



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

Published by the Department of Information
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

NUMBER 117

15 May 1993

HM Sultan opens industrial expo

Support locally-made products: Minister tells locals

The Minister of Industry and Primary Resources has called on locals to support locally-made products as the country shifts to the regional export market.

In his speech explaining why this was important and shortly before His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam declared the 1993 Industry Expo Open on April 28, the Minister said: "This last decade has brought uncertainties to the world economy. The Uruguay Round of Talks which has not yet been finalised, the Single European Market and NAFTA in the American continent as well as the recession faced by many countries, led to the concern that a dynamic economic growth in this region is being threatened."

The Fourth ASEAN Summit in Singapore in January 1992 called for a closer economic cooperation among members by ensuring that the ASEAN Free Trade Area becomes a reality within a specified period of time, said the Minister.

The Declaration in Singapore would have a direct impact on the country's trade and investment in the future, he said. This country will



Some ministers look on as His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam beats the 'gong' three times to declare open the 1993 Industrial Expo in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan on April 28.

shift from the local to exploring the regional export market.

What is clear from this economic scenario is (the resulting) competition, a challenge which every one in the country has to face in order to ensure that Brunei's socio-economic (development) remains meaningful, the Minister said.

The lessons to be taken from this challenge have already been underlined by His Majesty in his 45th

birthday titah in 1991, when he stressed that the country's development must go through a dynamic and open economic process.

It is for this reason that the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources has taken the initiative to organise the 1993 Industrial Expo with the theme "Kearah Kesenambungan Kepelbagaian

Continued on centre page

Brunei Darussalam Newsletter is published fortnightly by the Department of Information. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated. For free subscription (Excluding postage) write to Information Department, Jalan Stoney, Bandar Seri Begawan 2041, Brunei Darussalam.

Editorial Staff

Chief Editor:
Mahari Haji Ismail

Senior Editor:
Aishah Mohamed

Editors
Hanafiah Mohamad
Aisah Haji Piee

Asst. Editor/Layout
Zaianit Haji Noorkhan

Photographs

Pg. Bahar Pg. Haji Omar
Halim Haji Sulaiman
Pg. Haji Abu Bakar Pg. Haji
Othman
Pg. Haji Yaakub PMHH
Harun Rashid
Amat Moksini
Abdullah Haji Awang Damit
Masmaleh Haji Md. Ali
Ramli Tengah

YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 31 Mei, 1993. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-225941 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.

Pilgrims' airlift to holy land completes



His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granted audience to the more than 2,700 Brunei Muslims going on the Haj in Mecca this year. The audiences took place at Istana Nurul Iman on 1 May.

The airlift of Brunei pilgrims performing the Haj in Mecca completes this week. This year more than 2,700 Brunei Muslims are going to the holy land to fulfill Islam's fifth tenet.

Before leaving Brunei Darussalam aboard ten flights of the national carrier - Royal Brunei Airlines' Boeing 767 aircraft, the intending pilgrims were granted an audience at Istana Nurul Iman by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 1 May.

To perform the Haj - at least once in his/her life - is the obligation of every capable Muslim.

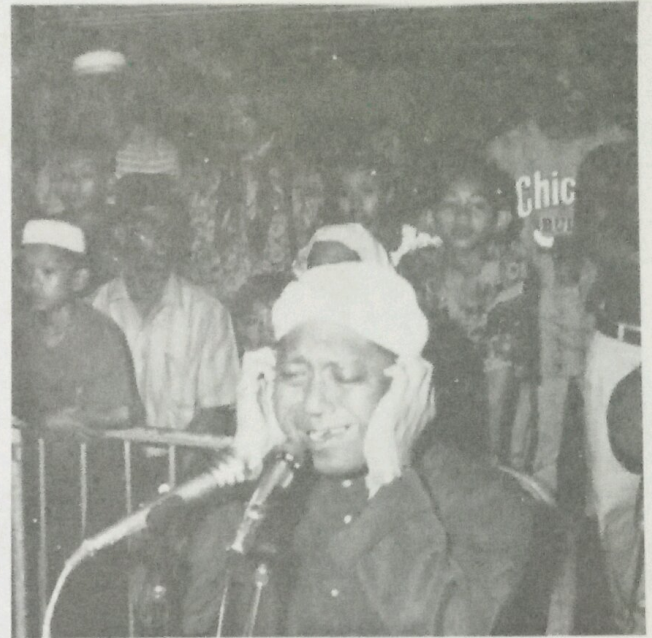
The Brunei International airport at Berakas, eight kilometres from the Brunei Darussalam capital of Bandar Seri Begawan, has been the scene of huge crowds since the first

Haj flight on 6 May, as friends and relatives converged on the airport to bid 'safe journeys' to the intending pilgrims, who would be in the holy land for about a month.

Until 1968, the pilgrimage to Mecca was a long and arduous journey by sea for Bruneian pilgrims. However, since 1969, pilgrims have been able to travel by air, therefore shortening their journeys by months.

Upon His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's direction, the pilgrims used to be flown by specially chartered foreign airliners in the early years, but in recent years the service has been taken over the national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines.

His Majesty's Government also extends free passage for civil servants after 15 years of service, and, in special cases, also to those who have contributed to the development of Islam in the country.



Above left: Crowds of relatives and friends seeing off the pilgrims. Above right: Preceding the commencement of each Haj flight, the sound of Azan (call to prayer) rings out in the air. Below left: A helping hand for an elderly, who is just one of many like her, as she makes her way to the aircraft for the nine hour flight to Jeddah. Below right: a final check for some before entering the immigration hall on departure for Saudi Arabia.



Police meeting

The Royal Brunei Police Force and those of other ASEAN member countries have held their Third Technical Working Group Meeting of the ASEANAPOL Database System. The two-day meeting was held in Bandar Seri Begawan on 12-13 April.

Opening the meeting at the Police conference hall in Gadong, was the Deputy Commissioner of the Royal Brunei Police Force, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Yaakub bin Pehin Orang Kaya Maharaja Diraja Dato Paduka Haji Awang Zainal.

In his brief welcoming speech, the Deputy Commissioner of Police among others expressed the hope that

their participation in the meeting would be "very fruitful and beneficial in the effort to establish an effective and efficient communication system in our respective police forces."

The meeting discussed matters relating to the formation of the ASEANAPOL Database including on budget, installation and types of computer to be used.

The outcome of the meeting will be discussed at the next meeting to be held in the Republic of Philippines.

The first Technical Working Group Meeting of the ASEANAPOL Database System was held in the

Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur and the second was hosted by Singapore.



Deputy Commissioner of Police, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Yaakub.

HM with Belait residents



Above: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting the key to one of the 53 new house owners at Kampong Pandan in Belait District. After viewing an exhibition on the development of the Kampong Pandan National Housing Scheme (above right), His Majesty and his brother, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah went inside one of the houses built under the scheme, and chatted informally with its owner (picture on right). His Majesty and his brother also toured several schools in Kuala Belait town where teachers, schoolchildren, government officials and residents warmly greeted them and chatted with some of the school children (pictures below and below right).



More families get houses under Government scheme

The first group of successful applicants of housing at the Kampong Pandan Housing Scheme in Belait District moved to their new houses recently.

His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 29 April presented 53 families the keys to their new houses completed under the first stage, phase one of the Kampong Pandan National Housing Scheme.

The Kampong Pandan Scheme is one of more than a dozen sites state wide identified for two major Government housing programmes, namely the National Housing Scheme and the Housing Programme for Landless Citizens.

At the same ceremony held at the Ahmad Tajuddin Primary School auditorium in Kuala Belait, the ruler also presented to 28 people the title deeds of their land at Kampong Melayu Asli, one of the oldest villages in the district.

Belait is one of four districts that make up Brunei Darussalam and it has the largest land area but only second in terms of population after the Brunei Muara district, the seat of the capital. At least four sites have been allocated for the two types of housing schemes in the district, which is also the seat of Brunei Darussalam's oil and gas industry.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was accompanied on the Belait visit by one of his brothers, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The key and land titles presentation ceremony was preceded by a mass recital of the Surah al-Fatihah, followed by a welcoming speech by the Belait District Officer, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Yaakub bin Haji Ahmad.

Speech by the Belait District Officer

In his speech, the Belait District Officer, among other things, urged the successful candidates under the National Housing Scheme for Kampong Pandan to maintain and protect the facilities provided by His Majesty's Government.

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Yaakub also called on the residents to put their sense of neighbourliness into practice. This, he said, would foster a spirit of cooperation, unity and respect among the residents.

Royal visit

After handing over the house keys and land titles, the Brunei monarch and his brother toured the activities and facilities available in Mukim Kuala Belait and met its residents.

His Majesty first took a closer look at the activities of the pupils as he toured several classrooms of the Ahmad Tajuddin Primary School. He then proceeded to visit the Kuala Belait Primary School.

His Majesty moved on to Kampong Melayu Asli and went inside one of the houses in the kampong as well as the house of the head of Kampong Pekan Belait.

Kampong Melayu Asli

Kampong Melayu Asli has an area of 10 hectares and a population of 435.

In the 1930s, the government granted permission to lease the land for a period of 25 years for a total of 41 lots of land in the kampong.

During the lease period, there were changes of ownership in accordance with common rules and procedure under the Land Enactment and several lots were allocated for government use. The lease expired in the 1960s.

Since the lease expired, the government has not decided on how to develop the area. However, those who were affected were still allowed to stay on a TOL (Temporary Occupation Licence) basis.

Due attention was also given to those who were considered suitable to stay in the area.

With reference to a memorandum from the Permanent Secretary of the Development Ministry on October 8, 1992, concerning the consent of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to let those registered as the last owners before the lease expired, a new lease for a period of 50 years was granted starting on the date of the new registration.

Twenty-four out of the 28 lots were also allowed to be used for side-business activities provided that the housing and side-business have approval; the land are not transferred to others except to Malays who are His Majesty's subjects and that the land is also subject to the agreement on Oil Mining between the Government and Brunei Shell. Each leased land is also subject to a specific land premium and a fixed annual tax.

Visit to light industrial site and the National Housing Scheme in Kampong Pandan

His Majesty continued his visit by touring a light industry site in Mumong, Kuala Belait as well as a tour of the National Housing Scheme in Kampong Pandan, where the monarch mingled freely with his subjects.

Under the National Housing Scheme in Kampong Pandan, first stage phase 1, fifteen people received class A houses; seventeen class B; eight class C; six class D while seven received class F houses with prices ranging from B\$59 thousand to B\$102 thousand.

From page 2 (expo)

Industrial Expo to highlight economic opportunities

Ekonomi Negara" (Towards Continuity in the Country's Economic Diversification).

And in line with the role of the private sector as the main catalyst for economic growth, the Minister said, the Expo aims to highlight the various opportunities of economic activities that are productive, competitive and progressive for local investors in particular, to venture into.

The Ministry on its part provides the mechanism to channel the re-



Top: His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stops to chat with members of the Indonesian delegation taking part in the ASEAN Farmers' Week as he toured the 1993 Industrial Expo. In middle picture, His Majesty and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muhda Haji Jefri Bolkiah stopping for a close look at some of the locally-produced furnitures, while the hydroponic cultivation method also caught their attention just as much, picture above.

quired information needed to facilitate the economic diversification programme. It is hoped that everyone would give his feedback and opinion as to provide a conducive infrastructure for economic development, and to further enhance a more efficient and effective administrative will.

The Expo also provides the private sector, especially local producers and manufacturers with the opportunity to introduce their products to local consumers, said the Minister.

Local support needed for locally-made goods

The Ministry realises that the country's industrial development is based upon the growth of small and

medium scale enterprises. These could only remain competitive and viable with the support of the home market. Only then could they start to expand their export market, the Minister stressed.

In view of the cold response towards locally-produced goods, the exposure provided by the Expo for local producers is important to convince consumers and give them a better understanding of local products. This is the case even though the quality of some of these products have already been recognised internationally, the Minister pointed out.

While consumers have the freedom to a choice of a variety of goods, the Minister hoped consumers in the country would support existing industries so as to ensure they could further expand. In view of the com-

petition in the business world, local manufacturers on their part should ensure that their products meet the required standard and wishes of consumers. No less important is the need to be more creative through more effective promotions (campaigns) and marketing strategies.

Need to conserve the environment

Speaking of the Rimba Horticulture Business Centre, the venue for the Expo, the Minister pointed out that the site has been deliberately chosen to reflect the importance of balancing development needs and protection of the environment. This is to avoid any negative repercussion while at the same time taking into account all the other social, economic, cultural and environmental considerations, said the Minister.

Need for private sector to be more progressive

The Minister also hoped that the Expo would encourage and motivate the private sector to be more progressive in exploring (other) economic activities in an effort to diversify the economy. Nothing is more meaningful than to see locals get involved in the socio-economic development of the country.

ASEAN Farmer's Week

For the Forestry Department, the Expo is the main highlight for one of its activities - the World Forestry Day - which was observed on 2 March 1993.

The 4th ASEAN Farmers' Week was also held at the same venue from 27 April to 2 May 1993. The week aims at encouraging interaction and exchange of information among ASEAN farmers on matters concerning agriculture and fisheries.

Preview by His Majesty

Shortly after declaring the Expo open, His Majesty and his brother,

Continued on page 8

Left: Products of modern hatchery methods also came under the ruler's scrutiny, while His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah (below left) takes a close look at a model of the proposed National Park in Temburong District while being briefed on the subject by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources. Below: Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam also made a tour of the expo.



From page 7 (expo)

His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, the Finance Minister, toured the various pavillions at the Expo where some 70 companies, both local and foreign, took part.

The pavillions included a section highlighting the services industries such as printing and advertising, transportation, ecotourism, business and technical services. Other promotional aspects focused on the duality of industrial development and environmental concerns, innovation and technology in the various industries such

as agriculture, fisheries, forestry and livestock, the use of hydroponics as well as tissue culture.

Other pavillions included an exhibition of locally-made goods and information about the various opportunities for industrial activities in the country.

The Expo ended on 3 May 1993.

There is no room for 'negative attitude' in the civil service

Staff in the civil service have been reminded to get rid of their negative attitude at work. And those at the upper management level should fully maximise their "management tools" to further improve performance, a Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, said recently.

Speaking at a Quran Reading Competition for staff in the Prime Minister's Department on April 25, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Ahmad bin Dato Paduka Matnor pointed out that the occasion should remind officials of the need to uphold Quranic teachings, in particular the importance of getting rid of any negative attitude which could affect the effectiveness of the civil service. This include arrogance and refusing to give respect to their heads and superiors, defying regulations and directions, and procrastination at work.

Those at the upper management level on the other hand should be more committed in whatever efforts made (through seminars, courses, briefings, workshops and regulations given for heads of departments, or officials) to improve the administrative system.

A lot of management tools have already been introduced to upgrade the administrative performance but whether they have been fully maximised, the Permanent Secretary said, lies in each department's head and officials.

The Permanent Secretary also stressed the significance of routine work while giving due attention to



Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Ahmad bin Dato Paduka Matnor, a Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, left, called for stamping out of negative attitude in the civil service and improved performance through maximum use of the management tools.

the use of "management tools". This means taking prompt action in relaying information and in having an orderly system in the delivery of letters.

In other words each department should have a strong but flexible management (system), the Permanent Secretary concluded.

Now to Bali

Royal Brunei Airlines has begun a twice-weekly service to Bali, Indonesia, with the inaugural flight on May 9.

The Bali link brings to 17 the number of destinations currently being served by the Brunei Darussalam national carrier - which ranks as one of the youngest airlines in the world.

Amongst the VIPs aboard the inaugural flight were the Minister of

Culture, Youth and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Hussein and the Chief of Staff of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Dato Indera Setia Major General Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Sulaiman as well as senior government and airline officials and leading business figures.

Continued on page 11



Brunei-Singapore
ties strengthened
further with visit
of republic's
Senior Minister



Top picture: In cordial conversation, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Singapore Senior Minister, His Excellency Mr Lee Kuan Yew during the latter's audience with the Brunei ruler at Istana Nurul Iman recently. Accompanying her husband on his recent visit to Bandar Seri Begawan, Mrs. Lee Kuan Yew also had audiences with Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha at Istana Nurul Iman (above left), and with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at Istana Nurul Izzah (above right).

The long-standing and strong relation between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore was further boosted on 19 April, when the republic's Senior Minister, His Excellency Mr Lee Kuan Yew began a four-day working visit to Bandar Seri Begawan, accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Lee Kuan Yew.

During the visit, His Excellency was granted an audience by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman, at which they exchanged views on bilateral and re-

gional issues.

Meanwhile, Mrs Lee Kuan Yew had separate audiences with Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam, at Istana Nurul Iman and Istana Nurul Izzah respectively.

Making his first visit since assuming the Senior Minister portfolio, His Excellency also had an audience with His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam, and His Royal Highness

Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, Finance Minister.

During the audience at the Balai Penghadapan Bukit Kayaangan, residence of the Foreign Affairs Minister, the two sides also discussed various issues.

His Excellency also met other Brunei cabinet ministers as well as members of the local business community and visited places of interest including Brunei Shell at Seria, about 100 kilometres from the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

His Excellency Mr Lee Kuan Yew last visited Brunei Darussalam in 1990, while he was still Prime Minister.

Foreign Minister grants audiences to counterparts in the OIC

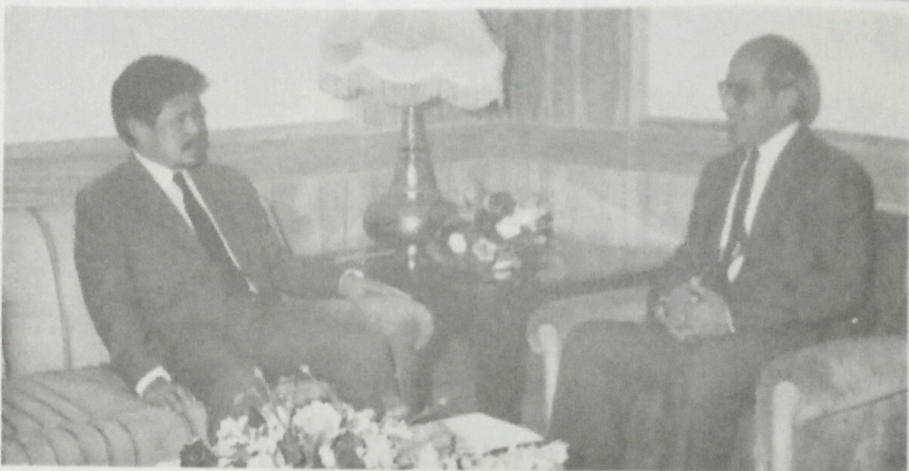
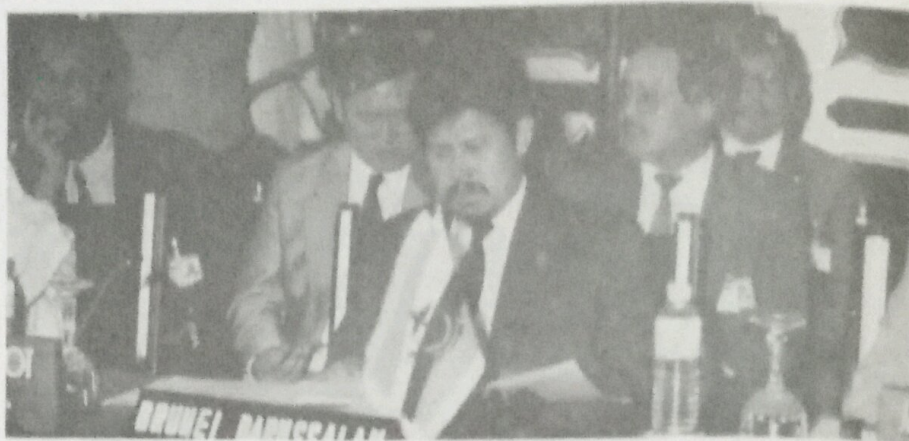
His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister, has met with his counterparts from several member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) while they were in Karachi, Pakistan, for the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

They included the Foreign Ministers of Bosnia-Herzegovina, His Excellency Mr. Haris Sildzic, Albania: His Excellency Mr. Bashkim Koplikuz, Kuwait: Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabar, Bangladesh: His Excellency Mr. Mostafisur Rahman, Saudi Arabia: His Royal Highness Prince Daud Al-Faisal, Iraq: His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Saeed Al-Sahhaf, Ugandan Deputy Foreign Minister, His Excellency Mr. Agard Didi and the Chairman of the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, His Excellency Mr. Sardar Faraq Ahmad Khan.

The latest OIC meeting of foreign ministers was held in Karachi, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for five days from 25 April.

In his address at the conference, His Royal Highness, among other things, called on the organisation to be positive in order to strengthen further the Islamic Ummahs, while highlighting some of the problems currently confronting the Islamic world including the Bosnia-Herzegovina and Palestinian issues.

In his meetings with the various foreign ministers, His Royal Highness discussed bilateral as well as international issues.



Top picture: His Royal Highness at a session of the latest Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers with members of the Brunei delegation behind him. Above: HRH giving an audience to the Chairman of the OIC's 21st Conference, His Excellency Mr. Sardar Faraq Ahmad Khan, who is also Pakistan's Finance Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs. Below: HRH with the Bosnian Foreign Minister, His Excellency Mr. Haris Sildzic, and in bottom picture, with His Excellency Mr. Agard Didi, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Uganda.





His Royal Highness Prince Haji Mohamed Bolkiah granting audiences to Albania's Foreign Minister, His Excellency Mr. Bashkim Koplikuz (picture above left), and the Foreign Minister of Iraq, His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Saeed Al-Sahhaf (above right).

Japan may increase investment and technical cooperation

Japan may increase its investment and technical cooperation with Brunei Darussalam.

This "possibility" was stated in a press release issued by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources on May 4, following a discussion between the Minister of International Trade and Industry (MITI) of Japan, Mr. Yoshiro Mori with Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Rahman.

The press release said that both ministers also exchanged views on regional and international economic issues such as the close cooperation between ASEAN and Japan and the positive developments in AFTA

(ASEAN Free Trade Area) and APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation).

Earlier, the Japanese minister was granted an audience by His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Mr. Yoshiro Mori was leading an official delegation on a one-day working visit to Bandar Seri Begawan. He was accompanied by the Vice Minister for International Affairs and other senior officials from MITI.

During his stay in the country, the Japanese minister also visited the Brunei Liquefied Natural Gas (BLNG) Plant in Lumut, and toured Kampong Ayer (water village) before leaving for Tokyo.



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Industry and Primary Resources of Brunei Darussalam

From page 8 (To Bali)

The Governor of Bali, His Excellency Professor Dr. Ida Agus Oka and Brunei's Ambassador to Indonesia, His Excellency Dato Paduka Awang Haji Yahya bin Haji Harris were on hand to greet the delegation on arrival at Ngurah Rai International Airport in Denpasar, Bali.

The twice weekly Boeing 757

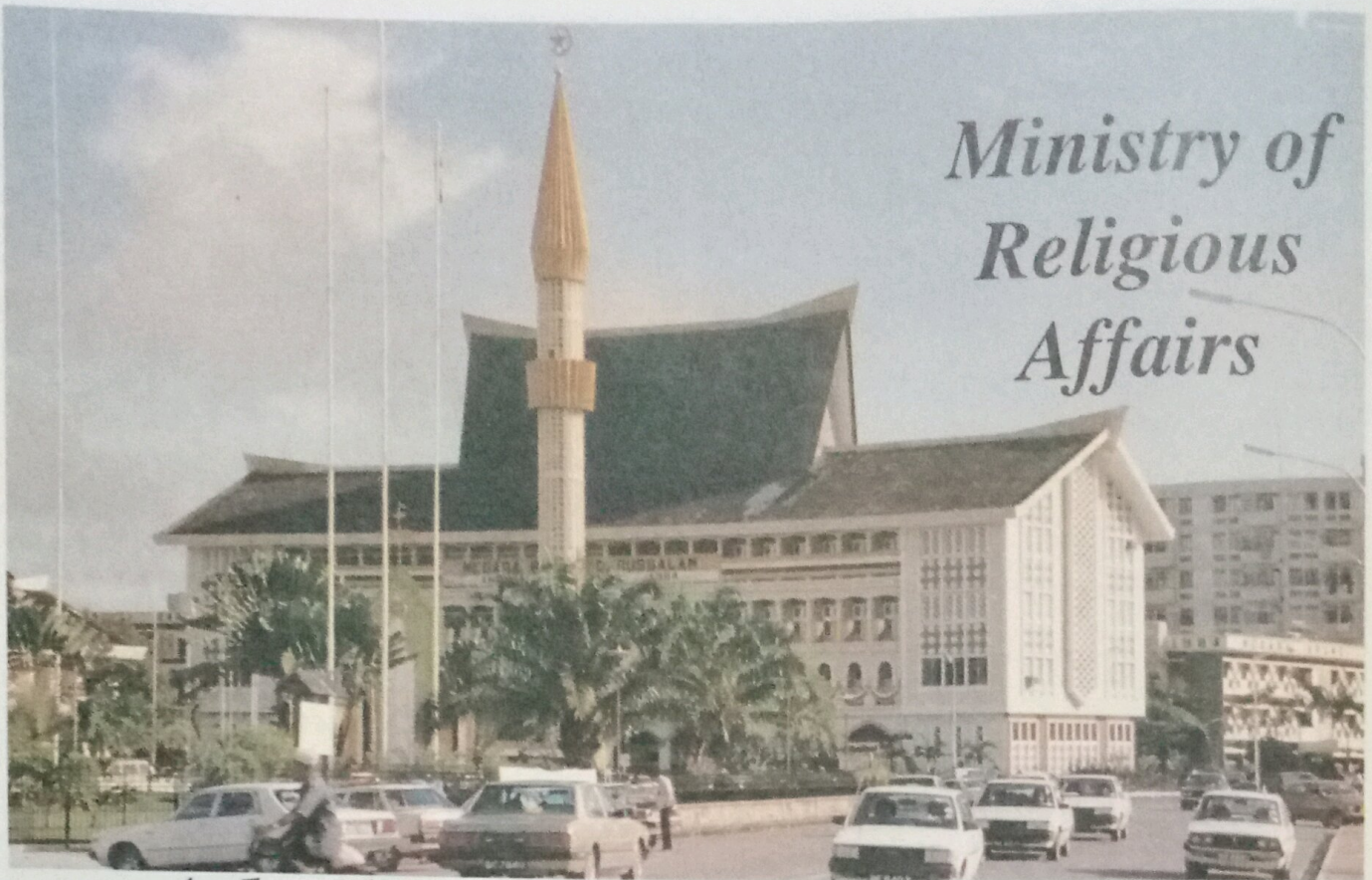
services fly non-stop from Bandar Seri Begawan to Denpasar. Every Friday, flight BI753 departs Bandar Seri Begawan at 3.10 p.m. and arrives Denpasar at 5.40 p.m. (local time). Flight on Sundays (BI755) leaves Bandar Seri Begawan at 5.15 p.m. and arrives Denpasar at 7.45 p.m.

Return flights to Bandar Seri Begawan; Friday flights (BI754)

leave Denpasar at 6.40 p.m.; arriving Bandar Seri Begawan 9.10 p.m. Flights on Sundays (BI756) depart at 8.45 p.m., arriving Bandar Seri Begawan at 11.15 p.m. Return flights on Fridays provide immediate connections to Kota Kinabalu on flight BI827.

Royal Brunei also flies to Jakarta four times weekly, every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Ministry of Religious Affairs



A building of great importance

The Ministry of Religious Affairs building is one of the oldest modern buildings in Bandar Seri Begawan. Besides being an attractive building visually combining both Brunei Malay and Islamic religious architectural

features, the building is also one of the most important in Brunei Darussalam. Under its roof, religious policies and various programmes are drawn up in line with Brunei Darussalam's strong practice of the Islamic religion.

Apart from accommodating offices, the building also houses a syariah court (Islamic court) which deals with such matters as divorces among Muslim couples.

Brunei in Brief

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size : 5765 sq. km
Population : 260,000 (1991)
Official Language : Malay
Official Religion : Islam
March rainfall : 20.3 mm
(annual 2,818mm)

PRIME LENDING RATE

March 6%
(quoted by Bankers' Association)

Brunei Malay in a minute

Each month we introduce our readers to a Brunei Malay word that is used only in the country.

For this edition we have chosen the word **sasaban**. **Sasaban** is a chopping board, and its equivalent is standard Malay is *landas cincang*.

Now let's use the word **sasaban** in a sentence.

Wanita itu memotong ikan di atas **sasaban** yang diperbuat daripada kayu keras.

The woman cuts fish on a chopping board made of hardwood.

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.