



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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## *Preservation Of Independence And Peace Responsibility Of All: His Majesty*

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has highlighted that the continuous preservation of the Sultanate's independence and peace against any form of disturbance by undesirable elements is the responsibility of all its people. The

monarch said that the independence and peace should not be separated from one another. Either one should not cease from the other, for if one does, the other would become less meaningful.

Delivering the 'titah' (royal address) nationwide over radio and television in conjunction with the Sul-

• *Continued on page 2*



*His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam underscoring the importance of peace as a precondition of development.*

## *Muslims Need To Get Themselves Engaged With The Al-Quran - His Majesty*



**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has said it is important now for Muslims in the country to get themselves engaged more deeply with the Al-Quran, particularly at this time when man has lost his life-principle.

Such engagement, said His Majesty, can be carried out in various means and conditions, and one of the best ways is by practising all religious teachings.

• *Continued centre page*

*A winner of the competition to memorise verses of the Al-Qur'an (Koran) receiving his prize from His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during a ceremony on the anniversary of Nuzul Al-Qur'an (Revelation of the Koran).*

## *Brunei Darussalam values highly its relationship with Australia*

**H**is Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, said the excellent relations which exist between Brunei Darussalam and Australia have grown into one which Brunei Darussalam values a great deal.

"Our interests now stretch right across Australia and Bruneians and Australians are firm friends and partners in many areas of cooperation," said the Minister.

For this reason, Brunei Darussalam is very much looking forward to the next three years as the country coordinator of the ASEAN - Australia Dialogue, and to work together as members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), His Royal Highness added.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah was speaking at a dinner in honour of the visiting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia, The Honourable Senator Gareth Evans QC at the Edinburgh Palace in Berakas on February 16.

The Foreign Affairs Minister also expressed the satisfaction over Australia's commitment to being keenly involved in Asian affairs. He assured that Brunei Darussalam is just as determined to play its



*His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Brunei Darussalam Foreign Affairs Minister and his visiting Australian counterpart, The Honourable Senator Gareth Evans QC seen deep in discussion when they met recently.*

own part in strengthening its relations with Australia in all walks of life.

### **Speech by Australia's Minister of Foreign Affairs**

The Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs in his speech also touched on the existing relationship between the two countries, and his country's determination to build the spirit of cooperation and learn the spirit of ASEAN.

Australia also welcomes the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference which will be chaired by Brunei

Darussalam in July this year.

Australia and Brunei Darussalam, said The Honourable Senator Gareth Evans QC, would also set up a federated business council with members of business councils in both countries.

Present at the dinner was Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Masna and other senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **Minister of Foreign Affairs received courtesy call**

Earlier in the day, His Royal Highness Prince

Mohamed Bolkiah received The Honourable Senator Gareth Evans QC at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Jalan Subok.

During the meeting, His Royal Highness and His counterpart exchanged views on wideranging bilateral, regional and international issues.

These included discussions on ASEAN affairs, particularly matters relating to the 2nd Meeting of ASEAN Regional Forum which will be held in Bandar Seri Begawan in July this year.

The Honourable Senator Gareth Evans QC was in the country for a two-day working visit.

# Air Linkages Express Commitments Towards Sub-regional Development: Minister



The Minister of Communications, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria watches as the four representatives put down their signatures on the Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines MOU on air linkages expansion.

The Minister of Communications has highlighted that the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Governments of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines on the Expansion of Air Linkages was a significant expression of commitments of the four governments towards achieving an accelerated pace of development in the sub-region through cooperation and partnership. He also said that it marks a "significant milestone in the development of the BIMP-EAGA (Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines - East ASEAN Growth Area) growth polygon.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Bandar Seri Begawan on 21 February, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria, the Minister of Communications said that the MOU would facilitate the acceleration of the development of air linkages between the major airports in the sub-region.

The minister said: "Air linkages is important to the

development of this region, which has a vast potential for growth. The signing of this MOU is, therefore, a major step and indeed a bold step in cooperation and pragmatism."

The MOU, he added, translates into action the vision and the political directives set by our heads of governments and leaders. "We are proud of this success but we should not be complacent. Although this MOU is significant and will not doubt have far reaching effect, we are still a long way from creating a borderless sub-region.

The minister further said that the BIMP-EAGA cooperation is a cooperation in economic complementarity and the fundamental factor for success in this ideal is the concept of "borderless".

He pointed that the road to the accelerated economic growth in the prosperity of BIMP-EAGA sub-region is a cooperation to developing a "borderless" sub-region namely a cooperation for the promotion of development, expansion and integration of economic activities in the

geographical areas of the four different sovereignties; an economic joint effort in which the infrastructures are complemented, rules, procedures and policies are harmonised for unobstructed flow of factors across national borders; and an intensified cooperation and collaboration that will enable countries to leap-frog into a higher tempo of sustained development.

"The fundamental in the development of BIMP-EAGA is the geographical integration of the sub-region through air, land and sea. The development of the transport and communications infrastructure that would build bridges across land, seas and air in the sub-region is the foundation for development of BIMP-EAGA."

"This cooperation needs to find the mechanism and the motivation to accelerate the development of the transport and communications infrastructure that would integrate the areas in the sub-region."

The prescription for growth and prosperity of the region is very strong doses

of bold measures of cross border liberalisation, commitment to deregulation, and with strong support of private sector involvement, the minister stressed.

The minister also described the signing of the MOU as the first dose of a liberal air services agreement for the region which allows for 3rd and 4th freedom for several points in the EAGA without restrictions on frequencies and aircraft type, and will no doubt generate a sense of optimism towards accelerating the Air Linkages in the sub-region.

"We should take courage from this development and consider increasing the strength of the dose by deepening the agreement and allowing for full 5th freedom rights not only within the sub-region but also outside the region," he said.

## Establishment of linkages in Sultanate

The minister noted that Brunei Darussalam has taken some small step in contributing to the establish-

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Above: His Majesty on the dais with Their Royal Highnesses Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, Prince Mohamed Bolkiah and Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and other members of the royal family as well as state dignitaries at the Revelation of the Koran anniversary celebration. Hosts of officials led by the Minister of Religious Affairs (to HM's left) greeted the royals' arrival at the International Convention Centre, picture at left. In his speech, right, the monarch urged Muslims to get even closer to the Koran and its teachings.



• From page 1 (Al-Qur'an)

The Holy Qur'an is a reminder and a blessing, and any Muslim who is close to the Al-Qur'an is one who is exposed and close to the blessings of Allah, God the

Almighty, said the monarch. In a titah (address) during the nationwide "Nuzul Al-Qur'an" celebration [the anniversary of the revelation of the Al-Qur'an] at the International Convention Centre (ICC) on 18 Feb-

ruary, the Brunei monarch reminded that Muslims should not be aloof towards the Qur'an, because the holy book always needs them to practise it.

"Try to imagine that if Muslims do not engage

themselves with the Al-Qur'an. Where are they and what can they get as servants of Allah, God the Al-mighty?" the monarch asked.

Allah, God the Al-mighty, he said, has consi-

dered the Qur'an as light on light. Where could we get the brightest light if we are not close to the Al-Qur'an?

For that reason therefore, not only reading, reciting and understanding the content of the Al-Qur'an would

bring about rewards from God, but the hobby of collecting and preserving copies of the Al-Qur'an can also bring about benefit and blessing, pointed His

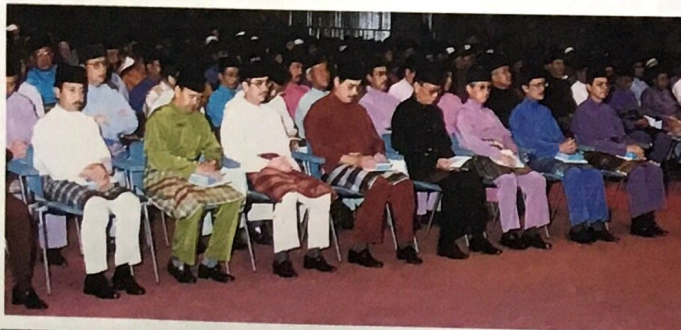
• Continued on page 8



Top right, right and bottom right pictures show the ruler presenting prizes to the winners of the various categories of the competition to memorise verses of the Koran.



Foreign diplomats based in Bandar Seri Begawan, picture at left, and senior Government officials, far-left picture, were among the large number of people who attended the celebration.



# Minister calls for more effective reading materials

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports has called for the provision of more interesting and effective reading materials so as to encourage development of reading habit among students in the wake of the availability of various negative reading sources which are not suitable for youths or students. The minister also stressed that electronic media are more influential than the print media whereby students or youths waste their time watching the programmes or playing video games.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports made the remarks when he officially launched a magazine published by the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP) or the Language and Literature Bureau called 'Majalah



The Minister of Culture, Youths and Sports, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Lela Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain hoped that the newly-launched magazine 'Majalah Juara' would become classroom material as additional source of teaching and learning.

Juara', on 28 January.

The launching of the magazine, according to Yang Berhormat, is a good reflection in assisting students or youth in upgrading their reading interest.

The Minister also em-

phasised on the role of DBP towards generating such an attitude and expressed the belief that the year 1995 would become historic and a challenge to the department in playing its role towards publishing and widespread reading materials throughout the country.

The minister also hoped that the content of 'Majalah Juara' would always generate the mind of the students and youth in the country to jointly voice their views towards nation building.

He hoped that the co-operation between DBP and the Education Ministry through the Curriculum Development Department will bring the magazine as part of the magazines in the classroom which could become an additional source of teaching and learning.

The minister further reminded parents to be cau-

tious towards the negative elements in the newspapers, radio or television on the involvement of students and youth in activities such as drugs and other social problems, which should be curbed in order to avoid them from spreading in the country even though these have already touched some of our youths.

In order to curb these unhealthy social diseases, positive measures should be taken from now, the minister urged.

This is where the role of the mass media is needed in shaping the mind and discipline of our students and youths, and due planning should be undertaken to attract the interest towards reading among our people as it could generate the students' mind towards achieving the nation building objective as aspired by the government, the minister said.

## • From Centre Page (Al-Qur'an)

Majesty, adding that this is because the work of collecting the Al-Qur'an also reflects respect and love for the holy book.

The Brunei ruler further stressed the need for every Muslim to become familiar with the Al-Qur'an, learning it according to their capability.

His Majesty also reiterated the need for government officials and staff to get used to reading at least several verses from a spe-

cific chapter of the Al-Qur'an daily before they start their duty, with the hope that any service and work they render for the country will always be guided by the reminder and blessings of the Allah, God the Almighty.

"Love the Al-Qur'an and prove our love in the right and appropriate way. For instance, if we hear people humiliating the Al-Qur'an, either in speech or writing, it is therefore, unjustified for Muslims to keep silent because we shoulder the responsibility to avoid such

humiliation, stressed His Majesty.

One of the ways to avoid such humiliation is by producing knowledgeable explanation which is strong and constructive in written forms and books. Similar action should also be taken for issues such as sayings of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, and deviant Islamic teachings, His Majesty pointed out.

Immediate action towards this is important to save the Ummah from any undesirable attempts of enemies, stressed His Majesty.

The monarch also spoke about the country's banning of a movement seemingly symbolising on the religion in the country. Likewise we will not hesitate to take any action towards any party which attempted to carry, teach or invite other people to practise teachings which are contradictory to the teachings of the Ahlisunnah Waljama'ah," said His Majesty.

His Majesty hoped that Muslims in the country would always be cautious

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# Congratulatory messages on National Day

**H**is Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has received congratulatory messages from foreign leaders on the occasion of the country's eleventh National Day, on 23 February.

Among those who sent messages included His Majesty The Yang Dipertuan Agung of Malaysia, Tuanku Jaafar Ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Their Majesties King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman, King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal, King Juan Carlos I of Spain, King Hussein Ibn Talal of Jordan and King Carl Gustaf of Sweden.

Messages also came from His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahayyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, His Highness Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al-Khalifa, the Emir of Bahrain, His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, and His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait.

There were also messages from Their Excellencies President Soeharto of Indonesia, President Ong Teng Cheong of Singapore, President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, President Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma of the Republic of India, President

Abdul Rahman Biswas of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, President Jiang Zemin of the People's Republic of China and President Hojatole Eslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Congratulatory messages also came from Their Excellencies President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt, President Dr. Roman Herzog of the Federated Republic of Germany, President William J. Clinton of the United States of America, President Francois Mitterrand of France, President Dr. Censu Tabone of Malta, President Kaspar Villiger of the Confederation of Switzerland, Captain Yahya A. J. J. Jammeh, Chairman and

Head of State of the Republic of Gambia and President Arpad Goencz of the Republic of Hungary.

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also received congratulatory messages from Malaysian Prime Minister, Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, Their Excellencies Singapore Prime Minister, Goh Chok Tong, Japan's Prime Minister, Tomiichi Murayama, the Right Honourable John Major, British Prime Minister, Their Excellencies Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Bangladesh Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia and Dr. Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

## • From page 8 (Al-Qur'an)

from any element that attempted to deviate their beliefs and destroy the Bruneians' proper way of life.

"We need to instil within ourselves the understanding that we live and thrive in Brunei Darussalam, a land which is renowned for its noble way of life, a proven stronghold of religion and smooth traditions. We should therefore continue to preserve them," the monarch urged.

## Speech by Minister of Religious Affairs

The theme of the celebration this year was "Kegemilangan dan Kemajuan Berpunca Dari Kerajinan dan Kegigihan" or "Glory and Progress Tapped From Hardwork and Determination".

The Minister of Religious Affairs, Yang Berhormat Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain in his welcoming speech said, the theme was appropriate with the country's development being carried out. The Al-Qur'an, he added, encourages Muslims to be diligent and determined in attitude in order to achieve glory and progress.

Yang Berhormat also hoped that the theme would be practised by all levels of society in the country, so that a community with a progressive culture which can face the challenges of the 21st century would be established.

"The Al-Qur'an is clearly against laziness and weakness as these attitudes will bring about deterioration and poverty in all aspects of life,

including faith, personality, views of life, working culture, and man's quality as servants of God," said the Minister.

The highlight of this year's celebration was the presentation of prizes to winners of various categories of the competition to memorise verses of the Al-Qur'an, by His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Such competition was aimed at encouraging the community of the country to become close to the Al-Qur'an, and be able to read and memorise its verses properly, he added.

It was hoped that in this way, the learning of the Al-Qur'an in the country would be more splendid, and thus through learning its content, Koranic teachings could be practised and properly carried out, said the Minis-

ter.

This year's celebration which was organised jointly by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and the Department of Immigration, Ministry of Home Affairs reflects the existence of close relations between ministries.

Such cooperation, he said, would continue to be upgraded and enhanced in order to achieve the country's glory and progress.

Present at the ceremony were His Majesty's eldest son, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

## *Fire victims receive donations from the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation*

**W**hat could have been a gloomy Hari Raya Aidilfitri (Id Mubarak) celebration turned into cheers of happiness for some 233 families who had lost their homes in fires during 1994 and early this year.

The families, comprising 1195 kins, received donations from the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation) on 22 February - just a week before the celebration which is one of the biggest and most important in the Muslim calendar marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadhan.

Making the presentation was Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah, eldest daughter of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during a ceremony at the Lapau (parliament house) in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

All these families had



*Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah presenting donation to the head of one of the families while the Chairman of the Foundation's Board of Directors, Yang Dimuliakan Lagi Dihormati Pehin Orang Kaya Digadong Seri Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Abdul Rahman (right) and the Foundation's Managing Director, Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Abu Bakar (centre) look on.*

been resettled into new houses, some at Kampong Bolkiah A and in the adjoining Kampong Pulau Berambang in the capital. The houses in both areas have been built under the foundation's housing scheme commenced at the end of 1993, with each family having to repay through low, monthly instalments over a 15 to 30 year period.

Construction of 250 houses at Kampong Bolkiah A, which was completed in June last year, followed a major fire in September 1993 which destroyed a large number of houses in several villages that formed part of the country's historic Kampong Ayer (Water Villages), leaving hundreds of families homeless. They,

too, had received donations from the foundation soon after the fire.

Meanwhile, construction of a further 250 houses that now makes up Kampong Pulau Berambang soon followed and was completed in November last year, and already 147 families have opted to join the scheme there.

### **Donations also for the sick, disabled and handicapped, orphans**

With the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration fast approaching, donations have also been incoming for orphans, sick as well as disabled and handicapped children.

On 25 February, Yang

Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah presented gifts donated by the Public Service Department to some fifty children warded at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha hospital in conjunction with the fasting month of Ramadhan and Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

At the same time, some 30 handicapped children at the hospital's play class also received similar gifts.

Orphans, too, were not forgotten and ceremonies have been taking place throughout the fasting month and in all districts to present them with donations from various charity funds and bodies as well as private individuals.

## *Brunei Darussalam-Algeria establish diplomatic relations*

**B**runei Darussalam and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria have established diplomatic relations.

A press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Af-

fairs said that the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, in accord-

ance with the interests and wishes of their peoples, have agreed to establish diplomatic ties at the ambassadorial level with effect 24 January, 1995.

The two countries also

agreed to enhance friendship and cooperation on the basis of the principles of International Laws and the United Nations' Charter, the press release added.

# SEAMEO urged to plan programmes and projects more relevantly to meet consumers' needs

**B**runei Darussalam has called on the South-East Asia Ministers of Education Organisation, SEAMEO, to plan and develop its programmes and projects more interestingly and relevantly so as to be able to fulfill the requirements of end users.

In this context, it is important that the organisation explore new directions and strategies which are radical in order to obtain plenty of resources both from within and outside of the organisation.

Making the call at the Thirtieth Conference of the South-East Asia Ministers of Education Council, SEAMEC, held in Kuching, Sarawak from 16-19 January, 1995, the Brunei Darussalam Education Minister, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz cited looking at market and production-oriented strategy without divorcing away from the original objective as an example of such directions and



*The Minister of Education, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz, at the head of the Brunei Darussalam delegation to the 30th SEAMEO Conference.*

strategies that can satisfy the needs of the region from aspects of education, science and culture.

At the conference, a thematic symposium was held which especially focused discussions on the theme of "The relevance of education and training in a changing environment." These discussions covered long-term education related issues, issues of cooperation, the role

of SEAMEO in implementing relevant activities, efforts towards achieving better quality education and the consideration between academic achievement and human development.

In the discussions, the Brunei Darussalam Education Minister touched on the emergence of trends in curricular changes which, according to him, are relevant to Brunei Darussalam.

He said the Sultanate through the Ministry of Education is giving particular attention to important values being absorbed into the national ideology of Melayu Islam Beraja (MIB) or Malay Muslim Monarchy which is made a priority at all stages of education including at university level.

It is hoped that such emphasis on MIB can be a cultural defence against negative and unhealthy values that are widespread through the mass media and other sources.

The Minister pointed that on the whole, the issue of relevance of education and

training in a changing environment has to be viewed in a systematic proactive and reactive way, and that the whole educational system must be considered while exploiting all the available resources in order to obtain optimum achievement and performance.

He agreed that problems in education should be overcome through cooperation by way of sharing experts and resources among member countries in such fields as vocational and technical education, science and technology, moral education, higher education and towards bettering the quality and standards of the educational systems in this region.

Membership of the Organisation of South-East Asia Ministers of Education Organisation comprises Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Australia, Canada, France, Germany and the Netherlands are affiliated members.

• *From page 8 (MOU)*  
ment of those linkages and towards facilitating trade between BIMP-EAGA sub-region.

The development of Muara Port as a transshipment centre, he said, has now been reinforced by the commercial management of the Container Freight Station.

He said that this is the first step in providing Container Cargo Consolidation Service and will be further supplemented in future by the operation of feeder vessels from

Muara Port to a number of small ports in the region.

The minister stressed that His Majesty's Government through the Ministry of Communications continues to review the competitiveness of the services provided such as port handling charges and airport charges.

He also noted that the country has already reduced telephone tariffs to Singapore and West Malaysia by some 40 percent effective 1st February 1995, and the reduction of access charges for mobile

phones from B\$80 to B\$60 per month.

"This is the first package and we will continue this exercise to create Brunei Darussalam as a place for competitiveness," the minister concluded.

The minister later witnessed the signing of the MOU by representatives of BIMP-EAGA and viewed an exhibition on air-related services put up by government and tourist agencies.

Signing for Brunei Darussalam were Dato

Paduka Job Lim, Senior Special Duties Officer of the Ministry of Communications, Indonesia was represented by Zainuddin Sikado, Director-General of Air Communications of the Department of Communications, Mr. Cheah Kong Wai, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Transport signed for Malaysia and the Republic of the Philippines was represented by Mr. Primitivo C. Cal, the Undersecretary for Transportation, Department of Transportation and Communications.



*Tamu  
or  
stall-  
holders  
enjoy  
brisk  
business  
during  
fasting  
month*



**M**uslims in Brunei Darussalam, as throughout the world, will celebrate Hari Raya Aidilfitri (Id Mubarak) next month as culmination of the daily dawn-to-dusk fasts which they endure for a month every year.

This year, the fasting month of Ramadhan began on the first of this month,

marked by various religious activities such as nightly 'Terawih' prayers at all mosques, suraus and halls of worships throughout the country as well as at palaces and private residences, 'Bertadarus' ceremony (complete recital of the holy Koran during the fasting month) and 'Tahlil' prayers at mausoleums and

cemeteries etc.

But apart from these, the fasting month is also a time that sees special stalls being put up to enable stall holders or food vendors sell numerous types of tasty food and other delicacies that might not be so easily available at other times, especially traditional Brunei Malay cuisines.

Muslims flock to these stalls usually in late afternoons throughout the fasting month to buy food for breaking their fasts. While the vendors enjoy an especially brisk business, the buyers enjoy wide varieties of foods to their hearts' delights and content.

*Brunei in Brief*

Capital : Bandar Seri Begawan  
Land size : 5765 sq. km  
Population : 267,800 (Mid-1992)  
Official Language : Malay  
Official Religion : Islam  
January rainfall : 179.1mm  
(annual 2,818mm)

**PRIME LENDING RATE**

January 5.75%  
(quoted by Bankers' Association)

*Brunei Malay in a minute*

**E**ach fortnight readers are introduced to a new Brunei Malay word through each edition of the Brunei Darussalam Newsletter. Such a word is particularly peculiar to Brunei Darussalam and used nowhere else.

We have selected the word **bakarang** for this issue.

**Bakarang** is going out to sea or river to catch fish and the likes. Its equivalent in standard Malay is **turun ke laut**.

Used: in a sentence, for example: Nelayan itu **bakarang** awal-awal pagi.

The fisherman went out to sea to catch fish early in the morning.

**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.**