



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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## Brunei has its own expectation by the year 2000

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has said, as other countries in the globe, Brunei Darussalam too, has its own expectations and aspiration by the year 2000.

His Majesty said, we would like to see Brunei Darussalam continuously enjoy peace, prosperity and

stability, continue to develop together with other nations, and to have knowledgeable, skilled, highly-educated people with excellence in all fields.

In a New Year's titah (royal address) broadcast nationwide over radio and television on 1 January 2000, His Majesty pointed that these certainly require an extensive prepara-

*\* Continued on page 5*

## Seek excellence in all fields - titah



*His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen exchanging Hari Raya greetings with state dignitaries.*

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has said, Islam through fasting, truly guides and educates

Muslims to continue to be pious as a condition of achieving success and excellence.

His Majesty said, these excellence should include excellence in faith, knowledge and noble morals, because

if these excellence are available in every individual, then the Muslim ummah would certainly lead a harmonious, peaceful and united life.

*\* Continued on page 5*



## **BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER**

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### **Editorial Staff**

Chief Editor  
**Mahari Haji Ismail**

Editors  
**Aisah Haji Piee**  
**Hajjah Zaijanit Haji Noorkhan**  
**Ak Jefferi Pg Duraman**

Layout/Design  
**Editorial Staff**

Photographs  
**Photography Unit of  
The Department of Information**

### **YOUR TURN**

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 31 January 2000. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

# **Brunei ruler meets His Majesty King Al-Malek Fahd**

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has recently made a goodwill call to His Majesty King Al-Malek Fahd ibn 'Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques at As Safa Palace in Mecca.

During the call on 3 January, Their Majesties exchanged views on bilateral and regional issues, and co-operative efforts to strengthen relations between both countries.

The Brunei ruler also expressed happiness for the close and cordial relations, that had developed between the two countries and expressed gratitude for the generous facilities and hospitality continuously accorded by the Government of Saudi Arabia, not only to His Majesty and members of the royal families, but also to all Brunei Darussalam's pilgrims performing umrah and haj in Mecca over these years.

Present on the Saudi Arabia's side were His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud, the Second Deputy Prime Minister, Defence and Aviation Minister of Saudi Arabia, and His Royal Highness Prince Salmon ibn 'Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, Governor of Riyadh and other members of the royal family.

With His Majesty were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Mateen and other members of the royal

family.

His Majesty also consented to attend a 'Bersahur' (meal taken between midnight and dawn during the fasting month of Ramadan) ceremony hosted by His Royal Highness Prince Saud ibn Abdul Mohsen ibn 'Abdul 'Aziz Al-Saud, the Governor of Hail at his residence.

Meanwhile, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam attended a dinner given by Her Majesty Princess Jawhara Al-Ibrahim, wife of His Majesty King Al-Malek Fahd at As-Safa Palace on 1 January.

His Majesty's daughters, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Muta-Wakillah Hayatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Hafizah Sururul Bolqiah, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bulkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah also attended the dinner.

Brunei Darussalam and Saudi Arabia established diplomatic relations in 1984 and culminated with the state visit by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to Saudi Arabia in January last year.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family were in Mecca to perform the 'umrah' (visit a holy place as part of a pilgrimage).



# 24-hour operation on 28 February

The Y2K National Operation Centre will begin its 24-hour operation on 28 February to monitor the Y2K problems. 28 February 2000 is expected to be the critical date relating to the leap year problem.

The Minister of Communications, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Zakaria, who is also the Chairman of the Y2K Coordinating Body announced the plan at the press conference held at the Y2K National Operation Centre in the Ministry of Communications on 3 January.

The Operation Centre began its 24-hour operation since 31 December 1999, beginning 8.00 pm to monitor any possibility of Y2K problems in the country, for which Brunei Darussalam is reported free from the problems.

The Minister said, with regard to the country's success in entering the new millennium without problems, the centre has reduced its 24-hour monitoring to 12.00 mid-night on 2 January.

He said, the success was timely with the country's confidence to be fully ready to go through various determined efforts and with close cooperation with concerned parties.

"The knowledge and experience we acquire to this end in handling Y2K problems is beneficial and need to be utilised to face any future challenges," he said.

The advancement of systems and facilities, and the provision of contingency plan, which has cost a big amount of allocation should be continuously utilised to upgrade the quality of service of respective agencies and organisations, said the Minister, while adding that, the advancement is a positive effect from Y2K issues, and enables the country to be more ready and capable of achieving good opportunities in the new millennium.

He said, the success also reflects that the Sultanate is confident and is always ready to face any form of challenges.

Yang Berhormat further pointed

that to this end, the Operation Centre had not encountered an incident or situation related to the problem of the year 2000. All critical services involving the public went on as normal.

In a statement issued at 3.45 am on 1 January, the Minister informed that the Operation Centre received a report, which confirmed that no problems occurred to critical services for the public.

All government services including electrical generating power in all districts, water supply and civil aviation such as Brunei International Airport and Royal Brunei Airlines functioned normally. Telephone services in all districts were free from the Y2K bug, except the problem on busy line due

to the high demand during the New Year's Eve. Hospital service also functioned as usual, and it recorded the birth of four newly born babies as we entered the new millennium.

Yang Berhormat also spoke on all government financial services, such as the Employee Trust Fund and commercial banks, which were free from Y2K bug.

Meanwhile, the Brunei Shell Company reported that all activities on oil and gas industry functioned as usual. Likewise, the port services, land transportation, sewage system, Radio and Television Brunei, Fire Services, Royal Brunei Armed Forces and Royal Brunei Police Force.



The Communications Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Zakaria with officials from service agencies monitoring the Y2K bug at the Y2K National Operation Centre, picture above and below.





# Brunei-Japan relations further strengthened

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has expressed gratitude on the cordial relations and close understanding which has long established between Brunei Darussalam and Japan.

His Majesty hoped that such relations and understanding would be further enhanced and upgraded in the future for the benefit of both countries and their people.

The Brunei ruler expressed the gratitude in his congratulatory message to His Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan and His Excellency Keizo Obuchi, the Prime Minister of Japan, in conjunction with His Majesty's birthday anniversary on 23 December.

His Majesty also hoped that His Majesty Emperor Akihito

would always be in good health and that the people of Japan would always enjoy continuing peace and prosperity.

In a similar message to His Excellency Keizo Obuchi, His Majesty also congratulated the government and people of Japan and hoped that His Excellency would always enjoy peace and prosperity.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also sent a congratulatory message to His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, the Amir of Bahrain on the occasion of the country's National Day on 16 December.

In the message, His Majesty expressed happiness for the warm and close understanding, which has long established between Brunei Darussalam and Bahrain, and hoped that such relations would be further enhanced and upgraded in the future for the interest of both countries and

their people.

His Majesty prayed that His Majesty Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa would always be in good health and the people of Bahrain would always enjoy continuing peace and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, also sent a congratulatory message to his counterpart, His Royal Highness Sheikh Mohamad bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa in conjunction with the National Day of Bahrain.

His Royal Highness congratulated His Royal Highness Sheikh Mohamad bin Mubarak Al-Khalifa, the Government and people of Bahrain, and hoped that the existing friendly relations between Brunei Darussalam and Bahrain would continue and be upgraded.

## Civil Service urged to be more proactive and responsive

**P**ublic Service was urged to be more proactive and responsive in their action, especially in dealing with changes in the ways of thinking and attitude, as we face the new millennium. They should act as facilitators, a developer, and one who is capable of bringing about changes, as well as a thinker to the government.

The Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Md Zain made the call at the launching of Training and Exposure of

'Tasked 2000 in the New Millennium' and presentation of certificate to participants undergoing a course at the Institute of Public Service in Rimba on 6 January.

Public Service needs to give an excellent contribution based on noble values and positive work ethics, guided by the teachings of Allah, God the Almighty, in order to get His blessings, he said, adding that these are the administration's basis to instill confidence, people's unity and national resilience.

The Minister also called on officials and staff to be aware that

public service is a motivating engine to the country's administration, particularly in ensuring that the country's development and people's prosperity are achieved, and peace, laws enforcement and the provision of services are maintained.

He also spoke on the six categories of performance appraisal specified by the government in ensuring the level of public service's performance in the country.

The ceremony was proceeded with video show on the information technology in the new millennium.



*\* From page one  
(Seek excellence in all fields)*

These are among the secrets of fasting in the month of Ramadan and Hari Raya Aidilfitri, the day of victory for Muslims who performed the fasting, said His Majesty.

His Majesty was speaking in a titah (royal address) broadcast nationwide over radio and television on the eve of 'Hari Raya Aidilfitri' ('Eid Mubarak) on 7 January, which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan 1420 of the Muslim calendar.

Ramadan leaves many benefits in the souls of Muslims as the month is rich with education, capable of shaping their mental and physical, said His Majesty.

"In the obligation of fasting, we are not only trained to restrain ourselves from committing acts which are forbidden, but are also encouraged to always seek excellence in all fields and things we do," said the monarch.

His Majesty said, the fasting month had seen major successes among Muslims. Other than the success in 'Jihad Fisabilillah', Allah The Almighty bestows very special rewards for all good deeds we do during Ramadan, which are not available in other months. This includes reward for observing the night of 'Lailatul Qadar', the best compared to one thousand months.

While in Syawal, the month after Ramadan, Muslims are advised to perform the six-day fasting, whose benefits are equivalent to fasting the whole year.

The Hari Raya Aidilfitri began with a mass prayer held at all mosques in the Sultanate. His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family joined his subjects to perform a mass prayer held at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanal Bolkiah Mosque in Kiulap.

The Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Md Zain, his deputy, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia

Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya, and other mosque officials greeted His Majesty and members of the royal family on arrival at the mosque.

Shortly after the prayer, His Majesty, Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam consented to receive Hari Raya greetings from nearly 200 people, comprised of the Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, senior government officials and foreign diplomats, residing in the country and their spouses. The ceremony took place at Baitul Rahmah of Istana Nurul Iman on 8 January.

Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and members of the royal family.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah, His Majesty's sisters, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Nor'ain also attended the ceremony.

His Majesty, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri also consented to receive Hari Raya greetings from thousands of Bruneians and foreign visitors when Istana Nurul Iman was opened to the public for three days, beginning on the second day of Hari Raya.

His Majesty led male members of the royal family to receive greetings from male visitors. With His Majesty were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince

*\* From page one  
(New Year 2000)*

ration through concerted and continuing efforts from all parties, and in need of a strong economy.

Towards this, His Majesty's Government has formed the country's Economic Council chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs. His Majesty's Government has also agreed with the proposals forwarded by the Council and considered to its findings on issues such as the decline of the country's economy and revenue, the increased unemployment and the increasing number of local entrepreneurs facing difficulties.

The monarch said, the Council also underlined several plans of action, and had identified long and short-term measures to help the country's growth and development. The short-term measure includes the allocation of B\$200 million to generate economic recovery, which would help local entrepreneurs through small and medium project.

His Majesty hoped that these measures could lessen the burden of local entrepreneurs, and thus would enable to help in the economic recovery.

Besides efforts towards economic recovery, His Majesty also stressed the need to give priority to maintaining a policy of having good relations with other countries, particularly in strengthening a long established relations with neighbouring countries, such as ASEAN, APEC, Commonwealth and the United Nations, as well as other regional and international organisations.

The need of such policy is even stronger when countries in the globe are increasingly interdependent with each other, said His Majesty.

His Majesty also spoke on the increasing competition in the international trade, where trade has become borderless due to the globalisation process.

This process, according to His Majesty, was brought about by the development of information technology, computer and communications, where

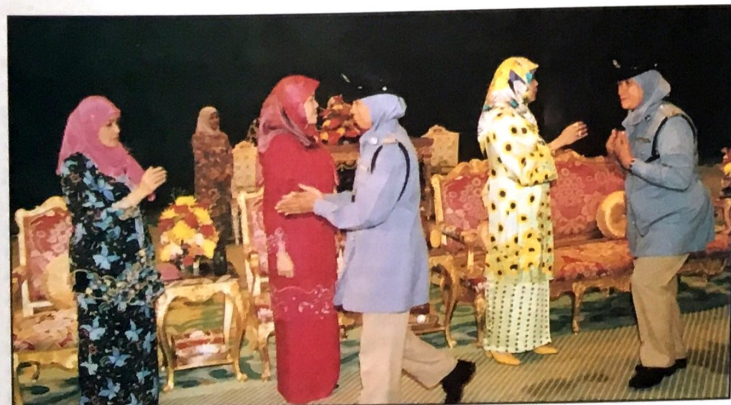
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*\* Continued on page 12*





Pg 6. His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah in conversation with state dignitaries and foreign diplomats at Istana Nurul Iman (left). Picture centre left shows His Majesty and members of the royal family receive greetings from personnel from the Custom and Excise Department.

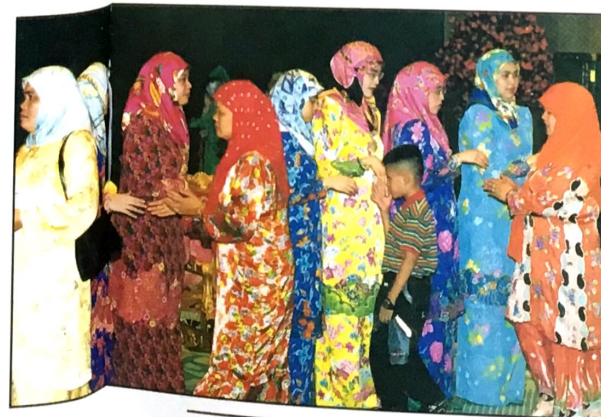


Picture left, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Nor'ain receive greetings from members of Women Police Force.

# HARI RAYA CELEBRATION



Foreign citizens and tourists also took the opportunity to convey Hari Raya greetings to His Majesty and members of the royal family, above, while His Majesty's daughters receive greetings from female visitors, below.



Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam receiving Hari Raya greetings from female visitors, above and below.







*His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined his subjects at the Hari Raya 'Aidilfitri mass prayer at the Jame' Asr' Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque. With His Majesty were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.*

*\* From page 5  
(Seek excellence in all fields)*

Haji 'Abdul 'Azim, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Meanwhile, at the other corner of Istana Nurul Iman, Her Majesty The Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri led the female members of the royal family

to receive female visitors.

Present at the ceremony were Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Muta-Wakillah Hayatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Hafizah Sururul Bolqiah, Her Royal

Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bulkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Nor'ain.

57,090 citizens and people of the country, including members of the public organisations and foreign visitors conveyed their greetings to His Majesty and members of the royal family, when Istana Nurul Iman held a three-day open house.

*Thousands more visitors awaiting for their turn outside Istana Nurul Iman to convey Hari Raya greetings to the Brunei monarch and members of the royal family when the palace was opened for the public.*







*His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bulkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah consented to receive greetings from their special guests comprised of orphans and members of KACA and PAPDA at Istana Nurul Izzah, left, while picture below shows orphans, the disabled and the handicapped children with their families at the gathering.*

## 1998 less fortunate members of the society being entertained



**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam had consented to entertain 1998 less fortunate members of the society in the country, at the Hari Raya gathering held at Istana Nurul Izzah in Jerudong on 14 January.

The occasion for the less fortunate members of the society, comprised of orphans and members of the Associa-

tion of the Handicapped and Paraplegic (PAPDA) and Association of the Handicapped Children (KACA), enabled these people to feel part of the society, and gave them the opportunity to convey Hari Raya greetings to His Majesty, Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri and members of the royal family.

Also present were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bulkiah and Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah.

The ceremony began with the read-

ing of prayer by Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Khatib Haji Awang Hamidon. His Majesty and Her Royal Highness later consented to receive greetings from their special guests.

Her Royal Highness The Pengiran Isteri is the Patron of PAPDA and KACA. These associations were formed to improve and upgrade their members' standard of life and welfare. Their formation was also aimed to instill public's awareness on the problems and issues faced by the less fortunate and disabled members of the society.



# Religious activities during Ramadan

Ramadan, the ninth month in the Muslim calendar is a season of pious consciousness for Muslims throughout the world. Throughout Ramadan, Muslims all over the world perform the dawn to dusk fast, Islam's third tenet or pillar, whereby Muslims are refrain from eating and drinking, as well as other pleasures and wrongdoings, in order to seek blessings and forgiveness from Allah, God the Almighty.

Muslims in Brunei Darussalam observe Ramadan by performing various religious activities. Muslims will gain more reward from Allah, God the Almighty, for every good works and acts of kindness and piety they do in the fasting month of Ramadan than in the usual months. As Ramadan is the month of cultivation for the hereafter, everyone tries extra hard to get the specialty that Ramadan offers.

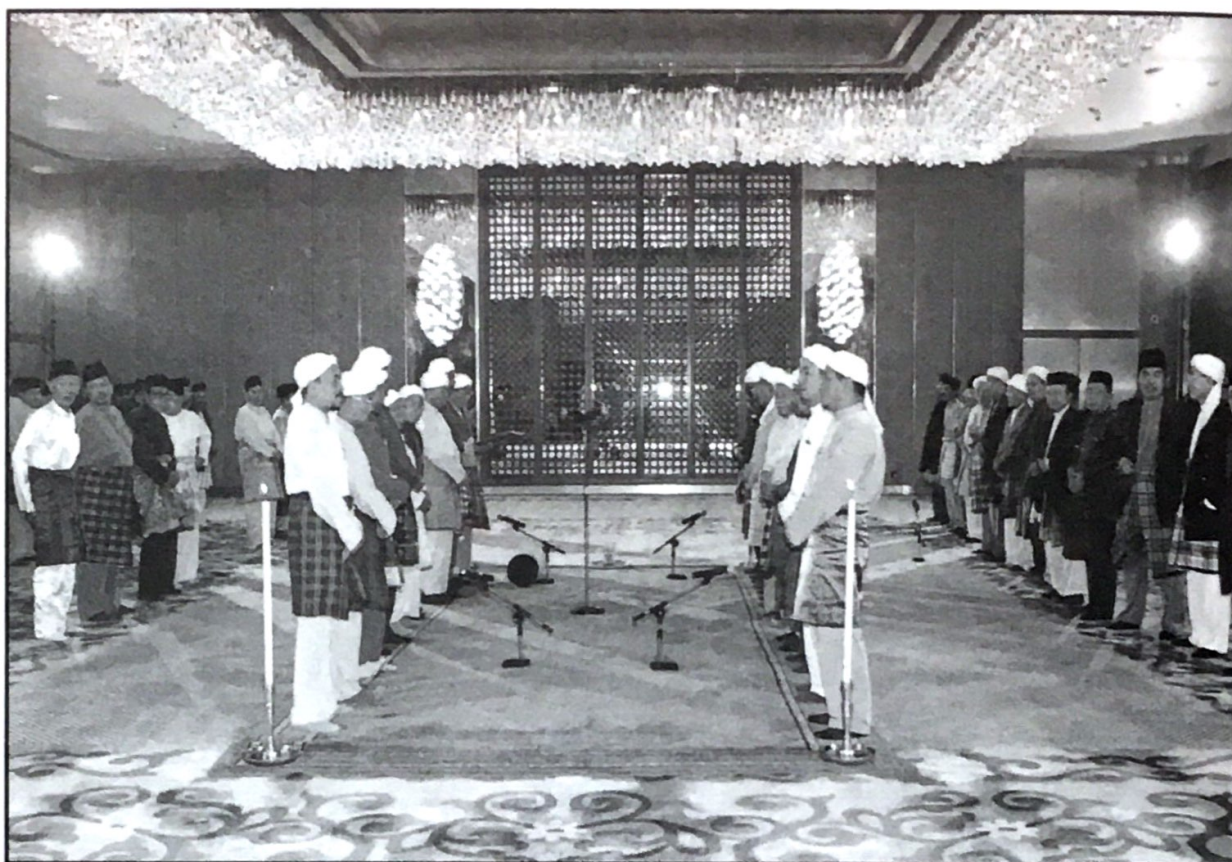
After breaking the fast at dusk, Muslims, men and women, perform the congregational 'Terawih' prayer at mosques and individual homes, which was followed by the recital of verses of the holy Quran, called the 'Tedarus' until late at night or late in the morning throughout Ramadan. For, Ramadan is the month, in which the revelation of the Holy Quran occurred and the most specialty it has is the night of 'Lailatulqadar'.

It is also during Ramadan that Muslims in the country frequently pay homage to their ancestors and loved ones, who have departed from this life. Activities carried out including tiding up of their gravesites and making some renovations if necessary, after which a 'tahlil' or prayer is read.

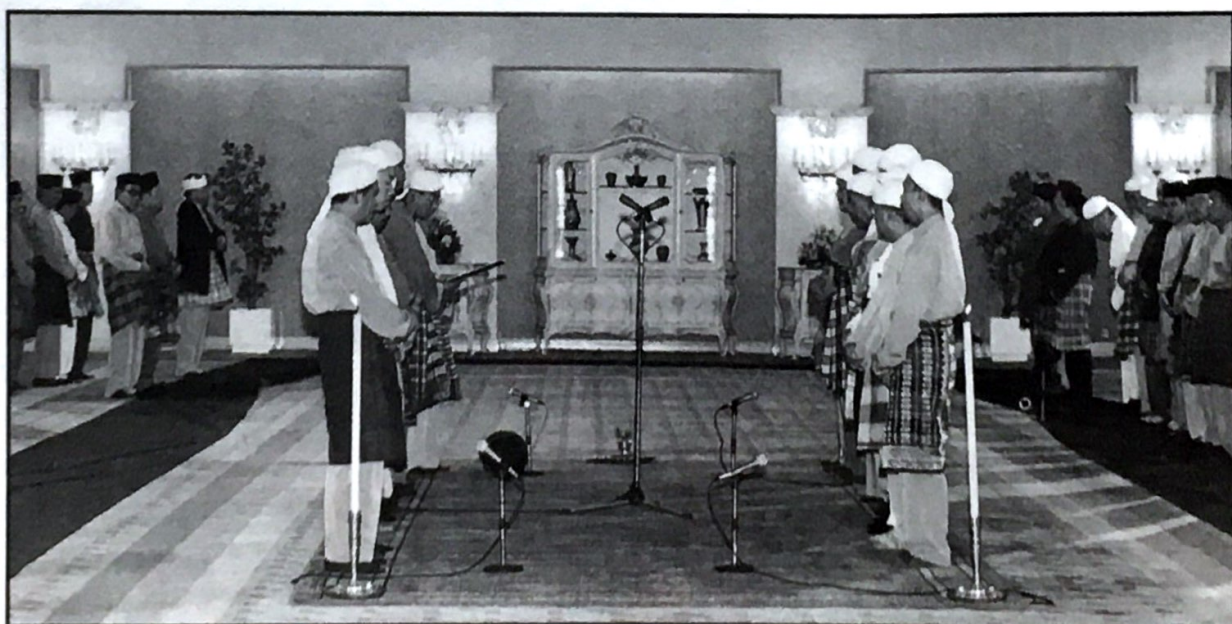
In Brunei Darussalam, a 'Tahlil' ceremony was also carried out at the Royal Mausoleum at Jalan Kubah Makam Diraja, for His Majesty's late parents, Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien and Al-Marhumah Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit.

Before Ramadan ends, Muslims throughout the world are obliged to perform the fourth tenet, 'Zakat and Fitrah' (tithe), whereby every Muslim, as commanded by Islam, needs to pay.

As Hari Raya Aidilfitri (the Eid



The 'Khatam Al-Quran' marks the end of the 'Bertedarus' (recital verses of the Holy Quran) ceremony, conducted every night during the fasting month of Ramadan at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah, above and below. Muslims also perform the congregational 'Terawih' prayer at all mosques in the country just after breaking the fast at dusk, bottom of page.

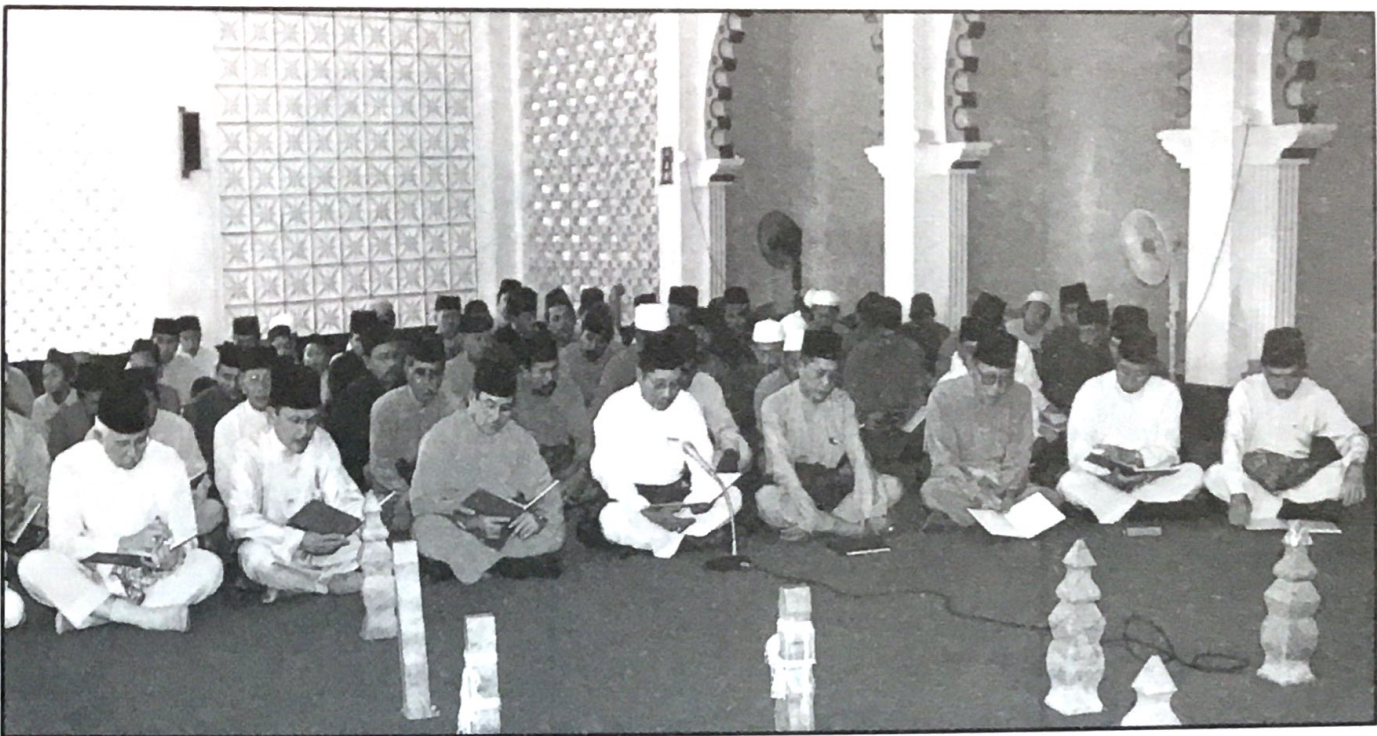


Mubarak), which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan comes closer, Muslims from welfare bodies and associations in the country organised a ceremony for orphans and the

less fortunate members of the society. They usually received donations in the form of cash money and hampers, in the hope that they too will feel part of the society and enjoy the festivities.



Ramadan is also observed by conducting the 'Bertahlil' (prayer and recital of Koranic verses) ceremonies in remembrance of those who have departed from this life. Picture right shows a 'Bertahlil' ceremony being held at the Royal Mausoleum in remembrance of His Majesty's late parents.



Orphans of the former Police personnel receiving donation from the Force's Sports and Welfare Body's 'Fund, right.



Officials and staff from the Prime Minister's Office held series of the 'Bertedarus' ceremony at several mosques in the Sultanate, above, and during Ramadan, Muslims hold prayer and recital of Koranic verses when they pay homage to their ancestors and loved ones who departed from this life, right.





*\* From page 5  
( New Year 2000)*

most countries and the world economy at present are influenced by electronic field known as E-Commerce, E-Economy, E-Information and others.

His Majesty said, facing this development and competition required adequate preparation in the aspect of knowledge, education and skill of manpower resources.

The monarch further stressed the importance to have well-educated and guided human resources, equipped with intelligence and skills in various development fields, as this has enabled most countries to go further and develop, even though they do not have natural resources compared to countries which depend on agricultural products alone.

The country's development strategy, therefore, should give top priority to the instillation of knowledge and education aimed at developing intelligence and skills, which could bring about the desired progress, and thus, enables the country to succeed in the international world now undergoing tremendous competition, said His Majesty.

In this relation, the private sector has its important role, besides those of the government and public sectors, His Majesty reminded.

"In many situations in other countries, the private sector plays the main role in motivating the engine of the economy and the national development efforts, while the public sector acts as facilitators, emphasizing more on of and excellence in all fields," said



*His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a titah in conjunction with the New Year 2000.*

the ruler.

His Majesty also stressed the significance of honesty, trustworthy and loyalty, because without these noble values and good morals, the desired progress achieved by the country would not sustain.

"The country's ambitions and aspiration is not only to achieve the desired progress with its knowledgeable and skilled citizens, but the citizens themselves should have high personality and noble values," His Majesty stressed.

The monarch also spoke on the importance of religious practice and moral guidance, especially when the Sultanate, as other countries in the world, is experiencing the development of information technology and Internet, which bring with them various elements, including positive and negative influences.

His Majesty said, meeting these challenges is not only the responsibility of specific authorities such as teach-

ers and educators, but also the duties of all parties, especially parents, who should play their role to create a peaceful household as well as a happy and harmonious family life.

"We certainly need Brunei Darussalam to become a developed country, with good morals and skilled citizens, capable of competing internationally," stressed His Majesty.

"We would like to have a country, which is excellent in all fields by keeping adhered to religious values and noble morals," said His Majesty.

We also needs a dynamic private sector capable of developing and with high edge of competition, and a public sector and public service based on excellence and high work ethics, added His Majesty.

"In the new millennium, we like to have peaceful and prosperous Brunei Darussalam, which is always under the protection and blessings of Allah, God the Almighty," His Majesty concluded.

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## ***Brunei in Brief***

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Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Population : 314,400 (1997)

Official Language : Malay

Official Religion : Islam

December rainfall : 380.3 mm

**THE TRAFFICKING IN AND THE ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF  
CONTROLLED DRUGS ARE VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES IN  
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM AND THE PENALTY  
FOR SUCH OFFENCES IS DEATH.**