



# بروني دارالسلام

## BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

A newsletter produced by the Information Department • MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS  
NUMBER 1 VOLUME 1

OCTOBER 1985



The newly opened Islamic Dakwah Centre

**Islamic propagation gets a boost**

## DAKWAH CENTRE OPENED

**H**is Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Wad-  
daulah, Sultan and Yang Di-  
Pertuan Negara Brunei  
Darussalam last month officially  
the Pusat Dakwah Islamiah in  
Bandar Seri Begawan.

The complex of striking white-  
tiled buildings sited some seven  
kilometres north of the national  
capital is set to become the nerve  
centre for Islamic missionary and  
propagation activities in Brunei

Darussalam.

The work of the Pusat Dakwah  
Islamiah or Islamic Missionary  
Centre will also focus on  
research, education and the  
mounting of a permanent exhibi-  
tion of Islamic artifacts from  
within and without the country.

Research at the centre will be  
concerned with the origins of  
Islam in Brunei Darussalam.

Scholars will be invited from  
overseas to take part in studies  
being carried out here.

The educational aspects of its  
work will be directed at training  
imams of the many mosques  
throughout this Islamic sultanate,  
upgrading the standards of  
Islamic religious instructors in  
schools and teaching new con-  
verts to the faith.

More on pages 6 and 7



## Our heritage cornerstone of stability

There is no doubt that every community in this nation enjoys continuous harmony. This is seen clearly in the daily lives of the people.

The nation's tranquility has in fact amazed outsiders who find the peaceful environment distinctive. They are however rarely able to identify the main factors that contribute to the peace and the security of the nation but they tend to regard our economic stability as the only reason for our prosperity.

There is some truth in this opinion which is also held by many within the country. They should realize that economic stability alone does not guarantee a nation peace and security.

Our cultural and Islamic heritage are the main factors which have shaped and influenced our present and also led our society to place a premium on our values.

The question raised here is seldom taken into account in the assessment of a country's progress and development. Our interest in the economic aspects should not preclude the importance of Islamic and cultural factors which have shaped the society and nation.

The teachings of Islam have been absorbed into our cultural veins so much so that non-Muslims have the same loyalty and similar other values. This in turn strengthens the relationship between communities and the relationship between the people and the Government — resulting in mutual understanding and tolerance.

It is clear that a state of peace and security does not evolve by itself. Our Islamic and cultural values have been in existence for generations and they have been taken into account in the development of our nation. Therefore in order to ensure continuing harmony there must be a total awareness and understanding of its importance. These values should be inculcated and disseminated among the people.



Pengiran Haji Sani bin Pengiran Haji Mohd. Daud pays homage to his Monarch before his release.

## Amnesty granted to seven

**H**is Majesty the Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam has granted amnesty to seven people who have been in detention for varying periods of up to ten years.

The seven persons released on August 27 1985 were Pengiran Anak Chuchu bin Pengiran Anak Mohd Salleh, Pengiran Haji Sani bin Pengiran Haji Mohd Daud, 48, Awang Nassar bin Mokti, 43, Awang Ismail bin Tengah, 30,

Awang Ahad bin Haji Tuah, 33, Awang Abdul Ghani bin Angis, 43 dan Awang Sahari bin Abdullah 55.

Before their release they underwent a series of information seminars where they were updated on the latest developments on the social, economic and political situation in Brunei Darussalam.

The seven ex-detainees took oaths of allegiance to Allah, His Majesty the Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam and the country at a mosque set in the suburbs of Bandar Seri Begawan, on the August 24 1985.

## New stamps mark entry to world bodies

**T**he Brunei Darussalam post office has issued a set of four stamps each costing 50 cents to commemorate the country's entry to the United Nations, the Association of South East Asian Nations, the Commonwealth and the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

The set issued on September 23 1985 were also available as

miniatures costing \$2.

Overseas collectors who wish to acquire this set or other future philatelic issues should write 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.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM a monthly newsletter, reports on government, social and business events in the country.

It is issued free of charge. If you wish to receive this newsletter regularly and are not already on our mailing list, please let us know.

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## Pilgrims return from the haj

There were emotional scenes at Brunei International Airport when the record number of pilgrims on the Haj returned from Mecca early last month.

Crowds of friends and relatives were waiting to meet them.

This year 2677 pilgrims went on the Haj from Brunei Darussalam. Among them were 10 new converts to Islam who travelled on passages paid for by the Government. Seven hundred and twenty civil servants also went on government passages after completing 15 years of service with the Government.

The oldest pilgrim this year was 95-year-old Haji Pudir bin Lamit from Kampong Jerudong. While 14-month-old Dayang Suerayanti binte Jaya was the youngest.

The pilgrimage to Mecca is superintended by the Religious Affairs Department. Intending pilgrims this year paid about \$6,300 each to cover the cost of travel and accommodation. They also attended courses in Brunei Darussalam to prepare for various stages of the haj.



Returning pilgrims at Brunei International Airport

## Brunei Darussalam joins another world body

Brunei Darussalam has been admitted as a member of the Islamic, Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organisation (ISECO).

The Minister of Education and Health, Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Aziz who signed the ISECO statute in Islamabad on September 1 1985 led a delegation to the second general conference in the Pakistani capital.

The Director-General of ISECO Professor Habi Boutalib welcomed Brunei Darussalam's admission saying that it would further strengthen Islamic unity worldwide.

## Aid for Afghan refugees



Goorkha handicrafts draw curious fair goers

Afghan muslim refugees were among those who received funds raised at a two-day fun fair held early last month.

The Goorkha Fair held in the oil town of Seria is an annual fund raising event of the British Garrison in Brunei Darussalam. This year the fair was organised by the First Battalion 2nd King Edward's Own Goorkhas with participation by the whole of the Brunei Garrison.

The fair included static displays of military equipment, performances by the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Band, a parachuting show, stalls selling Goorkha handicraft and Goorkha food. The event drew crowds from all over the country.

Apart from the Afghan refugees the Goorkha Welfare Trust in Nepal and the Goorkha museum in the United Kingdom also received some of the proceeds raised.

# Technology meets culture at Tsukuba Expo

The Brunei Darussalam stand in the Tsukuba International Science Exposition received well over one million visitors.

This is the first time that Brunei Darussalam participated in an international expo of this scale.

Speaking at the celebration of Brunei Darussalam's national day at the expo, the chief guest Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohd Taib, Minister of Development said, "It is our belief that this cordial relationship and association can be made more lasting and meaningful through the understanding and appreciation of each other's cultures and traditions."

The Minister said that Brunei Darussalam's "Technology in harmony with Culture" exhibition showed how the country blended its strong cultural heritage with modernisation.

A 27-strong cultural troupe from the Ministry of Welfare, Youth and Sports performed traditional dances, songs and gave demonstrations of *parcak silat*, a Malay form of self defence during the celebrations. About 2000 people watched the hour-long performance which was screened on the jumbotron kingsized television screen at the expo.

Japan mainly buys crude oil and gas from Brunei Darussalam — the latter on a 20 year contract that runs until 1992. In return Brunei Darussalam buys mainly machinery, cars and electronic equipment from Japan.



Chief guest Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohd Taib, Minister of Development (with striped tie) at the Brunei Darussalam stand.

## Visit by Stuttgart Youth Chamber Orchestra

Music lovers in Brunei Darussalam were given a rare treat when the Stuttgart Youth Chamber Orchestra gave a performance at the auditorium of Radio Television Brunei in Bandar Seri Begawan.

An appreciative audience packed the hall to listen to an evening's programme which included works by Mendelssohn,

Bach and Vivaldi. They also heard the orchestra's renditions of some Brunei traditional folk songs.

The concert, organised by the Brunei Music Society in association with the Department of Welfare, Youth and Sports and the Embassy of the Republic of Germany, was held to mark International Youth Year.



Conductor Patrick Sirois and the Stuttgart Youth Chamber Orchestra takes a bow.

## Six countries exempted from visa laws

Brunei Darussalam has announced visa exemptions for British citizens and those of five other countries. A Foreign Ministry statement said that with effect from the first of last month nationals of Japan, France, Switzerland, Canada and the Republic of Korea will be able to enter Brunei Darussalam without visas for stays not exceeding 14 days. Visas will be needed if the visitor intends to stay longer or

take up employment.

For citizens of the United Kingdom visas will be needed if the visitor intends to stay longer than 30 days or take up employment. British overseas citizens and British dependent territories citizens are not covered by the British exemptions.

At present only ASEAN nationals are exempt from visa laws.



Hospital staff preparing their charges for the race

## LAST BUT FIRST

The handicapped children's playgroup at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha hospital held their annual slow bicycle race at the hospital grounds last month.

The race was in conjunction with a similar event held at the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London.

The playgroup, which caters for children under five, is one of five run in various parts of the country. The groups meet at a local clinic or hospital and are led by trained personnel like speech and occupational therapists. The groups also have ready access to

paediatric advice if needed.

At the playgroups the children enjoy themselves with crayons, plasticine and other educational toys. At the same time the older ones are taught to be independent and to cope with daily needs like dressing or feeding themselves.

The groups also meet with the families of the children to advise and encourage them to cope with their handicapped children.

A local business house donated hats and T-shirts to mark the event while the band of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces was on hand to entertain the children.

ak. abu bakar bin pg. haji osman.

## Students make history

Two Maldivian students joining the Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah Institute of Education have become the first foreign students to be admitted to this 29 year-old institution.



Mohd. Shakoor

One of them, Dayang Wafa Waheed is doing the three year teacher's course in English and Science. Dayang Wafa who lives on the campus hails from the capital city of her home country, Male'.

Awang Mohammed Shakoor, 25, the other student, is studying the teacher's course in English and Geography.

Both students will be serving a five year bond with their home government when they complete their courses at the institute. Meanwhile they say they feel at home as the weather, vegetation and much of the food is 'just like home'.



Wafa Waheed

rabeec bin haji sabli

rabeec bin haji sabli

Continued from page 1

It was a distinguished gathering that witnessed the official opening of the Islamic Dakwah Centre by His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam on September 16 1985 which coincided with the first day of 1406 Hijrah.

Among those present at opening were His Majesty Maulana Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan General Sir Muda Omar Ali Saifuddien Saadul Khairi Waddien, Minister of Defence, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohammed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Di-Gadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Jefri Bolkiah, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports cum Deputy Minister of Finance, other cabinet ministers, diplomats, community leaders

and senior government officials.

In his speech His Majesty said that it was the government's intention to entrench the position of Islam as the official religion of the country and to co-operate with other Islamic nations.

Earlier the royal motorcade arrived to the beating of drums by a hadrah band.

Later His Majesty declared open and toured a permanent exhibition of Islamic artifacts obtained from within and outside the country.

The centre, as it stands, represents phase one of the project. It has a fully equipped conference hall with a seating capacity for up to 400 persons. The plush carpeted conference hall has full audio-video facilities including booths for interpreters. Facilities for banking, a post office and international telephone and telex links are also part of the conference secretariat.

Phase two of the project will see the rise of an administration block and accommodation for those attending courses or conferences at the centre.

# His Mty



His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah (left) and the Acting State Religious Affairs Officer, Seri Setia Ustaz Awang Haji Yusoff (right) at the opening of the Islamic Dakwah Centre.



rabae bin haji sabli

The centre's library is an important resource

Commemorative plaque

# ty opens Dakwah Centre

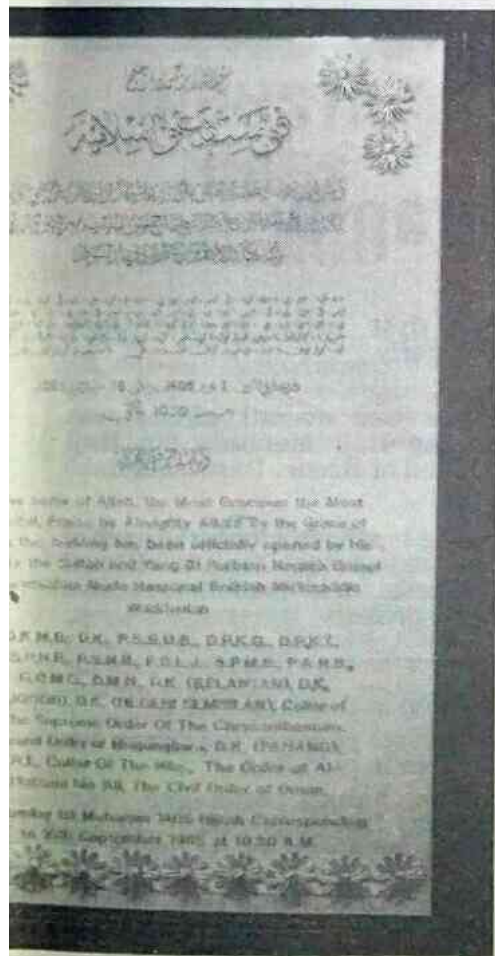


ah (bearded) at the exhibition cen-  
ned. With His Majesty, at right, is  
n Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka

pg haji yaakub



pg haji yaakub



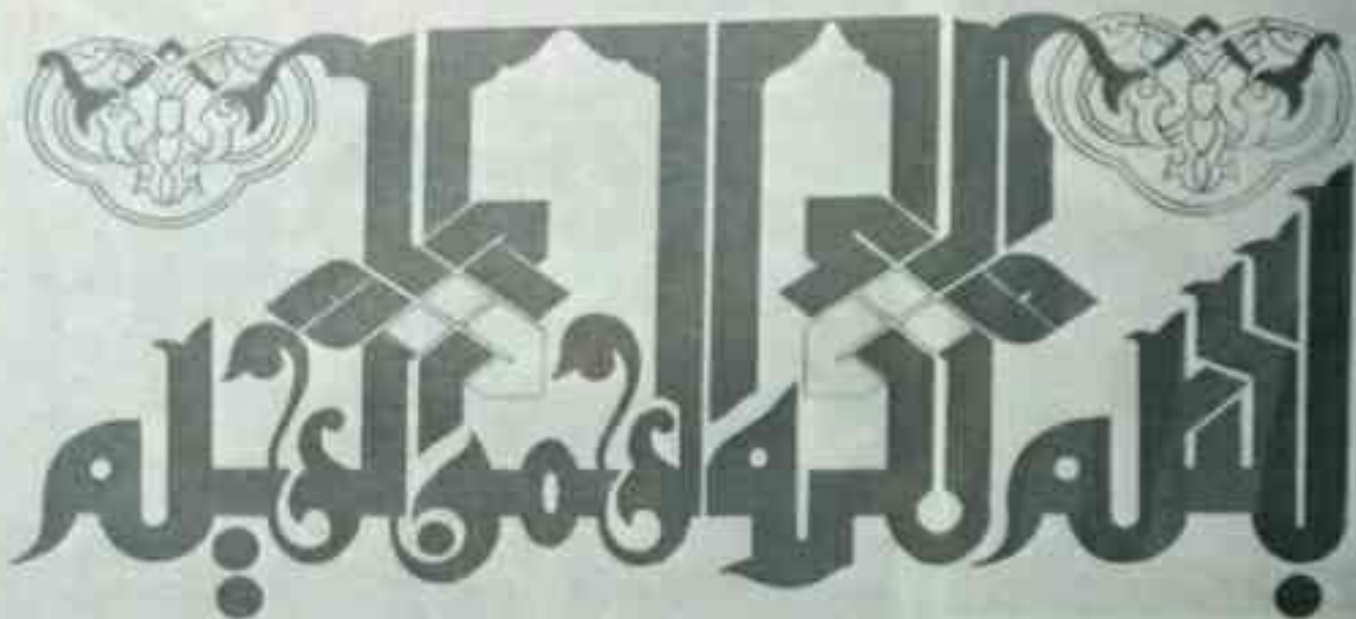
pg haji yaakub

▲  
Kebawah Duli (Yang Maha  
Mulia) Maulana Paduka Seri  
Begawan Sultan Jeneral Sir  
Muda Omar Ali Saifuddin  
Saadul Khairi Waddien, Minister  
of Defence also toured the ex-  
hibition centre.



rabaee bin haji sabli

▲  
The roof lines of the entrance to the centre have been made into this stylised motif rein-  
forcing the building's identity.



A winning entry by Awang Haji Metussin bin Haji Ahmad

## Bruneians best at calligraphy

Local entries have swept top honours in an Islamic calligraphy competition organised in conjunction with the opening of the Islamic Dakwah Centre in Bandar Seri Begawan.

The competition, open to Muslims living in ASEAN countries, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Brunei

Darussalam, was organised by the government and judged by an international panel that included experts from Indonesia and Malaysia.

Entries from Brunei Darussalam swept first places in two categories and in one class took the top five prizes. An entry from Indonesia, Sudianto Aly won

the first prize in the third category.

The best overall winner was Awang Haji Metussin bin Haji Ahmad of Brunei Darussalam.

The top three winners in each of the categories flew to Brunei Darussalam last month to receive their prizes.

## ANCIENT QURAN PRESENTED

A leading banking corporation in Brunei Darussalam recently presented a 300-year-old copy of the Quran to the Islamic Dakwah Centre near Bandar Seri Begawan.

The gift which was purchased in London was believed to have originated in Persia and been

written in the early 1700's.

Several pages of the Quran are written in gold leaf.

The bank's manager, Mr. Jeremy Davies presented the gift to the acting State Religious Affairs Officer, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Awang Haji Yahya bin Haji Ibrahim.



# Agricultural sector to be given to priority

The government is considering the possibility of making agriculture an important sector of the economy.

Pehin Orang Kaya Setia Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohammed Taib, the Minister of Development said this at the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Sinaut Agriculture Training Centre.

He said that the government was keen to see the agriculture industry take-off and had offered many incentives for farmers including loans and subsidy schemes.

The minister also said that there was a need for more farmers to take up agriculture on a commercial scale. Despite the various difficulties posed by terrain and soil conditions the technology to make it work were available in the country.

"Changing the existing system of part-time farming into commercial scale activity would obviously require trained Bruneians" he added.

In conjunction with the anniversary celebrations of the SATC's existence as a teaching institution there were exhibitions of fruit, vegetable and handicraft. There were also displays by leading local commercial houses supplying equipment, materials and services to the agriculture industry.

## British Council opening here

The British Council will open an office in Brunei Darussalam next month. A statement from the British High Commission here said that the council would mainly be involved in educational, cultural and technical co-operation.

Its contribution to education development is expected to include assistance to the newly set up University of Brunei Darussalam.

A first for the British Council here is that about 55 percent of its running costs would be sponsored by Shell International, the Hongkong Shanghai Banking Corporation and the Centre for British teachers.

# BUILDING INDUSTRY GOES METRIC

The Government Public Works Department in the Ministry of Development is spearheading a move towards metrication in the construction industry.

Early last month the department put on a 'Think metric' exhibition to familiarise its own corps of engineers, architects and other staff with the new system. Another special target of the exhibition was the many contractors and consultants who do work for the government.

Other departments under the Ministry of development include the Department of Electrical Services, the Town and Country Planning, the Land and Survey departments.



Common measurements are given a metric look

The metrication programme provides for a one year transition during which all technical drawings will carry dual notations -metric and imperial.

The Public Works Department has also produced a handbook that gives quick conversions from

the imperial and local units to the metric units and vice versa.

Plans are also in hand to hold several seminars with contractors and consultants to help ensure that the transition is made without major problems or adverse effect on current work schedules.

rabae bin haji sabli

## Engineering feat by Brunei Shell

Brunei Shell engineers have pulled off a feat considered a first of its kind. They have replaced the entire jacket and topside facilities of a drilling platform and strengthened the structure of the another in the South West Ampas offshore oil field, some 24 km. offshore from Seria.

The revamp considered difficult and certainly a first for Asia included the addition of a production platform to stabilise the combined production of the two platform complexes aged between 15 to 20 years old.

An integrity study conducted during the early 1980's on the offshore production installations in the South West Ampas Field showed that the original drilling and production platforms of both the Ampas 1 and the Ampas 2 complexes needed replacement or major repairs because of advanced corrosion as well as changes in design standards.

Two of the drilling platforms were considered structurally un-

sound to the extent that the derrick equipment was not used. Restoration work was considered essential, before the monsoons at the end of last year.

For the Ampas 1 complex the drilling platform was completely replaced and in the Ampas 2 complex the legs of the drilling platform were strengthened by grouting.

During the revamp work on the two platform complexes the production flow was redirected so that there was minimum loss.

The diving support vessel S.S. Carapan was used in the job for underwater salvage work and also the installation of grout in the jacket legs of the drilling platform.

The whole revamp exercise was carried out in the vicinity of existing well conductors.

## 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 *awang*.

The general form of address used before the name of a person (male), eg. *Awang Muhammad*.

*Awang* is equivalent to 'mister' generally used in Malaysia or Singapore, or 'mister' used in the west.

The feminine form of *awang* is *dayang*.

The general form of address for a male stranger, *Awang* is generally used to address an elder or a person of the same age as the speaker.

It is also the form of address for the eldest brother in the family.

The short form of address for *awang* is *wang*.

The short form of address for *dayang* is *dang*.



The revamped Ampas 1 complex

## Royal palm royally planted



His Majesty King Birendra planting the royal palm at the grounds of the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital

It was red letter day at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital in Bandar Seri Begawan when the King of Nepal, His Majesty King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and Her Majesty Queen Aishwarya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah paid a visit.

The royalty commemorated their visit with the planting of a palm tree, a species aptly known locally as the royal palm.

The King and Queen of Nepal arrived in Brunei Darussalam on Friday, August 30 1985 for a three-day visit accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sharada Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Culture, Mr. Ranadiri Subba and Foreign Secretary Mr. Bishwa Pradan.

While in the country the King and Queen had an audience with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam.

The Royal visitors also met with members of the Nepali community in Brunei Darussalam.

harun bin rashid

## BRUNEI HOSTS BORNEO GAMES

The premier event on the Borneo athletics calendar, the Borneo Games was resurrected last month after a lapse of 16 years.

The annual Borneo Games used to be held between contingents from Sarawak, Sabah and Brunei Darussalam. On September 6 and 7 1985 about 200 athletes from the

three territories ran, jumped and threw of their best at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium in Bandar Seri Begawan in a total of 32 events.

This year hosts, Brunei Darussalam shone in the men's distance events collecting golds in the 1500 metres through Talib Haji Tahir and his brother Taha who strided to the front in the 3000

metres steeple chase.

Sabah, the overall champion contingent bagged 19 gold medals, 8 silver and 14 bronze while, Sarawak took 11 golds, 18 silver and 7 bronze and Brunei Darussalam 2 golds, 6 silver and 11 bronze.

The 1986 Borneo Games will be held in Kuching, Sarawak.

### Your turn

The next issue of Brunei Darussalam will appear during the first week of November 1985.

If there are events you would like featured in 'Brunei Darussalam' please call us on Tel: 02-21872 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 October 1985. All editorial rights reserved.



Brunei Darussalam's 1500 metre gold medallist Talib bin Haji Taha shares the rostrum with fellow countryman Roslan Baha (silver) and Sabah's Sribramaniam (bronze).

## Water taxi pick-up point

Much of the capital city, Bandar Seri Begawan, is built on the Brunei river some 27 kilometres from the sea.

The houses of the famous Kampung Ayer (=water village), in reality a loose cluster of several acres villages, neatly huddled on one bank are separated by a wide watery aisle of river from the urban hustle and bustle on the other side.

Flowing through the heart of the city is a tributary of the Brunei river, the Sungai (=river) Kianggeh.

At high tide the water level in the Kianggeh allows the busy river traffic of mainly water taxis to drop off their passengers right in the heart of the city. Within 500 metres of this landing can be found many government offices, banks, the markets and shops.

It is also the favourite landing point for fishermen to unload the day's catch. Some fishing boats come from fishing towns as far away as 50 kilometres. Other boats bring in fruit and fowl in season from the hinterland.

The boats used as water taxis or for fishing are almost always wooden hulls four to seven metres long and up to two metres wide powered by out-board engines. The boats are manufactured as a cottage industry within Kampung Ayer with an average six-metre hull costing about \$2000.



Water taxis waiting in the evening sun for passengers.

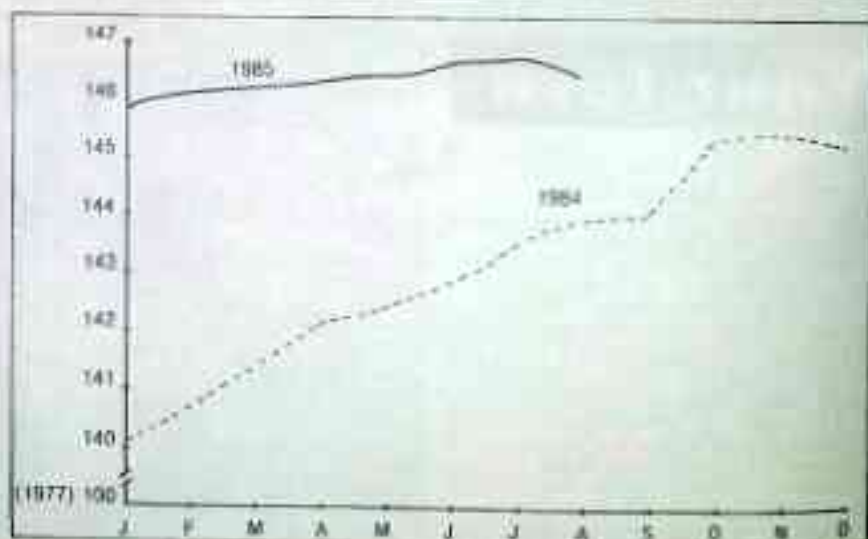
### BRUNEI IN BRIEF

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

### REPORT FOR AUGUST

Rainfall 19 mm. (annual 4000 mm.)

Prime lending rate 8% (quoted by association of banks)



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