



# The nation salutes His Majesty the Sultan on his 44th birthday



Special issue marking the 44th birthday on 15th July, 1990 of His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

# Champion of the people

*Brunei Darussalam prospers and gains respect  
under dynamic leadership of HM the Sultan*



Above: His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam looking relaxed while on a visit to Seria to open the 60th anniversary celebration of the Oil and Gas Industry in Brunei Darussalam organised by Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Berhad last August.

On 15th July 1946, a prince was born and was named Putera Hassanal Bolkiah.

The destiny of this prince - who was later to be the 29th Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in an age-old dynasty - is such that he would leave an indelible mark in the history of the country in many fields.

Today - 15th July 1990, the nation of Brunei Darussalam rejoices in celebrations marking the 44th birthday of their beloved ruler, His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam - The Abode of Peace.

At 44 and having assumed his place on the throne for almost 23 years, His Majesty can claim to be one of the world's longest reigning monarchs, though he is definitely one of the world's youngest.

And as they celebrate his birthday today, Bruneians can take great pride in knowing that in His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, they have a leader who has distinguishly served the nation with all the care and concern towards making it truly an abode of peace.

The twelve-month period since his previous birthday on 15th July 1989 has been filled with activities for His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

On the international front, especially at international and regional forums, His Majesty had made Brunei Darussalam's voice heard on the country's stand with regards various issues currently afflicting the world. While at home, his administration had continued throughout the year to im-

prove the quality of life of his subjects and people of Brunei Darussalam.

Indeed, Brunei Darussalam has had a year of smooth-living and a roller-coaster passage in all its endeavours due to the guidance and wise leadership of His Majesty.

"Brunei Darussalam has prospered and become a respected member of the international community under the wise leadership of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan," declared Singapore's President Wee

Cover pictures clockwise: HM the Sultan with ASEAN foreign ministers at the opening of the 22nd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and Post-Ministerial Conference which Brunei Darussalam hosted last July. His Majesty after performing the Friday prayer while on a visit to the Malaysian State of Selangor Darul Ehsan in November 1989. His Majesty viewing an exhibit at celebration marking 60 years of oil and gas discovery in Brunei Darussalam. Talking to residents of Mukim Saba (Saba Village) which was one of the villages visited (December 1989) by His Majesty to date in the efforts to get to know the people and hear out any problem they might have.

Kim Wee in tribute to His Majesty who was on a three-day state visit to the republic in February this year.

The Singapore Head of State went on to say that the people of Brunei Darussalam enjoy political stability and economic development and "Your Majesty's concern of the people has been felt by all from urban Kampong Ayer (water village settlement) to rural Temburong."

Like hitting a nail on the head, these statements could not be more apt in describing the achievements of His Majesty's Government and His Majesty's personal triumph in looking after Brunei Darussalam's affairs, be they international or domestic matters especially concerning the welfare of his subjects.

### Honour at UN

One of the youngest members of the United Nations, Brunei Darussalam was elected to the high office

of one of the Vice-Presidencies of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at its forty-fourth session in New York last September.

It was only almost exactly five years earlier (September 1984) that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan stood by the pedestal at the 1984 UNGA, making his maiden speech on Brunei Darussalam's admission as the 159th member of the UN.

The election was genuine proof of the growing international recognition of Brunei Darussalam's capability in playing its part and shouldering its responsibility as a member of the world body, though while still a very young member.

### Special interest in his people

His Majesty the Sultan is well-known for his love of his people. They regard him as their protector and provider, and this can be clearly seen

During his latest visit to meet the people, the Brunei ruler stopped at the Mukim Saba Primary School and chatted informally with teachers and pupils of the school.



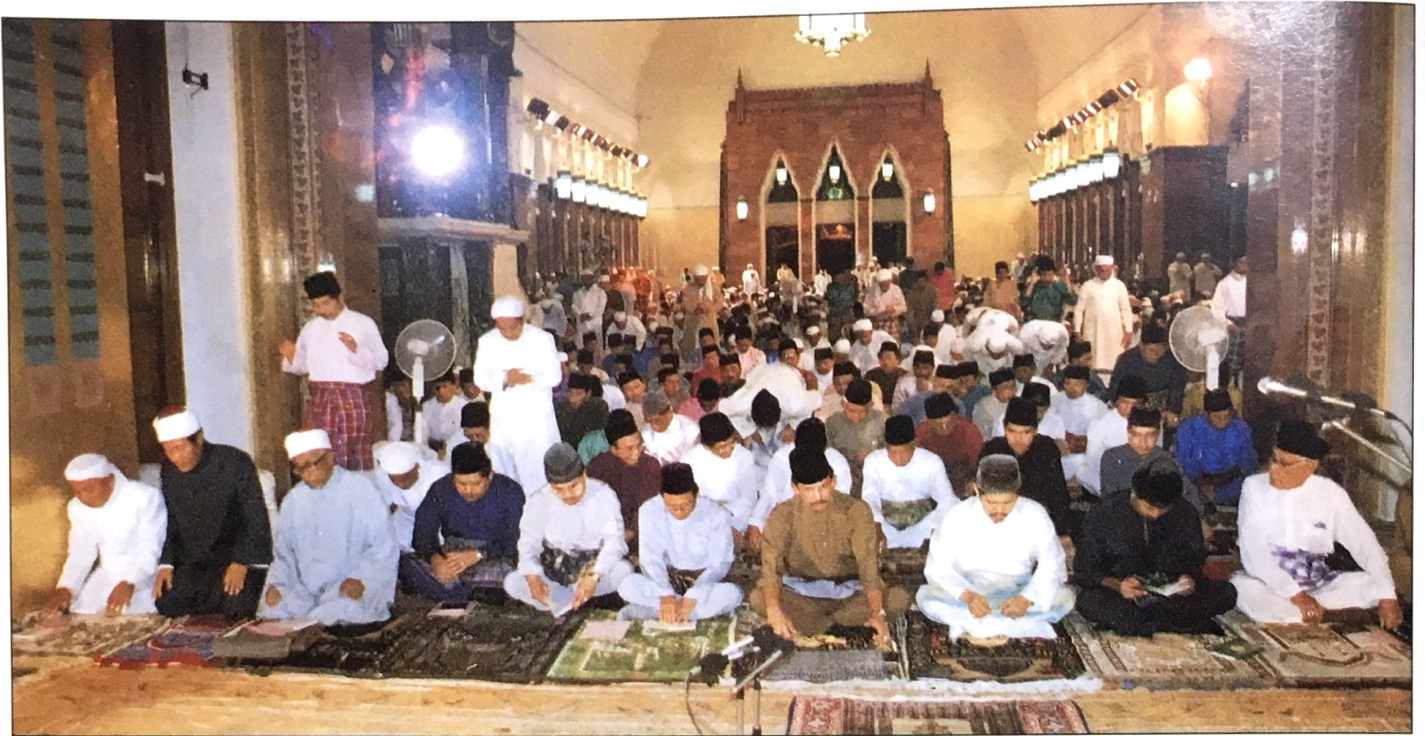
His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivers his new year message to the nation on 1 January, 1990.

through the various services provided free by his Government, such as pensions scheme for the aged, free education and medical services for citizens and aid in many forms for widows, orphans and handicapped not to mention special monthly allowances extended to all civil servants out of His Majesty's personal treasury in addition to their monthly salaries from the Government.

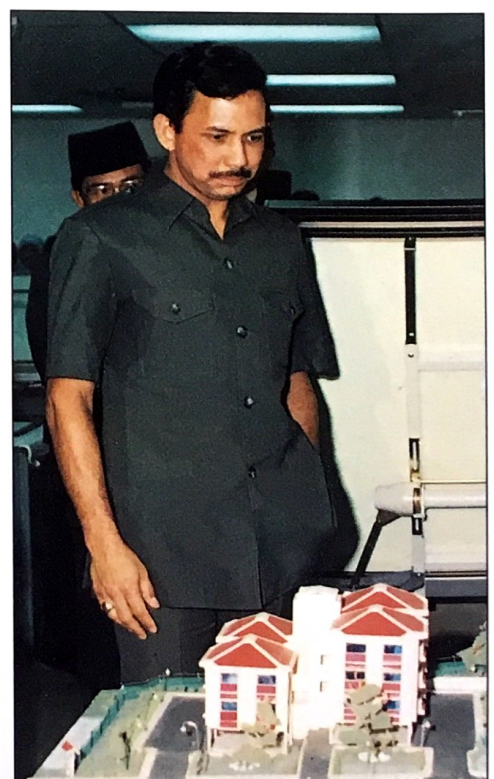
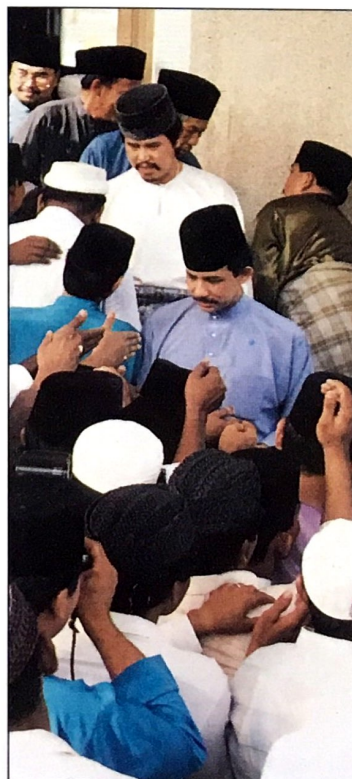
His Majesty received his early education through private tuition and later at the age of 9 years, studied at the Sultan Mohammad Jamalul Alam Malay School in Bandar Seri Begawan, the Brunei capital which was then known as Bandar Brunei (Brunei Town).

After some years at the school, His Majesty was sent by his father, Almarhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien to continue his education at the Gurney Road School in Kuala Lumpur and at the Victoria Institute both of which he attended till 1963.

"An intelligent student, interested in sports, a good athlete, a very capable cadet with a flair for debate" was how a former principal of the Victoria Institute described the royal student.



Above: At the Omar Ali Saifuddien mosque in Bandar Seri Begawan where His Majesty joins his Muslim subjects for the Friday prayer each week. HM also often goes to other districts for the prayers and see his subjects in those districts. Bottom left: His Majesty is anxious that the less fortunate people are not left out by the society and urged that they are cared for at all times. His Majesty holds open house for orphans, the elderly, the handicapped and disabled annually during Hari Raya Aidilfitri and is seen in the picture chatting to one of them during this year's open house at Istana Nurul Izzah in Jerudong. Bottom centre: crowds surge forward to touch the ruler they love after a Friday prayer in the capital. Bottom right: His Majesty views a model of a project during a visit last year to the Ministry of Development.



The principal adds, "He had a modest character, and was very much at ease in his relationships with other people, without relying on his social status. He was a good example to his fellow students, respectful and courteous to his teachers and his officers".

As a monarch whose rule rests on the concept of the Malay Muslim Monarchy, these are just some of the qualities and values which His Majesty strives to instill in all his subjects, especially the youths who make up a very large part of the country's population of 245 thousand people and who will be the future machinery of nation building.

His Majesty acceded to the Brunei Throne on 5 October 1967, following the Voluntary abdication on the day before of his father Almarhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien.

The coronation ceremony for His Majesty was held on Thursday, 1 August 1968 in full pageantry and splendour of a royal court based on Brunei Darussalam's rich traditional customs and heritage as well as its strict adherence to Islam.

### Equipped to be ruler

By the time he took his rightful place in the throne, His Majesty had already acquired part of the knowledge he would use in the service of his people, for during the period between finishing his education at the Victoria Institute and being crowned as Sultan, he had enrolled at Britain's internationally acclaimed Sandhurst Royal Military Academy together with his brother, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, now the Brunei Darussalam Minister of Foreign Affairs.

They entered the renowned academy on 4 January 1966. At the academy His Majesty's wide ranging studies included the perfection of his



English, mathematic, military science, philosophy and communications. In his international relations studies, His Majesty specialised in the Soviet Union.

His Majesty centred his interest on the technological development, strategy and military arts.

Returning from Sandhurst to assume the role of a monarch, His Majesty was quickly absorbed in the day-to-day administration of Brunei Darussalam. And by 1

January 1984, in the sixteenth year of his rule, His Majesty steered Brunei Darussalam to full independence, thus, his role became more complex and demanding than any of his predecessors.

### Independence a new era

Brunei Darussalam was already a fast-developing nation even before independence and was well on its way to modernisation,



Above: His Majesty seen with Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohammad as they join other leaders for the Friday prayer at a mosque in Kuala Lumpur while attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting last October. Left: The Minister for Waqaf (Religious Endowment) of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Dr. Abdel Aziz El-Khayat was one of many foreign dignitaries granted audience by His Majesty during 1989. Looking on is Brunei Darussalam's own Minister of Religious Affairs.

but the post-independence years can be termed as an era of its own.

Since independence, Brunei Darussalam can claim to be one of the fastest-growing countries thanks to the vision and acumen of His Majesty's Government.

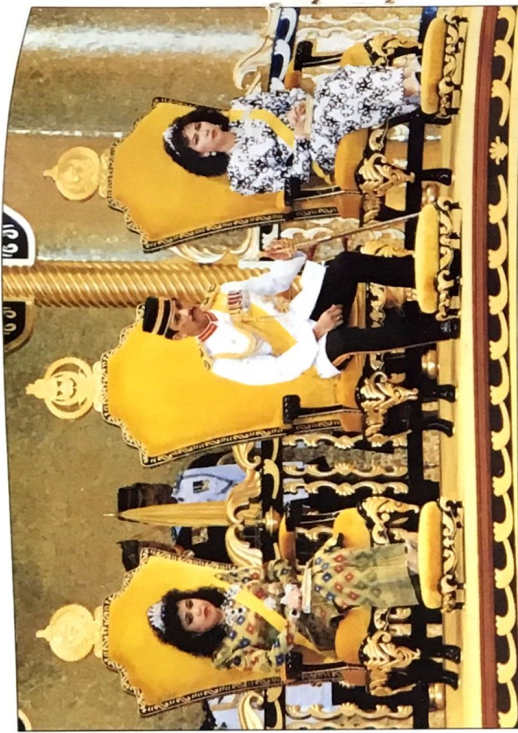
The systematic plans already laid out for its future promise to show dynamic growth in many fields in particular the economic sector through small-scale and medium-scale manufacturing industries, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, which are just some of the focal areas of the country's current policy for economic diversification.



Above: The development and practices of Islam are among the issues on which the Government of His Majesty places much attention and efforts. Each year, His Majesty joins Muslims in celebration marking the birthday of Prophet Mohamed S.A.W and leads the birthday procession around the capital.

## HM stresses youths' role

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan is anxious that Brunei Darussalam should develop in all fields and over the years, areas such as the Islamic religion (the official religion of the country), education, defence, communications, sports



Above: His Majesty the Sultan, accompanied by Her Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (left) and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam at an audience and investiture ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman marking his 43rd birthday last July.

and culture and various other fields have and continue to receive His Majesty's direct attention.

Today, the fruits of His Majesty's labour, guidance and dynamic leadership can be seen in Brunei Darussalam's progress.

Of late, however, His Majesty had equally given as much attention to the development of youths.

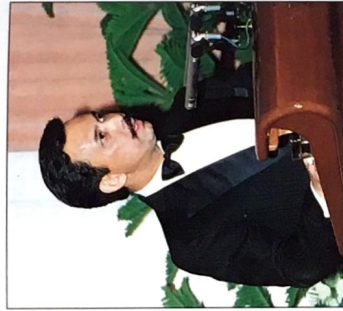
In several of his recent titah (royal addresses), the Brunei ruler had focused on the growth and development of Brunei Darussalam's youths.

Youths, in particular those aged 24 years and below, make up about 60 percent of the country's population.

A man of vision and foresightedness that he is, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan realises that this group forms an essential part of the labour force needed for nation building.

In his previous birthday speech, His Majesty stressed on the importance of the country's young generation to be given proper guidance and upbringing.

He said that today's youths will be the future prime-



Above: Addressing a banquet in honour of His Majesty's visit to Singapore in February 1990. Below: His Majesty takes a walk about during a visit to Mukim Saba Darat (Saba Darat Village) in 1989.



movers of efforts especially in the maintenance of peace and tranquility for the continued wellbeing of the people.

As such, they must possess positive attitudes towards dedicating and committing themselves to the country while upholding the Bruneian way of life and values.

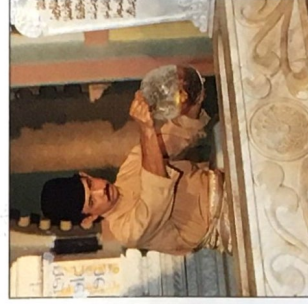
Pointing to the fact that Brunei Darussalam needs to develop the potential of every citizen owing to the small size of its population, His Majesty urged parents, teachers, community leaders, the private sector, social institutions and Government agencies to play their part in guiding youths towards becoming useful citizens.

"It is only through assured education and guidance as well as through the preservation of the young generation can we guarantee permanent peace and increase our prosperity and wellbeing," said His Majesty.

His Majesty has also often reminded the youths not to get involved in the various social ills such as drug abuse, drinking and anti-social behaviours such as vandalism.



His Majesty leads the male members of the royal family in exchanging greetings with more than 36,000 people who visited Istana Nurul Iman when the palace held a three-day open house in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidilfitri in April this year.



(Above: At the royal mausoleum where after offering prayers, His Majesty sprinkles scented water on the graves of royal members who have passed away.)

## Impetus on economic diversification

Another area to which His Majesty and his Government had given special attention during the twelve-month period since His Majesty's previous birthday is the country's economic diversification efforts.

The fall in the prices of oil has resulted in decreased income, not only for Brunei Darussalam but also for all petroleum producing countries at large.

Thus, the economic diversification efforts which have been intensified since early 1989 with the creation by His Majesty of a new ministry are designed not only to steer Brunei Darussalam away

from its almost-total dependence on oil and gas as sole sources of income, but also to ensure continuing prosperity and wellbeing of the people through assured incomes from multi-pronged economies.

Since its creation on 1 January, 1989, the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources has worked to pave the way towards increasing industrial activities.

Through these intensified economic diversification efforts, it is targeted that some 2,000 new industries will be created in the next five years after the Fifth Five-Year National Development Plan ends at the end of this year and these should bring with them an estimated 40,000 jobs, for which locals will be given priority.

Tasked to accelerate the economic diversification programmes, the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources had also continued its drive to stimulate growth in the private sector and woo foreign investments into the country.

So far these intensive efforts towards economic diversification have not been in vain and some have borne fruits in the form of the setting up small-scale and medium-scale enterprises such as in the manufacturing of garments and clothes, and mineral water processing industry.

Brunei Darussalam also expects to step up its meat industry designed not only towards self-sufficiency but also for the export market.

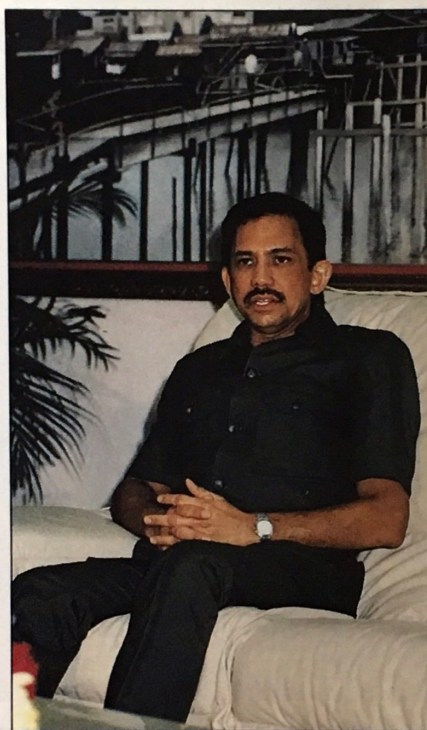
Towards the end of this year, the country's rice production is also expected to reach 30 percent self-sufficiency from its ten percent at present.

A production of about 100 thousand metric tonnes per annum is targeted in the forestry and plans are already underway to develop the fishing industry from its small-scale operation value of \$35 million into a \$200 million industry.

Tropical fruits farming is also being earmarked to be developed into a major industry on joint-venture basis as part of the economic diversification drive.

"The economic future of Brunei Darussalam depends considerably on the country's oil and gas reserves for the benefit of future generations. At the same time, of course, we have to diversify the economy," the Brunei monarch has said.

"There has been a reduction in revenue from petroleum products, but this



Above: His Majesty has a dialogue session with officials on various issues during a visit to the Departments of Public Works and Housing Development in early 1989. Below: His Majesty and other leaders of the Commonwealth listening to speech of the outgoing Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Sir Shridath Ramphal during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in October last year.



has not affected our development plans. We have no external debt and no need to borrow. We have a sound balance of trade, large foreign exchange resources, and substantial investments overseas."

His Majesty adds, "We intend to encourage the creation of new industries and the private sector. We want to move our agricultural industry in the direction of self-sufficiency."

## Development in other areas

As stated earlier, development in other areas of importance to Brunei Darussalam have continued such as in construction (the largest single industry in the country), education, the Islamic religion, medical and health, communication, defence, arts and culture, sports, legal and judicial matters.

Matters relating to Brunei Darussalam's international relations and foreign policy, too, have developed at a rapid pace and the year, among other matters, saw the country establishing formal diplomatic relations with a number of countries.

"In international relations, we believe always to move forward in accordance with our capability and interests," His Majesty has said.

His Majesty had reaffirmed that the Association of South-east Asian Nations, ASEAN, is the cornerstone of Brunei Darussalam's foreign relations but "we maintain diplomatic relations with (now nearly 50 countries) and we have special trading relations with Australia and Japan.

"Since the resumption of independence, Brunei Darussalam has been pursuing an active foreign policy designed to improve understanding and strengthen cultural, religious and economic ties," said His Majesty.

Indeed, it has. During the past year, the Brunei



Above: His Majesty the Sultan makes his way for an official welcome on arrival for a three-day visit to Selangor. On HM's right is the Sultan of Selangor.



Above: His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with President Soeharto of Indonesia and President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines who attended the Berkhatan (coming-of-age) ceremony of His Majesty's oldest son in August 1989. Below: The Sultan is invested with two of Singapore's highest honours by President Wee Kim Wee.



Above: With other leaders at a session of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kuala Lumpur last October at which HM firmly stated Brunei Darussalam's views on various world issues. On the Sultan's left is British Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher. Below: His Majesty at a tea party given by Singapore's Prime Minister, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew during His Majesty's visit to the republic in February this year.



Below: His Majesty being awarded the 'Man for peace award 1989' by Italy's Together For Peace Foundation, the president of which, Mrs. Mariapa Fanfani made the presentation at Istana Nurul Iman in February 1990.



monarch had made at least two state visits to Brunei Darussalam's neighbours with these aims in mind.

One of the visits was to the Malaysian state of Selangor Darul Ehsan in November last year, during which the age-old relations between the two countries were strengthened further and cooperation brought closer.

The second state visit in February this year, brought His Majesty to the republic of Singapore - one of Brunei Darussalam's closest friends. During the visit, both His Majesty and Singapore's President Wee Kim Wee spoke of the special ties between their two countries.

The special relations, which the two leaders hoped would be further strengthened, have been mutually beneficial and as with Selangor. His Majesty also invited businessmen from Singapore to set up business and invest in Brunei Darussalam.

At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kuala Lumpur in October 1989, His Majesty made clear Brunei Darussalam's position with regards to various issues. Speaking out against the apartheid system of South Africa, the Brunei ruler repeated his call for the dismantlement of the system and he joined other Commonwealth countries in urging economic sanctions against the Pretoria regime to dismantle apartheid 'once and for all'.

His Majesty also called for peaceful settlements to be found to the conflicts in Cambodia, Palestine, Afghanistan and condemned Israel for its atrocities against the Palestinian people.

Under the dynamic leadership of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan, a number of new policies worked out during the past are currently well on their way to being implemented. These include policies such as making the Malay Muslim Monarchy concept as one of the

curriculums in Brunei Darussalam and the bilingual system of education to being extended to all non-government schools in Brunei Darussalam.

Sound housing are being provided for the people and to date, about 95 percent of the population enjoy treated water supply and an equally high percentage also receive electricity into their homes.

Medical and health services are constantly being improved and stepped up to

reach every level of the community and foremost in the policy of the authorities concerned now is to meet the World Organisation's goal of 'Health for all by the year 2,000'.

In the Islamic faith, His Majesty is a shining example to his people. His Majesty never fails to join his subjects in performing the Friday mass prayers and to do this, His Majesty often travels to every district. New mosques are being built all the times and



Above: His Majesty converses with Thailand's Foreign Minister, Air Chief Marshall Siddhi Sivetsila, who was in Bandar Seri Begawan in July 1989 for the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and Post-Ministerial Conference along with other foreign ministers of ASEAN. On his Majesty's left is his brother, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs.



Right: A walkabout on Kampong Ayer (water-village) while visiting Mukim Saba, one of the villages on water, to see development and meet the residents there.

so are religious schools, some especially designed to cater for higher Islamic studies.

Communications facilities, too, do not escape His Majesty's attention. More and more roads are being built and improved to reach the interiors and the national carrier, Royal Brunei Airlines expanded to provide wider and more effective air links with the outside world.

In defence, arms purchases including jet-fighters are being made to improve the country's defence and security.

One of the prime aims of the Brunei Darussalam's education policy is to produce skilled and professional manpower, and hence, more and more higher institutions of learning are being established.

All these are being carried out by the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to ensure the well-being, prosperous existence, security and peace for his people and the country.

They underline his love and care and His Majesty is ever-conscious that while and moving forward keeping abreast with technological and scientific developments, Bruneian values based on Islam, traditions and culture inherited over the centuries should not be foresaken.

**Respect,  
love and  
justice**

All of His Majesty's actions, political decrees, His economic, cultural and social decisions are characterised by justice, respect and love for his people. And an undeniable proof of his striving for harmony is the peaceful coexistence of Brunei Darussalam's variety of ethnic and religious groups, the very essence of the population of the country which he rules.

assured of support of every Bruneian, and on this special occasion of his 44th birthday, the Nation of Brunei Darussalam salutes their beloved ruler - His Majesty

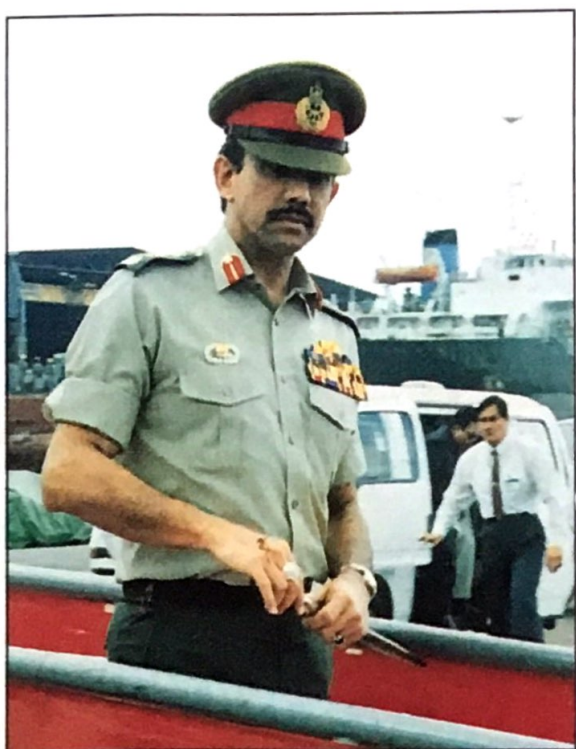
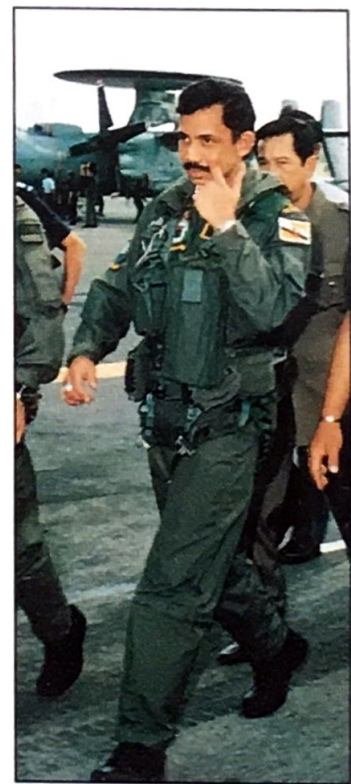
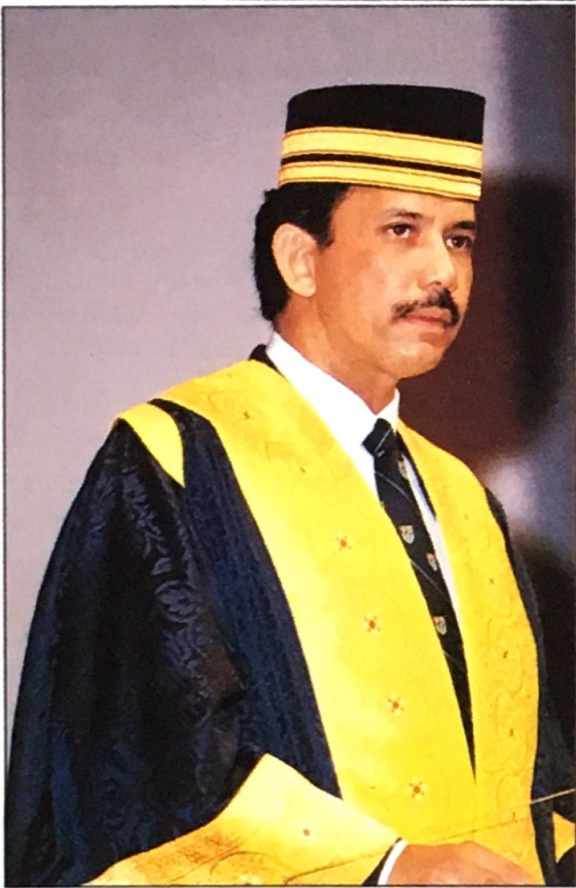
Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam - the Abode of Peace.

Cover pictures clockwise: His Majesty presented degrees to the first batch of graduates of the University Brunei Darussalam last September. At the ceremony, the Brunei ruler was himself conferred an honorary Doctorate degree in recognition of His Majesty's role and contributions towards the rapid progress of the country. Handy with weapons, His Majesty takes aim while joining Gurkhas on combat exercise in May this year. The Brunei ruler sports airman's uniform for a 40-minute flight on board one of the Singapore Airforce's Hawkeye Reconnaissance aircraft while on a visit to the republic in February this year. His Majesty excels in sports, among them golf and horse-back polo. His Majesty seen leaving a Singapore navy ship after a tour of the vessel.



Above: Sporting a military fatigues, the Brunei ruler visited the Gurkhas of the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles in Seria when the regiment celebrated its centenary anniversary in May this year.

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Special issue