

# بروني دارالسلام BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

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APRIL 1986

# GALLOWS FOR PUSHERS

*Tough measures  
in  
Brunei Darussalam  
for other  
drug offences too*

**B**runei Darussalam will not hesitate to send drug traffickers to the gallows. The serious warning came from Education and Health Minister speaking in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan on March 15, 1986.

Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz, who was launching an anti-drug abuse campaign said that the country's laws had the same bite as those of its neighbours in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN. The relevant government authorities had been given the power of law since 1978 with amendments made in 1984.

The penalties for unauthorised trafficking, possession, import and export of drugs include jail sentences of up to 30 years and up to 15 strokes of the rotan. There has not been a death sentence delivered yet for a drug-related offence in Brunei Darussalam. The last court-ordered hanging took place nearly 30 years ago.

The Minister also called on social and voluntary bodies to help create an awareness of the problem to their members.



Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibon Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz, the Controller of Customs (right) points out samples of opium to Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz, (second from right) Education and Health Minister at an exhibition in conjunction with the launching of the anti - drug abuse campaign.





بروني دارالسلام  
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

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## They did it their way

**H**is Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Wad-aulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam congratulated President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines on her assumption of office.

The message came at the end of hand-wringing anxiety over the election-related unrest seen in that nation. Brunei Darussalam, and other ASEAN-member states, called for restraint and a peaceful resolution to the crisis and was gratified and relieved at the way it was resolved.

Brunei Darussalam-Philippine relations started before we became the sixth member of ASEAN. There were trade ties and local students studying at tertiary level in that country. Since the resumption of independence this relationship has matured and extended to the reciprocal opening of diplomatic missions.

The two countries have always enjoyed warm and cordial relations and we want to resume working to enhance these genial ties as soon as things settle down.

Everybody loves a winner and President Aquino seems to have won despite the odds. In a nation that is known to be predominantly christian it seems fitting to remember the biblical wisdom that says a man who conceals his transgressions will not prosper.

The persevering will of the filipino people to determine just the way their country should go, is to say the least, to be admired. The means may not have been the most attractive or easiest but it was certainly a triumph over hype and highhandedness that will go into the annals of regional political history.

We await the fallout of uncertainty and disquiet to dissipate.

## Gallows for pushers

● from page 1

His Majesty the Sultan in his new year address to the nation referred to the drug-abuse problem in the region and called on parents to be the frontline defence against their children falling victim to the habit. The Sultan also told teachers to be alert for signs of the problem among their charges.

A very senior government official told *Brunei Darussalam* 'We do not really have a drug problem and hope one never begins.'

This is the first time that an active anti-drug abuse campaign has been held in the country.

The weeklong exhibition is an ASEAN-wide project. Materials on display at the exhibition included samples of various forms of drugs, utensils and posters. A group of experts on anti-drug abuse were invited from the various ASEAN countries. They held a series of public lectures during the exhibition.

The business community in Brunei Darussalam through its Chamber of Commerce has lent its support to the campaign.

## Bite of the law for traffickers

**L**aw enforcement authorities in Brunei Darussalam are backed by literally the bite of the law in their fight against the illegal entry of narcotics into the country.

In addition to the usual examinations by officers a vigilant team of trained narcotics sniffer dogs are deployed to inspect incoming cargo, baggage and vehicles at all entry points in the country.

The canine law enforcers who are able to pick up very minute amounts of drugs either on persons or in packing, were all bred raised and trained within the country and handled by men of the Royal Brunei Police Force.

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A trained Labrador checks out goods that have arrived at Muara Port which last year handled 698,000 tonnes of cargo.

**BRUNEI DARUSSALAM** a monthly newsletter, reports on government, social and business events in the country. If you wish to receive this free newsletter regularly and are not already on our mailing list, please let us know.

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● All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars, \$, unless otherwise stated.



# Second National Day observed by our missions abroad

## In Singapore.....



Brunei Darussalam's High Commissioner to Singapore, His Excellency, Dato Paduka Haji Abdullah bin Haji Mohd Jaafar hosted a reception to mark the second anniversary of national day.

The guest of honour at the reception held at the High Commissioner's residence was Mr Goh Chok Tong, First Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Singapore.

Among those who attended was Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz, Education and Health Minister of Brunei Darussalam.

His Excellency, Dato Paduka Haji Abdullah bin Haji Mohd. Jaafar, Brunei Darussalam High Commissioner to Singapore (centre) with the guest of honour, Mr Goh Chok Tong, First Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Singapore (left). On the right is Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz, Education and Health Minister of Brunei Darussalam.

## In Thailand.....

The Brunei Darussalam High Commissioner in Bangkok was honoured by the presence of The Right Honourable Prem Tinsulanonda, the Thai Prime Minister who was guest-of-honour at a reception held to mark Brunei Darussalam's national day.

Brunei Darussalam's Ambassador to Thailand, His Excellency Dato Paduka Hamid Jaafar was also able to receive The Right Honourable, Mr Bhichai Rattakul, Deputy Prime Minister at the reception held on February 24, 1986 at a leading local hotel. Other members of the diplomatic community in Bangkok were also present.



Brunei High Commissioner to Thailand, His Excellency Dato Paduka Hamid Jaafar (left) with The Right Honourable Mr Prem Tinsulanonda, Thailand's Prime Minister. Standing next to the Thai Premier is the US Ambassador to Thailand His Excellency Sir William A. Brown.





His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam tries his hand at some gunnery during the military exercise code-named 'Nekad Murni'.

## "Nekad Murni" exercise has royal combatant

**H**is Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam last month visited the scene of a military exercise that ended on March 11, 1986.

Dressed in battle fatigues the 39-year-old monarch, who is

graduate of the Royal Sandhurst Military Academy in Britain has always had an interest in military matters, took part in the mock battle staged during the training.

The exercise code-named 'Nekad Murni' was one of the most extensive ever had in the country and involved every unit of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

Earlier, His Majesty's father Kebawah Duli (Yang Maha Mulia) Maulana Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan General Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien Saadul Khairi Waddien, who is also the country's Defence Minister visited the venue of the exercise, which was covered several districts of the country.

## Condolence messages to Singapore

**H**is Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam sent a condolence message to His Excellency Mr Wee Kim Wee, The President of The Republic of Singapore on the tragic event of the Hotel New World. His message read,

"It is with deepest sorrow that I learned of the tragic collapse of

the New World hotel and of the loss of lives and injuries suffered by the victims of the disaster. I wish to convey to Your Excellency my sincere condolences to the bereaved families those who have been affected by the tragic incident".

In his capacity as Prime Minister of Brunei Darussalam His Majesty sent similar message to Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister of the Republic of

Singapore. His message read,

"I am deeply saddened to hear of the tragic loss life and of the injuries suffered by the victims.

On behalf of the government and the people of Brunei Darussalam, I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to you and to people of the Republic of Singapore and to the bereaved families of those who have been affected by the disaster."



# 25-month treatment for drug addicts

**D**rug addicts caught by the authorities are either put through court prosecution or are entered for a 25-month supervision by medical experts and social workers. Sometimes they are committed to medical attention on termination of the judicial procedures.

The addicts on the programme have to sign a contract to stay at an institution for one month to undergo an intensive course and thereafter submit to a 24-month follow-up period.

Over the last two years the number of cases referred to the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital, for treatment has dropped. A spokesman for the government said that it was probably the effect of a drug-screening campaign carried out in schools which

greatly discouraged the number of would-be experimenters.

The patients are given neuro-electro therapy, otherwise known as NET, which is a non-drug based treatment that has been effective in reducing the craving for opiates and other related substances. It is also said to help in detoxification of the addict and modify the withdrawal symptoms.

The aim of the treatment is to change the lifestyle of the addict as well as alter their thinking.

During the course of the intensive treatment the employers of the addicts in all cases have cooperated and allowed the addicts to retain their job.

Those under treatment, which at present is administered by the government hospital, also have to do physical exercises and meditation based on Gestalt theory. They are given psychotherapeutic and religious counselling and any other medical ailments they might have is also attended to.

On leaving hospital they initially have to report in thrice a week for drug screening but the frequency tapers off towards the end of the 24-month follow-up period.

The addicts' families are also given advice on the care and management of the rehabilitated addicts.

A spokesman for the treatment programme described the success rate as 'very good comparing with relapse rates known elsewhere'.

## Narco dogs

● from page 2

Two of the dogs, Sham and Raki, after about eight months at training, are regulars on the preventive team at Brunei Darussalam's international airport eight kilometres from Bandar Seri Begawan. They will pick-up scents of a wide range of illegal drugs including the more common heroin, morphine, cannabis and opium.

Other residents of the same government kennels are trained to find arms and explosives or at tracking.

Brunei Darussalam's drugs laws provide heavy penalties for the import, trafficking, possession of manufacturing of controlled drugs including jail terms of up to 30 year with caning and death.

## Commonwealth Day message from Queen Elizabeth

In conjunction with Commonwealth Day which fell on March 10, 1986, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth issued a message which is reproduced below in full.

**W**ith the approach of my 60th birthday this year, I have been reflecting on the changes which have taken place in the Commonwealth during the thirty-four years in which I have been its Head.

I have now visited all the independent countries of the Commonwealth and I have watched and welcomed its growth into a group of forty-nine nations spread over every continent and ocean and containing a quarter of the world's population. Each country chooses to belong, because it believes that the Commonwealth has a valuable part to play in the world. The importance of its role was clearly shown at the successful Heads of Government meeting last year at Nassau.

My thoughts are often with the nations of young people who make up more than half the Commonwealth, especially on this Commonwealth Day. They deserve all the help and all the opportunities we can give them.

I have a message for them, and it is this. I have seen everywhere the eagerness and sense of adventure you all share. I have been touched by your courage and your sympathy for those in need, and by your capacity for friendship. I ask you now to take every chance to get to know more about the people of other Commonwealth countries, and to meet them and help them whenever you can. Together you can not only strengthen the spirit of the Commonwealth itself, but also contribute, by showing goodwill, tolerance and understanding, to the easing of world tensions which threaten all peoples. Between us we can help to ensure that we may overcome hardship and poverty and live together in peace and freedom.



# At the ASEAN - Aussie talks



Mr Bill Hayden, left, speaks with His Excellency Mr Lim Jock Seng (in light suit). Also in the picture, at right, His Excellency Mohd. Yusof Hitam, leader of the Malaysian delegation. In the background is Mr Wisber Loeis, head of the Indonesian delegation.

**M**r Lim Jock Seng, Brunei Darussalam's ASEAN Director and the country's envoy to New Zealand was among the 35 delegates from ASEAN who attended the 10th ASEAN-Australia forum at Broadbeach, Queens-

land in Australia on February 23, 1986.

At the forum, Mr Bill Hayden, Australian Foreign Minister said that ASEAN member countries formed a significant part of "this

economically dynamic region".

The forum is the senior consultative body of officials dealing with ASEAN-Australia relations. The agenda included trade, economic cooperation and development assistance.

## Cargo volume drops

	1985	1984	%
Muara	698,000	793,000	- 12
Kuala Belait	94,000	56,000	+ 68
Airport	2,675	2,953	- 9
Total	794,675	851,953	- 7

Volume of cargo handled by ports in Brunei Darussalam

All figures in tonnes

**A** slight drop was recorded in the volume of cargo handled by the ports in Brunei Darussalam last year.

The country's main port at Muara showed a drop of about 12 percent compared to 1984. Last year Muara port handled about 698,000 tonnes.

However at Kuala Belait port, some 107 kilometres southeast of the capital, there was a 68 percent jump in the volume of incoming cargo last year over the previous year. This was due to a greater demand for building materials including housing and road materials.

Brunei International Airport

also recorded a drop in incoming freight. While 2,953 tonnes passed through in 1984 only 2,675 tonnes were handled in 1985 - a nine percent drop.

Overall there was a drop in cargo entering the country. This could be related to reduced construction work as the bulk of the imports were building materials.



**H**is Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam granted an audience to The Honourable Sir Joh Bjelke-Peterson, Prime Minister of Queensland, Australia at the Nurul Iman Palace in Bandar Seri Begawan on March 24, 1986.

Sir Joh Bjelke-Peterson and delegation were in Brunei Darussalam for a familiarisation visit.

While in the country for three days, the delegation met with members of the state cabinet and toured several places of interest.

The Honourable Sir Joh Bjelke-Peterson has been Premier of Queensland since 1968.

## Nurul Iman audience for Queensland Premier



His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam (right) meets His Excellency the Honourable Sir Joh Bjelke-Peterson, Prime Minister of Queensland, Australia at the Nurul Iman Palace.

## Pakistan National Day

**T**he Pakistani Embassy in Brunei Darussalam last month held a reception to mark its National Day which falls on March 23, 1986.

The function was celebrated the following day at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Brunei Darussalam's Law cum Communications Minister,

Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Bahrin bin Pengiran Haji Abbas was the guest of honour at the function.

There are more than 100 Pakistani nationals in the country working in the public service as technical teachers and in business.



His Excellency, Mr Mir Abad Hussain, chats with Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Bahrin bin Pengiran Haji Abbas guest of honour at the Pakistan National Day reception in Bandar Seri Begawan.

## US citizen group drops in

**A**n eight-strong delegation from the World Affairs Council of North California in the United States visited Brunei Darussalam for three days beginning on March 9, 1986.

The delegation led by Mr Francis Underhill, a former US Ambassador to Malaysia heard briefings on education, the economy and also met officials of the Foreign Affairs Ministry. At a dinner hosted by the US Embassy they meet prominent Bruneians.

The World Affairs Council, which is a non-profit organisation, has about 5000 members interested in international affairs. This year the council focussed its interest on ASEAN. The group which visited Brunei Darussalam had been travelling for about one month on an itinerary that covered Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Burma.

A spokesman for the group described their visit to Brunei Darussalam as 'a new and unique experience'.





Dato Seri Paduka, Sir Denys Roberts, Chief Justice of Brunei Darussalam inspects an honour guard at the opening of the country's legal year.

## Chief Justice tells local bar 'maintain high standards'

**T**he legal year opened on March 17, 1986 with the observation by the Chief Justice that the volume of work in the courts 'remained at a substantial level'.

Dato Seri Paduka Sir Denys Roberts, the Chief Justice speaking after inspecting a honour guard outside the court house said that there was a growth in the number of civil and criminal cases.

He thanked the Attorney-General's office on the production of the new edition of the Laws of Brunei Darussalam which came into effect on January 1, this year.

The Chief Justice also suggested that lawyers resident in the state establish a body to investigate complaints against members of the legal profession so as to maintain the 'high standards which Brunei Darussalam expects of its lawyers'.

In his response Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Bahrin

bin Pengiran Haji Abas, the Attorney-General said that 1986 marked the 23rd year of the existence of the Supreme Courts of Brunei Darussalam after the dissolution of the joint High Court of Brunei, Sarawak and North Borneo in 1963.

Pengiran Bahrin, who is also the country's Law and Communications Minister referred to the long standing arrangement under which British judges in Hong Kong are made available for appointment by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam as His Majesty's commissioners of the supreme court.

'When appointed and carrying out their functions as such, the judges owe their allegiance to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam and administer the laws of Brunei according to the usages of this country', he added.

He said that the government

was appreciative of the arrangement 'which ensures the maintenance of a high standard of efficiency, expertise, impartiality and independence'.

On the problem of drug abuse the Attorney General said that the mandatory death penalty for trafficking offences found in the laws of neighbouring were already provided for under recently enacted Brunei Darussalam law. The death penalty was also mandatory for the unlawful possession of firearms irrespective of the motive for possession.

Addressing the opening ceremony on behalf of lawyers, Mr Y Y Chin a prominent and long standing member of the local bar pledged full support and cooperation to the bench and the judiciary. Mr Chin also said that the profession would observe the 'highest standards of professional integrity, competence and dedication so as to command and maintain the confidence and trust of the public and society.



# Her Majesty Raja Isteri graces Bangladesh National Day celebrations

**H**er Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha graced a cultural show and exhibition held on March 28, 1986 to celebrate Bangladesh's 15th national day.

Her Majesty who arrived together with Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam and other members of royalty saw a tableau depicting saris and other costumes from various parts of Bangladesh modelled by its nationals in Brunei Darussalam.

Among those who attended the event were wives from the diplomatic community, the state cabinet and senior government officials.

Two days earlier the Bangladesh government hosted a reception to mark the same occasion.

Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Rahman bin Dato Seri Setia Haji Mohd Taib Brunei Darussalam's Development



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha views an exhibition of textiles held in conjunction with Bangladesh's National Day

Minister was the guest of honour at the reception held at the Royal Brunei Polo Club near Bandar Seri Begawan.

There are about 800 Bangladesh nationals in the country that work as professionals and in other fields.

**A** visiting Belgian trade mission, led by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Albert, has optimistic views on the possibilities of mutually beneficial cooperation with Brunei Darussalam.

Members of the mission, who represented several specialist areas including banking, construction, electrical engineering and dredging, held useful talks with several senior government as well as business sector officials and ended their three-day visit on March 27, 1986.

Contacts with local private sector organisations resulted in firm proposals for collaborations in land transport, soil conditioning and agro-industry work. Further topical missions from Belgium are expected to be arranged by the Belgian Foreign Trade Office.

Speaking to newsmen at the end of their visit Mr Etienne Knoops, Belgian Foreign Trade Minister,

## Belgian mission optimistic of forging new trade ties

who was in the delegation, said that the mission hoped to meet Bruneian businessmen in Belgium. He added that the Trade Commissioner at the Belgian Embassy in Singapore would pay regular visits to Brunei Darussalam in future.

Belgium also offered to train public sector manpower in engineering and port management.

Earlier, HRH Prince Albert said that Belgium was 'eager to develop our economic relations with other regional economic entities such as ASEAN of which Brunei Darussalam was a member'. The Prince described the latest national development plan as 'heralding a growing friendship and an enlarged industrial,

financial and commercial partnership' between his country and Brunei Darussalam.



Mr Etienne Knoops  
Belgian Foreign Trade Minister



# HRH Princess Masna officially opens new International School

The International School in Brunei Darussalam last month had their new \$2 million premises officially opened by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Masna, a sister of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam.

The International School started some 10 years back, when it provided education using correspondence learning materials

from Australia. Classes were held in buildings loaned by the government. Today it has nearly 500 students of about 26 nationalities.

While it observes all government school holidays its curriculum is geared toward the British education system and prepares children to Grade Seven level. The social studies curriculum however is based on Bruneian study material. The country's official language, Malay is also taught as a subject.



Artist Bapak Basoeki (in beret) escorts Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengirna Bahrin bin Pengiran Haji Abas, the Law cum Communication Minister when he visited the exhibition. At left, is Awang Haji Metussin bin Omar, the Director of Brunei Museum.

## Indonesian artist well received

Art lovers in Brunei Darussalam enthusiastically trooped in to see an exhibition by Indonesian Bapak Basoeki Abdullah early last month.

Basoeki 71, had on show some 70 paintings of which about 20 were done in Brunei Darussalam just before the exhibition.

He is widely known among artists in the region for his portraits

of world personalities including those of His Majesty Sultan Hassanah Bolkihah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam, the Heads of State in the Netherlands, Thailand and leaders of government.

Bapak Basoeki has held exhibitions in several asian and european countries.

## RBAF Airwing under new commander



Haji sharbini bin taha

Lieutenant-Colonel Dato Seri Laila Jasa Jocklin bin Kong Paw.

The Airwing of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces came under a new commanding officer beginning March 27, 1986.

Lieutenant - Colonel Dato Seri Laila Jasa Jocklin bin Kong Paw, 42, who was formerly Deputy Commander of the Airwing took over from Lieutenant - Colonel Pengiran Dato Seri Laila Jasa Abidin bin Pengiran Ahmad.

The new commander officer began his military career as an officer cadet in 1965. He has attended several courses abroad including one at the Advanced Staff College in Bracknell in Britain.

## Brunei Malay in a minute

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

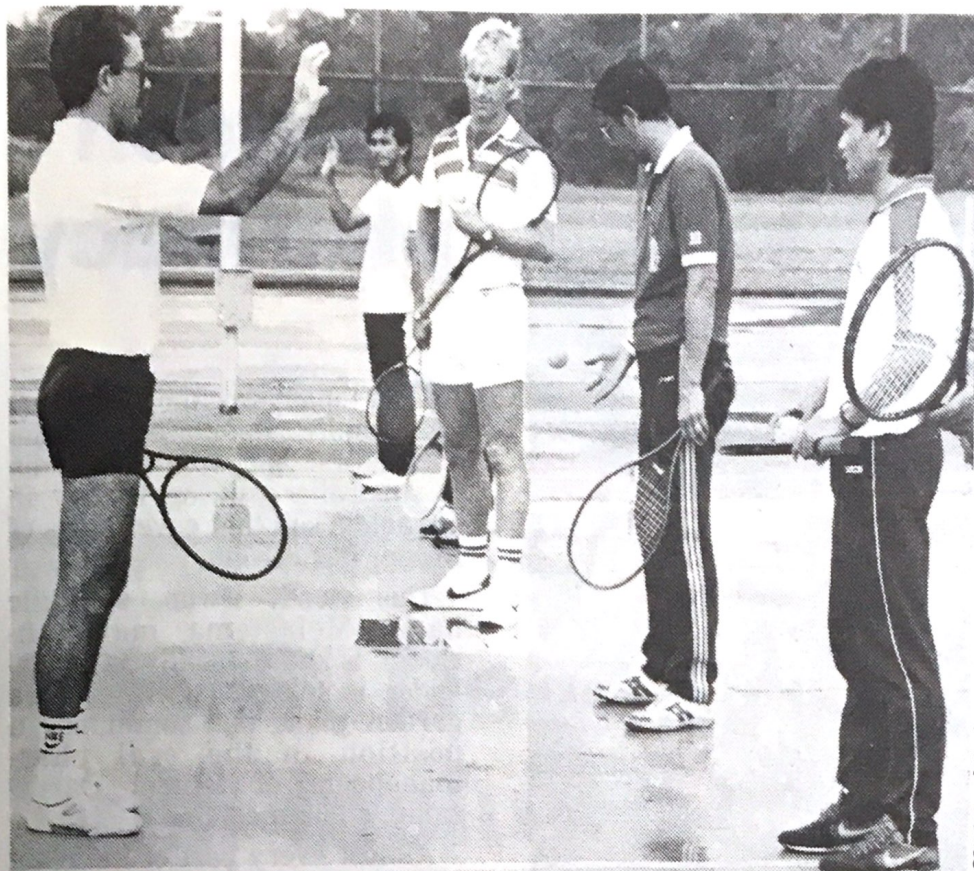
**Ayung** means to feel giddy or nauseatic or suffer from motion sickness as a result of being in a crowded room or long travel in a car, ship or aircraft.

The old man felt nauseatic after travelling from Kuala Belait to Bandar Seri Begawan.

Orang tua itu merasa ayung selepas perjalanan jauh dari Kuala Belait ke Bandar Seri Begawan.







Tony Luttrell (in dark shorts) emphasising some finer points of the game.

## Don't play for love: coach

**T**ennis buffs in Brunei Darussalam were given opportunity to upgrade their skills by two visiting tennis coaches from Perth, Australia.

The coaches, Keith Begley and Tony Luttrell held a three-day clinic in to the country late February for staff of the Welfare, Youth and Sports Department and members of the Brunei Tennis Club.

They were in Brunei Darussalam after coaching stint in Singapore for the republic's Davis Cup team.

The Aussies who are full-time tennis coaches gained experience as players on tennis circuits around the world.

*courtesy of the borneo bulletin*

## Six-a-side hockey tournament attracts 43 teams

**A**n annual International six-a-side hockey tournament attracted 43 teams from Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and the neighbouring Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak.

The tournament was held early last month with the men's title going to Khalsa Miri team. The Labuan Hockey Association 'A' team from Sabah became the ladies champion.

The three-day tournament was organised by the Panaga Club in the Belait district, a recreation club run for the staff of the Brunei Shell group of companies.



The Labuan Hockey Association 'A' team which were the ladies champions.

## Your turn

The next issue of Brunei Darussalam will appear during the first week of May 1986.

If there are events you would like featured in 'Brunei Darussalam' please call us on Tel : 02-40527 or better still, take a photograph yourself and write a short article to accompany your picture. Contributions for our next issue should arrive by 15 April 1986. All editorial rights reserved.

## Book gift from Indonesia

**H**is Excellency Professor Dr Haji Fuad Hassan, the Indonesian Education and Culture Minister was in Brunei Darussalam for an official visit on March, 19, 1986.

While in the country, the minister and delegation visited the University of Brunei Darussalam and presented sixty volumes of books on behalf his government. The delegation also visited the Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education and centres of technical education.

Professor Dr Haji Fuad was granted an audience by His Majes-

ty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam at the Nurul Iman Palace in Bandar Seri Begawan.

He was also received by His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister.

Earlier, the minister held a meeting with his counterpart, Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz, the Brunei Darussalam Education and Health Minister.





A kudok-kudok shrub: Inset: close-up of kudok-kudok flower

## Garden pharmacy

The Singapore Rhododendron, despite its name is distributed far and wide from India to Australia growing readily in the acidic soil that cover parts of Brunei Darussalam.

This woody shrub, scientific name *Melastoma malabathricum*, is known locally as *kudok-kudok* is seldom cultivated as a garden plant but commands a position in the oral pharmacopoeia of Brunei Darussalam's folk medicine.

Almost every part of the plant appears to have some use. The shortlived purple flowers are powdered and sprinkled over wounds and the healing pocks of small-pox to prevent marking.

The roots can also be used as the flowers but are better known for making a mouth wash for toothache and for dabbing on the sore places of thrush in children.

Leaves and shoot ends of the *kudok-kudok* are often made into a decoction alone or in combination with fruit husks as a treatment for diarrhoea.

The juice of the plant had astringent qualities and it this quality of the plant that is exploited in its therapeutic uses.

hajj sharbini bin taha

### BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Capital City : Bandar Seri Begawan  
Land size : 5765 sq.km  
Population : 220,000 (1984)

### FEBRUARY REPORT

Rainfall 113.3mm.  
(annual rainfall 2,818 mm.)

### PRIME LENDING RATE

April 7.5%. (quoted by bankers' association).

