



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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## Diverse key issues emphasised in His Majesty's birthday speech



Touching on a wide range of issues, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam speaks to the nation from the Throne Room of Istana Nurul Iman (Nurul Iman Palace).

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has again issued a stern warning to those bent in creating disharmony in the country, whether by way of verbal attacks or deeds.

"We will not in the very least compromise with people who try to smear the existing pleasant and peaceful environment regardless of whether such attempts are by way of verbal attacks or deeds," said His Majesty.

The existing peace and harmony in the country have been due to Bruneians holding fast to their firm belief in religion and loyalty as it has not only succeeded in creating stability in the country, but also in bringing about a situation which is free from chaos, malice and defamation, such as spreading untruths with the intent of discrediting others.

This message is one of several key issues highlighted by His Majesty during his titah (royal address) on 15 July 1990 - His Majesty's 44th birthday.

A similar statement came from His Majesty when he addressed a National Quran Competition in February this year.

During his 30-minute birthday address, His Majesty spoke on a host of issues such as on the importance of achieving economic diversification and intensifying

efforts to assist local entrepreneurs and private sector growth. His Majesty also reassured that a cut in Government expenditure would not affect efforts to upgrade the well-being of the people or result in the postponement of development projects.

Other topics included Brunei Darussalam's contribution towards regional peace and stability; the role played by diplomacy towards the country's economic and social developments; the significance of close cooperation among the people, Government and private sector in order to continue to achieve progress and developments for the country and to create political and economic stability; the steps to be taken to ensure "Health for All" by the twenty-first century and to safeguard the tradition of steadfast beliefs in religion and loyalty to the king; the importance of an efficient and effective service and a trustworthy workforce which places close cooperation above self-interests.

It is vital that everyone in the country work closely together to attract foreign investors, in particular in convincing them that Brunei Darussalam, too, offers an attractive investment climate in terms of incentives and potential industries (in agriculture, fisheries, forestry). This is crucial, His Majesty pointed out, in view of the competitive package benefits offered by coun-



tries in the region and to ensure the successful implementation of the Government's economic diversification policy.

His Majesty further highlighted the need to further extend the support and assistance to local entrepreneurs. Members of the public could then have faith in the private sector for being able to offer a bright future to the people. Subsequently, a section of the population would not merely rely on the Government for employment, now that jobs in the private sector are also easily available.

His Majesty advised Ministries to continue to exercise thrift in their expenditure, for the sake of the future. He also spoke about the significance in the performance appraisal of Government departments and Ministries apart from those of Government officials. This is necessary in order to ensure that the resources allotted by the Government are fully utilised to the optimum level. This would also help to determine that the goals of administration are met; thereby avoiding wastage.

On the international front, His Majesty said Brunei Darussalam has played an active role in contributing to regional peace and stability as well as to the solution of international problems.

Currently, said His Majesty, diplomacy is the main defence weapon exercised by the superpowers and small nations, in their efforts towards the settlement of regional and international problems.

"Our ability in playing an effective role in the field of diplomacy could also contribute towards a stable and progressive economic and social developments in the country. We will always be cautious to ensure that we will not be exploited, let alone be harmed."

Brunei Darussalam, he said, would always seek to forge friendly ties through the establishments of diplomatic relations with friendly countries.

To date, Brunei Darussalam has established diplomatic relations with 56 countries. Very recently, His Majesty announced, Brunei Darussalam opened up new offices in Paris and Oman. Before end of the year, another diplomatic office would be set up in the Federal Republic of Germany, His Majesty disclosed.

On the need for close cooperation among the Government, the private sector and members of the public, His Majesty had this to say: "It is highly necessary to inculcate an attitude of give-and-take and respect for each other among the Government, the private sector and the public. Without an understanding among the three, it would not be possible to bring about economic and social stability as well as the smooth implementation of development programmes."

Likewise, the absence of such an attitude and close collaboration, His Majesty explained, could breed suspicions and result in strained relationships. The end result would thus affect the security and stability of the country.

In this respect, His Majesty continued, the three parties should be frank and sincere with each other and seek to overcome any obstacle together.

His Majesty further urged his subjects and the people of Brunei Darussalam to be disciplined, courteous, committed and dedicated towards their respective responsibilities.

"It is my desire to upgrade the national defence of the country in the face of various social and economic challenges of the world. It is only with close cooperation," His Majesty reiterated, "that a harmonious and united society could be created."

In order to ensure that such a community possesses positive values so that they would have a secure future, it is essential that due attention be given to training and guidance. This should be extended to village heads too, apart

from equipping youths, Government staff and those in the private sector with positive traits such as discipline, and an awareness of their custom and tradition, rules and regulations and religion. In turn, these value could help equip the youths and the younger generation to face future challenges and safeguard the country's independence and sovereignty.

The Government, too, takes a serious view in seeing that the basic needs of His Majesty's subjects and the people are met. The housing scheme for the landless is a positive move towards this direction, His Majesty said. His Majesty further urged those in the Government to review and conduct more studies to overcome problems encountered during the implementation of the scheme. This is to ensure that the solutions are fair and effective, in particular for those in the lower-income groups and those who could not meet the stipulated conditions.

Providing "Health For All" by the turn of the twenty-first century is the Government's goal, for health is one of the basic services the people need.

In this regard, His Majesty said "I hope, in order to achieve this noble objective, programmes will have to be drawn up besides giving an efficient and trustworthy service by all levels of staff and officials."

The construction and maintenance of roads should also be looked into from time to time. His Majesty said a clean and a systematic road system is essential in bringing about a healthy environment. If a situation calls for it, certain control measures will have to be adopted, he said.

Similarly, water, electricity and telephone are also essential services to which the Government has placed a priority and spent a large sum of money.

In this context, His Majesty said, "I hope we could not only spend wisely, but also provide an efficient and effective service befitting the large amount of expenditure allotted for them so that eventually we could overcome the shortcomings encountered so far."

The Government would also continue to give due attention in the provision of other services to the people such as the recent

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# Big parade and banquets for His Majesty's birthday

**T**he Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien in the Brunei capital, Bandar Seri Begawan echoed to the sounds of cannon fires while multi-coloured smokes covered its skies on 15th July.

These were just some of the scenes during a huge parade in salute of His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam on the occasion of his 44th birthday. The parade also signalled the start of month-long nationwide celebrations of the royal birthday.

More than one thousand men of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) the Royal Brunei Police and members of uniformed Government Departments as well as uniformed voluntary bodies lined up at the park for the parade.

The combined bands of the RBAF and the Royal Brunei Police greeted His Majesty's arrival at the Taman (park) with the national anthem and this was followed with His Majesty inspecting the teams taking part.

The teams performed various military drills which included quick-march and slow-march in front of the royal dais, from which His Majesty watched the hour-long proceedings with his tree brothers, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisua Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The parade culminated with three cheers of 'Daulat Kebawah Duli Tuan Patek' which rang across the park as 17 helicopters of the RBAF staged a low fly-past, trailing many coloured smokes.

Thousands of guests comprising state dignitaries, cabinet

ministers, government officials and foreign diplomats watched the proceedings from the grandstands and many more watched from outside the taman.

## Audience and investiture

After the parade, guests joined His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan at the Throne room of Istana Nurul Iman (Nurul Iman Palace) for an audience and investiture ceremony.

Sitting in the throne, His Majesty was joined by Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam.

Other members of the royal family including His Majesty's oldest son, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah and oldest daughter, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah as well as his Majesty's brothers and sisters were also present.

At the ceremony, His Majesty presented honours to ninety five people and delivered his birthday address, which was telecast live to the nation.

The State Mufti, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama Haji Awang Ismail bin Omar Abdul Aziz read the 'Doa Selamat' at the end of the ceremony.

## Birthday banquet

In the evening of 15th July, Istana Nurul Iman shining in glittering illuminations, was again the scene of huge crowds as guests converged there for His Majesty's birthday banquet.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan, Her Majesty the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam led members of the royalty at the function, at which the combined bands of the Royal Brunei Armed

Forces and the Royal Brunei Police provided the musical entertainment.

Other members of the royal family present included His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah; His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisua Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajjah Mazuin; His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Masna' Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Norain; Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

The Chief Kadhi, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Hamid bin Bakal read the 'Doa Selamat' at the function.

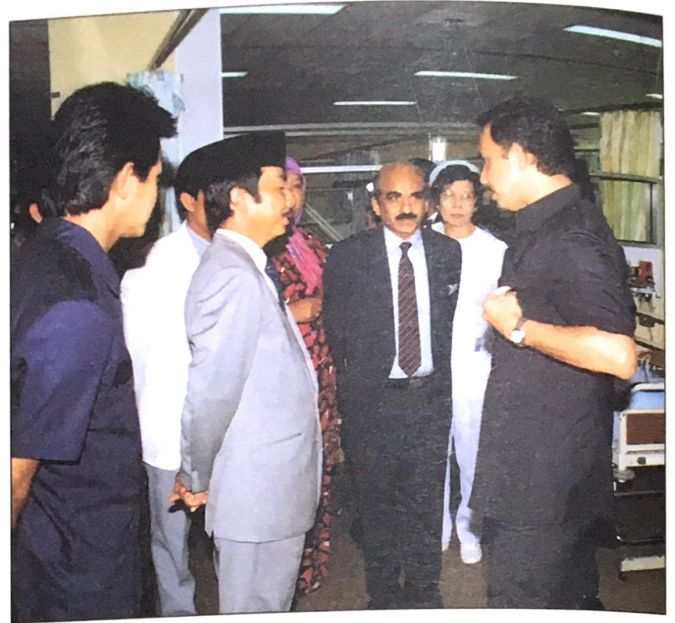
## Thanksgiving prayers

Meanwhile, on the eve of the celebrations, Muslims thronged mosques and suraus (religious halls) and other places of worship throughout the country to perform thanksgiving prayers in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan's birthday.

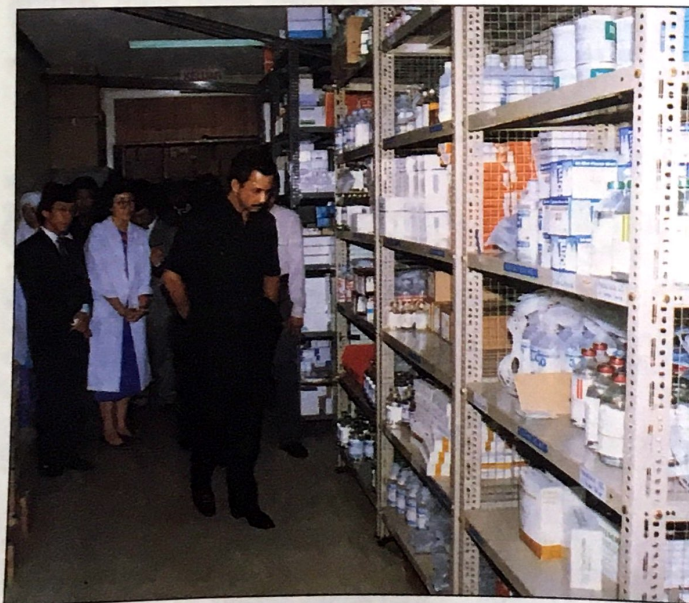
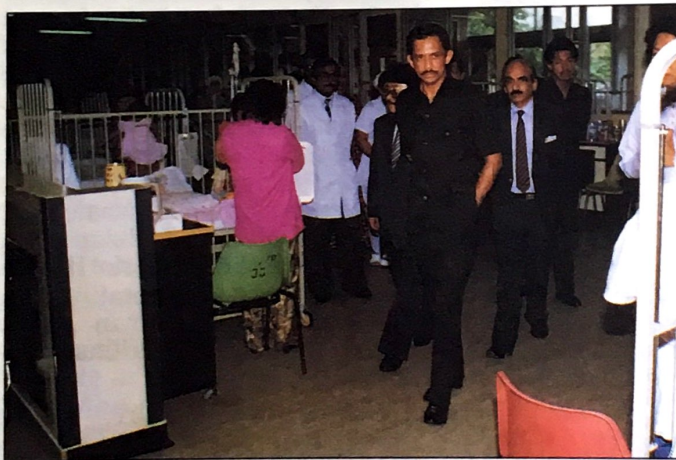
Numerous celebration events are now underway at various venues in the country.

They include nightly stage shows, religious presentations sports events and baby shows as well as numerous exhibitions.





Clockwise from left: His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam tours the various sections of the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital in Bandar Seri Begawan on 7 July in one of his visits to Government departments to ensure that each department provides effective and efficient as well as satisfactory service to the public.





# Hospital comes under royal scrutiny

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanali Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has made another round of visit to a government department this time to the RIPAS (Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha) Hospital.

The visit to the RIPAS Hospital, like the previous ones made last year to the Public Works Department and the Housing Development, Department reflected His Majesty's constant concern in ensuring an efficient, smooth, prompt and satisfactory service to the public. This message was highlighted by His Majesty when he visited the two departments last year.

Visits like these just like His Majesty's visits to Mukim Bokok and Mukim Amo in the Temburong District and to Mukim Saba (water-village) made last year, also enable his subjects to have direct and personal contacts with the ruling monarch. Yet again, it demonstrated his Majesty's caring attitude towards his subjects, giving serious attention towards ensuring that the welfare of the people are well-looked after.

During the visit to RIPAS Hospital on 7 July, His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, the Finance Minister.

His Majesty heard a briefing from the Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Johar. In his speech, the Minister underlined his Ministry's mission in providing health to all citizens and residents in Brunei Darussalam. Stress is placed in giving top quality and a cost-efficient health service. At the same time providing a high standard of living within a clean and healthy environment.

In the efforts to promote the objectives of "Health For All", special emphasis is placed on the development system in the delivery of health service. The provision of basic health

services with the aim of giving preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative care and in providing support services, are now being intensified, the Minister explained.

The Health Minister further informed that the RIPAS Hospital functions as a main referral in the country. In the efforts towards a more cost-effective health delivery, the Minister hoped the services involving high cost and those requiring specialists' skill and knowledge, could be centred at RIPAS only.

The RIPAS Hospital is also currently undergoing several renovation works as part of its efforts to further upgrade its facilities and rectify earlier design faults. The Minister informed His Majesty that the renovations have to be carried out in stages, as service must continue to be given to the public. The works are expected to be completed by next year.

Steps to upgrade the services given by the staff are also taken, the Minister said. In order to ensure comfort in the wards, efforts to intensify "decision-making" to those in need, are now being stepped up.

"It is hoped", the Minister continued, "that this measure would enable those affected parties to make (appropriate) decision and take the (necessary) action in accordance with the need at one time."

The quality of the catering service for the "open" and "private" wards are also being upgraded, the Minister informed.

Certain services could only be started depending upon the adequate number of medical officers, for instance in providing outpatient services from 5 pm to 11 pm at night.

The Minister further added that a study is now being conducted to determine the suitability of providing radiotherapy and lipotripsy.

Dato Paduka Dr Haji Johar also explained that the lack of trained officials had sometimes hampered efforts in upgrading the services at RIPAS Hospital. The recruitment of expatriates, on the other hand, to meet this shortage would also take some time.

The Minister in addition said the Ministry takes a serious view to feedback and complaints from the public, with regard to the quality of service at the RIPAS Hospital. And as far as possible, the Minister assured, improvements to those unsatisfactory services would subsequently be made.

Messages of  
condolence  
from His Majesty  
to Iran, Indonesia  
and Malaysia

**B**runei Darussalam joined countries around the world in expressing sorrow over the tragic loss of many thousands of lives in North-Western Iran, hit by a devastating earthquake in June.

In a message to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Mr. Ali Akhbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on 24 June, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanali Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed his profound sorrow over the calamity. His Majesty conveyed through the Iranian leader, his personal as well as Brunei Darussalam's deep sympathy and condolences to the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as to families of the quake's victims.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah sent a similar message to his Iranian counterpart, His Excellency Mr. Ali Akhbar Velayati.

His Royal Highness said he was saddened by the tragedy, and he too, conveyed his deepest sympathy to the bereaved families.

An estimated 40,000 Iranians reportedly died in the disaster, which also left about 60,000 people injured and 100,000 others homeless.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan also sent messages of condolence to His Majesty Seri Paduka Baginda Sultan Azlan Shah, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and to President Soeharto of Indonesia over the deaths of Malaysians and Indonesians in the Al-Mu'aissem tunnel tragedy at Mina in Saudi Arabia on 27 June.

More than 600 Indonesian and over 130 Malaysian nationals who were in Saudi Arabia to perform the Haj pilgrimage were reported

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**I**ndonesia's President Soeharto has conferred his country's highest military award, 'Bintang Yudha Dharma Utama' on the Deputy Defence Minister of Brunei Darussalam, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major-General Pengiran Haji Ibnu.

At a ceremony held at the Indonesian Embassy in Jalan Muara near Bandar Seri Begawan on June 26, the Indonesian Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Haji Ferdy Salim presented the medal to the Deputy Defence Minister on behalf of President Soeharto.

The award is in recognition of Pengiran Haji Ibnu's efforts to further enhance and strengthen the friendly relations and cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia in general, and between the armed forces of the two countries in particular.

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major-General Pengiran Haji Ibnu is the second Bruneian to receive the 'Bintang Yudha Dharma Utama' from Indonesia. In February 1988, the Indonesian leader conferred it on the Chief of Staff of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Dewa Major-General Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Mohammad.

In a citation at the presentation ceremony, His Excellency Haji Ferdy Salim said cooperation between the two countries in defence and the Armed Forces would leave a positive mark to the national defence of both countries. The cooperation would also contribute to defence in the region.

## Indonesia's highest military honour for Brunei's Deputy Defence Minister



Indonesian Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Haji Ferdy Salim (back to camera) confers the 'Bintang Yudha Dharma Utama' military award on Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major-General Pengiran Haji Ibnu, the Brunei Darussalam Deputy Defence Minister.

"The latest developments in the international political scene, which have been dramatic and beyond expectations, have brought enormous influence which in turn, could change the global political map and political polarization. The wall between the two world superpowers have been brought down, the difference and competition between the two blocs have become more distant."

Nonetheless, this does not mean that world peace is already secured, the ambassador highlighted. On the contrary, conflicts still exist in some parts of

the world. These conflicts could in turn draw in the countries.

"In the wake of the unpredictable world scene, it is therefore important to be prepared to ensure stability in the national and regional defence.

Even though ASEAN is not a military pact, the ambassador pointed out "a genuine and harmonious cooperation in national defence in particular among the armed forces of member countries will greatly influence and benefit national and regional defence."

His Excellency Haji Ferdy Salim expressed hope that the existing understanding and cooperation between the two ASEAN neighbours, in particular between their armed forces, could be further stepped up for the mutual benefit of both countries.

In October 1989, the Brunei Darussalam Ministry of Defence announced the purchase of CN 235 maritime patrol aircraft from the Indonesian firm, Industri Pesawat Terbang Nusantara (IPTN). More recently, a joint naval exercise was conducted in Brunei Darussalam by the navies of the two countries. The Royal Brunei Armed Forces also regularly holds joint exercises with the armed forces of other ASEAN countries.

## HM Sultan's condolence to the Philippines

**T**he Brunei ruler and his Foreign Affairs Minister had sent messages of condolence to the Philippine President and her Foreign Affairs Minister respectively on the earthquake disaster which hit the country's Luzon Island on July 16, claiming more than one thousand lives.

His Majesty said he was saddened to learn of the loss of many lives, and the injuries and suffering caused by the quake.

"Please accept our heartfelt sympathy to the Government and

people of Republic of Philippines and our condolences for the families of the victims during their bereavement."

In his message to His Excellency Mr. Raul Manglapus, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah also expressed sorrow over the loss of many lives and injuries inflicted by the disaster.

"Please accept my deep sympathy and my condolences for the bereaved families of the victims," he said.



# Royalty at Islamic art exhibition

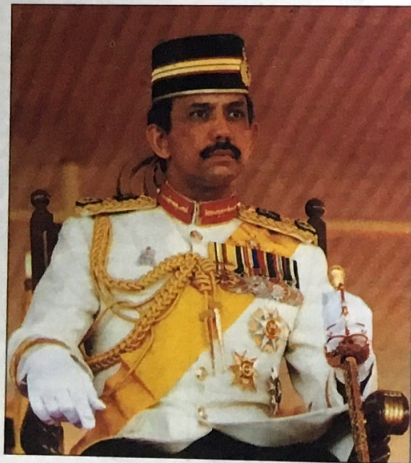
**H**er Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam visited the Brunei Museum's Islamic art gallery on 17 July - just one day after it was officially opened by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. Top picture shows Her Majesty the Raja Isteri (extreme right of picture) and Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri (centre of picture) viewing the exhibits which include Qu'rans which date back to the 10th century. In the middle picture, Her Majesty and Her Royal Highness are briefed on the exhibits by one of the officials, Mr. Nasser Khalili who has been involved in collecting and promoting Islamic art for two decades. Her Majesty the Raja Isteri signs the visitors' book (picture bottom left) and Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri does likewise.







above: His Majesty the Sultan, with Her Majesty the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha on his right and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam on his left, rise to the national anthem on their arrival for His Majesty's birthday banquet at Istana Nurul Iman. Right: His Majesty watches his birthday parade. Below, from right to left: His Majesty's eldest son, HRH Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah, HRH Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himah, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Zariah and Yang Amat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Masna attending 15th July's audience and investiture ceremony.



His Majesty in conversation with one of the teachers at the Brunei Islamic College shortly after the college's official opening. Right: The Brunei monarch leaves the Throne Room of Istana Nurul Iman with HM the Raja Isteri and HRH the Pengiran Isteri after the audience and investiture ceremony. Below: from left to right, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Masna, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajjah Mazuin and Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam arrive for His Majesty's birthday banquet.



Left: His Majesty the Sultan confers the D.K. award on Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajjah Mazuin binti Hamzah. Second and third pictures on bottom row show parts of the army and police contingents taking part in the big parade. Right: His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan being briefed shortly after he opened the Brunei Museum's Islamic art gallery where some of the exhibits comprise His Majesty's own collection.



Picture on right show from left to right HRH Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Mahara Permaisua Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajjah Mazuin, HRH Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati at the audience and investiture ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman on 15th July.





## Diplomats have farewell audience with HM the Sultan

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam has granted audiences to two foreign diplomats on completion of their postings to Brunei Darussalam.

On June 9, His Majesty granted an audience at Istana Nurul Iman to His Excellency Mr. Ichire Ohtaka, who was been Japan's ambassador in Bandar Seri

Begawan since November 1977 (picture bottom left).

The Brunei ruler also granted a farewell audience on 10 July, to the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, His Excellency Mr. Gregor Koebel, who ended his tour of duty in Bandar Seri Begawan last month (picture bottom right).

His Excellency Mr. Gregor Koebel has been based in Bandar Seri Begawan since 1988.



## Philippine awards for Brunei's envoy in Manila



**T**he Brunei Darussalam Ambassador to the Philippines, His Excellency Pengiran Haji Mustapha bin Pengiran Metassan has been conferred 'The Ancient Order of The Sikatuna Rank of Datu' medal by President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines. The Philippine leader presented

the medal on May 25 at a ceremony held at Malacanang Palace in Manila to the Brunei envoy, who completed his tour of duty in the Philippines on June 5 (picture above). Mrs Aquino hosted a farewell lunch for the Brunei diplomat after presenting him the honour.

## Diplomatic relations expanded

**B**runei Darussalam has established formal diplomatic relations with yet two more countries.

On 20 June, it announced the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Guyana, with a view to further strengthen the existing friendly relations between the two countries.

The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also established similar relations with the Republic of Mauritius on 2 July.

Since its resumption of full independence on 1 January 1984, Brunei Darussalam's international relations had grown rapidly and to date the Government of His Majesty has formal diplomatic ties with some 56 countries.



# HRH Pengiran Isteri opens an exhibition of crystal glass

**H**er Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam on 9 July opened an exhibition of crystal glass creations, some of which had been made from Brunei Darussalam's own silica sand.

The exhibition, at the Brunei Museum in Bandar Seri Begawan, are of more than 100 pieces of some of the most refined collection of French Glass and Crystals brought to Bandar Seri Begawan by the Embassy of Republic of France with the close co-operation of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports as part of the celebrations marking the Silver Jubilee Anniversary of the Brunei Museum.

In a speech at the opening ceremony, the French Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Patrick Amiot said Brunei Darussalam's substantial deposits of high-grade silica sand has a potential for a new industry. This industry will bring to this country, sooner or later, an additional production, job opportunities and export incomes.

The Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has made "crystal clear" that economic diversification is now a priority in the country, His Excellency added.

"I hope that the exhibition will make some form of contribution

to this policy of economic diversification."

Crystal manufacturing involves the use of fine and extra white sand to which lead is added.

Glass and crystal combines traditional craftsmanship, artistic creation and technical innovation. "We thought that this combination," His Excellency pointed out, "would appeal to the Brunei people because Brunei people have a natural sense of beauty, a great skill in making handicrafts and a definite will to turn to economic development."

Glass blowing started in Eastern France over four centuries ago. In the eighteenth century, crystal manufacturing became the pride of French companies whose name are world renowned.

In Paris, the city of lights, His Excellency further said, modern industrial glass has been extensively used these past years to beautify new monuments and buildings, such as the Pyramid du Louvre, which attracts millions of visitors.

The French Government, through the French Association for Arts (AFAA), the Marseille-based organisation called CIRVA (Centre International de recherche sur le verre) has brought in "a splendid collection of contemporary glass creations." Several

world reputed French companies such as Baccarat, Saint-louis, Cartier, CFEM Facades, which participated on a non-commercial basis, displayed some of their works at the exhibition.

The exhibition also indicated a deep interest by the French Government to further strengthen the bilateral links with Brunei Darussalam. The Republic of France established diplomatic relations with Brunei Darussalam in 1985.

Since then, great efforts have been made on both sides to promote a sound and mutually beneficial partnership.

In the field of culture, His Excellency Mr. Amiot said "the idea being not to force foreign values into a different society, but to create a platform for better understanding and reciprocal enrichment. Bruneian dancers and musicians have performed in Paris with great success, and a number of French artists of various skills (jazz, classical music, Mime, Magic, Circus, Painting) have entertained the Bruneian public."

Apart from art exchanges, Brunei Darussalam and France have embarked on language programmes, and Alliance Francaise de Brunei is building up as a locally registered cultural association.

## • from page 2

opening of the Sub-Treasury Department in the Temburong district. His Majesty also noted with satisfaction that the Royal Brunei Airlines had flown back Brunei pilgrims from Saudi Arabia, though hitched by initial problems on air-fares.

As to the maintenance of Bruneian tradition through the promotion of Islamic values, several measures could be taken. This include an encouragement to increase the intake of students in Arabic schools and a review of the school curriculum from time to time so that they are suitable with current and long-term needs. Efforts should also be taken to ensure that these students are qualified to further their studies at higher level.

## Brunei Malay in a minute

*Each month we introduce readers to a common Brunei Malay word as used in the country.*

*This month the word selected is tarap.*

*The word tarap has two meanings.*

*The first meaning refers to the sound that comes out of the throat after taking a meal etc. Tarap simply means burp.*

*This word can also be used as a verb by adding the prefix 'ber' so*

*bertarap means to burp. In standard Malay tarap means sendawa and bertarap means bersendawa.*

*Tarap is also a kind of seasonal local fruit. Its scientific name is artocarpus odoratissimus.*

*Now let us use the word in the sentences as below:*

*Orang itu bertarap selepas makan. The man burped after taking his meal.*

*Buah tarap banyak dijual di tamu. There are many tarap fruits sold at the Tamu (open market).*





Right: Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam being presented a souvenir by the French Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Patrick Amiot shortly after Her Royal Highness declared open an exhibition of crystal glass some of which were made from Brunei's own silica sand.



Clockwise from above left: Her Royal Highness tours the gallery to view the 100 creations in crystal glass by famous brand names at the recent glass crystal exhibition in Bandar Seri Begawan.







It's all happening in this building — the RTB headquarters from which programmes are telecast. From a one studio operation, RTB has now grown into a major television network.

**T**he ninth of July is an auspicious date for Television Brunei. On this date in 1975 it was born. This year Television Brunei is 15 years old.

At the outset, Television Brunei was incorporated under the same administration as Radio Brunei which was itself established some 18 years earlier in 1957 and the two services came to be known as Radio Television Brunei or RTB, an abbreviation which Bruneians were soon familiar with.

In December 1986, however, RTB merged with the Department of Information and all the three services were re-designated as the Department of Broadcasting and Information; the department has since been placed directly under the administration of the Prime Minister's Office.

The oldest of the three media, the Information Service was established in 1952.

For Television Brunei though, 15 years is still a young age compared to many television networks. In comparison to some, Television Brunei is perhaps a mere adolescent while still merely a baby when compared to some of the older ones such as those television organisations found in Europe.

But Television Brunei can hold its head high and be proud for being among the few television services which provide an-all colour service right from the word go.

The government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam decided in early 1974 to bring a television service to Brunei Darussalam and just one year later - at six o'clock on the evening of 9th July 1975 - Brunei viewers saw on their television sets His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inaugurate Television Brunei; the launching ceremony being the first programme to come out of its studios in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Prior to the launching, short test transmissions had been radiated from as early as 1 March the same year.

One might say that Television Brunei was set up in record time but this was hardly surprising as the Government wished that the service be launched almost immediately after it had made the decision to have Brunei Darussalam's own television service.

Before the birth of Television Brunei, a large fraction of the people have been able to watch television because they could receive telecasts in monochrome from the neighbouring state of Sabah and it was estimated that by the time Television Brunei was launched, there were already about 10,000 television sets in Brunei Darussalam tuned to that service.

The historic inauguration of Television Brunei by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan was followed by a host of other programmes that evening but perhaps none drew more attention than the first news bulletin which was telecast in Malay language and brought to the fore via the small screen the face of the first Bruneian newscaster.

Three news bulletins daily - two in Malay language and one in English language and a series of programmes most of which were imported, together made up the between four and five and a half hours of Television Brunei's daily telecast of the early years.

To ensure that all subjects of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan could enjoy the benefits of television, from the outset about 100 sets were sent to the interiors and installed at Government's expenses in the villages and in longhouses. Many of the sets were supplied with generators to ensure that TV Brunei telecasts could be received in the remotest areas of Brunei Darussalam.

In addition, the Government also provided another facility in the form of interest-free loans for purchasing television sets for those who wished to make use of the facility.

Locally-produced programmes were few in the early days of Television Brunei and the handful

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam looking through the lens of one of RTB's studio cameras shortly after he launched Brunei Darussalam's own television service in 1975.

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of staff it had were seconded from the BBC, Radio Television Singapore (now the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation, SBC) and Radio Television Malaysia, with a few also recruited from HongKong.

Some senior staff of the Radio Section were also recruited and many moved over at once to television to make up the core of trainee producers, technicians and presenters.

Prior to the advent of television, Brunei Darussalam had a radio complex comprising two large and four small studios with two continuity suites, broadcasting on two networks.

The initial television installation involved taking over the large music studio from radio and converting it into a temporary TV Studio as well as other areas to accommodate the Central Apparatus Room, Telecines, VTRs and so on.

Transmission started from a single transmitter built on a hill near the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, radiating on VHF Band III, channel 5, CCIR system B 625 line PAL. A further transmitter, radiating on channel 8 was added in July 1976 at the Western end of the state to complete the coverage.

In 1976, work started on phase 2 of the Development project, the construction of a completely new Television Studio centre. It was to

house three television studios and associated equipment, a presentation suite, maintenance areas, VTR and telecines areas and a Dubbing Theatre for film.

The new television complex was completed and equipment installed by the end of 1978.

Within the past years the principal developments, trends and acquisitions are as follows:-

The last major studio refit took place in 1985 when RTB's largest television studio was equipped with Philips LDK-6 Cameras, CDL switcher and Quantel Digital Video Effect generator.

In May, this year, the busy News and Current Affairs studio, (Studio 3) was re-equipped with Ikegai HK323 cameras, Grass Valley Video Switcher, and Audix audio mixer and additional generator, Dubner Video Character generator and the Auto Cue 'Scriptnet' on-camera prompting system.

Another project which involves the complete re-equipping of Television Master Control Room (MCR) will take place in September, this year. It will be fitted with a new presentation switcher MCS-2000, Barco CVS Monitors and a new CCD camera LDK-91 in the continuity announcer's studio. In addition, a new leitch Master Clock system which will automatically reference to a broadcast international time standard will be installed.

The Outside Broadcast section operates three CMCRs of which the largest and most recent is a 6 camera unit built by Pye/Philips in 1984. The two other units are 3 camera vehicles built by Ampex and Sony.

The most recent acquisition is that of a fully equipped lighting control vehicle built and supplied in 1987 by Crow Broadcast and fitted with a Lee Colortran 'system 2' console controlling 75 IDS dimmer channels.

A project completed last year has replaced the original Thorn lighting system with Lee Colortran 'Prestige 3000' console controlling 130 EDS dimmer channels.

Both 2" quad machines and 1" 'C' format machines are operated by RTB. Three Ampex AVR-3 quad VTRs are still in use although the main stay of RTB's operation are currently 1" 'C' format VTRs. RTB took delivery of two 'D2' format machines in March 1990.

Whilst film continues to have a limited place in RTB drama and documentary operations, ENG and EFP have now taken over approximately 80% of the commitment and 100% for News. The SONY BVP-330P cameras with BVU50 or 110 recorders are still mainly used. Recently RTB has purchased the higher quality Betacam SP format recorder with a view to eventual phasing out of High band U-Matic machines.

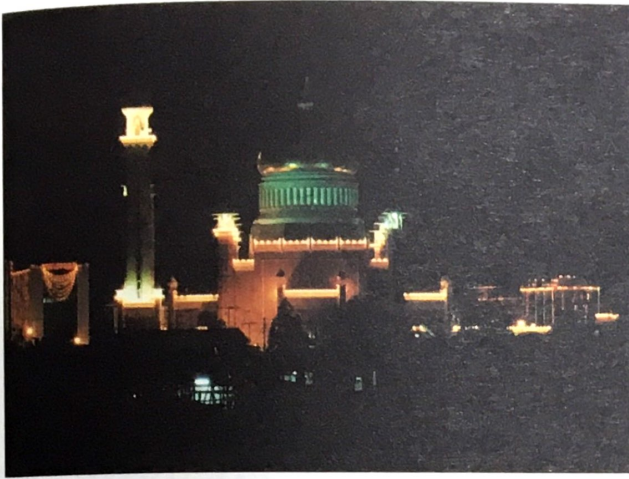
In July 1989, RTB took delivery of the BTS FGS-4500 Computer Graphic system which is installed together with pixelator and dedicated SONY BVH-3100 VTR for the generation of graphics and animation sequences. An Ampex ESS-5G electronic still store is included for the capture of and on-air access to graphics generated by the system.

Television Brunei has come along way in a short time. From a handful of staff in 1975 to well more than 1,500 today, Television Brunei has also drastically increased the duration of its daily transmission from between four and five and a half hours to an average of ten hours daily sometimes up to 18 hours.

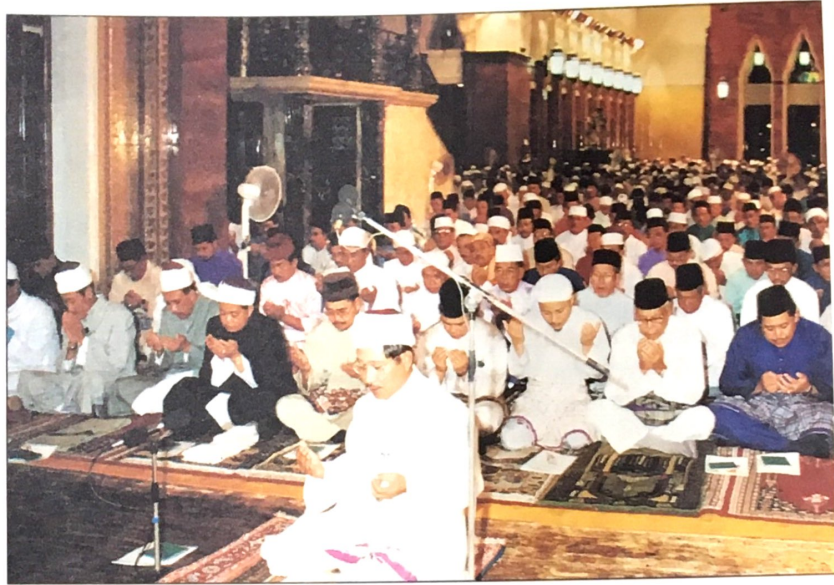
But more important than merely increasing its transmissions

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At night, Bandar Seri Begawan transforms into a city of lights as its centre and streets gleam in sheer brilliance during His Majesty's birthday celebrations. The Omar Ali Saifuddien mosque (above) and Istana Nurul Iman (below) too, shone in bright illuminations.



Above: This was typical of the scenes at major mosques, surau (religious hall) and other places of worship as Muslims perform thanksgiving and bertahlil prayers in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan's 44th birthday.



Bottom left: More than six thousand people making up about 70 teams representing ministries, Government departments, educational institutions as well as voluntary and private organisations took part in a lantern and float procession in Bandar Seri Begawan held as one of the events to celebrate His Majesty's birthday. Bottom right: Persistent drizzle did not dampen the spirit of participants of the lantern and float procession who put up a truly good show.





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hours is perhaps the wide range of programmes it now offers. In particular the large increase in the locally-produced programmes which now make up about 40 per cent of the total daily telecast.

Television Brunei's current target is to produce at least 50 per cent of its transmissions, thus, bringing locally-produced programmes on par with imported ones.

The imported programmes themselves are diverse in origins. Where as in the early years the majority of imported programmes were from television organisations of the West, today the shift is more towards importing the larger bulk of programmes from within Asia, especially from ASEAN television networks.

The programmes shown on Television Brunei, regardless of whether they are produced locally or imported, adhere strictly to its policy and planning.

Such policy and planning place much emphasis on the production of cultural and educational programmes but the News and Current Affairs Programmes have the greatest priority along with religious programmes. Their objectives: to tell the people what the Government is doing, what the national policies are and what is going on around the country.

Cultural and educational programme for the family are produced with the aim of benefiting both the intellectual and spiritual education of the people.

The same can also be said for religious programmes, which produced in conjunction with the Ministry Of Religious Affairs, occupy a significant proportion of each day's television presentation.

The overall aim of Television Brunei's Programmes production is to promote national harmony among the people, and peace and prosperity in the nation.

Television Brunei takes great care when choosing imported foreign programmes and foremost in the minds of the planners is to ensure that these programmes do not violate the country's religious or cultural mores.

With a population of about 245 thousands, Brunei Darussalam

has today well over 30,000 television sets.

The executive structure of Television Brunei consists primarily of the Management Committee of the Department of Broadcasting and Information. Headed by the Director, this committee includes the Deputy Director (Broadcasting), Deputy Director (Information) as well as the heads of each of the department's five main divisions, namely Engineering, News and Current Affairs, Administration, Programme and Information.

The Engineering Division is headed by a Superintendent Engineer and carries the responsibility for the technical aspects of all television and radio production and transmission. The division also administers the supporting infrastructure of the building and transport services, and supervises technical training within its Engineering Training Unit.

Headed by the Chief News Editor, the News and Current Affairs Division has the responsibility of gathering news from a wide range of sources, both local and international, and helping to achieve the Government's objectives through the dissemination of information. The Government's electronic and print media services are managed by this division which has direct responsibility for the daily transmission of news and current affairs programmes on radio and television.

All administrative functions from staff and finance to policy matters, forward planning and training as well as communication with international and regional broadcasting organisations are handled by the Administrative Division, which is headed by a Senior Administrative Officer. He is also responsible for the administration of the Commercial Unit which handles television advertising.

The Programmes Division, under a Head of Programmes, is responsible for the artistic aspects of radio and television production and programming. It is also responsible for the administration of Programme Services departments such as scenic construction, dubbing and subtitling units, programme purchasing, make-up and wardrobe. Programme and News Training are

also administered by this Division within its Programme and News Training Unit.

In its broadcasting role, Television Brunei shares the three primary objectives of any national broadcasting organisation — that is to inform, to educate and to entertain.

Although Television Brunei takes its role as an informer and educator very seriously, the entertainment role nonetheless features prominently throughout television and radio output, giving the public access to a wide range of musical and drama programming selected from distributors throughout the Malay and English-speaking world in addition to what Television Brunei itself produces.

In fulfilling its responsibilities to both the Government and the people of Brunei Darussalam, Television Brunei along with Radio and Information, abides by the following directives.

1. To describe and clarify Government plans in detail, and to give them a comprehensive coverage.
2. To encourage the public to change their ways of thinking wherever necessary in order to bring about appropriate changes in line with Government policy.
3. To help in creating civic consciousness, and to encourage socio-economic and cultural development in Brunei Darussalam.
4. To give the citizens suitable knowledge through information, education and entertainment.
5. To help in strengthening national solidarity.
6. To act as a channel for bringing the public closer to the Government.
7. To describe Brunei Darussalam to the world in conformity with the Government's foreign policy.

Television Brunei has had a roller-coaster passage through the past one and a half decades in all its endeavours towards fulfilling all these commitment and obligations. Fast moving, exhilarating and always on the move with barely a moment's pause.

May the next decade, when Television Brunei will be celebrating its Silver Jubilee, be as exciting, informative, educa-



ting and entertaining as the previous 15 years have been.

Staff of the Department of Broadcasting and Information celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of Television Brunei with a thanksgiving session at its premises in Bandar Seri Begawan on 9 July.

At the celebration they heard a keynote address from the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Ustadz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Haji Othman, who is also the Director of Broadcasting and Information. The Deputy Director of Broadcasting and Information, Awang Haji Aliddin bin Haji Othman also spoke at the gathering, while a guest speaker, The Deputy State Mufti Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Tuan Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustadz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned gave a special talk on 'work ethics'.

In his speech, the Permanent Secretary highlighted the importance for television staff to be dynamic, imaginative and creative. Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Ustadz Haji Awang Badaruddin further stressed that news and current affairs programmes as well as other programmes must also be fully produced by locals.

In addition, staff were told not to look at themselves as "alat Kerajaan" or the "Government's tool". The phrase gives the impression that the Government is static in thought and in its efforts in providing a service to the people. Rather, they should see themselves as fulfilling a service to the country, the Permanent Secretary pointed out.

They are in fact, directly involved in this process of linking the Govern-

ment with the people through the television as a medium.

Pehin Dato Ustadz Awang Haji Badaruddin further said, "This calls for us to perform our duties in the best possible manner for the benefit of the country and the people, to which we are a part of."

Since television is found everywhere, expectations on the work produced, in terms of efficient and excellent service, are high from the people. "Remarks" on these have been numerous, Pehin Badaruddin said.

To these feedback, the Permanent Secretary urged "We should sincerely analyse ourselves. If we have done something good and excellent, then Alhamdulillah (All Praises be to Allah)." If these are adverse, then "we should be prepared to improve ourselves and may Allah show us the path towards fulfilling our duties."

A great challenge during the early days of television is in the use of new technology in broadcasting, Pehin Badaruddin recalled. "We had to completely rely on foreign expertise. In the field of engineering, filming, sound recording, and in fact in the production of programmes. But with the earnest efforts of locals as well as with the serious attention given by the Government, this dependence could gradually be lessened."

Today, except in engineering, almost a hundred percent of the news and current affairs and other programmes are produced by local. This befits the training and the experience which they have gained, the Permanent Secretary said.

"It is the desire of the Government to see that this will be so, so that they (the programmes) will truly reflect our own calibre."

In a message at the launching of the television service, telecast 15 years ago, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam underlined the role to which television should play.

"As contained in the five years National Development Plan, it is one of the projects which has been determined in the shortest time. The objective is to widen and fully implement the channels of communication through the developments and progress made in science and modern technology, which is the basis of progress in other developed countries.

I am fully confident that Brunei television will be able to play a significant role as a means of communication between my Government and the people of Brunei Darussalam and between the people and the Government. At the same time, it would serve to widen our knowledge about the world in general. Brunei television will also be covering the activities and

developments in the field of education, culture and other events in the community. Hopefully, this will help achieve the aim of producing a progressive, united, stable and secure people in Brunei Darussalam."

To date, 40 percent of the programmes aired are locally produced. The Deputy Director of Broadcasting, Awang Haji Aliddin said that the Department will always strive to improve the quality of local programmes and bring in better quality programmes from overseas.

In this speech, Awang Haji Aliddin said, "we always take heed of the comments and views on our programmes, nonetheless, as you may already be aware of, not every request could be met. We, however, would always strive to give you the best.

Running a television broadcast station is not the same as producing a weekly newspaper, the Deputy Director for Broadcasting explained. Constraints, there have been and some measures have been taken to upgrade the quality of programmes.

The Programme Review Committee which meets fortnightly, for instance, will consider the views of members as well as that of the public, which the public have aired through Committee members.

The Committee charged with the purchase of programmes is responsible in reviewing these programmes before they are censored by the Censorship and TV Programme Review Committee. Senior officials of the Department are also sent overseas to Monte Carlo, MIP-TV and MIP-COM in Cannes, France, Los Angeles and London to look for suitable programmes.

Currently, there are more than a thousand staff with the Department. Locals make up ninety-five percent of the total staff. Awang haji Aliddin further urged them to be fully committed and dedicated. He also urged them to be cooperative and work regardless of the working hours, to be highly disciplined and to strive to upgrade their performance, experience, knowledge and skills in their respective fields. And needless to say, to upgrade their creativity and to be highly motivated in their work.

The Deputy Director further said the Department takes a serious view to staff training and career development. The scheme of service should also be made more attractive to ensure that experienced staff remain in the Department. Staff training, both local and overseas are now intensified, he said. Staff are also sent for short courses as well as those leading to the degree and masters level. This measure in turn, would help locals to take up appropriate positions within the Department.

## Your turn

The next issue of the *Brunei Darussalam* newsletter will appear during the second week of September 1990. 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 August 20, 1990. All editorial rights reserved.



# Ma'had Islam Brunei



## An architectural splendour

**M**a'had Islam Brunei (the Brunei Islamic College, pictured above) occupies a 22.3 hectare site at Kampung Tepangan in Tutong - a location which gives it a commanding view of the South China Sea and the Bandar Seri Begawan - Tutong coastal highway.

Built at a cost of B\$27 million, construction of the college began in October 1987 and was completed in December 1989.

The college has a distinct Bruneian architecture, which

among others, highlights elements of the country's culture and religion - Islam.

Appropriately built to suit the requirements of local climate, the concept of the buildings is to provide a harmonious environment, one that is conducive for learning.

Although at present the college has an all male student population, its facilities include two hostels - one capable of housing 400 male students and the other an equal number of female students.

The other facilities including classrooms, libraries, science and

language laboratories are also separate for male students from those for female students in accordance with Islamic concept.

There are a total of 28 classrooms and two science laboratories as well as two language laboratories fully-equipped with modern audio aids for instruction and learning.

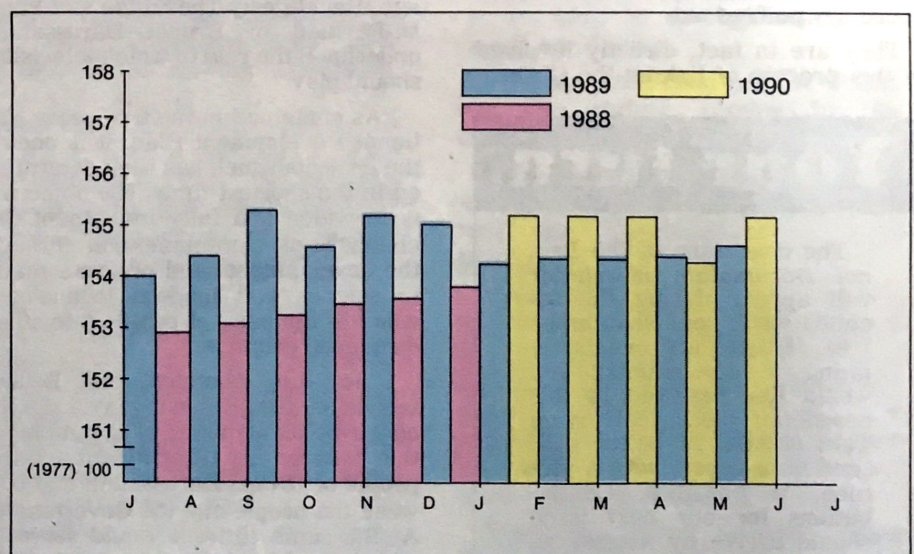
The surau (religious hall) for male students can accommodate 1,000 people while the one for female students has a capacity for seating 850 people.

## BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Capital City :	Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size :	5765 sq.km
Population :	241,400 (1988)
Official Language :	Malay
Official Religion :	Islam
June 1990 rainfall :	183.8 mm.
(annual 2,818mm)	

## PRIME LENDING RATE

August 7.25%. (quoted by Bankers' Association).



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