

بروني دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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MARCH 1988



Some 16,000 subjects of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam pledge their allegiance to the monarch during this year's national day celebrations.



Colourful National Day

All of Brunei Darussalam took a holiday to celebrate the country's national day which fell on February 23, 1988. Offices closed, shop shutters rolled down and work stopped so that everybody could take part in the programme to mark the fourth anniversary of the resumption independence.

The celebrations were centred in the capital Bandar Seri Begawan.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam was at the stadium to see his subjects and other residents of the Sultanate display patriotic fervour in marchpasts, dances and song in a show that involved 30,000 participants.

More pictures on pages 6 and 7



MARCH 1988

Regional stability through understanding

Brunei Darussalam's entry into the world community of nations has necessitated some doubling up in the area of international relations.

Support to the Sultanate from loyal and non-interfering friends grows apparent each year she celebrates national day. The rate at which she has been receiving foreign diplomatic visits, especially in the last year, is aeons ahead of the days when Brunei Darussalam was just another territory tucked away on the island of Borneo.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam has spoken recently of the responsibility that the Sultanate has in preserving regional political stability jointly with geographical neighbours.

The ASEAN youth programme proposed by Brunei Darussalam at the Manila Summit last December is part of the effort to promote regional understanding and loyalty to the cause of peace. Getting young minds acquainted should contribute towards the preservation of the existing stability.

His Majesty said that friends outside ASEAN were also sought and Brunei Darussalam would extend a hand of friendship to anyone irrespective of colour. In recent times several African nations have made diplomatic calls on Bandar Seri Begawan.

In forging these ties the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of other countries, sincerity and mutual respect must remain the framework.



Pehin Orang Kaya Ratna Diraja Dato Seri Utama Dr Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd Zain (left) with the visiting Saudi Arabian Minister of Haj and Endowment Sheikh Abdul Wahab Ahmad Abdul Wasie.

Religious authorities host Saudi Minister

Sheikh Abdul Wahab Ahmad Abdul Wa'sie, the Saudi Arabian Haj and Endowment Minister was last month guest of the Religious Affairs Ministry.

The visiting Saudi Arabian Haj and Endowment Minister who led an eight-member delegation was on a three-day stay in the country beginning on February 9, 1988. Also in the delegation was Ustaz Usam Hussain Khashugji, the Deputy Minister.

The visiting party also called at the country's Islamic Dakwah Centre and the Brunei Museum

near Bandar Seri Begawan.

Sheikh Abdul Wahab Ahmad and delegation were also hosted to a dinner given by Pehin Orang Kaya Ratna Diraja Dato Seri Utama Dr Ustaz Haji Awang Mohd. Zain, Brunei Darussalam's Religious Affairs Minister.

Before leaving the country, the visiting Minister was granted an audience by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam at Nurul Iman Palace in the capital.

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.

Malaysian Defence Minister on visit



Tengku Ahmad Rithaudeen

Tengku Ahmad Rithaudeen Al-Haj bin Tengku Ismail, the Malaysian Defence Minister was in Brunei Darussalam last month.

The visiting minister led a seven-member of Defence Ministry and military officials on a two-day visit to the country beginning February 15, 1988.

While in the country Tengku Ahmad Rithaudeen was granted an audience by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam who also holds the Sultanate's Defence portfolio.

The Malaysian Minister also met Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General Pengiran Haji Ibnu, the Deputy Defence Minister and Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Dewa Major General Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Mohamed, the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Chief of Staff.

Swiss diplomat presents credentials at Nurul Iman



His Excellency Mr Kurt Wyss (left) handing over his appointment papers to His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam last month received credentials from Switzerland's non-resident Ambassador to the country, His Excellency Mr Kurt Wyss.

The 49-year-old envoy who is based in Singapore presented his appointment papers at Nurul Iman Palace in Bandar Seri Begawan on February 4, 1988. Mr Wyss joined the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in 1972 and has served in Jakarta, Mexico and Amman.

General Moerdani meets HM



General L. Benny Moerdani

General L. Benny Moerdani, Commander of Indonesian Armed Forces was granted an audience by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam on February 17, 1988.

General Moerdani, on a two-day visit to the Sultanate, also met on Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General Pengiran Haji Ibnu the Deputy Defence Minister and Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Dewa Major General Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Mohamed Chief of Staff, Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam granted an amnesty to four people who have been detained at Jerudong Detention Centre, outside Bandar Seri Begawan, for varying periods.

Those released on February 23, were Abdul Hamid bin Munap, 46, who has been in detention since 1962, Mudin bin Nadin 55, Salleh bin Mahal, 55 and Yassin bin Badar 70 have been in detention for 20 months.

Before their release they underwent a five-day orientation programme to bring them up-to-date on the social, political and economic developments in the country.

They took their oaths of allegiance to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam on February 22, 1988.

All four were also granted an audience by His Majesty at Nurul Iman Palace.

Four detainees freed on National Day



Awang Abdul Hamid (left) meets his monarch soon after being released from detention.

French "Alpha Jet" aircraft on show



The Defence Ministry had an opportunity to view a French-German built trainer-cum-combat aircraft (foreground) in Brunei Darussalam last month. The two Alpha jets and three other aircraft of the French Air Forces were on display to the Sultanate's armed forces personnel for two days. At the preview on February 2, 1988 were Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General Pengiran Haji Ibnu, the Deputy Defence Minister and Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Dewa Major General Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Mohamed, the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Chief of Staff. The Alpha Jet is a tandem two-seater, twin-engine, capable of basic and advanced training as well as tactical support missions. Publicity material on the two flying machines describe them as possessing "excellent flying characteristics and demonstrativity of stall, spin and transonic flight."

Full text of the national day address by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam. The text published is a translation from the Malay language in which it was originally delivered.

In the name of Allah the Compassionate and the Merciful.

May the blessings of Allah be with you.

With God's blessings the rakyat and the people of Brunei Darussalam have been able to enjoy peace, prosperity and development since independence.

On this historic occasion, I would like to record my appreciation and thanks to the whole nation, including members of the security forces, who have since independence supported my government in ensuring the security, prosperity and development of the nation.

I feel, through the support and cooperation given, the pride of the people in our independence and sovereignty. I hope this spirit will continue to enable the country to develop further and to establish political and social stability, God-willing.

But while enjoying this peace, there are groups trying to threaten social and political stability by manipulating the minds of the people through copied political propaganda that they themselves do not understand. These groups, calling themselves political leaders, are in fact business people who blamed the government for their failures. They also failed in their studies abroad including in the United Kingdom.

Their ability to lead the people is questionable since they are unable to look after their own affairs.

My government will not hesitate to take stern action on such groups. I would like to remind my people to be always on guard against people who make empty promises.

My government will continue to give priority to the development and welfare of the people through various projects and diversifying the country's economy. These include education, health and communications. My government has updated and reorganised the education system to ensure the availability of skilled manpower for the country's economy. In line with my government's policy to

develop skilled manpower special attention will be given to health both physical and mental. Realising the importance of communications in national development and trade with the outside world, various modernisation projects on the country's communications system have been and will be done. At the same time, my government welcomes foreign investors to set up industrial joint ventures with locals.

Efforts to update the government administrative machinery, include the import of foreign experts to teach modern administrative theories to officials of my government to help set up an efficient, effective and honest system of administration. In this connection, as I have said before, it is essential for government officials to cooperate with one another and jointly bear the responsibility of improving the administration.

On the international scene, Brunei Darussalam continues to give great attention to the need to establish political stability in the region. The stability can be achieved if there is understanding among its peoples. Brunei Darussalam, as I spoke at the Third ASEAN Heads of Government meeting in Manila recently, is ready to operate ASEAN youth programmes. This is only to contribute to the process of establishing understanding and solidarity in ASEAN. Because with these factors efforts at political and economic co-operation within ASEAN can be speeded up.

In line with the country's foreign policy Brunei Darussalam has expanded its friendly relations to several countries in Africa. This shows that Brunei Darussalam bases relationships only on the basis of equality, sincerity, mutual respect and freedom from interference in each others internal affairs and not on criteria such as colour.

On this national day celebration, I would like to remind the people, especially youth, on the need to brace themselves for international economic and political challenges. This can be

done if we are aware of the need to protect our independence and sovereignty and faith in our religion. Towards achieving this, it is important to be always disciplined and cultured in our daily life. Such a nation can help the government to maintain law and order in society. It will also help development and defend the country from any threats. At the same time, a disciplined and cultured people should be independent and strive to improve their life. The public should be prepared to contribute without expecting reward and they must take pride in their work.

As citizens, it is important to maintain our cultural heritage, have mutual respect, be dignified and pious. These qualities are symbols of our nationhood. I hope these cultural values will be imbedded in our younger generation. Only with a strong nation can its people enjoy peace without social ills. This is in line with the theme of the national day celebrations this year: "*Berdisiplin, Cergas, Berbudaya, Negara Bahagia*".

To create the disciplined, energetic and cultured nation I desire, my government, apart from providing basic requirements, will also provide sports and recreational facilities in all districts in the country, to meet the needs of the public.

Finally, I once again, would like to thank all people, including government servants and members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and the Royal Brunei Police Force, who have worked with my government with dedication, honesty and sincerity in their duties and responsibilities and also in maintaining and defending national security. I would also like to congratulate and thank members of this year's celebrations committee and those involved in contributing to the success of the celebrations. Let us all pray to Allah that Brunei Darussalam and all within it will always be under His protection and enjoy continuing prosperity.

May Allah give us guidance, peace, favours and His blessings be with us all.

Bruneians celebrate patriotism

Brunei Darussalam is prepared to establish relations with other nations on the basis of mutual trust and respect and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs.

Addressing the nation on the eve of Brunei Darussalam's fourth anniversary of National Day on February 22, 1988, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam said that the Sultanate had forged friendly ties with several African states.

Earlier the Bruneian monarch said his government had always welcomed foreign investors to form joint ventures with local industrialists.

His Majesty the Sultan also spoke of Brunei Darussalam's concern for the importance of maintaining regional stability.

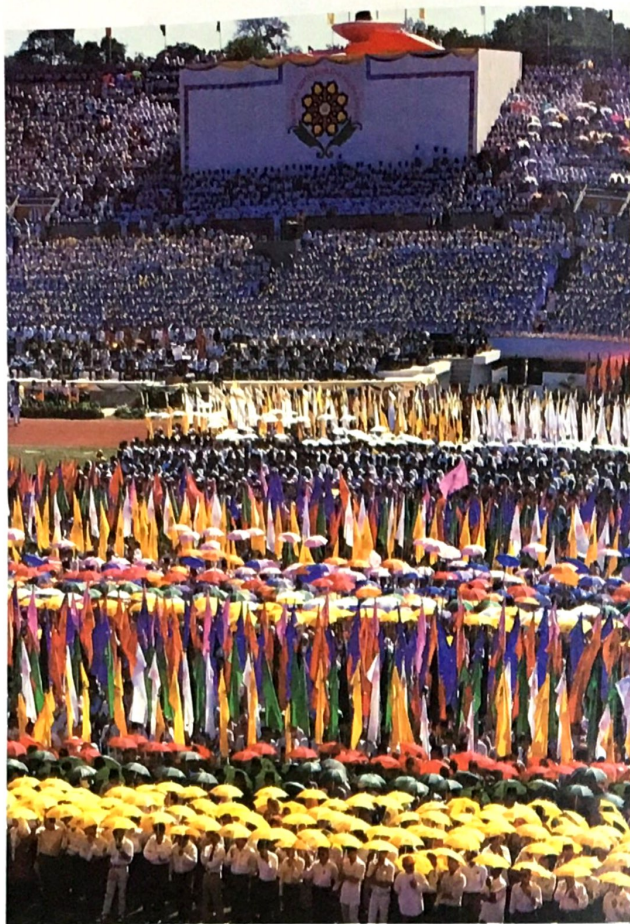
Errant politicians came under fire from His Majesty for their attempts at sowing discord among Bruneians and blaming the government for their personal failures.

Touching on this year's national day celebrations theme 'Berdisiplin, Cergas, Berbudaya Negara Bahagia' His Majesty urged his subjects to be disciplined, energetic and preserve the nation's culture.

The celebrations were held in Bandar Seri Begawan on February 23, 1988. His Majesty the Sultan took the salute at a march past of some 16,000 of his subjects including the armed forces, uniformed bodies, civil servants, social and trade associations.

The show included gala displays of patriotic songs, martial arts demonstrations as well as cultural dances performed by school children.

The capital Bandar Seri Begawan was decorated with brightly lit ceremonial arches and other lighting adding festivity to the event.



Part of the over 30,000 participants provide a sea of colour



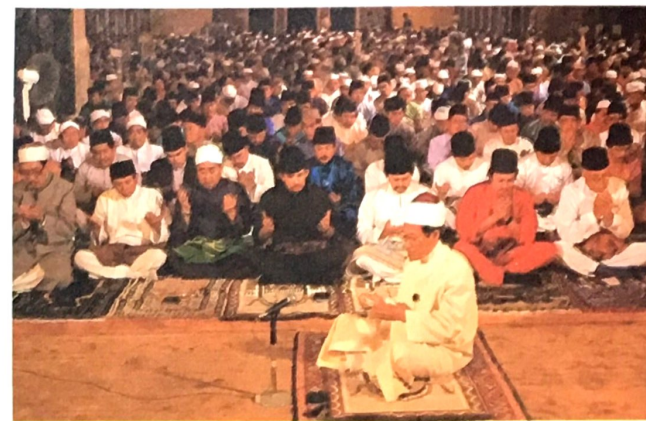
Brunei Shell workers turned out draped in loyal corporate colours.



Bruneian maiden delicately shields out the glaring sun.



These pom-pom-waving schoolgirls show the spirit of the event.



Celebrations began with prayers

Brunei Darussalam's national day celebrations began with special prayers at all mosques throughout the country on the evening of February 22, 1988. His Majesty the Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam joined his subjects for the prayers at the Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque in Bandar Seri Begawan. Prayers were offered for past blessings as well as for the future peace and prosperity of Brunei Darussalam.



Flags of the various government departments go past the grandstand leading the civil service contingents.

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The Federal Republic of Germany's Economics Minister, Dr Martin Bangemann spent two days in Bandar Seri Begawan last month meeting with members of the cabinet and senior government and private sector officials.

Dr Bangemann who arrived on February 15, 1988 was granted an audience by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan Negara Brunei Darussalam during which regional and ASEAN's political developments were discussed.

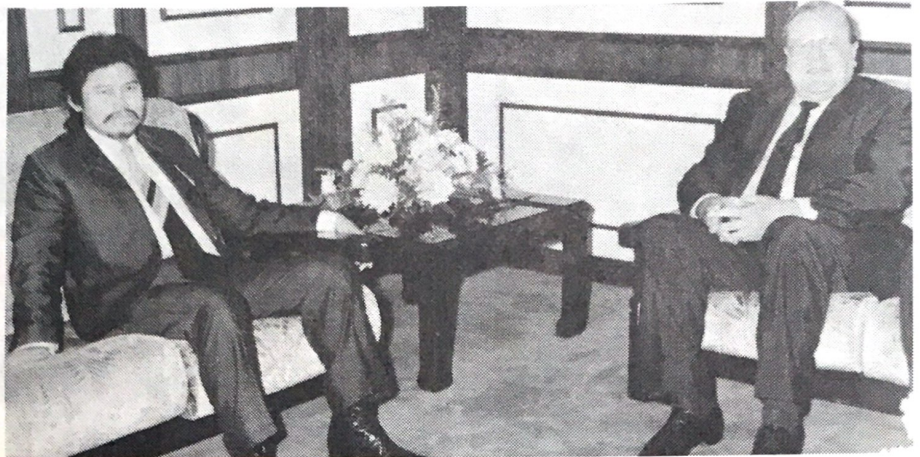
He also paid a courtesy call on His Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister.

Speaking to newsmen later Dr Bangemann spoke of his country's ties with Brunei Darussalam.

'We have a very good political relationship with Brunei Darussalam. We want to see what we can do to back the exchange of goods and services from both sides,' he said.

'We have common goals to have a better and peaceful develop-

'We have common goals' says German Minister



Dr M. Bangemann, the Economics Minister, Federal Republic of Germany (left) meets HRH Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Haji Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister.

ment in our respective regions, he added.

In meetings with government officials the topics raised included the training of Bruneians for

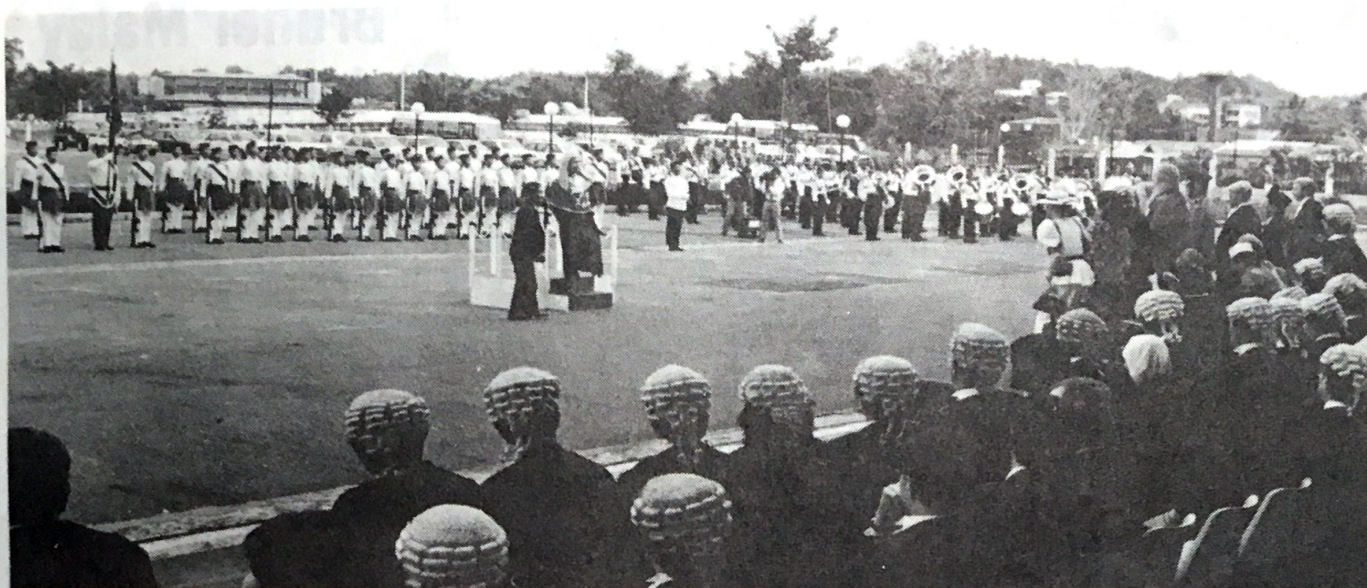
vocational skills by German experts.

While in the country the German Minister also met with local business leaders to discuss the possibilities for joint ventures.

British naval vessels exercise with RBAF



Two British naval vessels called at Muara last month. HMS Plover (picture) and HMS Swallow arrived for a four-day visit to the Sultanate beginning February 1st, 1988. The Hong Kong-based ships with a total complement of 70 under Commander Nigel Whinney held a joint-exercises with the flotilla of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces during the visit.



Dato Paduka Sir Denys Robert, Brunei Darussalam's Chief Justice steps down from the dais after inspecting the honour guard at the formal opening of the legal year.

Judge calls for more Bruneian legal brains

More Bruneians have been urged to study law so as to meet the Sultanate's legal and judicial needs from its own resources.

Speaking at the formal opening of the legal year on February 8, 1988 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Dato Seri Paduka Sir Denys Robert, the Brunei Darussalam Chief Justice said that of those on the roll of advocates and solicitors only 15 were Bruneians, a number he described as 'insufficient to meet the country's needs.'

Dato Seri Paduka Sir Denys Robert hoped that more Bruneians would take advantage of government scholarships and other educational schemes to qualify at law.

Touching on the legal profession in the country, the Chief Justice added that although machinery has existed for the investigation of complaints against advocates and solicitors, it had not been necessary to resort to them which was 'a tribute to the good sense and desirable practices among lawyers in the Sultanate.'

Dato Seri Paduka Sir Denys Robert who retires as Chief Justice of Hongkong this month will continue serving as Chief Justice of Brunei Darussalam.

The post of the President of the Court of Appeal in Brunei Darus-



Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Bahrin

salam will be filled by the new Chief Justice of Hongkong who will visit the country to conduct the Court of Appeal accompanied by selected judges of the Supreme Court of Hongkong.

Pengiran Laila Kanun Diraja Pengiran Bahrin bin Pengiran Haji Abbas, the Attorney General who also spoke at the function said that beginning this year, offences carrying the death penalty would no longer be tried by a judge sitting with the aid of assessors but would be tried by two judges of the High Court.

Also this year under a new provision of the Legal Profession Act, foreign legal practitioners who apply for annual practising cer-

tificates in the country would be required to apply for work permits if they have no right of residence so as to encourage a more permanent bar to serve the public.

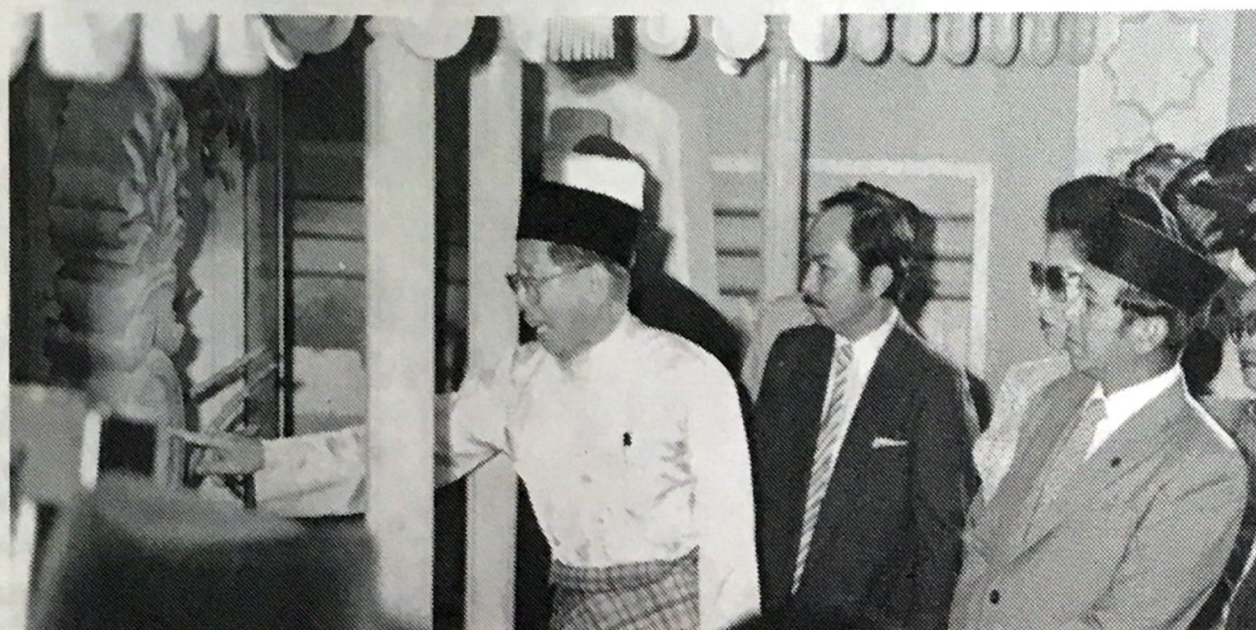
The other changes included a recognition of the Malaysian Certificate of Legal Practice issued under the Malaysian Legal Profession Act which is an alternative qualification for admission to the local bar.

Mr Y Y Chin, a long standing member of the local bar, speaking on behalf of his brother lawyers welcomed the introduction of part of the Legal Profession Act describing it as 'a step forward in the right direction in harmony with national aspiration.'



Mr Y Y Chin

Aid for foreigners writing about Sultanate



Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Paduka Haji Awang Hussain, the Culture, Youth and Sports Minister (right) listens intently as the Centre's head, Pehin Orang Kaya Amar Diraja Dato Seri Utama (Dr) Awang Haji Mohd Jamil Al-Sufri (left) explains and exhibit during the opening.

Foreign writers interested in getting information on Bruneian history will soon be able to get help from the Brunei Research Council.

Pehin Jawatan Luar Pekerma Raja Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Hussain, the Culture, Youth and Sports minister announced last month that the Brunei Research Council was set up to assist foreign writers obtain a right pictures of the country.

The Minister was speaking at the official opening of the Brunei History Centre's new premises in Bandar Seri Begawan on February 25, 1988.

The Brunei History Centre was set up in 1982 to research and compile details of Brunei Darussalam's royal genealogy, the biographies of dignitaries, and the archiving of manuscripts for reference.

Brunei Malay in a minute

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

Karit is an adjective describing a person who is not generous in giving or spending money. Another word with the same meaning is **minat**.

The standard Malay equivalent would be 'kedekut' or 'lokek' while the closest English word would be 'stingy'.

Lets us use the word in a sentence:

Orang itu sangat karit dan tidak pernah menghulurkan apa jua bantuan kepada orang lain.

That man is very stingy and never contributes anything to others.



Thai navy cadets ashore in BSB



Rear Admiral Samrarn Somroop, the Squadron's Commander (left) meets the RBAF Chief of Staff.

Some 560 Royal Thai Navy cadets were in Brunei Darussalam on a four-day operations visit beginning February 26, 1988.

The visitors who sailed into Muara Port on three Royal Thai Navy vessels, the HTMS Sichang, HTMS Prasae and HTMS Pinklao were under the command of Rear Admiral Samrarn Somroop.

While in the country, Rear Ad-

miral Samrarn Somroop, the Commander of the Royal Thai Navy Cadets Training Squadron met Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Dewa Major General Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Mohamed, the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Chief of Staff.

The visiting Thai navy cadets and other crew members also met local sides at football, badminton and tennis and some donated

blood at the RBAF Flotilla's hospital in Muara.

The flagship of the squadron, HTMS Sichang with a displacement of 2,045 tons, is the biggest ship ever built in Thailand. It is a landing craft. The HTMS Prasae is a frigate while HTMS Pinklao is a destroyer. The vessels were also opened to the public.

Tae Kwon-Do people prepare for Nepal



Fists and feet of fury at the national Tae Kwon-Do tournament.

Your turn

The next issue of the *Brunei Darussalam newsletter* will appear during the first week of April 1988. If there are events relating to our country you would like featured in this newsletter please call us on Tel: 02-40400 or better still, send us a report with a picture, if possible. Contributions for our next issue should arrive by March 15, 1988. All editorial rights reserved.

Fists and feet flew as members of the Brunei State Tae Kwon-Do Association met to select representatives to this year's Asian Tae Kwon-Do Championship in Nepal.

The association held its annual tournament on February 6, 1988 in conjunction with celebrations for Brunei Darussalam's national day.

Daylong sparring attracted 25 participants in eight weight division, fin, fly, bantam, feather, light, welter, middle and heavy.

The association has 250 members from the Bandar Seri Begawan Tae Kwon-Do club, Brunei Shell Recreation Tae Kwon-Do club and Gurkha Army Tae Kwon-Do club.

National day greetings came worldwide

Brunei Darussalam has received congratulatory messages on the occasion of its fourth national day anniversary from leaders around the world.

Messages were received from their Majesties King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, Sultan Qaboos of Oman, King Baudouin of Belgium, Queen Konigin Beatrix Wilhelmina Armgard of the Netherlands, King Juan Carlos I of Spain and King Birendra of Nepal.

Other Heads of State who sent messages included President Reagan of the United States of America, President Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara of Gambia, President Spyros Kyprianou of Cyprus, President J.R. Jayewardene of Sri Lanka, President Zine El Abidine Benali of Tunisia, President Abdou Diouf of Senegal, President Rama Swamy Vankataraman of India, President Richard Von Weizsacker of Federal Republic of Germany, President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Maldives, President Ershad of Bangladesh, President Zia-Ul-Haq of Pakistan, President Hussein of Iraq, President Wee Kim Wee of Singapore, President Mubarak of Egypt, President Suharto of Indonesia, President Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen, President Evren of Turkey and Acting President Paul Xuereb of Malta and President Corazon Aquino of Philippines.

Several messages from Prime Ministers were also received including Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia, Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore, Tunisia's Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Khan Junejo.

Messages were also received from Governors-General Sauve of Canada, Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo of Mauritius, Sir Ninian Stephen of Australia and a message also came from Mr S S Pirzada the OIC Secretary-General.



Main picture: The betel vine, top insert: betelnut tray with accessories, lower insert: sirih junjung.

Pungent leaves for culture and coughs

Fresh green betel leaves of the *Piperraceae* family (scientific name) known locally as 'sirih' have a sharp pungent taste. Smeared with a daub or two of prepared lime and folded round a little fine-cut tobacco and a few slices of areca-nut, they make the betel-quid for a good chew.

The perennial evergreen pepper vine cultivated in many bruneian backyards for its aromatic leaves are widely used among Malays as a masticatory, and offered to guests much like a hospitable cup of tea.

The betel-quid is often used a medicine for fever, gonorrhoea and diarrhoea. The warmed leaves are applied to the chest to relieve coughs and asthma, and to the breast used to arrest lactation.

In the Malay traditional engagement ceremony designated betel-leaves called 'sirih junjung' are carried at the head of a prospective bridegroom's party.

BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Capital City :	Bandar Seri Begawan
Land size :	5765 sq.km
Population :	226,000 (1986)
Official Language :	Malay
Official Religion :	Islam
January 1987 rainfall :	277.1 mm.
(annual 2,818mm)	

PRIME LENDING RATE

March 6.25%. (quoted by Bankers' Association).

