



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

Produced by the Broadcasting and Information Department  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. NUMBER 24.

SEPTEMBER 1987

## His Majesty the Sultan fulfills Islam's fifth pillar

**T**housands of Bruneians thronged the Brunei International airport last month to welcome His Majesty the Sultan on his return from Mecca after performing the *haj* Islam's fifth pillar.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam arrived on August 8, 1987 to a red carpet welcome from members of the royal household, state dignitaries, diplomats and senior government officials.

Outside the airport thousands of his subjects from a cross-section of the population milled to see and greet their ruler on his safe return.

Roads from the airport to Nurul Iman Palace were sealed off as flag waving school children lined the 16 kilometre-route.

His Majesty who is the Head of the Islamic faith in the Sultanate left the country on July 18, 1987 accompanied by his brother His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah, the Finance Minister, Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, the Special Adviser to His Majesty cum the Home Affairs Minister, Pehin Orang Kaya Ratna Diraja Dato Seri Utama Dr Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain the Religious Affairs Minister and Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General Pengiran Haji Ibnu, the Deputy Defence Minister.

While in Saudi Arabia His Majesty the Sultan was received by His Majesty King Fahd.

Over three thousand muslims from the Sultanate performed the *haj* in Mecca this year.

• see picture report on page 6 & 7



His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei (foreground) steps off his private jet at Brunei International airport after completing the *haj*.





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## Keep those farms growing

The agrarian roots of many societies are often leached out by the solicitous embrace of high-tech modernisation. The end result is often a sterile string of achievements and a sense of history which has not been lost but actually killed off by the mists of time.

The mixed blessing of rapid modernisation has not befallen our agricultural sector yet and the call of the Development Minister for more Bruneians to take up farming is deserving of serious consideration.

Among the myths that have to be swept out of the way are that farming is for the cerebrally less endowed or the last resort for the unemployed. The scriptures tell us that agricultural work is an expression of our total dependence on God's providence for each day that we live; the work that brings us closest to God-consciousness and God knows we could do that more of that.

It is of extreme strategic importance that local farmers really start digging the message as only some 30 percent of national food needs is domestically produced. The government has the resources like the expertise to advise farmers, subsidy schemes and lands has been pledged for the purpose.

Associated with farming are several traditions that have been practised in the Sultanate for centuries and there is concern that these might disappear with the shrinking numbers of land areas devoted to farming. Try celebrating a harvest when the last real harvest of anything was well beyond the memory of the celebrants. The symbols are important as chroniclers of who we are and whence we goeth.

With the farming sector contributing a miniscule one percent to the gross national product the dream of diversifying the economic base away from the petroleum industry seems a while away as yet.

## Air pact inked

An air services agreement has been signed between Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines.

The pact signed on August 24, 1987 in Bandar Seri Begawan gives an airline from each country twice weekly landing rights in the other country using Boeing 737 or BAC 111 aircraft.

The Sultanate has signed similar agreements with Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Maldives and Nepal.

## Youth Minister visits Fed. Rep. of Germany

Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain, the Culture Youth and Sports Minister led an official delegation on a study tour to the Federal Republic of Germany beginning on August 20, 1987.

The 10-day visit at the invitation of the host government, included

visits to several sports complexes and a closer look at the Republic's cultural and historical development.

The Sultanate's delegation included heads of the Welfare Youth and Sports Department, the Language and Literature Bureau as well as senior ministry officials.



Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain, the Culture Youth and Sports Minister hands over a gift to Mr T. Gopel, State Secretary in the Bavarian government during the former's visit there.

**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM** reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated. For a free subscription write to Broadcasting and Information Department, Brunei Darussalam.



# Manila, BSB can cooperate for stability

**H**is Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister has expressed the confidence that Brunei Darussalam and the Philippines could cooperate for regional peace and political stability.

His Royal Highness was speaking at a dinner he hosted for his Excellency Mr Salvador H. Laurel, the Philippines Vice-President during a one day visit to Bandar Seri Begawan on August 24, 1987.

He described regional peace as a prerequisite to economic development. Referring to an air services agreement that had been signed the same day between the two countries the Bruneian Minister said that it would help strengthen the 'existing good ties'.

Mr Laurel, who is also his country's Foreign Affairs Minister said that more avenues of trade and other economic cooperation



Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz, Brunei Darussalam's Communication Minister (left) signs the air services agreement between the Sultanate and the Philippines while His Excellency Mr. Salvador H. Laurel, the Philippino Vice-President represented his country.

between two countries should be sought.

The visiting Filipino leader was granted an audience by His Ma-

jesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam at Nurul Iman Palace.

## Indonesia marks 42nd national day

**T**he Indonesian Embassy in Brunei Darussalam last month hosted a reception to mark its 42nd national day which fell on August 17, 1987.

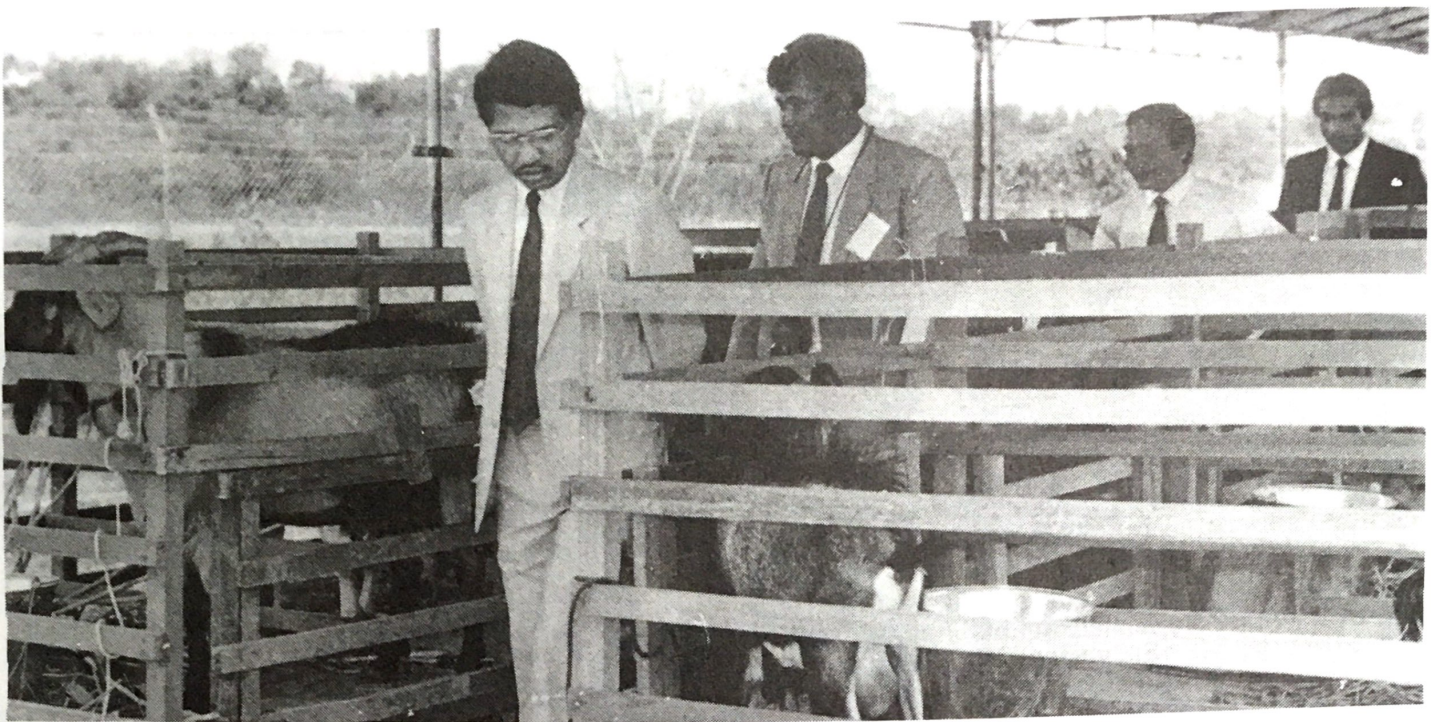
The function held at the Jerudong Park near Bandar Seri Begawan was attended by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister who represented the government.

Others who attended included diplomats, senior government officials and Indonesian nationals residing in the Sultanate.



Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah (centre) at the reception is His Excellency Mr Ferdy Salim, the Indonesian Ambassador (right).





A part of the agriculture show included a display of handicraft produced by rural communities. At right is Pengiran Dato Seri Laila Jasa Dr Haji Ismail, the Development Minister.

## Upmarket shops told: sell more local produce

**S**upermarkets and other more posh retailers have been told to sell more locally produced agricultural products as their contribution to the national effort to boost that sector of the economy.

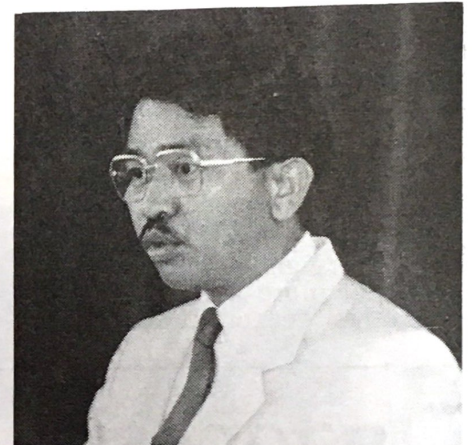
At present agriculture accounts for some one percent of the gross domestic product and Pengiran Dato Seri Laila Jasa Dr Haji Ismail, the Development Minister has expressed keenness that more Bruneians should take up agriculture as a livelihood.

Speaking at the opening of the annual agricultural show outside Bandar Seri Begawan on August 22, 1987 the minister said that the government was keen to assist would be farmers in any way. This included making land available for commercial scale farming ventures and the skills of officials trained in agricultural disciplines.

The government was also in the process of organising a farming subsidy scheme and a more effective marketing system for agricultural produce and seeking ways of creating new jobs in farming.

With the gradual decline in the amount of farming done in the Sultanate there was also concern that many traditions associated with farming might disappear.

The two-day show included competitions among farmers and commercial agriculturalists for fruit, vegetables ornamental plants and livestock. Suppliers to the farming industry also took the opportunity to display the latest in equipment and technology including the cloning method of propagating fruit trees.



Pengiran Dato Seri Laila Jasa Dr Haji Ismail



Pengiran Dato Seri Laila Jasa Dr Haji Ismail right, looks at some prize livestock at the 1987 Agriculture Show.



# British institutions hold exhibition on education



Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Abd. Rahman, the Education Minister (second from right) chats with a university representative at the opening of the exhibition. At right is the British Council representative in Bandar Seri Begawan, Mr David Elliot.

Several universities and polytechnics' from the United Kingdom were represented in the Sultanate last month in a three day exhibition 'Studying in Britain' organised by the British Council in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Speaking at the opening of the exhibition Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Abd. Rahman, the Education Minister said that government aspirations on education as the country "has special problems when it comes to manpower planning."

"The Education Ministry's current policy," said the Minister, "is sending students to the United Kingdom to pursue higher education particularly in medicine including dentistry, law, accountancy, engineering and other fields."

On display at the exhibition were leaflets on the various courses offered by the institutions including engineering, agriculture, law, management and business studies leading to diploma, degree and post graduate qualification.

## Third session opens at UBD

The University of Brunei Darussalam's third academic session began last month with a new intake of 168 students, 77 of them girls.

This year the university also admitted four students from the ASEAN member countries on Brunei Darussalam government scholarships. The students are from Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The university has a student population of over five hundred doing four-year degree programmes leading to bachelor's degrees in arts, science and education.

Courses of study at the university include economics, business studies, Malay Literature, Islamic studies and social policy and planning.



Over one thousand under-privileged children in the country were treated to a party at the Nurul Izzah Palace marking Hari Raya Aidiladha or Hari Raya Haji on August 5, 1987. Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam played host to the children who also included orphans and the handicapped. Brunei Darussalam marked Aidiladha with a public holiday and celebrations began with morning prayers held at major mosques throughout the Sultanate. In the capital Bandar Seri Begawan His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkia was among the worshippers at the Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque. During the festival, muslims in the country held open houses to relatives and friends. Animals such as cattle, buffalo and goats were sacrificed and the meat given away to the needy.



# Royal pilgrims return home to burst of affection



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam drives to the palace in a motorcade. The route from the airport was lined with flag waving school children.



His Majesty is greeted by Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Bahrain bin Pengiran Haji Abas, the Law Minister at the Brunei International Airport.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam is mobbed by affectionate subjects outside the airport gates.



On arrival thanks giving prayers were said for His Majesty's safe return. His Majesty's son, His Royal Highness Prince Muda Al-Muhtadee Billah (right) was among the member of the royal household present.



His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister (closest to camera) arrives at his residence on return from Mecca.



# ASEAN calligraphy contest



Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Awang Haji Yahya, the Deputy Religious Minister (extreme right) examines one of the entries at the exhibition. Behind him is Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd. Ali the Deputy Culture, Youth and Sports Minister.

**T**he Second ASEAN Islamic Calligraphy competition winners received their prizes from Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Yahya bin Hj. Ibrahim, the Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs at a ceremony held in the Islamic Missionary Centre in the capital on August 25, 1987.

The competition was organised by the government and conducted

by the Islamic Missionary Centre in conjunction with "Maal Hijrah" 1408 in the Islamic calendar. It was judged by an international panel that included experts from Malaysia and Indonesia.

Hundred and fifty-four entries in three categories were submitted by 63 ASEAN artists.

Entries from Malaysia swept top prizes in two categories and

top three in another class. An Indonesian entrant, Didin Sirajuddin AR won the first prize in the scriptures category.

The best overall winner was Wan Abdullah Wan Puteh of Malaysia. He is the resident "khat" calligrapher to His Royal Highness Sultan of Kedah, Malaysia

A week-long exhibition of the entries submitted was held.

## Sultanate at WHO confab on AIDS

**B**runei Darussalam was among the 28 countries represented at the WHO-sponsored conference on AIDS, attended by ministers from the Australasia region.

Dato Paduka Dr Haji Johar the Sultanate's Health Minister led a delegation to the meeting which was held in Sydney, Australia last month.

Discussions during the meeting centred on the political, economic, social and legal aspects dealing with AIDS.

After the conference the minister spent a week touring hospitals and other facilities manufacturing drugs and medical equipment in South Australia.



Dato Paduka Dr Haji Johar (3rd left) at a hospital he visited during his South Australian tour.



Now it's  
speedpost  
to Indonesia  
too

**T**he Postal Services Department has announced that speedpost services are now available to main towns in Indonesia with immediate effect.

The urban centres include Semarang, Surabaya, Denpasar, Medan, Batam, Ujungpandang and Balikpapan.

## Foreign Ministry reception for ASEAN's second decade

**T**he Brunei Darussalam Foreign Affairs Ministry hosted a reception to mark ASEAN's 20th anniversary on August 8, 1987. The function was attended by diplomats, senior officers and others involved in ASEAN programmes.

Earlier in the day a two-week exhibition tracing the country's participation in ASEAN since 1984 was opened at the Brunei museum.

ASEAN Secretary General Bruneian Awang Roderick Yong has said that the association had progressed slowly but steadily.

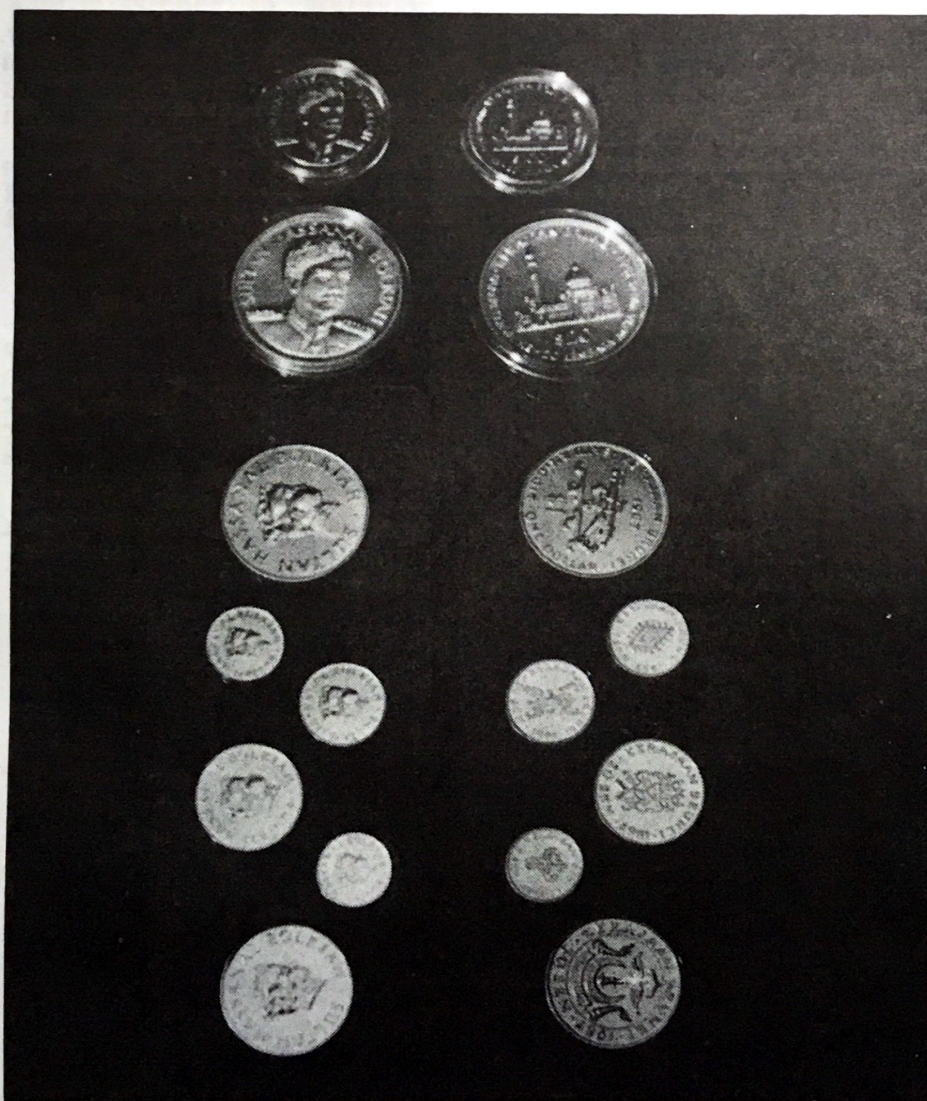
In a message for the occasion,

Awang Yong said that the grouping had helped in promoting 'mutual trust and understanding among the members and its success internationally has enhanced its prestige and international recognition.'

He also mentioned that the grouping had contributed to regional peace and prosperity.

'ASEAN cooperation efforts and achievements in political, economic, social, cultural information and science and technology areas are in fact significant though they did not always attract headline attention,' he added.

## *Anniversary mintage for collectors*



**N**umismatists had a chance to add to their collection last month when the Brunei Currency Board issued four commemorative coins to mark its 20th anniversary on August 24, 1987.

The mint coins were in gold proof and silver proof, while the coin set consisted of a one, five, ten, twenty, fifty sen and \$1 were struck in sterling silver proof and two thousand more of the specimen coin sets in cupro-nickel were struck by the Singapore mint, Singapore.

Top in the picture is the \$100 gold proof coin of which one thousand pieces were minted selling at costing \$600 each. Second from top is the \$20 silver proof of which three thousand pieces were produced and sold at \$60 each.

The \$100 gold proof and \$20 silver proof coins have a common obverse showing the portrait of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam while the Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque is depicted on the reverse.

Third in the arrangement are the sterling silver coins sold at \$80 per set and the cupro-nickel specimen set priced at \$20 per set. Both sets have the same obverse as the gold proof coins however the reverse carries different designs for each denomination.



# UBD hosts international seminar



At the opening of the seminar

A six-day international seminar on Malay culture, language and literature which was jointly organised by University of Brunei Darussalam and Brunei Darussalam Language and Literature Bureau, held at the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Educational Institution in the capital was attended by over 250 participants from overseas and locally on August 3, 1987.

Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, the Education Minister who opened the seminar

said, he was confident that the seminar would contribute to the cause of Malay culture, language and literature. He added that it brought together enthusiastic and proficient people linked with the development of the Malay language.

Twenty-four papers were presented by contributors from several countries including the United Kingdom, Holland, France, the Republic of Germany, Portugal, Australia. Papers were also contributed by local and regional experts.

"The Malay influence in the

## Brunei Malay in a minute

Each month in the Brunei Darussalam newsletter we introduce readers to common Malay words as used in this country. This month the word selected is *sira*.

*Sira* simply means salt both the table variety and the type used in the preservation of food. The standard Malay term would be *garam*.

Let's use the word in sentences:

*Sira* didapati dan dibuat daripada air laut.

Salt is obtained and made from sea water.

*Sira* adalah bahan perasa yang lazim digunakan oleh suri-suri rumah tangga untuk memasak.

Salt is a common seasoning used by housewives for cooking.



Portugese way of living." by Dr. L.F.F.R. Thomaz of Lisbon University. and "Austronesia languages in Brunei Darussalam." by Prof. Dr. B. Nothofer from the J.W. Goethe Universitat, Federal Republic of Germany were among significant papers presented.

"Brunei Darussalam's potential in the development of Malay literature." was the theme of the seminar, the first of its kind ever held in the sultanate. The seminar was conducted entirely in the Malay language.

Stamps  
mark  
ASEAN's  
20th  
birthday

Collectors have three more stamps to acquire when the Postal Services Department issued a new set of commemoratives on August 8, 1987, to mark the ASEAN's 20th anniversary.

The stamps, in denominations of 20 sen, 50 sen and \$1, were designed by Bruneian artist Awang Zainal Abidin bin Haji Ibrahim and printed by Security Printer (M) Sdn. Bhd. Malaysia.

Overseas collectors can obtain the stamps by writing to the Philatelic Bureau, Post-master General, Brunei Darussalam. Requests for standing order should be accompanied by a minimum deposit of \$30.





# RBA in Malaysia

**R**oyal Brunei Airlines, which has been operating services between Kuala Lumpur and Bandar Seri Begawan since 1982, formally launched its newly appointed General Sales Agent (GSA) in Peninsula Malaysia last month.

The GSA Blue Moon Travel Sdn Bhd will handle the airlines' passenger and cargo marketing, in Peninsula Malaysia from Kuala Lumpur and special services at Subang International Airport.

Blue Moon Travel staff have undergone training at Royal Brunei's headquarters in the operation of the airline's BIKOM computerised reservations system. They have also been familiarised with Royal Brunei's Boeing 757 and 737 services to Singapore, Kota Kinabalu, Kuching, Hong Kong, Manila, Bangkok, Darwin, Jakarta and Taipei.

A reception was held on August 27, 1987 in Kuala Lumpur for around 300 guests drawn from Peninsula Malaysia's aviation bodies, travel and cargo trade, business community and media. Guest of honour was His Excellency Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner in Malaysia, Pengiran Dato Jaluddin Pg. Md. Limbang.



L-R Awang Brahim bin Haji Ismail, RBA's Deputy General Manager, Pengiran Dato Jaluddin, Brunei Darussalam High Commissioner Awang Zakaria Ismail MD of Blue Moon Travel and Awang George Chan RBA's Sales Development Manager.

Pengiran Ali Pengiran Haji Ahmad, RBA's Commercial Manager welcomed the new GSA appointment as "a major expansion of the airline's marketing and service capability at a time of rapid growth and upgrading of customer services in its Penin-

sula Malaysia operations."

RBA leaves Bandar Seri Begawan at 5.00 pm on Mondays and Fridays — arriving in Kuala Lumpur at 7.15 pm. Flights leave Kuala Lumpur at 8.00 pm., arriving in Brunei Darussalam at 10.25 pm.

## Bangkok trip brings bronze

### Your turn

The next issue of the *Brunei Darussalam newsletter* will appear during the first week of October 1987. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel : 02-40527 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. Contributions for our next issue should arrive by September 15, 1987. All editorial rights reserved.



**S**eventeen-year-old Awang Azman bin Jamor (left) shares the winners rostrum at the ASEAN Schools athletic championships meet held in Bangkok, Thailand beginning from August 13, 1987. Azman came third after Thailand's Sompong Jansom (centre) took the gold medal and Malaysian Edward Jaipal Ebenezar clinched the silver in the 800-metre sprint. Eleven new meet records were created at the championships at which Malaysia became overall champions while Brunei Darussalam trailed behind Thailand and Singapore to take fourth ranking.



# 'Cheese' from riverside trees

The fruit in the picture is the *Pedada laut* known scientifically as *Sonneratia Caseolaris*, one of the three varieties in the *Sonneratiaceae* family.

The *pedada laut* tree which is usually not cultivated, grows to a height of up to 21 metres on the banks of tidal rivers and mangrove swamps.

The fruits have a variety of uses in cooking and as home health remedies. The young fruits are

sour while ripe one have a cheesy taste.

The juice of a half ripe fruit is drunk for coughs while the fruit-wall of an old fruit is given as a vermifuge. The fermented juice can also be used in arresting haemorrhage.

The ripe *pedada laut* when added to a sauce of shrimp paste make an excellent dip for *ambuyat* a favourite among bruneians made from sago flour. The dip is also used as a salad dressing.

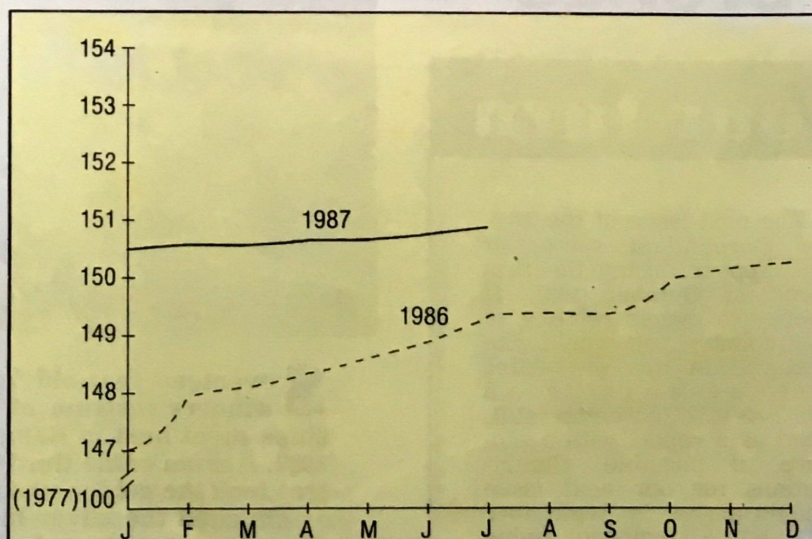


## BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Capital City :	Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size :	5765 sq.km
Population :	222,000 (1985)
Official Language :	Malay
Official Religion :	Islam
July 1987 rainfall :	199.10 mm.
(annual 2,818mm)	

## PRIME LENDING RATE

July 6.5%. (quoted by Bankers' Association).



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