



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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HM: DEVOUT EMPLOYEE IS EFFICIENT EMPLOYEE

"A devout employee is the most efficient employee because faith will guide him in carrying out his duties diligently and properly," said His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah on January 11 on the eve of the aidil adha festival.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to present the donated meat to one of the recipients on January 12 after the aidil adha thanksgiving prayer.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah urged Muslim citizens to stem problems concerning employee work quality, and society's moral degradation by upholding the Islamic faith.

According to the sovereign, the perfection of all forms of business arrangements, and work improvement are underpinned by faith. "A devout employee is the most efficient employee because faith will guide him in carrying out his duties diligently and properly," said His Majesty.

Devout employees, both in the public and private sectors, would neither waste time nor forsake their duties because such attributes are sinful and would incur the wrath of Allah, according to His Majesty. The sovereign made the announcement on January 11 on the eve of the *aidil adha*, a religious festival marking the culmination of the Haj.

The faithful, he said, is one who believes in life after death; he understands that the world we live in is actually a bridge to the hereafter. An awareness of the hereafter's requirements – good deeds borne from practise and acculturation – would brighten one's life prospects. It motivates a person to engage in good deeds and refrain from sins.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 28 February 2003. 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 Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah arrives at the Internal Security Department. ISD director, Haji Jemat bin Haji Ampal (right) welcomes the sovereign. ISD was established on August 1, 1993.

HM visits security agency

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah had consented to visit the Internal Security Department (ISD) on February 15.

The sovereign was received on arrival by the ISD's director who is also one of the permanent secretaries at the Prime Minister's Office, Haji Jemat bin Haji Ampal.

His Majesty itinerary there included visits to the department's technical and operations division. The tour ended with a closed-door briefing session.

AIR FORCE ACQUIRES NEW MISSILES

The Royal Brunei Air Force had bought the multipurpose missiles called the FZ Rocket System, built by Forges De Zeebrugge S.A. of Belgium. Brunei Darussalam had signed for the weapons' delivery on February 4.

Colonel Haji Mahmud bin Haji Saidin, commanding officer of the Royal Brunei Air Force represented the Brunei government. Managing director Danny Drion represented Forges De Zeebrugge S.A. of Belgium.

FZ Rocket System has several applications: they fit into fighter jets, helicopters, and offshore patrol vessels. They have a nine-kilometre range when used as surface-to-air missiles, and five-kilometre range for air-to-surface capacity.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah grants an audience for Yang Amat Mulia Tengku Sulaiman, the Tengku Penglima Diraja of Selangor (centre) and entourage.



HM RECEIVES ROYALTY FROM SELANGOR

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah had consented to receive the royal entourage from Selangor, Malaysia on February 10 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Yang Amat Mulia Tengku Sulaiman Shah ibni Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, the Tengku Penglima Diraja of Selangor, leader of the entourage, had presented the sovereign with a letter from His Royal Highness the Sultan of Selangor.

The Tengku Penglima Diraja was accompanied by three dignitaries, the first two are in the service of the Selangor crown: Raja Dato' Haji Abdul Hamid bin Raja Nong, the Engku Maha Kurnia Bijaya Seri Amar Diraja; Dato' Mohammad Munir bin Bani, the senior confidential secretary of the Sultan of Selangor and Dato Mohd Adzib bin Mohd Isa, member of Selangor's State Executive Council.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam grants an audience for the three newly appointed permanent secretaries. Pengiran Haji Abdul Hamid bin Pengiran Haji Mohd Yassin (centre) and Haji Jemat bin Haji Ampal (second left) are based at the Prime Minister's Office, while Pehin Colonel Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar (far left) is based at the Ministry of Defence.

HM receives newly appointed permanent secretaries

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah had consented to receive the three newly appointed permanent secretaries at the Istana Nurul Iman on February 6.

Two of the permanent secretaries are based at the Prime Minister's Office: Pengiran Haji Abdul Hamid bin Pengiran Haji Mohd Yassin and Haji Jemat bin Haji Ampal.

The third, Pehin Colonel Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar, is based at the Ministry of Defence in charge of policy and administration.

HM receives accreditation from five envoys

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah had consented to receive diplomatic credentials from five foreign envoys on February 11. The event was held at the Istana Nurul Iman.

First on the list was His Excellency Lt Sunthon Niyomyath, Thailand's non-resident ambassador to Brunei. Ambassador Niyomyath, 59, was formerly the Thai Consul General based in Vancouver, Canada.

Second on the list was His Excellency Lefa Joseph Mokotjo, Lesotho's ambassador to Brunei. Ambassador Mokotjo, 48, is also Lesotho's accredited envoy to the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Thailand.

Next was His Excellency Mamadou Toure, Guinea's ambassador to Brunei. Ambassador Toure, 59, formerly worked at the international cooperation section of the Guinea foreign ministry.

Next was His Excellency Shailendra Kumar Singh Dusowoth, the Mauritian high

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah receives the letter of accreditation from His Excellency Lt Sunthon Niyomyath, Thailand's non-resident ambassador to Brunei.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives the letter of accreditation from His Excellency Lefa Joseph Mokotjo, Lesotho's non-resident ambassador to Brunei. Ambassador Mokotjo is based in Beijing.



His Majesty receives the letter of accreditation from His Excellency Mamadou Toure, Guinea's non-resident ambassador to Brunei. Ambassador Toure is based in Kuala Lumpur.

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(diplomatic appointments)*

commissioner to Brunei. High commissioner Dusowoth, 35, is also Mauritius' accredited envoy to Malaysia since March 2001.

The fifth was His Excellency Nyamsuren Aliasuren, the Mongolian ambassador to Brunei. Ambassador Aliasuren, 59, is also Mongolia's accredited envoy to the People's Democratic Republic of Laos. His Excellency also formerly worked as director of the Mongolian Business Development Agency, and as adviser to the foreign policy and security committee of the Mongolian State Hural (parliament).



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah receives the letter of accreditation from His Excellency Shailendra Kumar Singh Dusowoth, the Mauritian non-resident high commissioner to Brunei. High commissioner Dusowoth is based in Kuala Lumpur.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receives the letter of accreditation from His Excellency Nyamsuren Aliasuren, Mongolia's non-resident ambassador to Brunei. Ambassador Aliasuren is based in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah holds an audience for His Excellency Gene Christy, the newly appointed ambassador of the United States of America.

Crown Prince meets US ambassador

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah had consented to receive the newly accredited ambassador of the United States of America on February 11 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Excellency Mr Gene Christy presented his letter of diplomatic appointment on January 20.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the immediate members of the royal family and local dignitaries (front row) at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque for the aidil adha thanksgiving prayer.

HM CELEBRATES AIDIL ADHA

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined scores of Muslims for the *aidil adha* thanksgiving prayer at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque on January 12.

After the thanksgiving prayer His Majesty and the accompanying members of the royal family received the *junjung ziarah* (revered greetings) from the congregation. The sovereign and entourage next consented to attend a ceremony called the sacrificial slaughtering of animals – the hallmark of *aidil adha*. The ceremony was held at the compound of the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque. Fourteen goats and 30 cattle were slaughtered for this event.

His Majesty had consented to be the first participant, followed by members of the royal entourage. The morning's itinerary ended with the sovereign presenting the meat to 20 recipients from the Brunei-Muara district. The remainder of the meat were donated to 3,016 people nationwide.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consents to lead the itinerary of the sacrificial slaughtering of animals ceremony.



His Royal Highness The Crown Prince is the second participant.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and members of the royal family at the Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque compound prior to the sacrificial slaughtering of animals ceremony.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee receives His Excellency Mr Wei-Wei (left), the newly accredited ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei.

Crown Prince meets Chinese ambassador

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah had consented to receive the newly accredited ambassador of the People's Republic of China at the Istana Nurul Iman on February 8.

His Excellency Mr Wei-Wei presented his letter of diplomatic appointment on January 20.

Foreign Ministers receives five new envoys

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah had consented to receive the five newly appointed ambassadors and high commissioner on February 11. The event was held at the Balai Penghadapan of Bukit Kayangan.

His Royal Highness the Minister of Foreign Affairs first received His Excellency Lt Sunthon Niyomyath, the Thai ambassador. Next was His Excellency Lefa Joseph Mokotjo, the Lesotho ambassador.

The Foreign Minister next received His Excellency Mamadou Toure, the ambassador of Guinea. The next envoy was His Excellency Shailendra Kumar Singh Dusowoth, the Mauritian high commissioner.

The fifth envoy that had been granted an audience with the Foreign Minister was His Excellency Nyamsuren Aliasuren, the Mongolian ambassador.

Audience with the Raja Isteri

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha had consented to grant separate audiences to the wives of foreign envoys and Brunei's female ambassador on February 13 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Her Majesty's itinerary began with receiving Madam Sheng Weihong, wife of His Excellency Mr Wei-Wei, the ambassador of the People's Republic of China.

Next was Madam Rebecca Christy, wife of His Excellency Mr Gene Christy, the ambassador of the United States of America.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri also received Her Excellency Datin Tan Bee Yong, Brunei's ambassador to the Nordic states (Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden).



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha grants an audience for Madam Sheng Weihong, wife of the Chinese ambassador.



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri next grants an audience for Madam Rebecca Christy, wife of the American ambassador.



Her Majesty The Raja Isteri then grants an audience for Her Excellency Datin Tan Bee Yong, the Brunei ambassador to the Nordic states.

GAS EXPORTING STATES COULD NOW COMPARE NOTES

Member-states of the Gas Exporting Countries' Forum (GECF) could now use a database that stored models of agreements and contracts for the gas industry projects as source of reference.

Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman Taib made the remark during the Third GECF Ministerial Meeting on February 4 in Doha, Qatar. "The database enables member-states to access basic models of contract that had been widely used prior to drafting contracts of their own," he said.

Algeria, Iran, the architect of the database, and the host country had briefed Brunei's Minister of Industry and Primary Resources and his counterparts from 21 states on three matters concerning gas exports. The first briefing touched on the European Union's gas marketing framework; the second on contractual and project implementation framework plus technological advancement; and the third on costs for gas consumption.

The ministers also exchanged information about development in the international energy sector and the global demand for gas.

Students, government institutions, tourists and the general public could now access information about the Museums Department through compact discs (CDs).

The museums director, Haji Matassim bin Haji Jibah, said the CDs contain details on Brunei's archaeology, culture, history, and flora and fauna. All of these elements are showcased in the Brunei Museum, the Royal Regalia Building, the National Archive, the Malay Technology Museum, and the Arts and Handicraft Centre.

As a joint project between the Museums Department and a local publishing-and-trading house, the CD production was sponsored by three Brunei-based multinational corporations.

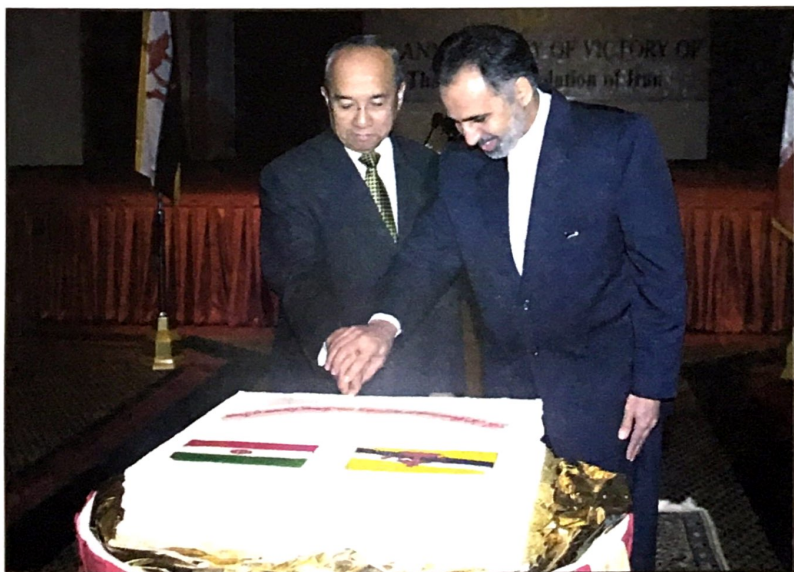
Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi was the guest of honour during the launch of the Museums Department CD on February 8. The CDs are sold for B\$15 at the five organisations under the Museums Department named above.

Museums department issues cds



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi (centre), the guest of honour, officially launches the Museums Department CDs.

MINISTER: BRUNEI-IRAN RELATIONS BRING MUTUAL BENEFITS



Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman Taib, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources (left) at the Iranian 24th national day celebration. His Excellency Abolfazi Mohammad Alikhani, the Iranian ambassador (right) celebrates the event with the obligatory cake cutting ceremony.

The Brunei-Iran bilateral trade had indicated an increase and such trend is likely to continue following the setting up of the Joint Commission and the Joint Technical Committee.

Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahman Taib made the remark on February 11 in conjunction with the Iranian 24th national day celebration held at the International Convention Centre.

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources touched on the close relations as demonstrated by the high-level exchange visits by officials and corporate figures from the two states.

Based on mutual respect and trust, the minister said that the Brunei-Iran close relations had also extended to international level covering arenas such as the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and the United Nations (UN).

In his reply speech, His Excellency ambassador Abolfazi Mohammad Alikhani of Iran touched on the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement that established the Joint Economic Commission that reflected the determination of both states to sustain brotherly relations.

INVESTMENT AGENCY HAS NEW ACTING CHAIRMAN

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah had consented to appoint Pehin Dato Haji Yahya bin Pehin Dato Haji Bakar as the acting chairman of the Brunei Investment Agency (BIA), effective February 8.

Pehin Dato Haji Yahya bin Pehin Dato Haji Bakar is one of the permanent secretaries at the Prime Minister's Office. Pehin Dato Haji Yahya now replaces the former acting chairman, Dato Haji Yakub bin Haji Bakar.



Pehin Dato Haji Yahya bin Pehin Dato Haji Bakar is now the acting chairman of the Brunei Investment Agency.



Dato Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah is now the acting chairman of the board for Royal Brunei Airlines and subsidiaries.

FLAG CARRIER HAS NEW ACTING CHAIRMAN

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah had consented to appoint Dato Haji Hazair bin Haji Abdullah as the acting chairman of the board for Royal Brunei Airlines and its subsidiaries on February 8.

Dato Haji Hazair is one of the permanent secretaries at the Prime Minister's Office.

Congratulatory messages to New Zealand

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah had consented to issue congratulatory messages on February 6 to New Zealand's Governor General and its Prime Minister in conjunction with the Waitangi Day.

In addition to wishing continuous prosperity for the people of New Zealand, the sovereign also expressed happiness to Her Excellency Dame Silvia Cartwright, the Governor General on the cordial relations between Brunei and New Zealand. His Majesty looked forward for an enhancement and upgrading of the Brunei-New Zealand relations in the future and wished the Governor General good health.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also issued similar message to Her Excellency the Honourable Helen Clark, the Prime Minister of New Zealand.

PWD aims excellence in building industry

The Public Works Department (PWD) of the Ministry of Development had geared its human resources to the needs of national development. In particular, the PWD had prepared measures to attain 'excellence in the building industry'.

This was disclosed by Dato Haji Abdul Majid bin Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahim, permanent secretary (administration and finance) of the Ministry of Development on

February 4 during the launch of the PWD Seminar 2003.

Such gathering enabled participants, comprising in-house professionals, to learn the skill of writing and presenting working papers. Through the exchange of ideas, it also fostered the growth of PWD's research and development – one of the key prerequisites underpinning progress, according to the permanent secretary. The

seminar issued 15 papers that had been produced by PWD's employees.

This year's seminar theme, 'Shaping up the PWD for 2006', had significance: PWD will celebrate its centenary in 2006. According to Dato Haji Abdul Majid, the theme reflected PWD's motivation to enhance its efficiency by upgrading the skill and professionalism of its personnel.

Dato Haji Abdul Majid bin Pehin Dato Haji Abdul Rahim, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Development (centre) during the launch of the PWD Seminar 2003 on February 4.



Congratulatory message to Iran

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah had consented to issue congratulatory message on February 11 to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran in conjunction with the republic's national day.

In addition to wishing continuous prosperity for the people of Iran, the sovereign also expressed happiness to His Excellency President Hojatole Eslam Seyyed Mohamed Khatami on the cordial relations between Brunei and Iran. His Majesty looked forward for an enhancement and upgrading of the Brunei-Iran relations in the future and wished the President good health.

Brunei establishes diplomatic relations with Zambia

The government of Brunei Darussalam had established diplomatic relations with Zambia, effective February 3.

The signing of the joint communiqué that established the diplomatic relations between the two states was held at Brunei's permanent diplomatic office to the United Nations (UN) in New York, United States of America.

Brunei was represented by His Excellency Haji Shofry bin Haji Abdul Ghafor, the country's permanent representative to the UN.

His counterpart was His Excellency Mwelwa C. Musambachime.



ROYAL GUESTS FROM GREAT BRITAIN

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (centre left), Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha (centre right), His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah (second right) and members of the royal family consent to hold an audience for Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra (third left) and spouse, the Honourable Sir Angus Ogilvy (far right) at the Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and immediate members of the royal family had consented to receive Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, the Honourable Lady Ogilvy and spouse, the Honourable Sir Angus Ogilvy on February 4 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

Her Royal Highness and the Honourable Sir Angus Ogilvy were in Brunei for a five-day visit. The royal couple's itinerary included visits to places of interest and the Princess Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Nursing College.

Princess Hajah Masna hosts dinner for visiting British royalty

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna (left) and spouse, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz (right) host a dinner for Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra (second left) and the Honourable Sir Angus Ogilvy (second right). His Excellency Andrew Caie, the British high commissioner (foreground left) and Madam Kathie Caie (foreground right) accompany the royal entourage from Great Britain.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna had consented to host dinner for the British royal couple on February 3.

The dinner was held in conjunction with the royalty's five-day visit to Brunei. Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra is a cousin of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain.

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: 60.0 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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