 90 percent of the Sultanate's population are literate, compared to only about 10 percent during World War II.

He disclosed in an interview that Brunei is one of the countries in the region which has attained a high level of education.

"The achievement is an outcome of the country's education system which is continuously being expanded", he said.

He stressed that it was his ministry's education policy to strive to meet the Sultanate's manpower needs, both in the government and private sectors.

The policy is also targeted to making every individual as knowledgeable and expert as possible to enable them manage their daily lives.

The minister said that although people were able to read and write in the past - this was, however, confined to the Jawi scripts.

Now if a research was to be carried out on the attainment of education among the population, it would show that they would have reached at least form 3 education, he said.

This was especially so among parents in their middle age or below.

**T**he Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) should consider appropriate measures against irresponsible and biased foreign publishers and news agencies which could jeopardise its efforts to foster mutual understanding and trust amongst member nations.

At the same time, journalists and reporters in ASEAN should be made more aware of the sensitivities of each member country and this could be realised through some exchange and training programmes and other means.

The suggestion was voiced by the Special Adviser to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan at the Prime Minister's Office and the Home Affairs Minister, Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa at the first conference of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information held in Jakarta recently.

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Isa said there was no doubt about the contribution made by positive and responsible reporting towards the process of nation building and in preserving the political and social stability in respective member nations.

He spoke of each ASEAN member country of having its own policies to govern its own national press and foreign press - a move intended to serve the national interests of the country concerned.

## German Embassy marks 40th Constitution Day

**T**he Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Brunei Darussalam has celebrated its country's 40th anniversary of the Constitution Day.

The function, on May 23, was held at the residence of the German Ambassador to the country, His Excellency Mr. Gregor Koebel.

Present on behalf of the Brunei Darussalam Government was the Development Minister, Pengiran Dato Seri Laila Jasa Dr. Haji Ismail. Other guests included diplomats and senior government officials.

Two days earlier the Bruneian-German Society organised a

treasure hunt rally, 'Explore Brunei' to mark the occasion.

Some 35 German-made cars including Porsches, Mercedes, BMWs and Audis turned up at the National Stadium to take part in the rally which covered places of interest within the Brunei-Muara District.

Among the participants were His Majesty's Special Advisor at the Prime Minister's Office and the Home Affairs Minister, Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa and the German Ambassador to the country.

Winners were given free tickets to Frankfurt, Singapore and Kota Kinabalu.

## Measures to counter biased reporting on ASEAN urged



The Special Adviser to HM at the Prime Minister's Office and the Home Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Haji Awang Isa (second from left) while attending the conference.

"However, the common problem we all face is the inflow of foreign news which could take the form of publications or news reportings. Such news could originate from some foreign news agencies and are then picked and disseminated in ASEAN countries", he said.

He stressed that every so often such news are biased and speculative and have the tendency to indulge in sensational matters which could have a negative

impact on readers in ASEAN.

The minister said even though some ASEAN countries have taken individual measures against these biased and inaccurate publications through such means as banning or restricting their circulation, they are still available and circulated in other member countries.

"The same is applicable to film-making and other forms of audiovisual media".

"The implication of such circulation could jeopardise our efforts to foster mutual understanding and trust amongst nations within ASEAN", he pointed out.

Brunei Darussalam, he said, places her confidence and hope that issues relating to information will be seen from common regional interest.

The two-day meeting, which was officially opened by President Soeharto of Indonesia, brought together Information Ministers or ministers responsible for information from all member nations of ASEAN.

The conference agreed on among other matters, the setting-up of a working group of senior officials to explore ways and means of further enhancing ASEAN press cooperation.

The ministers also agreed to seek ways to ensure that press reports on ASEAN countries in the foreign media are more balanced and objective.

# Share responsibility in the nation's security



Above: His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, flanked by the Deputy Defence Minister, Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General Pengiran Haji Ibnu (right) and the Chief of Staff of the RBAF, Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Dewa Major General Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Awang Mohammad (left) at the recent RBAF'S 28th anniversary banquet at Istana Nurul Izzah in Jerudong.

Below: Members of the public, especially children, enjoy a day out looking at military hardware displayed by the RBAF on its anniversary.

Every citizen and the people of this country should involve themselves in defending the nation's security.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam restressed his previous message at functions marking the 28th anniversary of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) which fell on May 31.

The Monarch's message was delivered by Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major-General Pengiran Haji Ibnu, the Deputy Minister of Defence, at dinners for RBAF staff which were held at the Berakas and Tutong Garrisons in conjunction with the 28th anniversary on June 7 and 8 respectively.

Key-note of the message was that the nation's security must not just be left to the responsibility of the RBAF but every physically fit adult citizen has a role to play in the defence of Brunei Darussalam.

He also called on the forces to be disciplined and dedicated, furthermore, were commanded to equip themselves with technical know-how needed by the Ministry of Defence in preparation for new

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# Outcomes of Sino-Soviet Summit in tune with ASEAN's desire

**T**he positive results of the Sino-Soviet Summit are in tune with ASEAN's desire to see a relaxation of international tension and the achievement of a lasting peace in South-East Asia.

This was stated by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister at the close of the fifth meeting of the 22nd ASEAN Standing Committee held in Bandar Seri Begawan in May.

His Royal Highness said, "This development should also brighten the chances for the resolution of regional conflicts especially the Kampuchean problem."

The Minister who was the chairman at the three-day meeting said earlier that the recent Sino-Soviet Summit has accelerated the continuing improvement in super-power relations and this had further enhanced the prospects for a lasting period of detente.

On the Kampuchean issue, he said that events since JIM II (Jakarta Informal Meeting) have moved quite significantly.

"We welcome the Vietnamese announcement on the withdrawal of all its troops from Kampuchea by September, 1989," said His Royal Highness.



HRH Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister chairing the fifth meeting of the 22nd ASEAN Standing committee held in capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

However, His Royal Highness lamented, "the Vietnamese announcement fails to address the key elements of a comprehensive settlement of the Kampuchean problem."

He added, "We also welcome the two rounds of talks between Prince Sihanouk and Mr. Hun Sen in Jakarta recently and another one expected to be held in Paris."

His Royal Highness stressed that these talks and the scheduled talks between the four Kampuchean parties in Paris to be

held this month will help the process towards a comprehensive political solution to the problem.

"It is ASEAN's hope that the four parties will adopt a flexible and realistic attitude so that a durable and comprehensive solution to the problem can be found", he continued.

His Royal Highness noted that one of the things ASEAN wish to foster was good understanding of each other through information exchange among the ASEAN member countries.

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sophisticated state of the art technology equipments such as patrol aircraft and jet-fighters which will be introduced in the next few years.

The Ministry of Defence is taking various steps to modernise the nation's defence system. The steps include the evaluation on the use of new and sophisticated military equipment to ensure the capability of the RBAF.

The introduction of incoming sophisticated equipments would lead the RBAF into a new era of self-reliance and comparable to other armed forces in the region in term of expertise and equipments.

Some 1,200 officers of the RBAF were feted by His Majesty to a royal banquet, in which His Ma-

jesty and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam played host at the Istana Nurul Izah outside the capital in conjunction with the 28th anniversary held on June 2.

Two days earlier thousands of the public in the country were drawn to parades and exhibitions put up by the RBAF which were held simultaneously in the four districts of the country.

The public were amazed and fascinated by the show staged by the RBAF men which included "mock war", acrobatic sky-diving and exhibits of modern military equipments.

Looking back into history, the RBAF was first established as only a mere infantry unit known as the Brunei Malay Regiment in

1961. Then its name changed to the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment (RBMR) as to commemorate the fifth year of its existence.

In 1971, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan awarded the Sultan's Colour to the RBMR.

The last change of name from RBMR to the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) as it is known now occurred in the wake of the Sultanate's independence in 1983.

Last year the highlight of the RBAF 27th anniversary was the presentation of new colours to the First and Second Battalions of the RBAF by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a parade held at the Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddin.

# Continuity of Islamic civilization enhanced



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan granted an audience to the Director-General of IRCICA, Professor Dr. Ekmeleddin Ishanoglu (second from left) at Istana Nurul Iman. Looking on are the Permanent Secretary at the Religious Affairs Ministry, Dato Paduka Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Saman bin Kahar (extreme left) and the Religious Affairs Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Ratna Diraja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain bin Haji Seruddin (third from left).

**M**uslims of the Malay Archipelago have been urged to be more observant in their efforts to underpin the continuity of Islamic civilization in the Malay world.

They were also urged to project their thoughts and actions in accordance with Islamic values on planning their life - style and fur-

thermore be aware of the existence of the Islamic faith antagonizers.

Pehin Orang Kaya Ratna Diraja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Haji Awang Mohammad Zain, Brunei Darussalam's Religious Affairs Minister made the keynote in his opening speech at the International Seminar On Islamic

Civilization In The Malay World held in Bandar Seri Begawan on June 1.

"We should all bear on our minds that the past grandeur of the Islamic civilization in the Malay world should not make us aloft," the minister added, "it is critical for us to look into ways of preserving the glorious solemnity of the Islamic teaching and civilization permanence in the archipelago."

The international seminar was jointly organised by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Brunei Darussalam as the host country and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and culture (IRICICA) of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

More than 200 delegates attended the seminar and amongst them were participants from the ASEAN member countries, the United Kingdom, India, Nigeria and the United States of America.

At the five-day gathering about 38 working papers were presented dealing with the different aspects relating to the intellectual, cultural, economic and social life of the people of the Malay Archipelago.

On a different occasion, Dr. Abdul Hamed Gabid, the OIC

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The International Seminar on Islamic Civilization in the Malay World, which was opened officially by the Brunei Religious Affairs Minister (seated centre on stage) drew large numbers of participants as well as observers from both within the Sultanate as well as from overseas.



Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam exchange greetings with members of various women's associations on their arrival to attend a Hari Raya celebration organised by the Brunei Women's Council.

## Royal guests at celebration

**T**he Brunei Darussalam Women's Council has played host to guests comprising women members of the Royal family, who have graciously attended Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration in Bandar Seri Begawan recently.

Leading the royalty at the function were Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam.

Other royal guests included Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Masna, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Mazuin and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

On their arrival, Her Majesty the Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri were greeted and welcomed by the

council's president, Datin Paduka Hajjah Jusnani, as well as other members of the executive committee.

Speaking before the royal guests, Datin Paduka Hajjah Jusnani said the function was organised to enable members of associations affiliated to the council to get together and to strengthen the existing relationship among themselves.

Some 500 members from the various women's associations turned up at the occasion. These included wives of members of the armed forces (BAKTI), senior government officials' wives (BISTARI), the Belait District women's welfare association, the PERTIWI association, the girl guide association and the Brunei Women's society.

Her Majesty the Raja Isteri, who is the patron while Her Royal

Highness the Pengiran Isteri, as the advisor of the Council, as well as other royal members later exchanged Hari Raya greetings with members of the associations.

The celebration included choir, drama and other cultural performances jointly presented by the associations.

Muslims in Brunei Darussalam celebrated Hari Raya Aidilfitri or Hari Raya Puasa from May 7, with two days being declared public holidays for the occasion.

Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam also led the women members of the royal household at Istana Nurul Iman for three days in receiving women well-wishers from throughout the country to personally convey their Hari Raya greetings.

# Brunei Darussalam at ITU Plenipotentiary Session



Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria.

**T**he Communications Minister, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria bin Datu Mahawangsa Haji Sulaiman is expected to address the thirteenth Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), currently underway in the French city of Nice.

The meeting began on May 23 and will run through June 29. This is the first time that Brunei Darussalam is participating in a high level ITU meeting since it became a member of the union in 1984.

Held only once in about every six years, the Plenipotentiary is ITU's highest level conference and it brings together all the ministers from member nations.

Among the topics expected to be discussed at the meeting are the elections of executive officials to administrate the union, selections of countries to the Administrative Council and to approve changes in ITU Convention to bring it tune with current needs. The Brunei Communications Minister is accompanied to the meeting by several senior officials of his ministry.

# Sultanate open for business venture



The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources (fourth from left) giving a press conference.

**E**xisting potential resources and facilities in the Sultanate are ready to be exploited and utilised for industrial development.

Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman, the Industry and Primary Resources Minister, made the statement at a press conference held at his ministry recently.

The ministry had initiated a plan of action to streamline industrialisation and had embarked on a campaign to attract potential investors to set up business ventures in Brunei Darussalam.

In promoting industrial activities for the well-being of this country, the minister stated, "the Industry and Primary Resources Ministry has established a plan of action aimed at providing the potential investors with facilities and services required for the establishment of industry on a competitive basis."

Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman announced that his ministry is to set up a "one-stop-agency" aimed at boosting new business ventures and promote industrialisation in the Sultanate.

The provision of the one-stop-agency by his ministry is to receive and consider all applications pertaining to establishment of any industrial activity in this country.

The minister explained, "this would also include a consultative service in which the ministry would be in a position to give guidance to the investors with regard to types of industry, its suitability and other relevant factors."

The ministry's effort in promoting Brunei Darussalam specifically in the field of industry has been consistent with the efforts made by the Prime Minister's Office in promoting this country to the outside world," he said.

Meanwhile, Dato Paduka Malai Ali, the Permanent Secretary at the MIPR, in his briefing revealed that 23 sites for industrial activities have been indentified for exploitation and another 33 sites for agriculture and forestry activities.

He also stated that Brunei has an abundant supply of high quality silicon deposits, clay and timber ready to be processed as products.

"Much more important for a business venture factor to be considered is the country's stability for a business to start and Brunei could offer this as its is politically and economically stable," Said Dato Malai Ali, He added, "and one other thing the Sultante is practically tax free and levy free".

**M**ismatching educational qualification which could not meet the national requirements will cause wastage and delay in the Sultanate's quest for technological development.

Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz, the Education Minister, stressed this when he launched an Australian educational exhibition at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium on May 20.

The minister said today's trend is the 'marketing of educational opportunities' and with it education has become a profitable and indeed, saleable service.

He added that for many years Brunei Darussalam has witnessed the coming and going of representatives from various educational institutions from abroad either individually or in groups.

"Whilst we welcome their good intentions and friendly gestures, one cannot help but wonder if this new phenomenon may not affect the quality and standard of education offered", said the minister.

However, he added, one must remember that Brunei Darussalam has a very small population and as such it is vital that there be no mismatching between the requirements of the country and the skills and professional qualifications of returning Bruneian students, for any mismatching would cause wastage and unnecessary delay in this country's quest for technological development.

The minister expressed hope that Australian educational institutions, through the Bruneian students, would be able to make a significant contribution towards the Sultanate's manpower needs.

He noted that Brunei Darussalam has already enjoyed the good relations with educational institutions in Australia.

# Educational qualification to meet national needs sought



Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz, the Education Minister (centre) is briefed by one of the representatives of the Australian institutions at the launching of the educational exhibition. At left is the Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Philip Knight.

He hoped that this special relationship between the two countries will remain and that through this exhibition the spectrum of educational opportunities for Bruneian students would be widened.

The minister added they would be large numbers of interested parties and individuals taking advantage of these educational opportunities to study in Australia.

"The mixing of educational experiences from different parts of

the world serves to enrich the knowledge of our students, as well as in improving the quality and standard of our education," the minister said.

Later the minister toured the exhibition accompanied by His Excellency Mr. Philip Knight, the Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

The three-day exhibition was opened to the public and students in the country.

**Brunei-  
Hongkong  
air  
services**

**B**runei Darussalam and the British Government have exchanged letters allowing the air services agreement signed in Hongkong early this year between the Sultanate and the Hongkong Government.

The ceremony was held in Bandar Seri Begawan on May 13. The Communications Minister, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria signed on behalf of the Brunei Darussalam Government.

Representing the British Government was His Excellency Mr. Roger Westbrook, the British High Commissioner to the Sultanate.

The exchange of letters replaces the previous letters between Brunei Darussalam and the British Government, signed in 1984 and 1986 respectively.

Air Services between the Sultanate and Hongkong operate under the terms of the air services agreement signed in Hongkong.

# Brunei Darussalam to do away with co-educational schools

**T**he era of co-educational schools in Brunei Darussalam is coming to an end gradually.

Speaking at a breaking-of-the-fast ceremony recently, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz, the Education Minister, announced that his ministry would implement the concept of separate schools for male and female students in the Sultanate.

The minister told the gathering that the concept was not new for it was already introduced in the nineteen-fifties, when Sekolah Tinggi Perempuan Raja Isteri (STPRI) was used for girl students only, while the Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien College (SOAS), which is currently a mixed school, was for boys only.

"Only a shortage of schools and facilities had prevented the idea of co-educational school from being continued", Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Aziz said.

He said the concept of separating boy students from girl students at schools is in line with Islamic laws and it is one that "must be implemented".

The minister explained that the time was now right for re-introducing the concept in view of the growing and sufficient numbers of schools being built as well as adequacy in both facilities and manpower.

He said where the idea cannot be applied for such reasons as school buildings shortages, other forms of separation would be enforced by way of separate classrooms and even seating arrangements.

"But presently, there are already a number of schools where this concept can be implemented", Pehin Dato Haji Ab-

dul Aziz said. He urged school heads and principals to be familiar with the concept so that through them it can be implemented with full commitment and assured benefits.

He also called for cooperation from parents so that higher attainment would be achieved through such a concept.

In another development, the Education Minister announced that the concept of the Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB) will soon be introduced, and taught as one of the main study subjects to every students - right from the lowest stage up to university level and will also include private schools.

Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Aziz disclosed that the programme will be implemented in stages starting this year, and that his ministry is currently in the process of revising the curriculum to include the new subject.

"In reality", said Pehin Dato Awang Haji Abdul Aziz, "some characteristics of the Malay Islamic Monarchy have already been taught at schools through civic courses".

"But it can still be refined by making it into a study subject". He said every school, every individual and every citizen active in the field of education in the Sultanate will understand what the nation stands for as a Malay Islamic Monarchy.

"Every individual and community in the country should always live as a society that is loyal to its ruler, and practise Islam as its religion and live in adherence to the characteristics of true Brunei Malays which have been inherited through generations", he urged.

## Brunei Malay in a minute

Each month we introduce readers to common Brunei Malay words as used in the State. This month the word selected is *gagau*.

*Gagau* means *sibuk* in standard Malay or *busy* in English.

This word is only used when referring to a person who is fully occupied or full of activity.

Let us use the word in a sentence:

*Emak saya gagau membuat persediaan untuk majlis perkahwinan kakak.*

*My mother is busy with the preparation for my sister's wedding ceremony.*



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Secretary General and Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, the IRICICA Director General, who were attending the five-day seminar had the opportunity of an audience with His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, who is also the Sultanate's Head of Islamic faith (the official religion), at the Istana Nurul Iman before they returned home.

Brunei Darussalam was accepted as a member of OIC immediately after it gained full independence.

The Sultanate in collaboration with Malaysia and Indonesia has participated in projects approved by IRICICA which cover the Study of Islamisation in the Malay World.

Brunei Darussalam has set up a National Working Group to carry out the study which covers the religion, history, art, literary, customs and social aspects. The group's secretariat is based at the Sultanate Islamic Da'wah Centre.

At the moment the group is carrying out research on the history of Islamic civilization in Brunei Darussalam from the advent of Islam to Brunei until 1959, when Islam was promulgated as the official religion in the Brunei Constitution.

A leading department store and supermarket in Brunei Darussalam has responded to the Government's aspiration towards localisation programme and to attract graduates in the Sultanate to join the private sector.

The response came when a student from the Brunei Institute of Technology (ITB) signed a contract to join Yaohan Department Store for an initial two-year term after she completes her studies.

Dayangku Halizah binti Pengiran Mat Jair signed the agreement with the company at Yaohan's award presentation ceremony in Bandar Seri Begawan on May 17. Signing on behalf of Yaohan Brunei were the company's Vice-Chairman, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hapidz and the Managing Director, Mr. Tamao Azami.

Dayangku Halizah who is an ITB Business and Finance student has completed six months of training with Yaohan Brunei under the Management Trainee

## Positive response for Bruneianisation

Sponsorship Scheme. Under the scheme she will join the company as a Management trainee, to be groomed for an executive position.

Dayangku Halizah is the first ITB Management trainee to undergo training under the sponsorship agreement signed between Yaohan Brunei and ITB.

She said: "It was really a very enriching experience to undergo training at Yaohan. My hands were always full."

Earlier at the function Dayang Ramlah binti Rabaha received the 2nd Annual Book Prize Award for this year's best student of ITB in the Business and Finance course. She received a plaque and \$1,000 gift voucher from Yaohan Brunei. Last year the award went to Awangku Sharifuddin bin Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar.

Yaohan Brunei and ITB last year signed a Link Agreement to implement projects on an employer sponsorship scheme, an annual award for ITB undergraduates in the Business and Finance course.

The Management of Yaohan will continue to support the projects under the Link Agreement in the coming years while career talks will be conducted by the Company's Training and Public Affairs Department to students from other schools and institutions including undergraduates of University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

Yaohan is also in the process of working out a similar sponsorship scheme with the Sultan Saiful Rijal Technical College for its secretarial studies students.

## Borneo inter-club snooker tourney

The Borneo Invitation Inter-Clubs Snooker Championship ended last month in Bandar Seri Begawan with most titles swept by players from the Malaysian state of Sarawak.

James Ngiam of the Pot Black Snooker Centre became the champion when he defeated compatriot Dominic Ting in the final, held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium on June 11. He won the match 6-4 frames. The third place went to James Loo Su Ngnk, also from Sarawak by beating team mate, Derek Yeo Kheng Phu, 5-4.

However, Eddy Lim Hock Ann of Brunei Darussalam took the title for the highest tournament break, when he managed potting 53 points in one break. He also received a trophy.

The six-day championship was organised by the Brunei Darussalam Billiard and Snooker Association.

Over 20 players representing Sabah, Sarawak and host Brunei Darussalam took part in the tournament. Among those from the home side, were His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah, His

Majesty's eldest son and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed.

Winners received trophies and prize money of \$1,000, \$500 and \$300 respectively.

Meanwhile, two top snooker players from India, Mr. Arvind Savur and Mr. Syed Habib were in Brunei Darussalam for three weeks of coaching to Bruneian snooker enthusiasts including the two players who will represent the Sultanate at the 6th Asian Amateur Snooker Championship to be held this month in New Delhi.

### Your turn

The next issue of the *Brunei Darussalam* newsletter will appear during the second week of August 1989. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-25941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. Contributions for our next issue should arrive by July 20, 1989. All editorial rights reserved.



Dato Paduka Awang Haji Chuchu, the Permanent Secretary at the Culture, Youth and Sports Ministry (left) presenting the trophy to Eddy Lim Hock Ann of Brunei Darussalam, who recorded the highest point break in the tournament held in the capital last month.

# From Paddy to rice

Producing rice from paddy (padi) involves a number of processes which require certain skills. After they are harvested, the paddy grains - golden in colour and still attached to central stems, are stamped or trampled upon to separate the grains from the stems.

Both the stems and grains are then

winnowed by using pear-shaped trays woven from ratan known as 'nyiru' to rid the almost cotton-light stems.

The grains are subsequently dried in the sun by spreading them out on mats woven from the leaves of a type of screw pines known by its Latin name of *Pandanus Atrocarpus* - locally called Mengkuang.

When dried, the grains are pounded (in the picture on the left) in large trough like wooden bowls with either one hole or two holes locally known as 'Lesung' in which the grains are placed and pounded with between one and five people pounding in rhythmic patterns using wooden pestles called 'Alu'.

Once again, the pounded paddy is winnowed (in the picture below) - the time to separate the husks or paddy skins from the inner grains which are white in colour known as rice.

Usually the winnowing is done when a breeze is blowing so that the almost weightless husks are blown away from the trays as the trays are jerked in rhythms upwards and downwards while the rice which is heavier falls back onto the trays or nyiru. Traditionally, most of this work is done by women.



## BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Capital City :	Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size :	5765 sq.km
Population :	241,400 (1988)
Official Language :	Malay
Official Religion :	Islam
May 1989 rainfall :	201.6 mm.
(annual 2,818mm)	

## PRIME LENDING RATE

July 6.25%. (quoted by Bankers' Association).

