

بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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APRIL 1987

New co-generation plant to meet energy demand

His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam officially opened the country's newest co-generation power plant on February 25, 1987.

His Majesty named the power station, sited on 9.3 hectares next to the Brunei LNG plant, the Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Saadul Khairi Waddien Power Plant, in honour of his late father.

The plant which is a joint venture between the government and the private sector consists of seven gas-fired turbines with a total output of 147 Mw.

Waste heat from the turbines is being utilised at the nearby liquefied natural gas plant to fire boilers in its energy-intensive process. This is expected to bring substantial energy savings to the largely government-owned Brunei LNG Sendirian Berhad, the firm that operates the liquefied natural gas plant.

Almost all the population enjoys electricity in Brunei Darussalam and domestic growth in electricity consumption has been 10 per cent per annum.

The new electricity generators will also supply power to the Belait District where the country's oil and gas industry is located. The Belait District used to have its own plant.

Work on the plant began at the end of 1984 and the contract was awarded to a consortium of Toyo Engineering Corporation of Japan and John Brown Engineering of Britain.



His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam at the control room of the Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Saadul Khairi Waddien power plant after declaring it officially open.



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Towards a diversified economy

Long term forecasts on the world oil and gas markets coupled with the national sustained yield policy on hydrocarbon production makes it imperative to plan for diversifying the economy.

From 1985 shakes descended on the world oil market and this has had not an unpalpable effect on Brunei Darussalam's earnings from that commodity. Last year, for instance, recorded a 50 percent drop in income over 1985.

Virtually all commodities are imported into the Sultanate and a steadily climbing consumer price index tells of higher import prices with time.

In the spirit of self-sufficiency and more crucial, for strategic reasons it vital, if not as urgent, that the economy diversifies away from oil and gas.

As it stands 90 percent of food is imported and the domestic agricultural sector only attracts academic dropouts or other unemployables.

Advocate of free enterprise as this paper is, the hand of policy makers is a necessary evil to shift momentum on a creature as ethereal yet undynamic as a stuck mentality.

For starters jobs in the desired sectors of the economy should receive resolute patronage that includes better salaries, benefits and protection.

Agricultural inputs, be they fertiliser, advice or other assistance could be systematically and rationally managed and tied to increased productivity. Farmers would appreciate guaranteed prices that reward quality as well as quantity of produce.

Whatever is done it is results that count as they are the only real measure of success.

Foreign Affairs Minister in talks with NZ, Aussie leaders

His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister last month visited Australia from March 4 to 8, 1987. A Foreign Affairs Ministry statement said that, on the agenda of the visit, at the invitation of Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian Foreign Affairs Minister, were talks on bilateral issues including economic and educational matters and regional and international topics.

His Royal Highness also paid a courtesy call on The Right Honourable Mr Robert J L

Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister. He was also received by Sir Ninian Stephen, the Australian Governor-General.

Earlier Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Minister made his first official visit to New Zealand where he held talks with Mr David Lange, New Zealand's Prime Minister. Discussions also touched on ways to improve the ASEAN-New Zealand dialogue of which Brunei Darussalam is the current chairman.

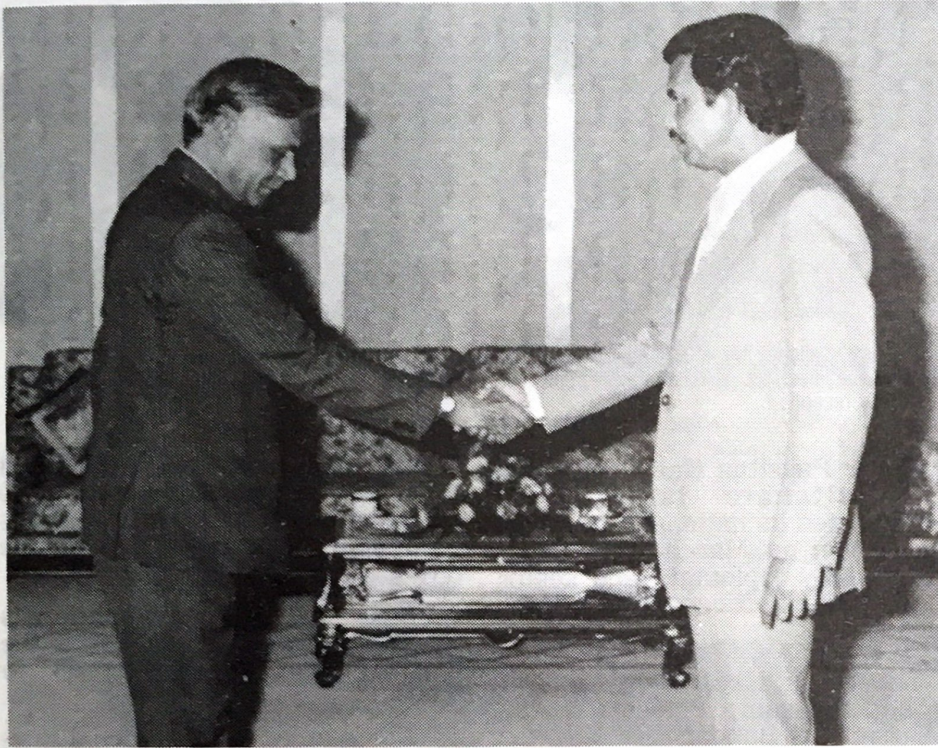
In the royal entourage to both countries were Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Zariah and senior Foreign Affairs Ministry officials.



His Royal Highness Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister chats with Mr Bill Hayden, his Australian counterpart, on arrival in Canberra.

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.

Senior Indian Cabinet Minister meets His Majesty



His Excellency Mr K. Natwar Singh, Indian External Affairs Minister meets His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam at the Nurul Iman Palace.

His Excellency Mr K Natwar Singh, Indian External Affairs Minister was granted a 40-minute audience by His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam on March 5, 1987.

The Indian Minister who was accompanied by His Excellency Mr Preet Mohan Singh Malik, the Kuala Lumpur-based Indian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam arrived in the State Capital the previous day.

Also present at the audience ceremony were Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Awang Haji Isa, Special Advisor to His Majesty and also Home Affairs Minister and Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz, the Grand Chamberlain.

Before he left the Indian Minister also met with Pengiran Dato Seri Laila Jasa Dr Ismail the Development Minister and other senior government officials.

New business closing times

The Municipal Board has announced new closing times for businesses in the capital.

A circular directed at restaurants and coffee shops, retailers and operators of barber saloons, became effective on February 1, 1987.

The new closing time for barber saloons is 8.00 p.m., retail shops 9.30 p.m. while restaurants and coffee shops are allowed to remain open till 10.30 p.m.

The penalty for breaking the regulations, issued under the Miscellaneous Licensing Act, is the cancellation of business licences.

No opening times were stated in the circular.

Dublin—BSB ties



Ireland's New Delhi-based Ambassador has been accredited to Brunei Darussalam. His Excellency Mr Paul D Dempsey, presented his appointment papers at the Nurul Iman Palace on February 28, 1987. His Excellency Mr Dempsey, 51, joined his country's foreign affairs service in 1963 and has served in its missions in Brussels, Washington and London.

Two High Court judges appointed

His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam has appointed two judicial commissioners to the High Court of Brunei Darussalam.

Mr Justice Michael Edmund Ivor Kempster and Mr Justice Rory O'Connor took their oaths of office before His Majesty at Nurul Iman Palace on March 9, 1987.

The two from Hong Kong, who have been appointed for three years, will sit with Dato Setia Sir Geoffrey Gould Briggs, President of the Brunei Darussalam Appeals Court to hear cases.



Mr Justice Michael Edmund Ivor Kempster



Mr Justice Rory O'Connor

Among those who witnessed the swearing in were His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Jefri Bolkiah, the Finance Minister, Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, Special Advisor to His Majesty and Home Affairs Minister, Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Bahrin, the Law Minister and Dato Setia Sir Geoffrey Briggs.

Pakistan National Day



His Excellency Mr Mir Abad Hussain, the Pakistani Ambassador (second from left) with Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain (left) at the national day reception.

The Pakistan Embassy in the Sultanate last month celebrated its national day with a reception on March 23, 1987 attended by diplomats and senior government officers and business leaders.

Host His Excellency Mr Mir Abad Hussain, Pakistan's Ambassador to Bandar Seri Begawan was there to welcome Pehin

Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain, the Culture Youth and Sports Minister guest of honour at the function.

Over 100 Pakistani nationals are in the Sultanate working in the public sector as well as in business.

Pakistan opened its local mission about two years ago.

Islamic zeal impresses diplomat

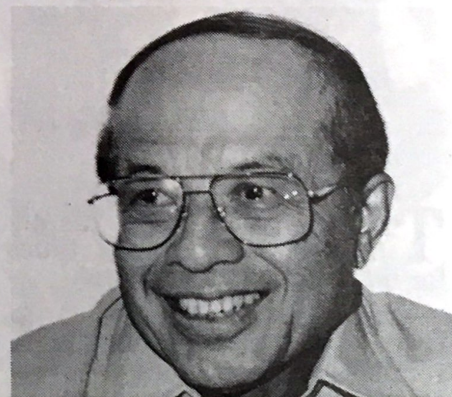
The Islamic zeal of Bruneian Muslims will be among the memories of Haji Zuwir Djamal, the out-going Indonesian Ambassador to this country.

Haji Zuwir, who was his country's first head of mission in Bandar Seri Begawan said last month, 'The devotion of the Muslim brethren here, recitations of the Quran on radio and television and the sincere way in which Bruneians observed their customs their will certainly bring back sweet memories of my three year assignment in the country.'

'The Sultanate has achieved tremendous progress in the three years following the resumption of independence,' he added.

He expressed a desire to see more cultural exchanges to bring closer the oneness that springs from the common heritage that his countrymen share with the people of Brunei Darussalam.

'Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam share many views in ASEAN and the relationship be-



His Excellency Haji Zuwir Djamal

tween the countries has become closer especially after His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam visited the Indonesian Republic in 1984', Haji Zuwir said.

The departing diplomat has previously served his country at its missions in North and South America, Cuba, Burma and the Philippines.

Bangladesh Minister visits

His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam has received in audience the visiting Bangladesh Foreign Minister, His Excellency Mr Humayan Rasheed Choudhury at the Nurul Iman Palace on March 2, 1987.

While in the Sultanate on a two-day private visit, His Excellency Mr Humayan Rasheed also met Dato Seri Laila Jasa Awang Haji Zakaria the Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister who also hosted him to dinner.



His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam receives His Excellency Mr Humayan Rasheed Choudhury the Bangladesh Foreign Minister. At left is His Excellency Mr Iftikar Karim, Bangladeshi High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

Gotong royong tree planting



After the planting of the coconut palm seedlings it was time to partake of some coconut-based refreshments. Pehin Haji Awang Isa, in the foreground wearing a cap was accompanied by Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Ali, Deputy Culture, Youth and Sports Minister, (right).

Fruit seedlings, planting skills and manpower and free refreshments all volunteered by local residents have been fueling the beginnings of a nation-wide fruit tree planting effort to put more greenery on beaches and other parts of the Sultanate.

The *gotong royong* (self-help) initiated by the government, began last National Day on February 23, 1987 with coconut planting events at several of the country's beaches.

The Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama

Haji Awang Isa, Special Adviser to His Majesty and Home Affairs Minister was guest of honour at one of the ceremonies.

A spokesman said that in addition to beautification the coconut palms could also play a role in controlling soil erosion and providing shade in several of the beaches which are recreation areas.

Other parts of the ongoing programme of tree planting will involve the planting of indigenous species of fruit trees which are be-

ing threatened with extinction because more exotic imported species were gaining ground in the country.

All the planting materials and manpower in the programme have been donated. Volunteers to do the planting have come from social groups, professional and trade associations and even from the diplomatic corps.

So far some 10,000 coconut palms have been planted and another 12,000 seedlings are yet to be used up.

The Seri Begawan Religious Teacher Training College in the capital held its 11th convocation last month.

The function held on March 7, 1987 had some 232 graduates including 172 women receiving their certificates after completing a three-year course in last year.

Guest of honour at the function was Pehin Orang Kaya Ratna Diraja Dato Seri Utama Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain bin Haji Serudin, the Religious Affairs Minister who also presented graduation certificates and best student awards.

Last year's awards went to Awang Ibrahim bin Alikhan and Dayang Norsiah binti Haji Abdullah while Dayang Hajjah Masni binti Bungsu and Dayang Norleha binti Haji Nordin received best student awards for 1985.

Speaking at the function Pehin Haji Awang Mohd. Zain said that it was the duty of religious teachers to imbue their students with Islamic values.

He also hoped that with the increase in numbers of trained teachers in the country, the teaching of Islam in Brunei Darussalam would be stepped up.

The Seri Begawan Religious

232 graduate from religious college



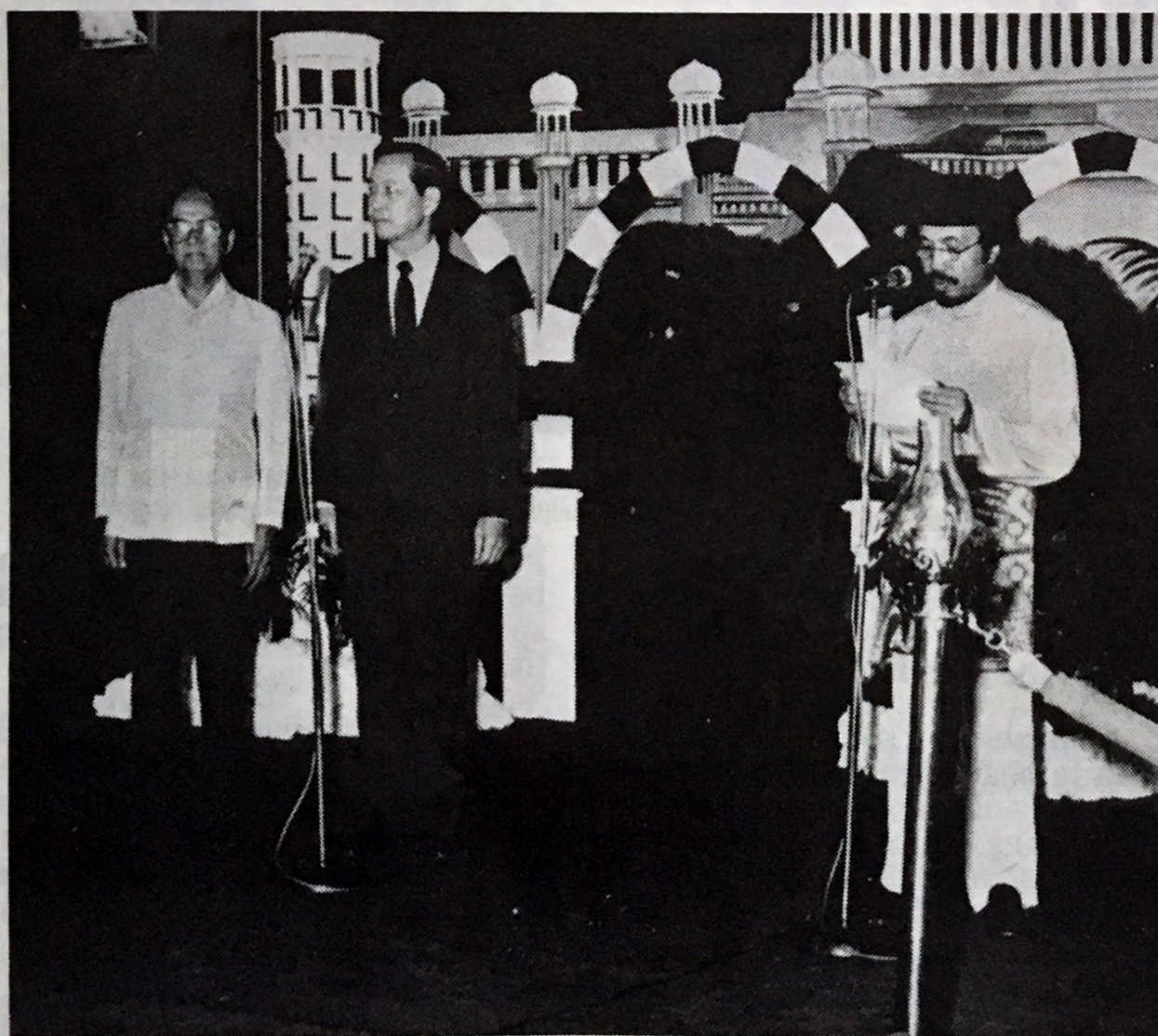
Pehin Orang Kaya Ratna Diraja Dato Seri Utama Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain, the Religious Affairs Minister presenting a certificate to a graduate of the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers College in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Teacher Training College opened in 1972 with an initial intake of 32 students. Studies included religious subjects, education and languages including Arabic and

English.

Since its founding some 872 graduates have been trained to serve in religious schools throughout the Sultanate.

Missions mark National Day



His Excellency Awang Haji Jaya (right) speaking at the National Day function in Manila.

The Brunei Darussalam mission in Manila observed National Day on February 23, 1987 with a reception at a leading hotel in Makati, Metro Manila.

His Excellency Awang Haji Jaya bin Abdul Latif, Brunei Darussalam's Ambassador to the Philippines and his wife were joined by VIP guests including members of the diplomatic corps in Manila at the celebrations.

In Jakarta, His Excellency Pehin Udana Khatib Ustaz Awang Haji Badaruddin bin Pengarah Haji Othman, Brunei Darussalam's Ambassador held a similar function at which guests included His Excellency Dr Mochtar Kusumatmadja, the Indonesian Foreign Minister.

ASEAN diplomats were among those who attended a National Day function hosted by Brunei Darussalam's Washington mission.

His Excellency Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Idris, the Ambassador's guests included State Department officials and diplomats based in the US capital.

ASEAN population experts meet

The 10th ASEAN Population Programme Heads and Experts meeting was held in Bandar Seri Begawan beginning March 18, 1987.

The Programme was set up after the declaration of ASEAN Concord in Bali in 1976.

In his keynote and opening address to the meeting Dato Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Haji Ahmad Wally Skinner, Deputy Finance Minister said that there was a universal need to improve living standards of the ASEAN peoples even though the population dynamics in various parts of the region differ.

'Certainly the very object of solidarity and co-operation is

about peoples and it is the togetherness of these peoples that will drive ASEAN to reach out for higher goals,' the Deputy Minister said.

The meeting also prepared reports for consideration at the ASEAN summit meeting scheduled to be held in Manila in December this year.

The ASEAN summit is expected to deal with a wide variety of economic issues and the population component of these will also be considered.

The question of integrating population with development, urbanisation and other demographic indicators like ageing and infant mortality rate are also expected to be raised.

Submarine cable link to Singapore

The governments of Brunei Darussalam and Singapore have agreed to build a submarine optical fibre cable linking the two countries.

The signing ceremony for the agreement, which took place in Singapore, on February 19, 1987, paves the way for improved telecommunications between the two countries and within ASEAN. When complete at the end of the decade, at the cost US \$50 million, all the ASEAN countries would be connected by a network of submarine communication cables.

Brunei Darussalam was represented at the agreement signing ceremony by Awang Haji Chuchu bin Panglima Asgar Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdullah, the Permanent Secretary at the Communications Ministry with Mr Tan Guong Ching, Permanent Secretary at the Singapore Ministry of Communications and Information signing for his government.

Last month Siemens AG of Germany signed a \$34.6 million contract with the Brunei Darussalam government to supply and install 47,000 lines of Stored Programme Control (SPC) digital exchange which will have 11 exchanges, and 17 remote subscriber units.



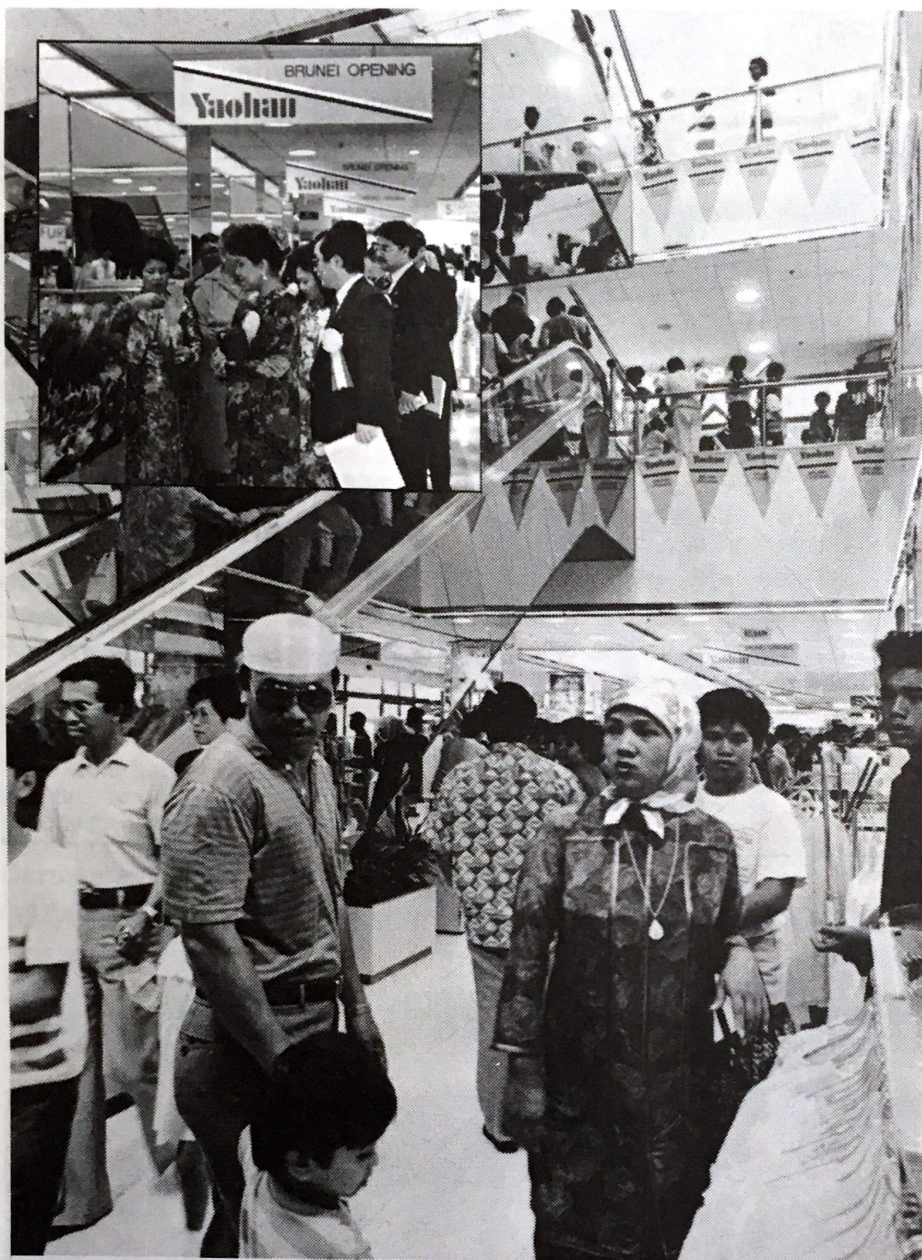
Awang Haji Chuchu (left) and Dr H Baur, Deputy President of Siemens AG exchanging documents after the signing ceremony in Bandar Seri Begawan.

At the signing Awang Haji Chuchu represented the government while Siemens of Germany was represented by Dr H Baur, Deputy President of the firm's Public Switching Systems Division.

When ready the new exchange will also make possible international direct dialling on an additional 8000 lines.

The first exchange is expected to be ready by next year.

One-stop store opens



Yaohan on opening day Inset: HRH Princess Masna (second from left) toured the store after the opening accompanied by Mrs Wada (left).

Yaohan Department Store of Japan last month opened its sixth outlet in ASEAN, a \$24.4 million investment in Bandar Seri Begawan.

The Brunei Darussalam store is a joint enterprise with local businessman Haji Awang Abdul Hapidz Laksamana who is also President of the Malay Chamber of Commerce.

The latest Yaohan outlet was officially opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Masna on March 20, 1987 to the accompaniment of *taiko* music by *happi*-clad girls. Also present at the opening was Mr Kazuo Wada, President of Yaohan Japan.

Earlier at a press conference Mr Wada said that the store could help to stem the cash outflow when Bruneians seeking up-market shopping spent their money to other cities in the region. He added that the strong Japanese yen has made overseas investment easier for Yaohan.

Haji Awang Abdul Hapidz, who through Abdul Razak Holdings holds, 30 percent of the partnership in Yaohan Brunei said that the political and economic stability and the relatively high per capita income in the Sultanate had been important factors in opening the new store.

Like its sister stores in Singapore, Hong Kong, USA, Costa Rica and Japan the local outlet is a one-stop family store combining shopping and leisure. It stocks anything from home appliances, furniture, interior furnishings, jewellery and clothing. Also on the premises are a number of cooked food outlets.

Attending the opening ceremony were His Excellency Mr T Kawamura, the Japanese Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam and other diplomats.

Stamps into the drug-abuse fight



Brunei Darussalam has issued a set of stamps to mark the country's anti drug-abuse campaign.

The set of commemorative stamps issued on March 15, 1987 consists of three stamps in the 10 sen, 75 sen and \$1 denominations.

Designs on the stamps were adapted from entries in the national anti drug-abuse poster competition held recently. All the entries used in the stamps were by school and college students.

The stamp (picture) was adapted from a poster entered by Arman bin Mohd Zaman of Serasa Secondary School. The legend in Malay roughly translates as 'Drugs, national enemy No. 1.'

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

Top scouters meet

Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain Brunei Darussalam's Chief Scout who is also the Culture, Youth and Sports Minister received a courtesy call from Dr Fritz Vollmar, Director General of the World Scout Federation on March 18, 1987.

The Switzerland-based scouter was in the country for a two-day visit to increase ties between the national scout body and the World Scout Bureau.

Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohammed Ali bin Haji Mohammed Daud, President of the National Scout Association and Deputy Culture Youth and Sports Minister also attended the meeting.



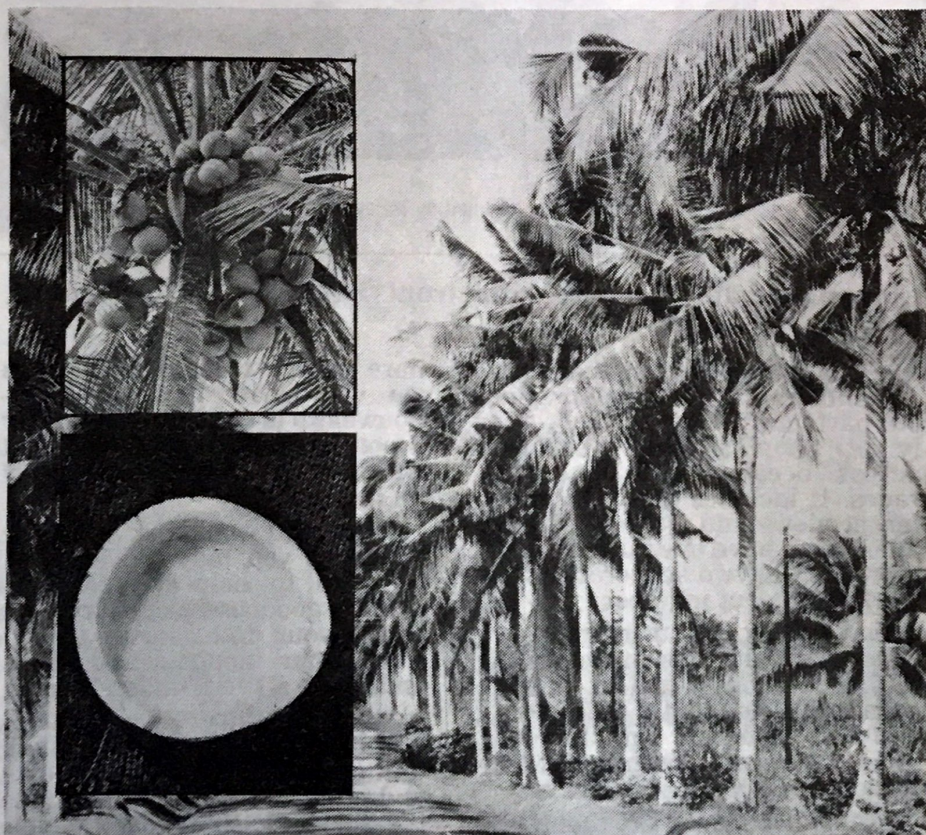
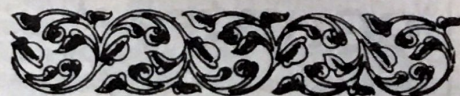
Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain, the Culture, Youth and Sports Minister receives Dr Fritz Vollmar, the Director General of the World Scout Federation.

Brunei Malay in a minute

Every month in the **Brunei Darussalam** newsletter readers are introduced to common Malay words as used in this country. This month the word selected is **piasau**.

Piasau is the Brunei Malay word for coconut, the fruit of the *cocos nucifera* or coconut palm. It is a hard-shelled nut filled with a sweet juice or 'milk' that makes a pleasant drink. The kernel of the nut, a solid white meat, can be dried and this is copra.

The kernel is also an ingredient in local sweetmeats. If it is grated and pressed a thick creamy juice is obtained which is an essential addition to many local dishes especially curries. The standard Malay term for the same would be 'kelapa'.



A row of **piasau** trees. Top inset: **Piasau** still attached to the palm. Lower inset: A mature **piasau** split open to show the 'meat'.

Pakistani Juniors top tournament



Reza (centre) and Usman (right) receiving their prizes from Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain, the Culture Youth and Sports Minister.

Pakistani pair Usman Rahim and Reza Mirza did the Islamic Republic proud when they clinched the singles and doubles titles between them at the Brunei Darussalam Junior International Tennis Tournament in Bandar Seri Begawan last month.

Usman put away compatriot Reza in the singles finals 6-1, 6-2 and in the semi beat Malaysian V. Selvam 3-6, 6-1 and 6-2.

Usman teamed up with his singles finals opponent to grab the doubles title from Sri Lankan pair Niel Rajapakse and Jajendra Wijesekara.

Earlier in the doubles event the Pakistanis had to put away another pair of countrymen Kaleem Ghanch and Farhan Malik.

The five-day tournament also had teams from the Philippines and host Brunei Darussalam.

Tree planting marks Forestry Day



Staff of the Development Ministry which incorporates the Forestry Department plant trees in Sungai Liang.

Your turn

The next issue of *Brunei Darussalam* will appear during the first week of May 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 April 15, 1987. All editorial rights reserved.

World Forestry Day which fell on March 21, 1987 was celebrated in Brunei Darussalam with tree planting and a seminar on the appreciation of timber, both activities being organised by the government Forestry Department.

The theme for this year's celebrations was 'Forests the prosperity of the nation'.

The tree planting, led by Awang Haji Mohd Yassin bin Ampuan Salleh, the Director of the department, took place on 2.6 hectares of nursery land at Sungai Liang. The local species *tulong* (agathis Alba) was planted.

The seminar, held on March 23 and 24, 1987 was open to the public. Speakers at the seminar, attended largely by architects, and those from the construction industry, included Awang Wong Tuck Meng, Forestry Officer and Mr Choo Kheng Ten, Senior Research Officer from the Forestry Research Institute of Malaysia.

More than three quarters of Brunei Darussalam is covered with forest of which 39 percent is presently forest reserve.

Five recreational areas for public use have been carved out of forest reserves through out the country. These have trails, jogging tracks and rest places.



The Foreign Affairs Ministry Building in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Village-style roof for diplomatic decisions

This *kampung* style-roofed building, home to the offices of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, has become an architectural landmark in the Sultanate.

The building designed by the government Public Works Department is in three blocks, two of them with five floors while the middle one has an extra floor.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry building completed in 1983 sits on a hillock about two kilometres from the capital city Bandar Seri Begawan.

A walk up the rather steep access road to the building rewards the visitor with a splendid view of Kampong Ayer (water village) especially in the early morning and at dusk.

It is in this building that the Foreign Affairs Minister receives his official guests on courtesy calls or for meetings.

BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Capital City :	Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size :	5765 sq.km
Population :	222,000 (1985)
Official Language :	Malay
Official Religion :	Islam
February 1987 rainfall :	131 mm.
(annual 2,818mm)	

PRIME LENDING RATE

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

