



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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Monarch presents land grants

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has presented more land grants (title deeds) to occupants of Temporary Occupation Licence (TOL) land, land grants under the Expo 99 Housing Scheme and housing lots under the National Housing Programme at Kampong Pandan in the Belait district. The presentation ceremony took place at the Sultan Bolkiah Vocational School in Seria on 9 March.

One hundred and seven people who have been living on TOL land received grants for the land, 18 received grants under the Expo 99 Housing Scheme, while 26 government officials and 90 officials and employees of the Brunei Shell Petroleum Company and 10 other members of the public received land grants under the Kampong Pandan National Housing Programme.

After presenting the land grants and housing lots, His Majesty toured the Sultan Bolkiah Vocational School.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting land grant to one of the recipients.

The school opened its door on 2 April 1996, conducting a course in NTC3 in Welding and Fabrication for 16 students. At present, the school offers various courses leading to Pre-National Diploma to Form Five and Form Three students. To date, the school has 186 students and 35 teaching staff, including 14 foreign teachers.

Before leaving the school, His Majesty planted a 'royal palm' tree to commemorate the visit.

The Brunei ruler also visited and declared open the Malay Business and Entrepreneurship Corporation Limited building at Jalan Kemantin in Seria. The B\$1.8 million building began construction on 13 March and was completed on 25 September last year. The build-

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 15 April 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.

Three more foreign envoys present credentials



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving the credential of the new Ambassador of Cuba, Her Excellency Teresita de Jesus Fernandez Diaz.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to receive credentials of three non-resident foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam. The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman on 14 March.

His Majesty first received the

credential of the Ambassador of Cuba to Brunei Darussalam, Her Excellency Teresita De Jesus Fernandez Diaz, who is based in Kuala Lumpur. Her Excellency, 63, is a graduate in Political Science from the University of Havana and is concurrently Cuba's Ambassador to Malaysia since 1997.

His Majesty then received the

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His Majesty accepting the credential of the Ambassador of Belgium to the Sultanate, His Excellency Eric Duchene.



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving the credential of the new non-resident Ambassador of Nicaragua to the Sultanate, His Excellency Harry Bodan Shields. His Excellency is based in Tokyo.

** From page 2
(audience)*

credential of the Ambassador of Belgium, His Excellency Eric Duchene. His Excellency, aged 58, is a graduate in Doctor in Laws and began his career in foreign service in October 1969. His Excellency is based in Kuala Lumpur and is also presently his country's ambassador to Malaysia since 1994.

Also presenting his credential to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was the

ambassador of Nicaragua, His Excellency Harry Bodan Shields. His Excellency, 48, is a Law Doctorate graduate from the University of Comutense Madrid, Spain. His Excellency based in Tokyo is also Nicaragua's Ambassador to Japan.

His Majesty later consented to grant separate audiences to the foreign envoys.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, received the three foreign diplomats at the Balai

Penghadapan Bukit Kayangan when they made courtesy calls on him later the same day.

During the call, His Royal Highness and each of the envoys discussed bilateral matters. Brunei Darussalam established diplomatic relations with Cuba in 1997 and with Nicaragua in July 1998. Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and Belgium was established in 1984, and various developments have been achieved since, including agreement on air service, science and culture.

Nurses play role in ensuring high quality medical services

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah has said, nurses play a crucial role in ensuring that the medical services in the country are of high quality and are comparable to those of the developed nations.

Close cooperation from all parties, both at the management and administrative levels, and staff of hospitals and clinics is needed in order to achieve the high quality service, said Her Royal Highness.

Delivering a speech at the Sixth Convocation of the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Nursing College at the International Convention Centre on 9 March, Her Royal Highness stressed the need for nurses to practise perseverance and to be aware of the significance of being

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Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah presenting diplomas and badges to the graduates of courses in nursing, high dependency nursing and community health nursing.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEEDS QUALITY CITIZENS – HM SULTAN



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined in a solemn prayer in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidiladha celebration at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque in Kiulap. With His Majesty were HRH Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, HRH Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, HRH Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, HRH Prince 'Abdul 'Azim and HRH Prince 'Abdul Malik.

His Majesty commences the slaughtering of sacrificed animals he made for himself and members of the royal family, below.



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanil Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has said, the country needs active, efficient and quality citizens, who are trustworthy and

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah taking his turn to slaughter the sacrificed animals.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with members of the royal family attending the animal sacrificial ceremony held at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah mosque in Kiulap, near the Brunei capital.



The Brunei ruler presenting meat of the slaughtered animals to needy citizens in the country.

* From page 4
(Hari Raya Korban)

are always ready to sacrifice for the benefit of religion, people and country.

Speaking in a titah (royal address) which was broadcast nationwide over radio and television on the eve of 'Idil Adha celebration, also known as Hari Raya Korban (Great Day of the Sacrifice) on 16 March at Istana Nurul Iman, His Majesty expressed confidence that the country's future would be brighter if these qualities become the culture and foundation.

His Majesty pointed out that the country would, God willing, be stronger and prosperous if the sacrifice we have made meets the requirements of piety as underlined by syara' (laws based on the Islamic teachings).

The Brunei ruler said, the evidence

could be seen from the pious act of sacrificing, which include several conditions, such as animal being sacrificed should be free from any disgrace or disfigurement, and if this is fulfilled, then the sacrifice will be accepted by Allah The Almighty and one will be highly rewarded.

"So likewise sacrifices in general, should meet the conditions loved by Allah the Almighty, such as good intention, trustworthiness and sincerity. If these conditions are met, then the sacrifice we made will be fruitful," said His Majesty.

His Majesty further stressed that a strong nation is one which is supported by united citizens, and unity is the best antidote for any situation and problem.

This is why the Islamic teachings

strongly emphasise that unity should be given top priority and not to be ignored, and to avoid differences as this can be destructive, said the monarch.

The ruler earlier expressed happiness that Muslims in the country always gather together to make sacrifices during 'Idil Adha, making the Great Day of the Sacrifice as a means to enhance relationship and instill love among Muslims, a factor needed to create unity.

His Majesty further said that the number of those making sacrifices has been increasing, both among individuals and agencies, and this reflects that the economy of Muslims is getting brighter.

The increase also means that

* Continue on back page



Left: Grateful citizens in Kampong Pandan taking the opportunity to meet the Brunei ruler as he was about to stop by at the house of a successful applicant in the housing programme.



His Majesty witnessed the conversion to the Islamic faith of the Malay Business and Entrepreneurship Corporation Limited's hotel manager, Ms Violet June Nissanka De Rozario, above left, and in a group picture with the family of one of the recipients of housing lots, above.

His Majesty touring the practical training area for the Safety Skill course of Mengamas Company, where he was briefed by its Director, Dy Khadijah C. A. Mohamed, right, and declaring open the Malay Business and Entrepreneurship Corporation Limited building in Jalan Kemantin in Seria, picture below.



* From page one
(HM presents land grants)

ing includes a hotel, shophouses, restaurant, a multi-purpose hall, office and free car park. Its opening has created employment opportunity to locals.

While in Seria, His Majesty visited the Seria Mosque, built in 1953. The mosque given by the British Malayan Petroleum Company Limited was officially opened by the late Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin,



the 28th ruler of Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty later continued his visit to the Expo 99 Housing Scheme in Jalan Kuala Balai and taken by authorized private developers approved by the government. The housing scheme is undertaken for four types of houses whose prices range from \$67,000 to \$198,000.

His Majesty later officially opened the Megamas Company Training Centre in Jalan Kuala Balai. The Centre, built in 1989, is the first training centre conducting the Integration Security



His Majesty visiting the computer section of the Sultan Bolkiah Vocational School, above and being briefed on facilities by students undergoing the motor vehicles course at the school, below.



Training Concept (ISTC). Fifty per cent of the share is owned by a Bruneian, while the other half by Matracon Holding B. V. of the Netherlands as a joint venture.

The Centre is aimed at providing high quality and effective security training through sophisticated and up-to-date technology for the oil and gas industry.

With an area of 295 square hectares, the Kampong Pandan National Housing Programme consists of 1,458 lots and has a population of about 11,000 people.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of Brunei Darussalam's National Olympic Council said, the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games, as a medium of fostering friendship and binding ASEAN people, has successfully improved the unity and solidarity of ASEAN.

Delivering his working paper entitled 'The Expectations of the National Olympic Council for the New Millennium' at a seminar and meeting of the SEA Games Federation held in Kuala Lumpur from 9 March, His Royal Highness said that sporting standards in Asia, however, are behind compared to those of the other continents and the developed nations.

His Royal Highness pointed out that the reasons for the present situation could be summarized as mainly economic and political factors, such as lack of proper planning, organised system, funds and manpower, as well as the influence of political changes.

To rectify these problems, said His Royal Highness, would be through creating efficient programmes of developments and setting up of development centres and proper organization.

During the meeting, members of the

SEA Games improves ASEAN's unity and solidarity



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah at the Brunei International Airport on departure for the meeting.

Federation among other things discussed and confirmed the number of games for the 21st SEA Games, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2001.

Also present was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang

Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Paduka Haji Awang Hussein, who is also the Deputy President of the National Olympic Council of Brunei Darussalam and the Secretary General of the Council, Dato Paduka Talib Haji Berudin.

Congratulatory messages in conjunction with Pakistan Day and National Day of Bangladesh

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to send congratulatory messages to His Excellency Muhammad Rafiq Tarar, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and General Pervez Musharraf, Chief Executive of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on the occasion of Pakistan Day on March 23.

In the message, His Majesty expressed his satisfaction with the warm and friendly relations and deep understanding that have been long established between Brunei Darussalam and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

His Majesty hoped that this would be maintained and enhanced in the future for the mutual benefits of the two countries and people.

His Majesty also expressed his

hopes that the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan would always remain in good health and happiness and the people of the country would always enjoy continuing peace and prosperity.

In a similar message, the Brunei ruler congratulated the Pakistani Military Leader, General Pervez Musharraf, the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan Day.

On March 26, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to the President of the Republic of Bangladesh, His Excellency Shahbuddin Ahmed and Bangladesh Prime Minister, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina Wajed, in conjunction with the National Day of Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Affairs' Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah also sent a congratulatory message to Abdus Sattar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, on the occasion of Pakistan Day.

His Royal Highness conveyed his best wishes for the continuing progress and well being of the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

His Royal Highness also hoped that the warm and friendly relations between the two countries would be further strengthened for the mutual benefit of both countries and their people.

On March 26, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah sent a similar message to his Bangladeshi counterpart, His Excellency Abdus Samad Azad, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bangladesh.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, Commandant of the Women Police, inspecting the guard of honour mounted by 60 personnel of Women Police Force.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, the Commandant of the Police Women of the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) has called on women police personnel to continue to equip themselves with knowledge in relevant fields and new technology in order to upgrade their professionalism.

As the country is entering the globalisation era, the career as police women will continue to be challenging, and this is increasingly obvious with the country's involvement in handling various forms of international and transnational crimes, said Her Royal Highness.

In a speech at a ceremony held in conjunction with the Silver Jubilee of the formation of Women Police of RBPF at Gadong Police headquarters on 29 February, Her Royal Highness stressed the need to give due concern to the development of the career by providing opportunities for self-advancement and to upgrade skill in all fields.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna said, the Women Police Force is not only the



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Masna, Commandant of the Women Police and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Nor'ain, the Deputy Commandant, cutting a cake in conjunction with the Silver Jubilee celebration of the formation of the Women Police Force.

main supporter towards efforts to maintain the country's peace and security, but also an integral part of the RBPF.

This is an evidence of the recognition on the role of women in the country in carrying out their responsibility to the people and the country, said Her Royal Highness.

Her Royal Highness was confident that women police could contribute to the creation of a stronger and efficient organisation in maintaining laws and peace of the country.

Her Royal Highness earlier spoke on the cooperation established between the Women Police Force and other government agencies, such as the Social Welfare Unit in handling cases involving women, young girls and children.

Such a cooperation, she said, should be extended with other organisations, such as the various women's organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

In this relation, Her Royal Highness urged the Family Violence and Children's Abuse Unit formed in the Women Police Force to upgrade its activities in relevance



HRH Princess Hajjah Masna being briefed on Rifle M5, a fire-arm used by the police, by the Chief Inspector Hussaini Hj Md. Zain.

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CHEMISTRY: INTEGRAL AND FUNDAMENTAL PART IN THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG GENERATION

The Education Minister and Acting Minister of Health said that chemistry must form an integral and fundamental part in the education of the young generation, in view of its importance to the development and well being of the Brunei nation.

Chemistry has played no small part in the development of Brunei Darussalam, and it would continue to do so in the future, he said.

Brunei Darussalam, in the last 20 years, has developed at a phenomenal rate, growing from a nation of 'kampong' folk into a country with one of the highest standards of living in the world, in less than a single generation, said the Minister.

Chemistry plays a most important role in the petroleum industry, the single main source of the country's revenue, while the rich bio-diversity of the rainforests of Brunei Darussalam requires an understanding of natural products chemistry.

Chemistry is also central to many of the environmental problems facing the country, he said, while adding that some recent examples of threats to the environment include pollution from the petroleum industry, regional haze from forest fires, acidification of surfaces waters caused by acid sulphate soils in mangrove areas and waste disposal.

"Chemical knowledge is important in understanding these environmental problems and in finding appropriate solutions," said the Minister.

Speaking at the Sixth EURASIA Conference on Chemical Sciences at the Central Lecture Theatre of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) on 28 February, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz underlined that approximately 33 per cent of Bruneians are under the age of 14, and the total population is projected to increase by about 42 per cent over the next 14 years, and in this respect, there is a growing demand for skilled teachers to educate youth, who will one day become members of the adult workforce.

"As such they will need to acquire skills that are of relevance and value to the development of Brunei Darussalam, and chemistry is one of the most

important disciplines in this respect," added the Minister.

The Minister further informed that in recognition of the important contribution of chemistry to the standard of living and welfare of the people, the Chemistry Department of UBD has been expanding, upgrading and modernizing its courses and facilities in order to meet the growing demand for qualified chemistry teachers.

Yang Berhormat earlier spoke at length on the contribution of chemistry in the technological progress and development of mankind's civilisation. Human first began practising chemistry in prehistoric times with the use of fire, and the science of chemistry has evolved considerably through the ages.

Chemistry, together with other sciences, flourished in the great centres of Islamic learning such as Baghdad and Damascus and played a fundamental role in the Industrial Revolution, which was to bring about social changes on an unprecedented scale.

During the 19th century, chemistry matured into a separate science in its own right and began to be widely taught at universities and other institutions of learning, while during the latter half of the 20th century, there has been intensive exchange of scientific knowledge between two Eurasian continents, this time the flow being mainly from Europe to Asia.

Meanwhile, the UBD's Vice-Chancellor, Dato Paduka Seri Setia Professor Dr. Awang Haji Mahmud

Saedon in a welcoming remarks stressed the need for chemical expertise in the country.

Technology and industrial development are relatively new to Brunei Darussalam, and therefore, the country needs to guard itself against the dangers of uncontrolled development that could significantly harm the natural heritage and wellbeing of the people, as it has done in other parts of the developing world.

"Knowledge of chemistry and chemical technologies, methods and techniques is needed to guard the nation and the natural environment against the negative aspects of progress, and ensure sustainable development in the new millennium," said the Vice-Chancellor.

He said, the country will also require an increasing number of suitably qualified technicians to work in industrial, medical, forensic and environmental laboratories, in order to keep pace with the rapidly growing population.

At UBD, the teaching of Chemistry has grown not only to include the three major branches of Chemistry, Physical, Inorganic and Organic but also Analytical and Environmental Chemistry, said the official.

EURASIA Chemical congresses have been organised with the goal of bringing together distinguished scientist and researchers from supercontinent of Eurasia to share their knowledge and experiences in chemistry.

These conferences are also aimed to foster research and collaboration between chemists working in different countries, not only in Asia and Europe, but also throughout the world.



The Education Minister and Acting Minister of Health, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, declaring open the Sixth EURASIA Conference on Chemical Science at Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

** From page 3
(College of Nursing)*

skillful, highly disciplined and productive, as these are what employers both in the public and private sectors want to see from their employees.

They should have good etiquette, caring attitude and are helpful. These are important because nursing is an upfront profession in facing and meeting the public's interest, said Her Royal Highness.

The principal of the Pengiran Anak Puteri Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Nursing College, Dayang Suraya Noraidah said that as an institution that produces professional nursing workforce, the college will continue to develop the quality of its students through the on-going incentive schemes.

Her Royal Highness then presented diplomas and badges to the graduates of courses in high dependency nursing, community health nursing and midwifery part one and part two as well as to nursing assistants.

Of the 253 graduates, 70 were students of the 10th intake of nursing diploma course and 94 of the 11th intake. The advanced nursing course saw 21 students receiving the diplomas in high dependency care and six in community health nursing including one under the Commonwealth scholarship. Eleven students received the certificates in midwifery part one and 29 for part two.

Since 1986, the nursing college has produced 550 qualified nurses and the latest to be added to the courses is a diploma course in therapeutic nursing.

Also present at the ceremony was Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Mutawakillah Hayatul Bolkiah.

MABBIM successful in developing and strengthening the Malay language

After 28 years of formation, MABBIM has been successful in developing and strengthening grammar, spelling system and definitions in Malay.

According to Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussein, the Minister of Culture Youth and Sports, the Language Council of Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia (MABBIM) at 28 years old this year is not a small language association because it comprises of three nations of Malay speaking populace of a total of 200 million people.

"Although MABBIM has been successful, various areas need to be strengthened and hoped that MABBIM will expand their scope of work to other areas such as language research," he added.

He also said that Malay language is necessary for national unity as without the language, the Malay people will lose

their national identity. After 40 years of the enshrinement of the Malay language in the Brunei constitution, the role of language as the official language of the nation cannot be denied.

"All three nations Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia have enshrined the Malay Language in the respective constitution where it is known as the national language and sovereign language. The daily usage of Malay in everyday life is increasing," he said.

Pehin Dato Haji Awang Hussein was the chief guest at the opening ceremony of the 39th MABBIM and 5th MASTERA conferences held at the Brunei Language and Literature Bureau in Berakas on 6 March.

At the two-day MABBIM conference, Brunei presented four working papers, Indonesia three, Malaysia three and Singapore one.

The working papers were based on the theme of the conference, which was 'Hope and Challenges of Malay or Indonesian Language in the 21st Century'.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussein, the Minister of Culture Youth and Sports at the opening ceremony of the 39th MABBIM and 5th MASTERA conferences held on March 6.

** From page 9
(Women Police Force)*

to the objective of its formation.

Her Royal Highness hoped that police career would continue to attract women, especially university graduates in the country.

At the ceremony, Her Royal

Highness Princess Hajjah Masna and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Nor'ain, the Deputy Commandant, inspected guard of honour mounted by 60 women police personnel, and cut a cake marking the Silver Jubilee anniversary.

The Commandant and the Deputy

Commandant also took part in the shooting skill competition at the RBPF's shooting range in Jalan Muara, and a friendly badminton match, held at the Police Stadium in Gadong.

They also attended a dinner held in conjunction with the Silver Jubilee celebration.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanil Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaullah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being greeted by worshippers as the monarch joined his subjects to perform Hari Raya Aidiladha congregational prayer at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah at Kiulap near the Brunei capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

** From page 5
(Hari Raya Korban)*

animals to be sacrificed both imported and which are already available in the country, are also increasing.

In this respect, His Majesty reminded the need to ensure that animals to be sacrificed or sold everyday are free from diseases, because the issue of animals' disease is a major issue involving human health and safety.

"When touching on health and safety matters, it is not only limited to animals, but also involving other food sources such as fish, fruits and vegetables. All these require continuing extensive observation and checks-up and not occasionally," said His Majesty.

For fish, it is not only related to polluted water or red tide but also the

possibility of it being applied with non-halal preservatives and the like.

Similarly fruits and vegetables being excessively sprayed with insecticides, which would damage human's health and safety, said His Majesty.

Aidiladha, which falls on the tenth day of the month of Zulhijjah, the twelfth month of the Muslim calendar each year, is a solemn occasion when all Muslims remember to surrender all in the name of Allah, God the Almighty. It commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's acts of devotion and obedience when he agreed to sacrifice his son, Prophet Ismail, to fulfill Allah's wish. Allah finally commanded that a sheep be sacrificed instead.

In Brunei Darussalam, the Aidiladha began with a congregational prayer held

at mosques and suraus (prayer halls) nationwide. His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined his subjects to perform a prayer at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah Mosque in Kiulap, near Bandar Seri Begawan.

His Majesty also attended the sacrifice ceremony for himself and members of the royal family at the mosque's compound, and consented to present the meat to recipients from all districts in the country.

Also present were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size : 5765 sq. km.

Population : 314,400 (1997)

Official Language : Malay

Official Religion : Islam

February Rainfall : 303.8 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.**