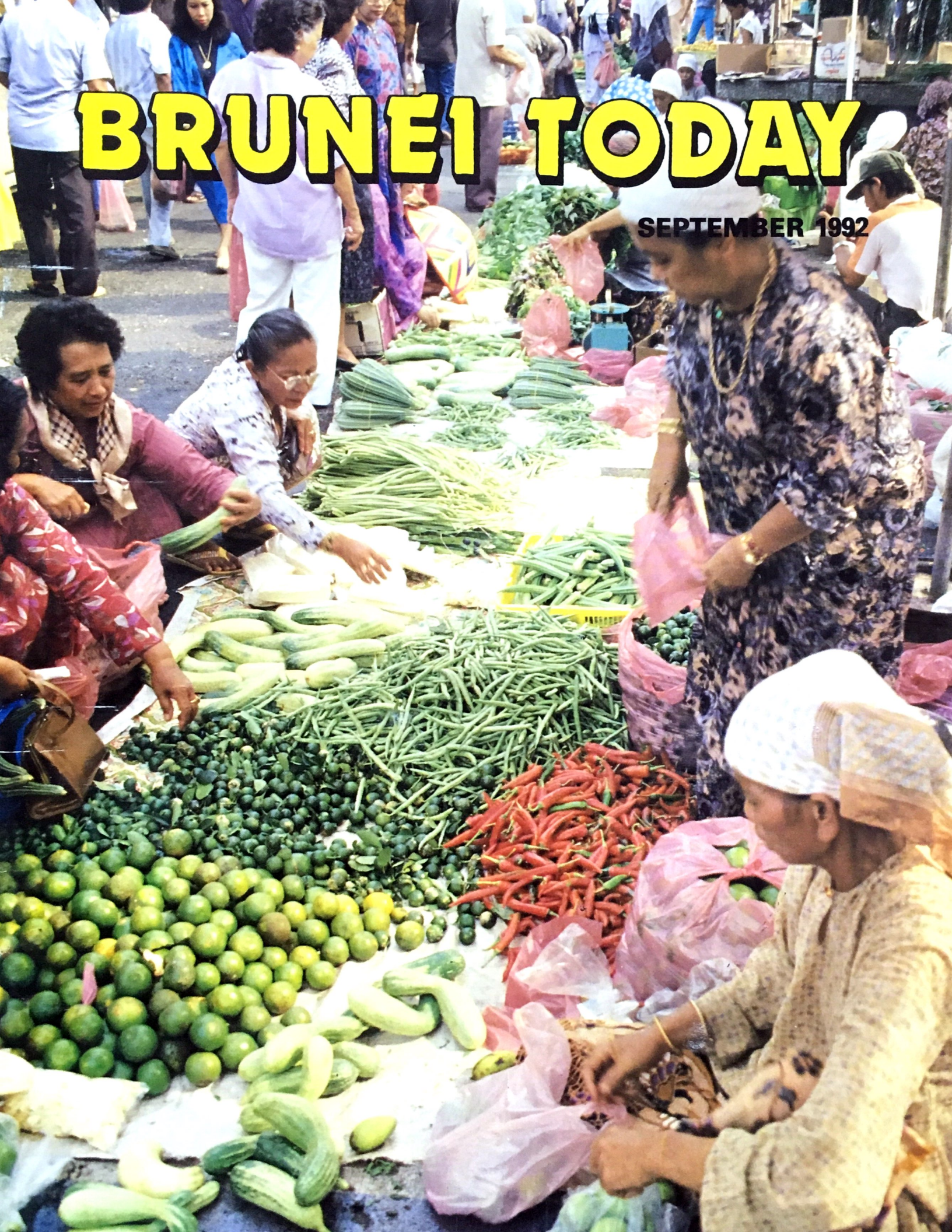


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More local vegetable varieties such as aubergines.



Grilled fish and chicken.



A family enjoying a picnic.



Some of the trees are more than 200 years old.

Front Cover

Housewives selecting their needs from a variety of fresh local vegetables available at the daily tamu or open-air market in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Inside of front cover

A combination of fruit, flowers and vegetables is characteristic of the tamu.

Inside of back cover

Water lilies in full bloom at the pond in the Sungai Liang Recreation Forest.

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One of the arch bridges spanning the Kianggeh River, connecting the tamu area to a main road in Bandar Seri Begawan. The picture also shows the boats used by hawkers from the Water Village to transport their goods to the tamu.



TAMU

- the traditional open air market

DURING ancient times when permanent retail shops or markets were non-existent, Bruneians had to go to a village with the largest concentration of population to buy or sell things. There must have been a few of these places or 'open-air market' scattered around the country, and people from smaller

villages within the vicinity went there as day-trippers and were therefore regarded as guests.

They were probably engaged in a lot of barter trading or were using their valuables such as brass articles to get what they wanted since proper currency had not been invented then.



Some hawkers prefer to put what they sell on stalls. The picture shows a few more of local vegetable varieties such as aubergines. Musk-limes and chillies are two common ingredients in Bruneian cooking.

Various kinds of local fruit can often be seen in the tamu.

Business

The open-air-market concept has survived to this day and is known as tamu, which in English means guest or day market; it depends, of course, on how it is used but it is obvious that the tamu got its name from the manner in which the earlier day markets were established.

Unlike the open-air market or day market or bazaar of the bygone days, today's tamu is a much more serious business because it is a means of earning a living for many of the hawkers and a sideline income for others, while for the customers it is a place where they can get a variety of things at bargain prices.

Delicacies

The only similarity with the old open-market is that the tamu is still held at a place with the most population, except that it is no longer a village but a town. Thus every town of Brunei Darussalam's four districts has a tamu.

The main attraction of the tamu is not only its low prices but also the fact that many of the things sold there are not available in the conventional markets.

The tamu in Bandar Seri Begawan, for example, has numerous things for sale, including vegetables, fruit, rice, potted plants, flowers, dried fish and shrimps,



condiments, live chickens and freshly cooked food such as fried rice, beef, fish, prawns, fried noodles, banana fritters and other culinary delights. For the visitors who wish to savour the delicacies of Bruneian cuisine, the tamu is the best place to go to.

Reasonable

Officially the tamu, which is located along the bank of the Kianggeh River, opens at 6.00 a.m. and closes at 10.30 p.m. After 6.00

p.m., however, most of those who stay on are food vendors, who are joined by other food hawkers at the nearby vacant carpark opposite the General Post Office. Every evening these two places sell an array of delicious local dishes not seen elsewhere, all at reasonable prices.

Among the well-known favourites is satay, which is made up of small chunks of beef or chicken marinated in sweet aromatic spices, skewered in ribs of



Imported fruit are also being sold there.

As evening approaches the aroma of grilled fish and chicken floats in the air.



Live poultry are also part of the tamu scene.



coconut leaves and then grilled over charcoal fire. Satay is taken with peanut sauce and ketupat, which is a type of rice dumplings cooked in casings woven from young coconut leaves.

Future

Although it is officially frowned upon, it is not unusual for the stall holders to carry on business well beyond the closing time to serve the seemingly never-ending flow of customers. The municipal authorities, however, do step in when the hawkers carry their abuses too far such as when they keep on stretching the designated shut-down time to the early hours of the next morning.

Such is the irresistible lure of the tamu that time seems unimportant to the hawkers and their customers. The open-air market has been part of Bruneian tradition since time out of mind, and it will doubtless continue to be so in the future.

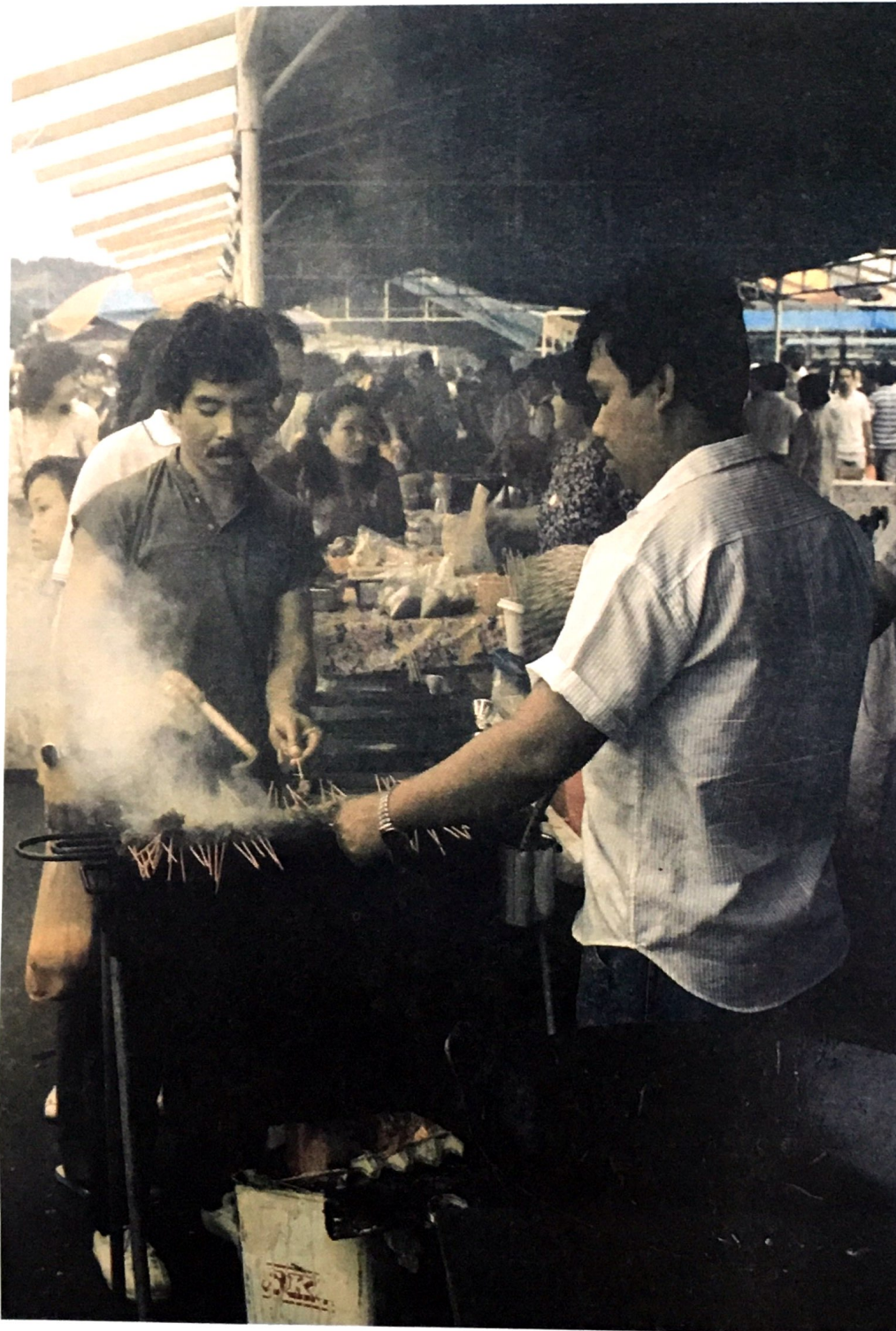


The tamu is just about the best place to buy eggs, which are produced sufficient to meet local requirements.

Some imported vegetables are also found at the tamu.



An assortment of Bruneian cookies and other goodies, neatly wrapped in polythene, are among the popular items at the tamu.



The ubiquitous satay, chunks of meat skewered in ribs of coconut leaves and grilled over charcoal fire, is another local speciality not to be missed.

Some visitors claim that if you want to sample Bruneian cuisine the tamu is the place to start. Here customers are seen buying some traditional culinary delights known as pais, which are wrapped in leaves and then grilled over charcoal fire.



Occasionally, the tamu sells not only food and drinks but also toys.

Dried foodstuff such as fish and prawns as well as a wide range of condiments are part and parcel of the open-air market.



Customers pondering over what potted flowers to purchase at a tamu just outside the capital.



A PARK FOR ALL



A wooden bridge takes the visitors across the extended pond.

IN many parts of the world huge tracts of rainforest have been excessively harvested for commercial timber or cleared to make way for development. This has resulted in destroying or endangering untold number of wildlife, among other things, thus causing irreparable damage to the ecology.

It is fortunate that Brunei Darussalam's forests do not suffer the same fate due to the Government's thoughtful policy of preserving for future generations God's verdant gift to the country.

Recreation

The policy, which is being implemented by the Forestry Department, aims to make sure that the people perpetually reap maximum economic, social and environmental benefits from the country's woodlands through sound forestry practice.

In order to accomplish these goals, the department has placed the forests into categories of Protection, Conservation, Recreation and Production.

Of these, Recreation is the one that every person-young and old-relates to because the forests thus classified have many purposes

such as enjoyment, relaxation, studies and ecotourism.

Towards this end the department has turned a few of the nicely positioned and easily accessible forests into parks. Among them are the Bukit Shahbandar Recreation Forest (Brunei Today, June 1992), which is just outside Bandar Seri Begawan, and the Sungai Liang Recreation Forest (SLRF), which is about 70 km to the southwest.

An ample carpark is available at the entrance of the recreational forest.



Attractions

The SLRF comprises 14 hectares of largely undisturbed lowland forest, which was officially opened to the public on 21st March, 1989 in conjunction with World Forestry Day. It is enclosed within the Sungai Liang Arboretum Reserve, which was gazetted in 1948, introduced to the public in 1970 and provided with a host of facilities in 1987 designed to pull in visitors to the forest without adversely affecting its fauna and flora.

Among the man-made attractions are a mini lake, river-dam swimming pool, shelters with tables and seats, ponds, platforms and open areas suitable for games and so forth.

True to its designation the park has been catering to general recreation such as picnicking, jogging, hiking as well as nature appreciation involving self-guided or organised group tours. Well-marked and planned trails, 19 in all, can take the energetic and adventurous visitors to every interesting corner and nook of the forest. An Information Hut, manned by personnel of the Forestry Department, is available and ready to furnish the visitors with hand-outs and further details about the park when required.

200 years

Since its opening it has been receiving a monthly average of 3,500 visitors from all walks of life including local as well as foreign VIPs and scientists.

The park consists of mixed dipterocarp forest containing a variety of quality timber known locally as Damar Hitam Timbul (*Shorea laxa*), Meranti Laut Putih (*Shorea rubella*), Kapur Bukit (*Dryobalanops beccarii*), Benchaloi (An-



One of the more than a dozen trails leading to just about every interesting corner and nook of the forest.

tisoptera grossiveria) and Merawan Daun Tebal (*Hopea treubii*) among others; while the non-dipterocarps include Kempas (*Koompassia malaccensis*), Kedondong (*Santiria laevigata*) and Kelendang Babi (*Parartocarpus cenenosus*). Many of the trees, believed to be more than 200 years old, have their local as well as scientific names written on them.

Operations

There are also a multitude of small plants and animals including



A shelter for picnickers is built in the pond. Like the others, the shelter has roofs constructed in the style of Malay architecture.



various species of palms, orchids and herbs; and birds, snakes, lizards, insects, frogs, squirrels and monkeys.

Adjacent to the park is a fast-expanding forestry complex where the Forestry Department's field operations and research facilities are based. The complex encompasses, among other things, the Forestry History Centre, the Forestry Exhibition Centre, administration offices, herbarium, a bamboo garden, a plant nursery and a rattan garden.

Not far from the entrance is an information hut manned by Forestry Department personnel to assist visitors who may want to know more about the park at first hand.

Protect

Due to its proximity and richness in fauna and flora, the department uses the SLRF as a research and training ground. People from educational and other institutions with scientific interest or love for nature or both also come here to carry out studies or simply soak themselves in the beauty and serenity of the forest.

The idea of developing the forests into parks are not merely a way of saving them or providing the people with a natural place for relaxation from the commotion of town life but also more importantly to inculcate in the people a deep love for their green environment and the necessity to protect it.





Children relishing the cool water of the river-dam swimming pool.



Besides giant trees, the recreational forest has various species of plants.

A few more of the shelters in another section of the recreational forest.



A family enjoying a picnic amidst the tranquility of the forest.



Some of the trees found in the park are more than two hundred years old and many of them are labelled.

The natural richness of the Sungai Liang Arboretum, within which the recreational forest is located, has brought about the existence of a fast-expanding forestry complex.



