



بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam converses with Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned, the latest addition to the strength of permanent secretaries in the Prime Minister's Office.

New Permanent Secretary in audience

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has received in audience the new Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, Awang Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned, at Istana Nurul Iman on 23 April.

Awang Haji Abdul Wahab was appointed Permanent Secretary by command of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, with effect from 19 April 2001. In addition to his new appointment, he will also continue his duty as the Director-General of the Department of Economic Planning and Development.

The new Permanent Secretary's previous appointments have included as an education officer in 1975, and administrative officer at the State Secretariat in 1983. He was also previously the Postmaster General at the Postal Services Department, and the Director of Information before becoming the Director-General of the Department of Economic Planning and Development (formerly known as the Brunei Darussalam Economic Council).

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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YOUR TURN

The next issue of the Brunei Darussalam newsletter will appear on 15 May 2001. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-383400/ext.BDN Division or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. All editorial rights reserved.



To the delights of children and adults alike, members of the Little Mermaids troupe perform a sketch during their tour of Brunei Darussalam.

Royalties view Little Mermaid

Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam consented to watch an extravangza on ice by the stars of the Disney On Ice- The Little Mermaid troupe at the Indoor Stadium on April 17, in conjunction with Brunei's April school holiday.

On arrival, Prince Abdul Qawi, the Executive Deputy Chairman and Director of QAF Brunei, greeted Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam and other members of the royal family.

Also in the audience were royal children, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah

Sa'adatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Muta-Wakkilah Hayatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Hafizah Sururul Bolqiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bulqiah and Her Majesty's grand daughter, Princess Rahemah Sanaul Bolkiah.

Also present was Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah, the chairperson of QAF Brunei.

The following evening, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam watched a performance of the troupe especially staged for members of the Brunei Paraplegic and Physically Disabled Association, PAPDA, and those of the Handicapped Children Association, KACA, as well as for orphans and

** Continued on page 3*



Amongst the audience watching the performances by the Little Mermaids were members of the royal family including Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

* From page 2
(Disney On Ice)

other less fortunates.

Her Royal Highness, who is patron of both PAPDA and KACA, sponsored all the tickets for the special performance.

Prior to the commencement of the

performance, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri consented to chat informally with some of the handicapped children, and later met members of the troupe.

The performances proved a hit with the Brunei audience, who packed the Indoor Stadium for both the after-

noon and evening performances over the two days the troupe were in the country. One of the sketches portrayed the love story of a prince that lived on land with a mermaid that lived in the sea who lived happily ever-after.

Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam pauses for a casual chat with a member of the Brunei Darussalam Disabled and Handicapped Association during the Little Mermaid shows.



Jame' Asr' Hassanil Bolkiah mosque launches website

Jame' Asr' Hassanil Bolkiah mosque launched its website www.jameasr.cjb.net and e-mail jameasr@my.muslim.net, on 23 April, in conjunction with the new year of Hijrah 1422 celebration and Visit Brunei Year 2001.

Those who wish to get more information on the mosque may also surf the official government website of the Ministry of Religious Affairs www.religious-affairs.gov.bn and e-mail info@religious-affairs.gov.bn.

The Minister of Religious Affairs, Pehin Dato Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Md. Zain in a speech before he officially launched the website said, users of the Internet should be ready and determined to face its challenges, which may ruin their values and personality and undermine the harmonious conduct of religious life.

The Internet may also bring about negative and unhealthy elements such as selfishness and neglect of family life.

In this respect, he said, children and teenagers need protection, guidelines and guidance so that they could be directed toward positive elements.

The minister hoped that the information technology development and websites could be fully utilised as an easy and quick access of man's communication that could contribute toward enriching man with information and upgrade their knowledge and experience.

He also hoped that the website could be used as a channel to spread Islamic teachings and edu-

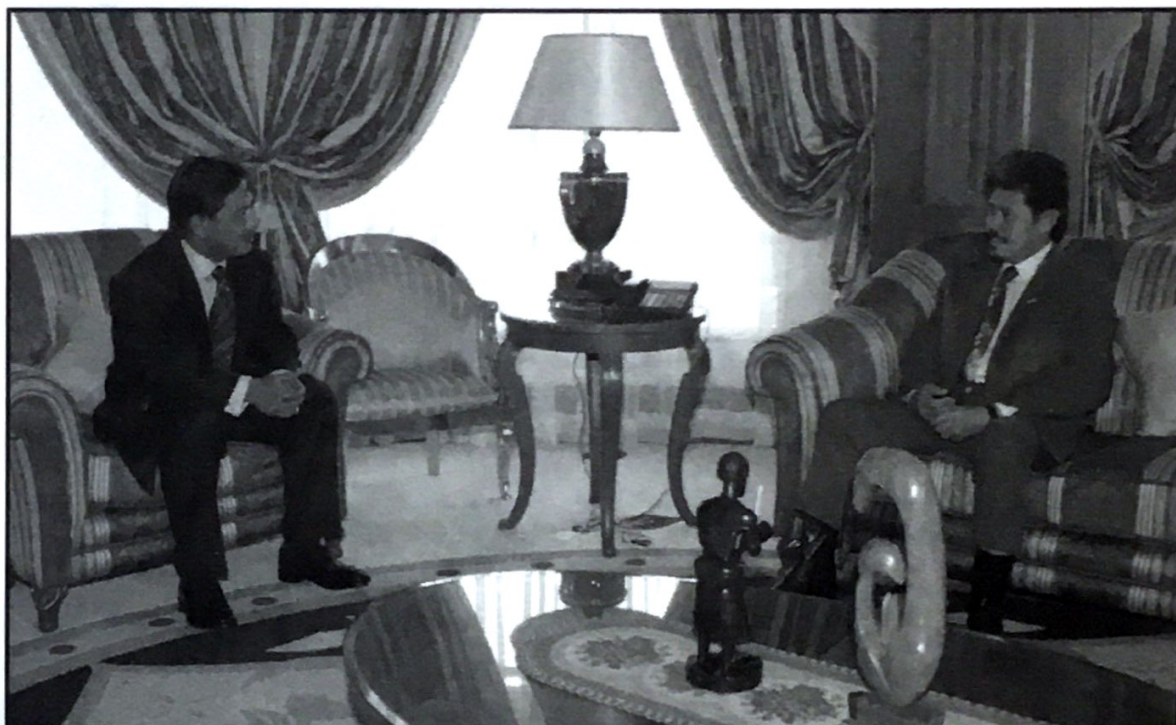
cate faith and ethic for mankind, while at the same time to uphold values of mankind according to the teachings of the Quran and the As-Sunnah.

The launching of the website was aimed to support government's effort in improving the development of information technology and to make mosques as a centre of information resources, introduce them to foreigners and as a way of communication between mosques.

At an earlier stage, the website contains information on the beauty of the Jame' Asr' Hassanil Bolkiah mosque, activities that have been carried out at the mosque, as well as information and details on the visit of foreign dignitaries to the mosque.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, granting audiences to the high commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Badr-ud-Deen, above, and the Malaysian high commissioner, His Excellency Mr. Salam bin Ahmad, below. More on back page.



The Minister of Religious Affairs, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Mohd. Zain speaking prior to launching of Jame' Asr' Hassanil Bolkiah mosque's website.

The Islamic Development Bank of Brunei Berhad (IDBB) has launched a new zakat counter, which is in line with IDBB's desire to play a vital role in diversifying the socio-economy of Muslims in Brunei Darussalam.

Officiating at the launch of the new counter was the Chief Kadhi of Brunei Darussalam, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Salim bin Haji Besar. Also attending were Takaful IDBB Board of Director members and Syariah Advisory Board members, senior officials from the Ministries of Finance and Religious Affairs.

As a fully pledged Islamic bank, the added value service will further emphasise the IDBB's commitment in providing banking products and services based on Islamic concepts.

The Islamic Religious Council of Brunei Darussalam has given authority to IDBB to become the 'amil' (collector) for collection of Zakat (tithes). As such the bank is allowed to collect zakat from IDBB's account holders. IDBB customers can also utilise this service at other branches of the bank.

IDBB accepts zakat payments either by cash, cheque or direct debit from customers' accounts.

The IDBB system is also able to cater for auto deduction of customers' accounts annually for zakat payments upon customers' requests.

As of March 29, 2001, the minimum amount that must be maintained in the account is \$1530.00,

equivalent to current calculations of 85 grammes of gold to be eligible for zakat payment.

IDBB launches zakat counter



Above: The Chief Kadhi, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Salim officiates at the launch of IDBB's zakat counter – the latest service to be offered by the bank. The zakat counter will facilitate payments of zakat (tithes) on properties which is obligatory on all Muslims. Below: The Chief Kadhi views some of the facilities available in the zakat counter.

BRUNEI'S NAVY ON JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE IN SINGAPORE

Brunei Darussalam's missile-equipped fast patrol boats *KDB WASPADA* and *KDB PEJUANG* left for Singapore on April 24 to participate in the "Pelican" bilateral exercise with the Singapore Navy. The naval exercise took place in Singapore's territorial waters.

Brunei Darussalam's patrol boats were led by *KDB WASPADA*'s commanding officer, Major Abd Halim bin Haji Mohd. Hanifah. The one-week joint military exercise from April 27 - May 4 engaged more than 100 naval personnel from Brunei.

* Continued on page 6



B\$2.9 MILLION ALLOCATED FOR SMALL-SCALE TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURES

Brunei Darussalam has spent B\$2.9 million to implement 25 small-scale tourism infrastructure projects. The funding constitutes another stimulus package of the Short Term Economic Action Plan prepared by the Brunei Darussalam Economic Council, now known as the Department of Economic Planning and Development, which comes under the Prime Minister's Office.

According to a statement from the Department of Economic Planning and Development during the official launching of Small Scale Tourism Infrastructure projects on April 10 at the General Post Office building, in Bandar Seri Begawan. 16 local companies were offered to complete projects designed to maintain and upgrade the currently available basic tourism facilities and the setting up of new ones suitable to the requirements of relevant departments.

As befitted small-scale projects, much of the requirements focused on basic needs such as the setting up of Tourist Information Centres, the building of pavement connecting the Brunei Museum and the Malay Technol-



Director General of Economic Planning and Development explaining details about the Small Scale Tourism Infrastructure Projects to the acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources.

ogy Museum, the maintenance of jetties in the Kampong Ayer (water village) areas, and public washrooms.

However, the Department of Economic Planning and Development emphasised that the small-scale tourism facilities were not built in preparation for the Visit Brunei Year 2001 only but for the on-going needs of tourists.

Present as guest-of-honour was the acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Awang Haji Hepnie bin OKPSD Haji Abang Abu Hanafiah in his capacity as Director of Policy and Administration for that ministry.

Also present was Haji Abdul Wahab bin Juned, the Director General of Economic Planning and Development.

** From page 5
(Joint military exercise)*

Singapore's participating vessels were the *RSS DAUNTLESS*, *RSS SEA SCORPION* and the *RSS SEA WOLF*. Some of the purposes of the joint military exercise are to strengthen military ties between the two navies, and enhance understanding and upgrade professional skills in conducting joint military operations.

The annual military exercise provided exposure to the two countries' navy officers and crew men by engaging them in professional, social and sports activities.



One of the Brunei Darussalam's naval patrol boats departs for the Republic of Singapore for a joint exercise between the two countries.

Public and private sectors urged to give full commitment to TQM

All parties in the public and private sectors in the country were urged to give full commitment to Total Quality Management (TQM) concept in relevance with the current needs and requirement, and instill this concept within small and major organisations.

Making the call at the Total Quality Management Seminar: Asian and Brunei SME Best Practices, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya, the Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, said several ministries and departments in the public sector have currently carried out the TQM programmes, while a number of companies in the private sector are also involved in the activities.

Brunei Darussalam puts priority to human resources development in the national growth strategy, the planning of which emphasises on the need to upgrade both quality and quantity among manpower in skilled, semi-skilled and professional fields, he said.

He said, besides physical quality and intellectuality of manpower, the plans in the TQM also focus on strategies towards instilling positive values, such as trustworthiness, hardwork, dedication, cooperation, care, dynamism, creativity and having positive thinking in order to achieve excellence.

The concept of Melayu Islam Beraja (MIB) or Malay Muslim Monarchy also consists of elements towards quality and TQM for economic sector and the country's organisations, particularly the public and private sectors, which are considered as the engine of the country's growth, said the Permanent Secretary.

He also noted that the seminar was timely as it had broad implications in various levels of micro and macro economy.

Quality management is a condition for every organisation, which aims to achieve a success and recognition at the national, regional and international levels, he pointed.

The official further pointed the need to change the community mindset in order to be able to face challenges and competition brought about by the rapid growth and development in the information and communication technology



amongst countries and sectors.

In the government sector, efforts to introduce the quality management include firstly, the re-launching of quality control circle (QCC) in 1996, which emphasises more on the development of quality culture, in-house training of QCC group and approach to groups of action. The new vision of QCC movement is to cultivate quality work culture for the implementation of 21st century Brunei Civil Service.

Secondly, the appraisal performance system for civil servants, which was introduced in 1987, and thirdly, the consumer's charter or TPOR, introduced in 1995.

Meanwhile, the Development Ministry which is responsible for the planning of infrastructure, development and construction has implemented several quality standards recognised by the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) based in Geneva, Switzerland.

More than 70 participants representing the public and private sectors, including academics and students attended the seminar. The seminar, organised by the ASEAN-EC Management Centre, was conducted by lecturers from within Brunei Darussalam and Singapore.

It was aimed to give an organisation the understanding on the effect of TQM and to identify major challenges and opportunities of TQM for the public organisation and the private sector.

Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Dato Awang Haji Yahya, seated 2nd from right facing camera, as guest-of-honour at a TQM seminar.

Brunei Darussalam's Employee Trust Fund becomes member of ASSA

Tabung Amanah Pekerja (TAP) or Brunei Darussalam's Employee Trust Fund has been accepted officially as a member of the ASEAN Social Security Association (ASSA).

The official admission of Brunei Darussalam's Employee Trust Fund was made during the seventh ASSA Meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 20 April 2001.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Hussain, who represented Brunei Darussalam at the meeting said, the admission of the country's Employee Trust Fund into ASSA was timely during the demographically changing age, and social and economic environment which challenge the capability of the existing Social Security Scheme.

The ASSA cooperative programme would be more convenient with the existence of ASSA's website launched in September 2000. The website (<http://www.asean-ssa.org>) exposes the experiences of member countries that could be utilized as a guideline by Brunei Darussalam.

Messages on the birthday anniversary of Queen of Denmark

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanali Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has sent congratulatory messages to Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark and His Excellency Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, the Prime Minister of Denmark on the occasion of the birthday anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II on 16 April.

His Majesty in the messages expressed happiness on the warm relations and close understanding that has long existed between Brunei

Darussalam and Denmark, and hoped that these would be further enhanced and upgraded in the future for mutual interest of both countries and their peoples.

His Majesty expressed the hope that Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II would always be in good health and that the people of Denmark would enjoy continuing peace and prosperity.

His Majesty in a separate message to the Prime Minister of Denmark, hoped that His Excellency would always enjoy peace and prosperity.

Meanwhile, His Royal Highness

Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs, congratulated His Excellency Mr. Mohsen I Lykketoft, the Foreign Affairs Minister of Denmark on the occasion of Her Majesty Queen Margrethe's birthday anniversary.

In the message, His Royal Highness expressed appreciation on the co-operation and bilateral relations between Brunei Darussalam and Denmark. His Royal Highness also expressed appreciation on the cooperation of Denmark in ASEM and ASEAN-EU Dialogue.

Humanitarian laws a necessity

Despite the advances that the world community has made in the context of International Humanitarian Law, the world still finds itself frequently faced with various armed conflicts as had happened in Asia, Europe and other countries in the world.

Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (Rtd.) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith, the Deputy Minister of Defence said that these also resulted in countless number of civilian casualties, destruction to properties and serious disruption to human life, refugees now are doubling in numbers, settling in unfamiliar places and surroundings.

The Deputy Defence Minister delivered his speech during a one-day talk on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law which was jointly organised by the Directorate of Politics Organisation, Ministry of Defence and the Attorney General's Chambers of the Prime Minister Office, with the cooperation of the International Committee of the Red Cross. The event took place at the International Convention Centre, Berakas on 23 April.

"This is very disturbing and these conflicts could escalate uncontrollably and have a serious impact on regional security", he said.

He added that Brunei shared the

common concern of the International community that wished to see the end of those conflicts and promote the existence of a peaceful world, by alleviating human tragedy, suffering and hardship.

He also called upon other states, agencies and other organisations both regional and international to work together to address these issues.

A total of five presentations were made during the seminar, including a discussion on the Geneva Convention and its additional protocols, Treaties on Landmines and the International Criminal Court.

The Deputy Minister of Defence, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (Rtd.) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Ba'asith speaks of never-ending conflicts around the world in spite of advancement in international humanitarian law.



Kuala Balai comes alive for fest

Kampong Kuala Balai, or the village of Kuala Balai, which has long been deserted by many of its inhabitants, has come alive again as large crowds turned up for the Kuala Balai Festival held at the Eco-Tourism Cultural Centre of the village.

Kuala Balai does not only have potential in the aspect of culture and tradition, but potentials to be developed into a research centre.

In this regard, the Belait district officer, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Ghani hoped that Kuala Balai could turn into not only a centre of tourism but also a centre of education and research.

While officiating the "Rediscovering Kuala Balai Festival" in conjunction with visit Brunei year 2001, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdul Ghani also hoped that this inaugural event could pave way for a much bigger and challenging eco-friendly race in the future and will hopefully be expanded so as to share the natural beauty and tranquility of Brunei's unique ecological treasures.

Speaking prior to the launching of the Kuala Balai Festival, he praised the villagers for their enthusiasm in developing their area.

Looking back briefly into its history, Kampong Kuala Balai was once a thriving community, especially in the 1940s and 50s when it was a centre for cutch production (cutch is the grounded bark of mangrove tress which after being soaked for several days, boiled and then dried - can be used as base-colouring for cloth fabrics and fishing nets), and other such small industries. The once thriving community with the indigenous Belait people is now home to only a few inhabitants, even these are weekend dwellers. The rapid decline in Puak Belait population meant a parallel and subsequent loss in its language, oral tradition, culture, language and history.

The awareness for the preservation of national and cultural heritage led to the formation of an ad-hoc committee that began work in April 2000.

The first part of the project was

devoted to collecting, recording and documenting aspects of culture and oral history of the Puak Belait. The tasks were undertaken with the help of the History Centre and the Museums Department. A total of over 36 tapes of recorded oral history were collected and presently transcribed by the History Centre. These voluminous ma-

terials will later be published by the History Centre and will be made available to the general public. Further efforts were also made by the Museum Departments in ensuring the revival and survival of indigenous Puak Belait technologies and handicraft among the younger generation through workshops and seminars.



The Belait District Officer, Dato Awang Haji Ghani views some of the handicraft and other products including traditional clothings worn by the Kuala Balai community, at the launching of rediscovering Kuala Balai – a small village deep in the Belait interiors.



Brunei will hold First International Islamic Expo

Brunei Darussalam will hold the First International Islamic Expo in August this year, a major and meaningful contribution towards the Islamic world.

The Expo will become a motivator to agenda of collecting, developing and dissemination of knowledge and information on Islam for the betterment and growth of the whole Islamic world. The Expo to be held from 1 to 14 August 2001, at the new building of the State Mufti Department is also in conjunction with the Visit Brunei Year (VBY) 2001.

This was highlighted by the Director of administration of the State Mufti Department, Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ahmad Bukhari, who spoke on the expo to senior government officials, foreign diplomats and representatives from the private sector at a roadshow held at a hotel in Berakas, on 19 April.

The expo will be opened not only to the countries in the region, but also countries in Asia, the Middle East and other interested countries. It will be divided into three main activities, namely Islam Heritage exhibition, Islamic exhibition and trade fair, and International Seminar on Islamic Archipelago's Resources of Reference.

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Ahmad Bukhari who is the Chairman of the expo said, the Islamic Heritage Exhibition will display history left behind by Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, and his companions, special collection of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, collection of unique

manuscripts of the Arabs and Persians on various disciplines, fatwa (legal ruling) from Muslim judges from several Muslim countries, handicrafts and related courses and others.

The Islamic exhibition and trade fair will display books and multimedia, broadcasting technology and websites, computer accessories and equipment, educational and Islamic-related information and sources as well as printing machines and equipments.

The International Seminar on the Islamic Archipelago's Resources of Reference will include, among others, discussions on the contribution of Muslim intellectuals in their respective fields, Islamic manuscripts on various disciplines and the contribution of institution to the development of Islamic teachings. Primary working papers will be written and delivered by experts and international contemporary masters, while participants will comprise of researchers, lecturers, students and other interested participants from within the country and overseas.

The official further noted that other activities to be held in conjunction with the expo would include the launchings of a charity scheme for the purpose of knowledge, a special collection of Islamic books, Islamic digital library and 'Baitul-hikmah' website, and an international forum.

Awang Haji Ismail of Transpower Cooperation Pte Ltd, who is also the



Dato Awang Haji Ahmad Bukhari speaking on the upcoming international expo on Islam in Brunei in August 2001, which will be the first of its kind to be held.

manager of the expo's activities said, the road shows conducted in several countries have received an encouraging response.

The company will provide 200 exhibition booths and, has already received reservations, including 30 booths for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Those who wish to participate should make an early reservation.

Meanwhile, the Director of Promotion and Tourism Development at the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, Sheikh Jamaluddin, welcomed the effort of the State Mufti Department in holding the expo in conjunction with the VBY 2001, and hoped that more exhibitions would be held to attract tourists coming into the country.

Young generation should be moved towards relevant skills in ICT

The Permanent Secretary of the Finance Ministry has stressed the need for the young generation in the country to be moved towards relevant skills so that they could help the country to continually compete in the rapidly changing world.

He said, in the globalisation age, members of the community should move together with the Information Technology and Communication development, and in facing the challenges of communicating and enhancing relationship amongst entrepreneurs, and

between entrepreneurs and consumers.

Stressing the need before he declared open Brunei Information Technology Exhibition (BITEX) 2001 at Setia Kenangan Complex in Kiulap near Brunei capital of Bandar Seri Begawan on 26 April, Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Maidin pointed that these particular aspects of IT had enabled many incapable economies to generate high productivity and efficiency, and moved towards the development in the new economy.

He said, the important aspect of the

new economy was not a transition to a big industry, but more to how we could make use of ICT to increase the efficiency of the economic fields, particularly the conventional economy, where the change in policies was required in order to get the benefits of ICT.

Last year, the Brunei Information Technology (BIT) National Council had given priority to the role of ICT as a motivator of growth. The council is also responsible for the implementation of IT 2000 and IT strategic plans for the

** Continued on page 11*

National sports associations in the country are urged to organise more sports competitions of the national standards in order to nurture the capabilities of athletes towards excellence, said the Minister of Culture Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Dr. Haji Awang Hussain when officially opened the 5th National Sports Meeting at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Berakas on April 22. He said that the National Sports Meeting is the premiere national sports event for Brunei Darussalam and hoped that the number of athletes would be increased in the future.

He also added that, the athletes' achievements in the National Sports Meeting would definitely assist the authorities to select the national teams to participate in the upcoming 21st SEA Games.

"Brunei Darussalam is fortunate as it has international standard sports facilities. Besides that, the Department of Youths and Sports is always offering sports and youth schemes to all", he added.

Sports fest launched



The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Hussain meets team leaders at the start of the fifth Brunei National Sports Meeting.

** From page 10
(BITEK 2001)*

government, as well as business and community interactions in the major areas of economy, including k-economy.

The permanent secretary was confident that the Computer Association of Brunei Darussalam, which organised the exhibition could play its role to bring success to e-government, e-commerce and e-Brunei.

"The main focus is to bring IT to offices, homes and public places, and the Computer Association of Brunei Darussalam as professional expert in IT should have its strategic role to meet these needs," he said.

He further pointed that the theme of BITEK 2001, 'The Growth of Manpower In ICT Through Education and Training' was timely as it reflected the priority being given to the specific areas.

The association's president, Awang Haji Mohammed Mahathir Abdullah in a welcoming remarks said, the association aimed to encourage the growth of ICT and its usage, besides being part of the national effort to make ICT as a motivator of growth a reality.

The association was also making

effort to carry out a clear and specific objective for community-oriented projects, to establish a resource centre, where ICT professionals could upgrade and develop their knowledge and skill, and to become an agency for changes in the human resource development in ICT by providing leadership and en-

suring the standard.

While viewing the exhibition, the Permanent Secretary launched the DST Multimedia, 'Simpur' pre-paid card known as ll for surfing of the Internet and e-mail.

Twenty-eight local IT companies displayed their products at the BITEK 2001.



The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Pengiran Dato Haji Maidin tours the BITEK 2001 exhibition shortly after he declared it open.

Crown Prince grants audiences to new High Commissioners of Pakistan and Malaysia

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah has granted an audience to His Excellency Major (Rtd) Badr-ud-Deen, the new High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam, at Istana Nurul Iman on 28 April.

His Royal Highness had two days earlier, also at Istana Nurul Iman, granted an audience to His Excellency Encik Salman bin Ahmad, the new Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

Present at both audiences was the Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Yahya.

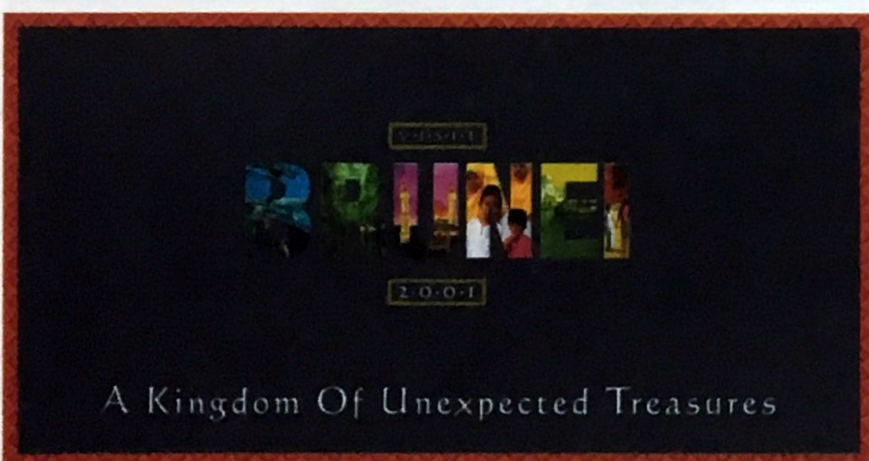
On 25 April, His Excellency Major (Rtd) Badr-ud-Deen and His Excellency Encik Salman bin Ahmad were granted separate audiences by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Foreign Affairs at Balai Penghadapan, Bukit Kayangan (pictures page four).

During the audiences, His Royal Highness and the High Commissioners held discussions on bi-lateral matters.

Both high commissioners presented their credentials to His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 7 April.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah granting audiences to the new high commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Salman bin Ahmad, above, and to the new high commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam, His Excellency Mr. Badr-ud-Deen, below.



What's happening NEXT month in Brunei Darussalam?

May

Brunei International Fishing Competition open to all fishing enthusiasts.

Visit www.visitbrunei.com or email bruneitourism@brunet.bn for more details.

Brunei In Brief

Official name: Negara Brunei Darussalam

Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size: 5675 sq. km

Geographical Position: North-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia

Population: 336,376 (July 2000 estimate)

National Carrier: Royal Brunei Airlines

Official Language: Malay

Official Religion: Islam

Official Website: www.brunei.gov.bn

March Rainfall: 192.6 mm

The Trafficking and illegal importation of Controlled Drugs are very serious offences in Brunei Darussalam and the penalty is death.

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