



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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## Observance of Isra' Me'raj

*Imams or religious leaders greet His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on the ruler's arrival at the International Convention Centre, just outside the capital, for the Isra' Me'raj celebration.*



***Faith and  
piousness  
ensure  
security,  
resilience***

In order to uphold the safety and resilience of the Islamic community, it is not enough just to give priority to socio-political and economic matters alone. "Aqidah" and "ibadat" (faith and acts of worship) should be considered. His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has said in his latest titah, during a nationwide Isra' Me'raj celebration in the country.

To further illustrate his message, the Brunei monarch recalled that in the early days, the Islamic community were steadfast in their faith and acts of worship, so much so that they were much feared and respected by the

others.

"Actually, there are enough numbers of Muslims who could face their adversaries. Yet though large in number, there are conflicts among themselves. Similarly, they are adequately prosperous, yet some of them are extravagant and slow in coming forward to give assistance to their brothers who are suffering."

Added to this negative attitude is their aqidah which is weak and their ibadat which they do not fully appreciate, a clearly different situation from Muslims in the early period of Islam, His Majesty told guests at the International Convention Centre on 20 January.

### Political and leadership crises

"Currently, there are many calamities and crises afflicting the Islamic community. Political and leadership crises are some of these which could affect their position and reputation, and these should not have happened at a time when Muslims are in need of an effective and potent leadership."

### Monarchy in Brunei

An effective and influential leadership is such as found in the system of

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## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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### YOUR TURN

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*Top and above: Some of the State dignitaries and foreign diplomats present at the celebration in conjunction with Isra' Me'raj.*

*From page 1 (Isra' Me'raj)*

monarchy in Brunei, the ruler asserted. And this is not something which we have produced deliberately, but something inherited centuries ago as recorded in history.

The reality is that it has produced good results, the evidence being the success and security which it has brought to the people, religion and country, the monarch added.

"Let us safeguard this, at the same time, we should not allow any weakness and mistake to continue if there is any. We shall always achieve strength when we are aware of this, by means of syara' (laws based on Islamic teachings), that is by being repentant and simultaneously renew the determination to do better."

To achieve this, His Majesty underlined the importance of co-operation, consensus and mutually

advising each other, and not doing otherwise as this could only disintegrate the ummah and bring it to ruin.

### Significance of Isra' and Me'raj

Earlier in his titah, His Majesty highlighted the significance of Isra' and Me'raj (one of the important events in the Islamic calendar whereby Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, received a revelation from Allah, God and Almighty).

One of the results of this incident is that Muslims receive the best of guidance from Allah, one of which is the significance of the five-times a day prayer, an obligation to every Muslim.

If this alone is faithfully abided by the Islamic umat, the monarch pointed

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# *Joint commission established to step up cooperation*

**B**runei Darussalam and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan have agreed to the establishment of a joint-commission to be known as the Brunei Darussalam-Islamic Republic of Pakistan Joint-Commission.

This was disclosed in a joint statement issued by Brunei Darussalam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs after a meeting between senior officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries in Bandar Seri Begawan from 26 - 28 January 1993 to discuss the proposed establishment of a joint-commission.

Brunei Darussalam's delegation was led jointly by Dato Paduka Lim Jock Seng and Pengiran Anak Dato Seri Laila Jasa Haji Puteh, the Permanent Secretaries of the Foreign Affairs

Ministry, while His Excellency Khalid Saleem, Additional Secretary and Mr. Shafqat Ezdi Shah, Joint Secretary led the Pakistani delegation.

The joint statement said: "Having reviewed the close and warm relationship which exists between Brunei Darussalam and Pakistan, both delegations agreed to continue to promote closer bilateral relations."

It added: "In particular, they recognised the potential for the expansion of cooperation between the two countries in trade, investment, communications, culture, education, defence and health."

The senior officials of both ministries also emphasised the need to encourage the private sectors from both countries to participate in realising such potential.

The statement said it was considered that these represented areas of mutual interest to which the attention of a joint-commission might be directed.

For these reasons and to enhance relations between the two countries, both delegations agreed to establish a joint-commission.

The meeting agreed that the commission would be set up at the level of senior officials within the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of both countries, and that it would meet annually and alternately at each other's capital city.

During the meeting both delegations also exchanged views on other matters of mutual interest including regional and current international political and economic developments.

## *Minister urges students to choose the legal profession as careers*

**T**he Minister of Law, who is also the Attorney-General, has expressed the hope that more students will choose the legal profession as their career to fill up important appointments in the Judiciary and the Attorney General's Chambers.

At the end of 1992, the Attorney General's Chambers had been fortunate in recruiting a number of new young lawyers, but this welcome addition is still insufficient to enable the Department to carry out the tasks assigned to it fully and effectively, he noted.

The Minister of Law who is also the Attorney General, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin who spoke at the opening of the Legal Year on January 18 said, 1993 marks a new chapter in the judicial development, the beginning of which the long-standing arrangements between Brunei Darussalam and the United Kingdom that existed since 1963



*The Minister of Law, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Haji Bahrin, who is also the Attorney-General, speaking in the High Court building at the start of Brunei Darussalam's legal year on 18 January.*

*Continue on page 5*

*Indonesia's  
Military  
Chief has  
audience  
with  
HM  
The Sultan*



*Retiring Commander of the Indonesian Armed Forces, General TNI Dato Paduka Seri Try Sutrisno presents a souvenir to His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha (picture above left) and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam granted separate audiences to Datin Tuti Sutrisno when she accompanied her husband on his two-day goodwill visit to Brunei Darussalam.*

The Commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia, General TNI Dato Paduka Seri Try Sutrisno has had an audience with His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassan al-Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty granted audience to the Indonesian military chief, who is retiring this year, at Istana Nurul Iman on 30 January.

General TNI Dato Paduka Seri Try Sutrisno presented a souvenir to His Majesty during the audience, which was also attended by the Chief of Staff

of the Indonesian Air Force, Marshal TNI Siboen and Indonesian Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Azhari Boer.

Meanwhile, Datin Tuti Sutrisno, wife of the Indonesian Armed Forces Commander, had separate audiences the same day with Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha at Istana Nurul Iman and with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at Istana Nurul Izzah.

General TNI Dato Paduka Seri Try Sutrisno, 57, joined the Indonesian Armed Forces in 1958, and has been its commander since 1988.

The Chief of Staff of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Indera Setia Major-General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Sulaiman was also present during the audience with His Majesty for the Indonesian military chief.

Also present were a Permanent Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Alimin; and both Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Defence, Dato Paduka Awang Sidek (finance and development), and Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abdul Rahman (policy and administration).

*From page 3 (Legal)*

concerning judicial cooperation and assistance from Hong Kong was officially ended.

Under those arrangements, Hong Kong judges were made available to take up appointments from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as Brunei judges in the High Court and Court of Appeal. These arrangements had also enabled the country to develop an efficient and independent judiciary, said the Minister.

Although the link had officially ended, it will still be necessary for the time being to use the services of outside judges to sit in the High Court and Court of Appeal, he stated.

Yang Amat Mulia further noted that we would be able to manage this without calling for assistance from Hong Kong as the number of retired judges who have agreed to continue to serve directly in our Supreme Court will be sufficient.

#### **Crime statistics**

The Law Minister also spoke about last year's crime statistics which numbered 2,400 compared to 2,247 in 1991, the increase sexual offences and offences against persons.

In his remarks, the minister noted that 92 percent of cases involving sexual offences were solved by the police in 1992 compared to 65 percent in 1991, and 87 percent of reported cases on offences against the persons were solved. Offences against property increased by 1.8 percent from the previous year and represent the bulk of cases not solved.

The Attorney General later paid tribute to the efforts by the Royal Brunei Police Force in maintaining law and order. It is largely due to the efficient manner in which they carry out their task that we enjoy peace and stability in this country, the Minister added.

#### **Road Traffic Cases**

According to the figures compiled by the police, there were 3,605 road accidents in 1992 compared to 3,274 in

1991, of which 2,048 cases were classified as self accidents. Fatal accidents and accidents causing personal injuries however decreased, and road accidents involving personal injuries decreased by half compared to 1991, the Attorney General said.

#### **Legislation**

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has been graciously pleased to promulgate several pieces of legislation which concerned law and order in the course of 1992.

These include the introduction of a new law on kidnapping by the Emergency (Kidnapping) Order 1992 on 22 February, under which kidnapping for ransom is an offence which carries the mandatory death penalty. The Order also gives special powers of investigation to the police.

The law on intoxicating substances which is contained in the Emergency (Intoxicating Substances) Order 1991 had come into force on 1 May 1992, which makes extensive provisions on glue sniffing and related matters concerning treatment and rehabilitation.

The minister also spoke about the amendments of the Misuse of Drugs Act which came into force on 25 June, 1992. The amendments include a revision of the punishments for various offences to bring them in line with provisions found in neighbouring countries.

An important amendment deals with the legal presumption concerning trafficking. Under this new provision, a person is presumed to be trafficking in a controlled drug if he is found in possession of a prescribed amount of the drug in question. Before this amendment came into force, the equivalent provision only raised a presumption of being in possession for the purpose of trafficking which is a separate offence under section 3A of the Act.

Yang Amat Mulia further highlighted other important legislation, which includes the establishment of Tabung Amanah Pekerja which came into force on 1 January this year, by virtue of the Emergency (Tabung Amanah Pekerja) Order 1992.

This new legislation provides for retirement benefits to those civil servants who were not on the pensionable establishment on 31 December, 1992. The scheme also applies to all civil servants joining the Government for the first time from 1 January, 1993. It is the Government's intention to extend the scheme in the future to the private sector.

The minister also underlined further legislation on Islamic financial institutions. Islamic Banking was introduced under the Emergency (Islamic Banking) Order, 1992, end of last year. The first Islamic Bank to operate under this new law is the Islamic Bank of Brunei Berhad which was officially launched by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam recently. The first Islamic institution that was established by legislation in 1991 was the Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei.

The Emergency (Dissolution of Marriage) Order 1992 and the Emergency (Registration of Marriages Act) (Amendment) Order 1992, gave jurisdiction for the first time to the High Court to dissolve in certain circumstances marriages other than Muslim marriages.

There was also an important development in the law on petroleum mining, the amendments promulgated by His Majesty last year will now allow the Government to introduce the system of production sharing contracts for new petroleum mining concessions.

#### **Revised Editions of the Laws of Brunei**

Yang Amat Mulia also touched on the Revised Edition of the Laws.

He said efforts were being made to bring the Revised Edition up-to-date as regards both principal and subsidiary legislation as soon as is practicable.

He added that whilst it may sometimes be inconvenient that new legislation or amendments to existing legislation have not been re-printed for incorporation into the revised edition; the present position regarding any law is always readily available by reading the revised edition alongside the

*Continued to page 8*



From page 2 (Isra' Me'raj)

out, the world would be peaceful and free of dispute.

This would be so because one who truly adheres to the true teachings of prayer and its significance would not

use the same hands that one uses in prayer or touch the holy Koran to beat others or write something that could offend or defame others, or even use one's legs to kick someone. Nor would one use one's lips to criticise others - the very same lips that one uses to say

one's prayers.

For this reason, and for the sake of the security and resilience of the Islamic umat, aqidah and ibadat are also important, not just socio-political and economic matters alone His Majesty explained.



Above: Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha (fourth from right) and her members of the royal family in homage of the do'a selamat during Isra Me'raj celebration at Istana Nurul Iman. Ri Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam (second from right) at congregational evening prayers as part of the Isra' Me'raj ob Izzah.

Left: At the Isra' Me'raj celebration, His Majesty sitting on the dais with His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah (HM's eldest son) second from left, front row; and HM's youngest brother, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah (extreme left), and Pengiran cheteries, cabinet ministers and other dignitaries. Below: The imam of the Police Headquarters' surau (religious hall) being presented awards by His Majesty for being the most active and best kept surau during 1992.



Speaking earlier at the celebration was the Minister of Religious Affairs, who highlighted the hope that the setting up of mini libraries in mosques in the country, would encourage the reading habit among Muslims.

Yang Berhormat Pehin jawatan

Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Haji Mohd. Zain bin Haji Serudin, the Religious Affairs Minister said this trend of setting up mini libraries followed the call made by His Majesty when the monarch opened a mosque in the Tutong district, in 1991.

### Courses to upgrade knowledge of mosque officials

The minister also noted the con-

*Continued to page 8*



...s well as other  
...er Royal Highness  
...nce at Istana Nurul



*From page 5 (Legal)*

relevant issue of Part II of the Government Gazette or from the bound edition of those issues at the end of each year.

The minister said: "Of the laws omitted from the revised edition which have not been wholly or partially repealed or otherwise ceased to be of any legal effect hardly any of these are of significance to the public. However where appropriate they will be reproduced in the revised edition.

### **Legal Aid**

The Attorney General further noted that he had hoped to issue further circular on legal assistance after assessing the present pilot scheme; on what demand there has been for it and for what types of litigation the applicants sought assistance.

He said there were four applications and two enquiries last year. Because of this, it is considered unnecessary at this stage to issue a further circular as the existing circular is thought to be sufficiently flexible and wide in its scope to enable all applications to be considered.

He pointed out that since the pilot scheme began in 1983, there have been a total of six applications; five of which

were granted and one was not pursued. Of the four received in 1992, three were granted and one is still being considered. The two enquiries received last year have been dealt with.

The minister said: "It is hoped that further publicity concerning this scheme will bring it to the notice of those who may wish to seek legal aid."

Earlier in his remarks, the minister pointed out that preservation of law and order is an essential requirement of any human society which wishes to progress. Only when this condition exists, he said, can the individual begin to exercise his rights and to move about without fear in pursuit of his occupation and leisure.

He said: "The safeguard and protection of life and property are therefore important features which contribute to peace and stability in an orderly society and it is the existence of an independent judiciary enforcing the rule of law that can ensure that safeguard and protection."

### **RBPF plays vital role in maintaining stability and order in Sultanate**

In another speech by the Chief Justice, Dato Seri Paduka Sir Denys Roberts among other things praised the vital role played by the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) in maintaining

the country's stability and order.

He said it was due to their efforts that serious crime is rare and that public regard for the courts and for the force remains high.

It was important that the force is trusted and respected by the public if it is to be fully effective. This meant whatever the temptation may be to act otherwise, the members of the force must behave in a way which is beyond reasonable criticism, difficult though this may sometimes be, said the Chief Justice.

The Chief Justice noted that Brunei Darussalam is fortunate that abuses of power by members of the force are rare and, if they occur, that they are not tolerated by their senior officers.

### **Importance of Legal Aid**

Dato Seri Paduka Sir Denys Roberts also highlighted the importance of legal aid, as part of the social welfare provided by a state, enabling needy litigants to pursue legitimate claims, they could not otherwise do.

He said: "If legal aid is of a limited nature, it may be necessary to resort to a system of contingency fees, under which there is provision for a legal practitioner to recover his costs, or a proportion of the damages awarded to his client."

*From page 7 (Isra' Me'raj)*

tinuous efforts to upgrade the knowledge of mosque officials. In 1992, 20 religious school teachers were trained to become 'Imam' (leader of congregational prayers). The course was conducted over six months. Participants are now attached to mosques throughout the country to undergo practical guidance from experienced 'Imam', the minister added.

Mosque officials are also attending a four-week long revision course at the Institute of Islamic Studies (IPI).

The minister hoped such courses would help upgrade their knowledge, and meet the shortage of mosque officials.

The minister also announced that this year's highlight of the Isra' and Me'raj celebration was the "Anugerah

Masjid Ta'amir", in replacement of the "Masjid Terpilih" award.

Based on the translation from the Quran, "Ta'amir", according to the minister, means those efforts and activities which are carried out in the mosque, therefore making it truly as a place of worship which benefits worshippers as well as the neighbouring community.

The Sultan Sharif Ali mosque received the award in the 'C' category (for major mosques); while the Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar mosque won the 'B' category (for village mosques) and the award for the 'C' category (for suraus i.e. small religious and prayer halls) went to the Police Headquarters surau.

Meanwhile, Isra' Me'raj celebrations were also held at Istana Nurul Iman, attended by Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri

Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha; and at Istana Nurul Izzah, attended by Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam.

Other women members of the royal family were also present at both functions, which featured various religious presentations including special talks on the significance of Isra' Me'raj.

Ministries and Government departments as well as various bodies, organisations and associations in the country have also been holding celebrations to observe Isra' Me'raj (the ascension of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, to heaven in the twelfth year of the Prophet's mission.)

These celebrations, too, featured various religious events including religious presentations and competitions.



# Audience for retiring Malaysian Armed Forces' Commander



**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has granted an audience to the Commander of the Malaysian Armed Forces, General Tan Sri Yaakub bin Mohd. Zain, who is retiring in May this year.

The audience (picture above), took place at Istana Nurul Iman on 27 January, during the General's two-day goodwill visit to Brunei Darussalam. He was accompanied by his wife, Puan

Sri Zainon binti Mohammad Daud, who herself had separate audiences with Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha at Istana Nurul Iman (picture on left, below); and with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at Istana Nurul Izzah.

General Tan Sri Yaakub joined the Malaysian Armed Forces in September 1954 as an officer cadet, and rose to the rank of Commanding Officer of the Royal Malaysian Malay Regiment's ninth battalion in 1968. He

has also been appointed to such posts as Malaysian Military Adviser in Jakarta, and Director of Military Intelligence.

He became Commander of the Malaysian Armed Forces in April last year.

Also present at the audience during which the General presented a souvenir to His Majesty, was the Chief of Staff of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Datu Indera Setia Major-General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Sulaiman.



# Locals well able to meet challenges

The latest batch of ITB (Institut Teknologi Brunei) students who graduated recently were advised to be self-confident and work in the private sector. Locals also need to project the image that they are able and well-qualified to face whatever challenge.

In a speech at ITB's convocation ceremony, Thursday 28 January, the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources who was guest-of-honour, issued this advice to the 137 graduates who received their certificates and diplomas in Business and Finance, Computer Studies and Electrical Engineering.

In his speech, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman reiterated that the private sector is the key towards the country's efforts to diversify the economy.

"We also realise that we have inadequate number of local human

resources to meet current needs. Nonetheless I am confident that we are able to produce highly-skilled human resources as an incentive for foreign investors to set up business here. I have high hopes that the human resources skills produced by local technical and vocational institutes would be in the frontline to face development challenges in the future."

## Private sector urged to make working environment more attractive

In order to ensure the success of the Government's efforts to diversify the economy with locals making up the manpower needs, the Industry and Primary Resources Minister urged the private sector to make more positive initiatives towards this end.

The time has come for the private sector to make further improvements and increase their scheme of service in order to ensure the welfare of workers, in view of the fact that the prevailing working condition in this sector has not fully convinced locals to participate in it.

The Minister also hoped that the newly-introduced TAP (Tabung Amanah Pekerja or the Worker's Trust Fund) Scheme which would be extended to the private sector in the

future, would meet the welfare needs of workers in this sector and enhance workers' mobility.

Yang Berhormat later expressed his appreciation that some firms in the private sector have already participated in giving support to technical and vocational institutes through various programmes such as the offering of scholarship and attachments. He hoped similar efforts would continue and more firms would participate.

## Ministry will provide link between jobseekers and employers

While there have been career exhibitions organised by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and other government agencies, as a follow-up step in providing information about available job opportunities in the private sector, the Ministry is now working towards providing a "mechanism" to serve as a link between jobseekers and employers in that sector, the Minister said.

He also assured that his Ministry and government agencies would continue to find ways to make working environment in the private sector more conducive and that efforts would continue to provide locals with meaningful employment opportunities.

## Another Boeing 767 for RBA

The first of two Royal Brunei Airline's new airliners on latest order arrived early this month.

The new aircraft, a Boeing 767-300 Extended Range (ER) with the registration V8-RBJ, arrived at the Brunei International airport on 4 February from Santa Barbara, California.

It was acquired from Ansett Worldwide Aviation Services USA, AWAS.

Powered by Pratt and Whitney 4056 engines, the new aircraft will be initially configured for the forthcoming Haj flights in May. Thereafter it will be configured to accommodate 17 first class, 36 business and 150 economy class passengers.

The second Boeing 767-300 ER on order will join RBA sometime in May this year - bringing to five the number of B767-300 ERs in the RBA fleet. The airline has also three Boeing 757-200 ERs.



The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman presents diploma to one of the 137 graduates of the Brunei Institute of Technology.

# To digital satellite communications soon

**B**runei Darussalam goes to digital satellite communications later this year on completion of its first digital earth satellite station at Telisai in the Tutong district, about 60 kilometres from the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

When completed in November this year, the digital system will boost the country's international circuitry passing through the International Satellite Communications System, INTELSAT, to 380 circuits from the present 160 circuits.

The Director of Telecommunications, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah bin Begawan Mudim Dato Paduka Haji Abu Bakar, who made this announcement at the foundation stone laying ceremony for the digital earth satellite station (TEL-3A) on December 28, said that the new system will provide a better standard of service for the international traffic and will strengthen the concept of diversification of network in the country.

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah said that the project, under the sixth National Development Programme (NDP), marked yet another achievement by the Telecommunications Department in efforts to bring about digital telecommunications network in the country. The project will cost B\$11 million.

The foundation stone for the digital earth satellite station was laid by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communication, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Ahmad bin Pehin Orang Kaya Di-Gadong Seri Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Mohamad Yussof.

The TEL-3A is one of several projects carried out by the Department to upgrade and improve telecommunication services. He later hoped that the project will bring about a more reliable, effective and cost-effective telecommunication network, and upgrade the standard of service.

The digital technology will have, among other features, low noise level, signal and multiflexing facility, error detection and correction facility and the introduction of new services, such as Integrated Services Digital Network.

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah spoke earlier about the rapid develop-



*The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communication, Dato Paduka Haji Awang Ahmad lays the foundation stone on the site of Brunei Darussalam's digital earth satellite station at Telisai in the Tutong district, while the Director of the Telecommunications Department, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah looks on.*

ment of international communication network in Brunei Darussalam, which have changed from the wireless telegraphy to the HF and VHF transmissions, the standard earth satellite stations and the submarine cable system.

The Brunei-Singapore and the Brunei-Malaysia-Philippines Digital Optical Fibre Submarine Cable Systems have further increased the capacity of the country's international network. They have also enabled the country to diversify its international traffic.

The Telecommunications Director further highlighted the need to have a more advanced technology in order to maintain the standard of capacity of international network. This would help further upgrade the quality of service of the International Direct Dialing (IDD), he noted.

Brunei Darussalam's first earth satellite station, standard B, at Telisai began operating in 1979 through the earth satellite station, Intelsat, over the Indian Ocean, IOR.

It enabled the country to have direct links with such countries as the United Kingdom, Singapore, Hongkong and Malaysia without having to go through a third country as was the case prior to that.

A second earth satellite station, standard A, also at Telisai, went into operation in 1993 to meet the growing international traffic owing to the increasing socio-economic activities, both within the country and abroad, said the official.

With the commissioning of the standard A station, which faced the Indian Ocean, IOR, the standard B now was directed to INTELSAT over the Pacific Ocean, POR. POR gave access for direct links with such countries as Japan, the United States of America, Australia, Korea, Taiwan and The Philippines.

A Japanese firm, Nisso Iwai Corporation has been awarded the contract by the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam for the digital earth satellite station.



## *Eighth school for specialised skills*

**T**here are perhaps only a few countries that can match the care that Brunei Darussalam takes in ensuring that its school buildings and higher learning institutes are comfortable and conducive to learning, as well as pleasant to look at. The new vocational school (in this picture) is no exception. Construction of the institu-

tion began in August 1990 and was completed in November last year, and it will begin studies soon. Situated at Lambak Kanan, some 10 kilometres from the country's capital of Bandar Seri Begawan, the new institution is the eighth vocational and technical learning centre in Brunei Darussalam. It will conduct eight two-and-a-half year courses com-

prising bricklaying and concreting, carpentry, furniture and cabinet making, painting and decorating, plumbing, electrical, consumer electronics and industrial electronics. All are aimed at providing locals with specialised skills in these areas with a view to meeting the country's needs in skilled manpower.

### *Brunei in Brief*

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan  
 Land size : 5765 sq. km  
 Population : 260,000 (1991)  
 Official Language : Malay  
 Official Religion : Islam  
 January rainfall : 28.80 mm  
 (annual 2,818mm)

**PRIME LENDING RATE**  
 January 6%  
 (quoted by Bankers' Association)

### *Brunei Malay in a minute*

**E**ach month we introduce readers to a Brunei Malay word that is used only in the country.

**Tampisung** is the word selected for this edition.

**Tampisung** is sudut or penjuru in standard Malay. It is corner in English.

Let's now use the word in a sentence.

Orang tua itu sedang duduk bersendirian di **tampisung** bilik tidurnya.

The old man is sitting alone at the corner of his bedroom.

**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.**