



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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OVERCOME THE TESTS OF FAITH TO ATTAIN SUCCESS

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said the history of the Hijrah should serve as an important reminder for today's Muslims.

Recalling its history on March 14 the Brunei Darussalam sovereign said success did not come easily for Muslims. Even back then, success was preceded by tests – death threats, avoidance of worldly pleasures, and the loss of property and homeland - to check whether Muslims' faith was underpinned by patience.

"If Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his family had been endlessly tested, why shouldn't we?" said His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaullah who named this year's 1423 Hijrah anniversary as the 'Year of Trials'.

According to the sovereign, Muslims' faith all over the world today are being tested with and suffering from all sorts of trials: rebellion, war and



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaullah (centre) consents to present the Meritorious Religious Award to Dato Haji Abdul Salam bin Abdul Razak (left). As recipient, Dato Haji Abdul Salam also gets a B\$15,000 cash prize, a certificate of appreciation, a souvenir, and free admissions to first class ward in any government-owned hospital in the country.

poverty. "All these are meant to test the patience and wisdom of Muslims on how to overcome them," he said.

Patience, one of the hallmarks of loyalty to Allah, is measured by Muslims' acceptance of the *qada* (the will of Allah) and the *qadar* (destiny determined by Allah). Those who persevered passed the tests of faith and received unexpected success, by the will of the Almighty Allah.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam said Muslims are obliged to be patient with matters of loyalty to Allah. Patience is tested when Muslims decide between upholding all that are *halal* (permitted by Islam) and avoiding all that are *haram* (forbidden by Islam), and between fostering good deeds and prohibiting sinful acts.

"This is the highest level of patience; hopefully all of us will practice it. We should not look at it with a feeling of regret or fear. There are probably benefits that we do not immediately know," he said.

According to His Majesty the pleasures of faith cannot be obtained with any tool or strength. Neither can it be obtained with the influence of material possessions.

Willing acceptance of faith begins from the heart. Those whose hearts have been opened to receive Allah's guidance attained a special place beside Him even though there are no visible signs of nobility among them, he said.

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 15 April 2002. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383400/ext.BDN Division or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam (fourth left) and his princes, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah (third left), His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik (second left), and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen (far left) joined scores of Muslims for the Hijrah anniversary prayer at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque on March 14.

** From page one
(Hijrah anniversary)*

Referring to the Hijrah, His Majesty said Prophet Muhammad endured life-threatening tests and persecution inflicted by the *musyrikin* (pagans and polytheists) while propagating Islam 1,423 years ago.

According to the sovereign the *musyrikin*, as holders of economic and political power at the time, attempted to destroy the Prophet and his followers. Because Allah the Almighty did not will it, the attempts failed.

"On the contrary, success belonged to the party considered weak," said His Majesty.

The highlight of the Hijrah anniversary was the prayer at the Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque on

March 14. His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

In conjunction with the Hijrah anniversary, the Brunei sovereign consented to present the Meritorious Religious Award to Dato Haji Abdul Salam bin Abdul Razak, the former deputy Chief Qadi (Islamic judge) and Brunei's first Public Prosecutor. Two people received the Hijrah Religious Awards: Haji Abdul Wahab bin Haji Osman, 72 and Haji Ahmad bin Haji Tengah, 65. The awards serve as acknowledgement for outstanding work in the field of religious activities for the community.



Dato Haji Abdul Salam bin Abdul Razak (centre) flanked by two recipients of the Hijrah Religious Awards: Haji Abdul Wahab bin Haji Othman (left) and Haji Ahmad bin Haji Tengah (right). The awards serve as acknowledgement for outstanding work in the field of religious activities for the community.

Brunei sovereign accepts credential of a foreign envoy and grants audiences to outgoing ambassadors

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to accept a credential of a foreign envoy and granted separate audiences to three outgoing ambassadors at the Istana Nurul Iman on March 27.

The sovereign first consented to accept the credential from the new French ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Thierry Borjode Motoza, 54. Formerly the Deputy Director of Logistics in Paris from 1990 to 2000, His Excellency Ambassador Motoza began his career with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in May 1976.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam then consented to grant an audience to the newly appointed French ambassador. Present at the audience session were Pehin Dato Isa bin Pehin Dato Haji Ibrahim, the Special Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Home Affairs; and Pehin Dato Haji Mohd Ali bin Haji Mohd Daud, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

On the same day, the Brunei sovereign consented to grant separate audiences to the outgoing ambassadors of three ASEAN member countries: His Excellency U Than Tun of the Union of Myanmar, His Excellency Rahardjo Djojonegoro of Indonesia, and His Excellency Enrique A. Zaldivar of the Republic of the Philippines.

Present during this farewell audience were Pehin Dato Isa bin Pehin Dato Haji Ibrahim, the Special Adviser to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Home Affairs; and Dato Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah, the permanent secretary at the Prime Minister's Office.

His Excellency the Myanmar ambassador began his Brunei posting since March 1998; while the Indonesian and Philippines ambassadors began their postings here since November 1998 and March 1999 respectively.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to receive credential from the newly-appointed French ambassador to Brunei, His Excellency Thierry Borjode Motoza at the Istana Nurul Iman on March 27.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to grant a farewell audience to the outgoing ambassador of Myanmar, His Excellency U Than Tun. The Myanmar ambassador began his Brunei posting since March 1998.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to grant a farewell audience to the outgoing ambassador of the Philippines, His Excellency Enrique A. Zaldivar. The Philippine ambassador began his Brunei posting since March 1999.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to grant a farewell audience to the outgoing ambassador of Indonesia, His Excellency Rahardjo Djojonegoro. The Indonesian ambassador began his Brunei posting since November 1998.

HM THE SULTAN VISITS ANTI-CORRUPTION BUREAU AND NARCOTICS CONTROL BUREAU



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam arrives at the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB).

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam continued to make surprise visits to state agencies in the country.

On March 20 the Brunei sovereign toured both the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

During his visit to the ACB, His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah took a closer look at the facilities available there and was briefed by its director, Hajah Intan binti Haji Kassim. The ACB has several sections: Prevention, Operations and Investigations, Prevention and Services, and Administration.

The ACB was established to uphold the authority of the civil service by eradicating corruption and bringing those involved to justice. Its activities include issuing state circulars on aspects of corruption, holding briefings and seminars, visiting state agencies and private organisations, investigating and submitting recommendations on preventative

** Continued on page 5*

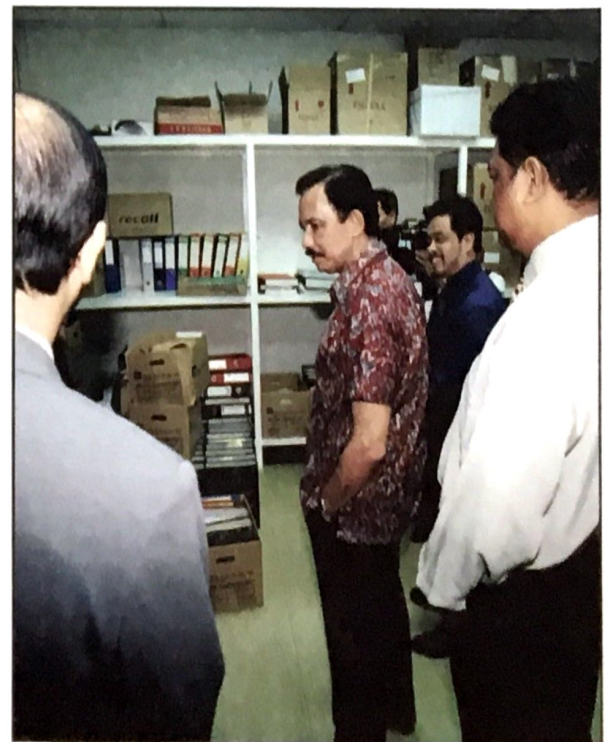


His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to receive a closed-door briefing session conducted by the ACB's director, Hajah Intan binti Haji Kassim (third left) and her senior officers. The ACB was established in February 1, 1982 and has a branch office in the Belait district.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to mingle with the ACB's personnel.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to inspect some of the facilities available at the ACB.



** From page4
(visits to ACB and NCB)*

measures against corruption.

In 2001 the ACB received 243 information and complaints related to corruption, which involved 374 people comprising state employees, private sector personnel, self-employed individuals and others.

His Majesty's visit to the ACB ended with a closed-door briefing session.

The ACB was officially opened by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on February 1, 1982 and has a branch office in the Belait district.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah next toured the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) – his third visit to this department - where he was briefed by its acting director, Hajah Shireen binti Haji Mustapa and her senior officers.

The sovereign's itinerary there included visits to the NCB's secure room containing arms and ammunitions, a room housing the urine testing machine for drug screening, and a counselling session for those involved in drugs.

The NCB was established on October 1, 1988 as an agency of the Prime Minister's Office. Its mission is to create public awareness regarding drug and hallucinogen abuse, and foster a drug-free society. It functions as a law enforcement agency responsible for preventing the abuse and trafficking of drugs.

Manned by 143 personnel, the NCB has six divisions: administration, enforcement and intelligence, research,



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to visit the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) following his tour of the ACB on the same day. Its acting director, Hajah Shireen binti Haji Mustapa (left) and her senior officers receive the royal guest on arrival.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to receive briefing by NCB's acting director as he tours the premises.

social service, drug prevention education, and surveillance. It has branch offices in the Belait and Tutong districts.

According to NCB's statistics, 163 people were arrested from January to February this year.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to receive a closed-door briefing session conducted by NCB's acting director and her senior officers. The NCB was established on October 1, 1988 as an agency of the Prime Minister's Office. It has branch offices in the Belait and Tutong district.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHINA AND JAPAN

Their Excellencies President Jiang Zemin and Vice President Hu Jintao of the People's Republic of China attributed the success of the Brunei-China relationship to the personal contribution and efforts of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The President and his Vice President felt that the Brunei-China

relationship could be used as a model of a successful relationship that is based on equality, regardless of size and level of development of the respective countries.

Meanwhile in Japan, His Excellency Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Her Excellency Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi noted the Brunei-Japan close relationship by

mentioning an increase in the exchange of high-level visits between the two countries that began since last year.

These remarks were made during the working visits of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah to the People's Republic of China and Japan that lasted from 21-30 March.

His Royal Highness' arrival in Beijing on March 21 was received by His Excellency Pengiran Dato Haji Asmalee bin Pengiran Ahmad, Brunei Darussalam's ambassador to the People's Republic of China and senior officials from the Chinese foreign ministry.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince's itinerary in China began with a meeting with His Excellency Hu Jintao, the Vice President of the People's Republic of China in the Xinjiang Room at the Great Hall of the People. During the meeting, the Vice President mentioned the importance of bilateral relationship between China and Brunei.

His Excellency Hu Jintao hosted dinner for the royal entourage at the Western Hall of the Great Hall of the People. His Royal Highness was

accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi; His Excellency the Brunei ambassador to China; Pehin Dato Haji Yahya bin Dato Haji Bakar, permanent secretary at the Prime Minister's Office; Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and officials from the Brunei embassy and the Chinese foreign ministry.

The following day, March 22, His Royal Highness made a courtesy call on His Excellency President Jiang Zemin at Zhongnanhai, the central government headquarters. There, President Jiang Zemin said Brunei-China relationship had been very good not only in recent years but during ancient times too.

The two dignitaries discussed other areas of bilateral relationship including economic and trade cooperation. The Chinese President also invited His Royal Highness to visit Shenzhen, one of China's most successful Special Economic Zones.

His Royal Highness' itinerary for the day also covered a visit to the Palace

Museum in the Forbidden City; a badminton match with top badminton players of China's national squad; and a dinner hosted by China's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Wang Yi.

The following day, March 23, the royal itinerary covered visits to the Great Wall of China in Badaling, near Beijing; and to Shanghai, one of China's leading economic and trade centres.

The royal entourage was received and invited to a luncheon hosted by the Vice Mayor of Shanghai, Zhou Yupeng on March 24. In the afternoon, His Royal Highness visited Fudan University, Shanghai's leading university. A tour of the University's campus facilities and meeting students there were part of the itinerary for the day. The royal entourage witnessed an acrobatic show in the evening.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince left Shanghai on March 25, marking the end of the

five-day visit to the People's Republic of China. His Excellency the Brunei ambassador to China; His Excellency Qu Wenming, China's ambassador to Brunei; Chinese senior officials and diplomats from the Brunei embassy were present at Shanghai's Hong Qiao International Airport to bid farewell. The Islamic short prayer, doa selamat, was read by Pehin Haji Mat Jaya bin Haji Ibrahim. The royal entourage's next destination was Japan.

His Royal Highness' arrival in Tokyo's Haneda Airport on March 25 was received by the permanent secretary at Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenichi Mizuno; Japan's ambassador to Brunei, His Excellency Satoshi Hara; and officials from the Japanese foreign ministry.

Also present to receive the royal

** Continued on page 8*



Top:
His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah (left) made a courtesy call on His Excellency President Jiang Zemin of the People's Republic of China on March 22 at the Zhongnanhai, the central government headquarters. Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China on September 30, 1991 following the signing of a joint communiqué.



Middle:
His Royal Highness The Crown Prince tours the Palace Museum located in the Forbidden City.

Bottom:
His Royal Highness The Crown Prince is introduced to top badminton players of China's national squad prior to engaging in a friendly match.



The President and Vice President felt that the Brunei-China relationship could be used as a model of a successful relationship that is based on equality, regardless of size and level of development of the respective countries



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince attends luncheon hosted by Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince Naruhito (second left) and Crown Princess Masako (right) on March 27. Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi (left) accompanies His Royal Highness The Crown Prince as part of the royal entourage throughout the official visits to China and Japan.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince made a courtesy call on Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino (second and far right) on March 28. His Imperial Highness Prince Akishino is the son of Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi (left) accompanies His Royal Highness The Crown Prince during the courtesy visit.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince attends luncheon hosted by His Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan and Her Majesty Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace on March 26.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah (right) meets His Excellency Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan at the Prime Minister's Office on March 25. Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with Japan on March 10, 1984.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah consents to lay a wreath at Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park.

* From centre page
(China-Japan visits)



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince and his royal entourage inspect the replica of areas that had been destroyed by the atomic bomb in 1945.

entourage were His Excellency Pengiran Setia Negara Pengiran Haji Mohd Yusuf bin Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahim, Brunei's ambassador to Japan; and officers from the Brunei embassy.

The March 25 itinerary began with His Royal Highness meeting the Japanese premier, His Excellency Junichiro Koizumi at the Prime Minister's Office. This was followed by a meeting with the Japanese Foreign Minister, Her Excellency Yoriko Kawaguchi at the House of Councillors of the Japanese Diet.

The Japanese Prime Minister and his Foreign Minister said that another area of cooperation that can be strengthened is tourism. Brunei has the potential to be an interesting destination for Japanese ecotourists.

During both meetings, His Royal Highness was accompanied by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi; His Excellency the Brunei ambassador to Japan;

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince spoke of the Brunei-Japan relationship: Japan is the largest importer of Brunei Darussalam's oil and gas

Pehin Dato Haji Yahya bin Dato Haji Bakar, permanent secretary at the Prime Minister's Office; and Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince attended luncheon hosted by His Majesty Emperor Akihito and Her Majesty Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace the following day.

Also present at the luncheon was Their Majesties' daughter, Her Imperial Highness Princess Sayako.

The afternoon's itinerary comprised a visit to the Tokyo Disney Resort. The royal guest was received by the resort's president, Toshio Kagami and its executive managing director, Yoshiro Fukushima. The royal entourage next toured the site and tried some of the rides.

Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako hosted luncheon at their residential palace for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah on March 27.

Prior to luncheon, His Royal Highness paid a courtesy call on Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Hitachi at their residential palace. His Imperial Highness Prince Hitachi is the brother of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince next paid a courtesy call on Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince and entourage's first itinerary in Osaka on March 29 begins with a tour of Osaka's Universal Studio.

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(Top and bottom left)

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha consents to grant audiences to Madam Nurkamaria R. Djojonegoro (above), wife of His Excellency the Indonesian ambassador; and to Madam Erlinda G. Zaldivar (below), wife of His Excellency the Philippine ambassador at the Istana Nurul Iman.

(Top and bottom right)

Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam consents to grant audiences to Madam Nurkamaria R. Djojonegoro (above) and Madam Erlinda G. Zaldivar (below) at the Istana Nurul Izzah.



ROYALTY GRANT AUDIENCES

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam have consented to grant separate audience sessions to the wives of the two outgoing ambassadors.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri has consented to grant audiences to Madam Nurkamaria R. Djojonegoro, wife of His Excellency the Indonesian ambassador; and Madam Erlinda G. Zaldivar, wife of His Excellency the Philippine ambassador at the Istana Nurul Iman on March 12.

And Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri has consented to grant audiences to the two diplomatic spouses at the Istana Nurul Izzah on March 7 and March 14.

Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam, Patron of the Brunei Darussalam Association of Handicapped Children (KACA), has consented to visit the Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam KACA Centre on March 16.

The royal visit aimed to observe the recent progress of the 500 special children, aged between two and 12, who are schooled at the centre. The association is now considering a bigger building to accommodate the increasing number of children learning at the KACA Centre.

Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri was received upon arrival by the deputy head of the association, Dr Haji Naseem Iqbal Sabir and committee members. The royal guest was subsequently briefed by the teachers there regarding the progress of the 500 children. Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri next consented to mingle with the children and their guardians.

Observing the development of KACA Centre



Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri consents to join the children in the get-together session at the KACA Centre. Her Royal Highness is Patron of the Brunei Darussalam Association of Handicapped Children (KACA).

'Practice teamwork in the nursing profession' – Princess

Nurses in the country were once again urged to always serve the community with high quality work ethic and dedication, and with a sense of caring and respect.

They were also reminded to practice teamwork and foster mutual understanding. Productivity and efficiency of service would increase through practises that create harmonious working atmosphere and mutual assistance.

This was said by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah, the third daughter of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, at the eighth Convocation of Princess Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Nursing College held at the International Convention Centre on March 28.

"Community and members of the public are expecting better care and high quality service, especially those who need treatment," said Her Royal Highness.

Nurses should continue to strive towards upgrading their skill and knowledge in line with the current needs. Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah said nurses should have a sense of tolerance and courage in order to be able to face patients and people with various characters.

"It is in this respect self discipline, frequently emphasised by educational institutions to both students at schools and trainees at colleges such as the nursing college, should be applied,"

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah (left) consents to present nursing diploma certificates to 128 recipients at the International Convention Centre on March 28.



said Her Royal Highness.

Her Royal Highness the Princess was accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolqiah and Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolqiah. The royal entourage was received upon arrival by Pehin Dato (Dr) Haji Hussain bin Pehin Dato Haji Mohd Yusof, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports in his capacity as the acting Minister of Health.

According to its principal, Hajah Suraya Noraidah binti Abdullah, the College is preparing to establish a Nursing Research Centre so as to upgrade the quality of nursing profession.

"The College will continue to venture into fields of advance nursing and offer courses for professional development including Diploma in Dental Therapy, which will be offered

early next year," said the principal.

The principal said the College offers 11 professional courses in Advance Nursing Diploma. These cover optic nursing, anaesthetic nursing, mental health nursing, and paediatrics nursing.

Her Royal Highness the Princess presented Diploma in Basic Nursing to 128 graduates.

A batch of 33 received certificates and badges for Diploma in Advance Nursing and Midwifery. Of these, seven were awarded Intensive Care Nursing Diploma; eight received the Accident and Emergencies Nursing Diploma; seven received Operation Theatre Nursing Diploma; four were awarded Diploma in Crano Maxillo Facial Surgical; six received Diploma in Midwifery; and one received the Therapeutic Nursing Diploma in conversion courses.

** From page 8
(China-Japan visits)*

Princess Akishino on March 28. His Imperial Highness Prince Akishino is the son of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan.

His Royal Highness next attended a reception hosted by the Japan-Brunei Parliamentarians' League for the Promotion of Friendship. This Association was established to promote friendly ties between the two countries. The reception was held at the Parliamentary Museum at the Diet building.

The royal entourage was received on arrival by the Association's chairman, Hiroshi Kumagai, and its

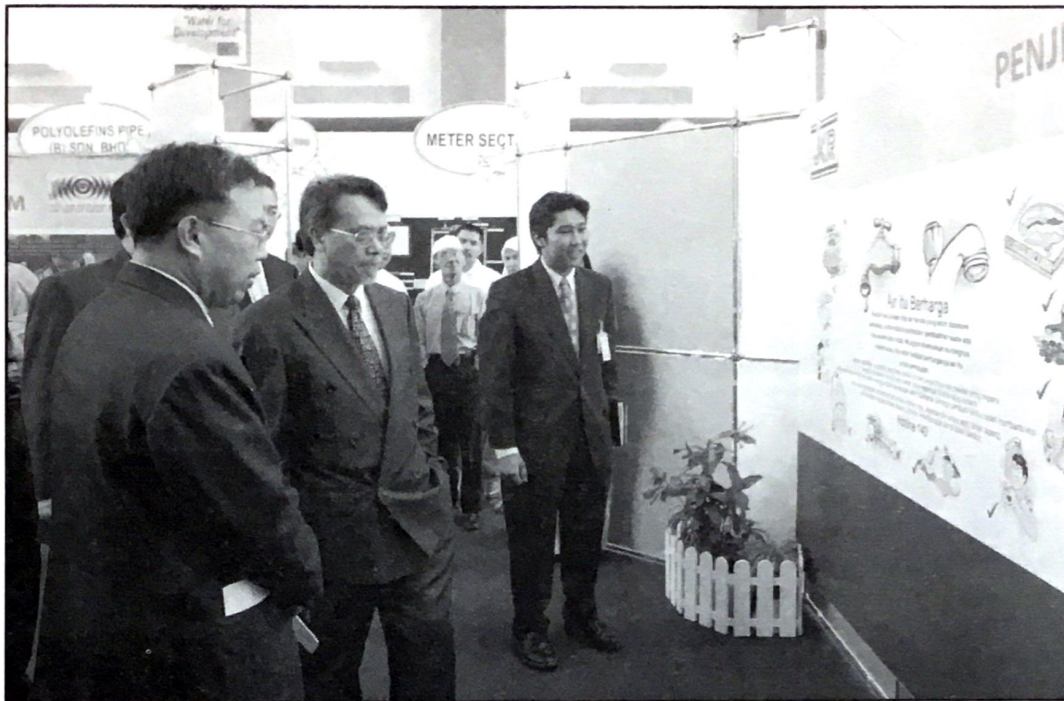
senior officials. His Royal Highness spoke of the Brunei-Japan relationship: Japan is the largest importer of Brunei Darussalam's oil and gas. The Crown Prince also said both the Japan-Brunei Parliamentarians' League for the Promotion of Friendship and the Japan-Brunei Friendship Association play an important role in enhancing bilateral relations between the two countries.

His Royal Highness The Crown Prince next left for Osaka aboard the Japanese fast train.

The itinerary for March 29 began with a visit to Osaka's Universal Studio where the Brunei royalty was received by the Studio's manager, Sakata Akira. The royal entourage also

tried some of the rides there. His Royal Highness left for Hiroshima in the afternoon.

The following day, March 30, His Royal Highness visited Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park that was built to commemorate the victims of nuclear bombing of 1945. The royal guest was received by the Treasurer of the Hiroshima City Hall, Toshihiko Ito. His Royal Highness next consented to lay a wreath at the memorial park. This was followed by a briefing regarding the park's historical background, plus a tour of the park's museum. The Hiroshima itinerary was the final segment of the royal working visit to Japan.



Permanent secretary of the Ministry of Development, Dato Haji Abdul Majid bin Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahim (second left) inspects the displays shown during the World Water Day on March 23.

WATER QUALITY COMPARABLE TO INDUSTRIALISED STATES'

Brunei Darussalam is one of the biggest water consumers in ASEAN but charges one of the lowest rates.

Permanent secretary at the Ministry of Development, Dato Haji Abdul Majid bin Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahim said this on March 23 in conjunction with the World Water Day.

He also said Brunei's water conservation management comply with this year's World Water Day's theme, "Water for Development".

Brunei's water supply of today has increased compared with levels of the past five decades, according to Dato Haji Abdul Majid. Brunei's water purification plants' daily output of safe water was 360.7 million litres by 2000,

which served a population of 324,800.

"Daily demand for water is expected to reach 400.9 million litres by the end of the eighth National Development Plan (2001-2005). By 2015 the figure will climb to 485.8 million litres per day," he said.

Dato Haji Abdul Majid anticipated the construction of more dams, reservoirs, and water purification plants between 2001-2005. Brunei's water quality, he said, complies with the World Health Organisation (WHO) standard and is therefore comparable to one enjoyed by the industrialised states.

In return for the five-decade systematic management of Brunei's

water supply, the permanent secretary expects each citizen to show appreciation by refraining from water wastage.

Each individual, he said, is responsible for consuming sensibly so as to secure its adequate and constant supply for future generation.

For this purpose, the development ministry has prepared a year-long itinerary relevant to the theme. This entailed campaign against wasteful water consumption, and raising public awareness that water is precious.

"This campaign is meaningless without public cooperation and commitment," he said.

WHAT DOES THE WORLD WATER ORGANISATION DO?

According to Dato Haji Abdul Majid, the World Water Organisation attempts to unite worldwide efforts exercised by states to upgrade water supply capacity and their water conservation management. The international community's engagement with the World Water Day is in response to the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) of 1992 held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Conference's resolution required each state to manage regional water problem. It was also decided, back then, that the World Water Day is celebrated on March 22 of each year.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam (right) consents to grant an audience to the visiting Malaysian delegation headed by the Minister at the Prime Minister's Department, the Honourable Pandikar Amin bin Haji Mulia.

HM grants audience to Malaysian delegation



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to grant an audience to a Malaysian delegation led by a minister at the Malaysian Prime Minister's Department, the Honourable Pandikar Amin bin Haji Mulia.

The audience was held at the Istana Nurul Iman on March 27 whereby His Majesty also consented to receive a message from the delegation.

The delegation included the deputy secretary-general at the Prime Minister's Department, Dato Ishak bin Ahmad, the secretary of the Istiadat (royal customs and etiquette), and the

International Conference Secretariat at the Prime Minister's Department, the Honourable Dato Haji Abdullah bin Haji Yatim.

Present at the audience session were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz and Malaysia's high commissioner to Brunei, His Excellency Salman bin Ahmad.



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri consents to grant a farewell audience to Madam Daw Kyin Sweet at the Istana Nurul Iman on March 27.



Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri consents to grant a farewell audience to the spouse of the Myanmar ambassador at the Istana Nurul Izzah on the same day.

Audiences with The Raja Isteri and The Pengiran Isteri

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajah Mariam have consented to grant separate audience sessions to Madam Daw Kyin Sweet, wife of His Excellency the Myanmar ambassador.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri consented to receive Madam Daw Kyin Sweet at the Istana Nurul Iman on March 27.

Also on the same day, Madam Daw Kyin Sweet was granted an audience with Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri at the Istana Nurul Izzah.

Brunei In Brief

Official name: Negara Brunei Darussalam

Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size: 5765 sq. km

Geographical Position: North-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia

Population: 340,800 (2002)

National Carrier: Royal Brunei Airlines

Official Language: Malay

Official Religion: Islam

Official Website: www.brunei.gov.bn

January Rainfall: 145.4 mm

The Trafficking and illegal importation of Controlled Drugs are very serious offences in Brunei Darussalam and the penalty is death.

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