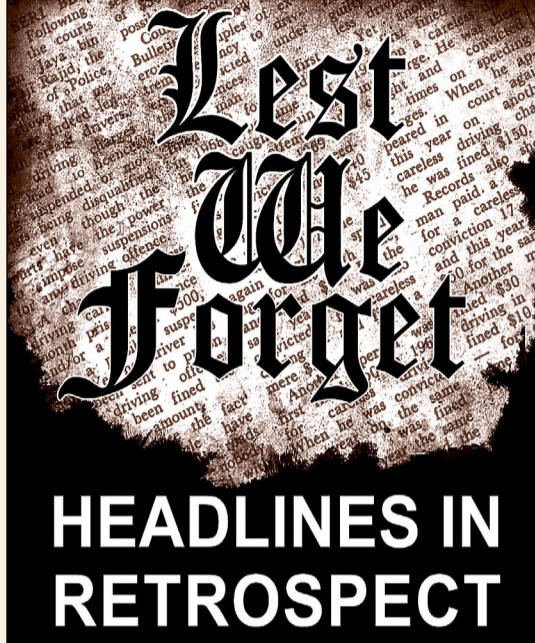


DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH BORNEO BULLETIN ARCHIVES

Compiled by
Lance Thoo Sin Lin

Ban-love-songs call

KUALA LUMPUR (February 3, 1962) – An Alliance woman MP Hajah Zain has asked the government to stop the playing of many love songs at night over Radio Malaya as “they would make our youths think of nothing but love”.

50
Years Ago

She was speaking in the debate on the estimates of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the House of Representatives. She also deplored comic, romantic sketches on the air.

Replying to her, the Assistant Minister of Interior, Inche Ismail Yusof said it was not possible to please all the listeners.

“They are neither all young nor old. Some of them – especially lovers – like love songs,” he said.

Right of way

40
Years Ago

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (February 5, 1972) – The Brunei Government is considering legislation to give ambulances, fire engines and police vehicles on emergency work the right of way on the road. This will make it compulsory for any other vehicles to either stop or pull over.

“This doesn’t mean to say that ambulance drivers have the right to just overtake and go tearing off up the road. They will not relinquish their driving responsibilities,” a police spokesman said.

Neither does it give such drivers the right to cross traffic lights when red.

Last week at Mile 4 in Kuala Belait, three cars stopped for an ambulance and collided with each other on the wet road. The last was driven by a police inspector.

Another law being considered will make it illegal for vehicles to emit excessive smoke. Many Brunei buses and trucks emit thick, black fumes but if they do it once the law is passed, the driver will face a \$100 fine. - **Nigel Coventry**

Control on pesticides

KOTA KINABALU (February 6, 1982) – Only registered pesticides can now be imported or manufactured, formulated, packed, repacked or labelled in Sabah or Sarawak.

30
Years Ago

This new ruling comes with the enforcement on January 1 of the 1974 Pesticides Act in the two states. The schemes to register approved pesticides are being run by the Department of Agriculture under the direction of the Pesticides Board. The purpose of the registration is to ensure suitable formulas and compounds are properly labelled in appropriate containers.

Hotline for child abuse

JANUARY 30, 1992 – A “hotline” service to help combat the dreaded social malady that is child abuse will soon come into operation in Brunei.

Such an effective scheme has been suggested by the Women Graduates Association during a seminar on the problem of child abuse.

Hitherto for some abused children, their very homes have remained a veritable hell. The ordeal they undergo at the hands of their family members are seldom reported to the relevant authorities.

The proposed ‘hotlines’ will therefore provide a vital link for the civic minded public and the authority in the country in curbing the pro-

liferation of child abuse. It is expected to come into operation as soon as authorities agreed to the recommendation.

According to officials, reported cases of child abuse in Brunei last year were not at a worrying stage. Nevertheless, they believed it may be just the tip of an iceberg as many children may be silently suffering at the hands of their family members.

The ‘hotline’ service was one of the several recommendations made by Women Graduates Association at the end of a two-day deliberation on the prevention of child abuse. The seminar organised by the association was attended by more than 20 participants, including law enforcement officers.

20
Years Ago

‘Five-star’ status for Brunei forests

FEBRUARY 4, 2002 – Brunei is to enhance its watch against forest intrusion in order to preserve its policy of limiting logging to 100,000 cubic metres per annum, officials here said.

The Sultanate is also to establish “Five-star” forests.

It has been an alarming phenomenon that in recent times poachers from a neighbouring country across the border have been intruding into Brunei forests and have been removing valuable trees.

In view of this, a special task force including the Police, Immigration, Customs and the Forestry, as well as other relevant government agencies, has been set up to fight the menace.

A number of poachers have since been caught and produced in court and were fined or jailed. The forest thieves are not only after logs but are also after Brunei’s valuable sandalwood trees.

But it is difficult to watch over hundreds of

Increased vigilance
against intrusion

miles of the border and villagers have also been asked to look out against the intruders and report to the relevant district officers the presence of any strangers or other unusual activities.

The 100,000 cubic metres per annum quota only meets 30 per cent of the local requirements and the rest is imported mainly from Sarawak.

Brunei values its forest conservation policy to such an extent that a special ‘Five-star’ national forestry policy is soon to be introduced, according to Forestry officials.

The ‘Five-star’ programme has been identified as, “Forest for a harmonious future”, “Forest for sustainable production”, “Forest for economic strength”, “Forest for public involvement and well-being”, as well as for eco-

tourism development and “Forest for international prestige”.

Forestry officials said that the past policy of conservation in enhancing the national bio-diversity and the protection of Brunei’s forests from devastation would be pursued vigorously.

“It is a valuable source for economic growth, for tourism development and maintaining the eco-system, which is crucial to the environment,” officials said.

Brunei’s wise long-term policy of strict forest conservation has paid off. In neighbouring countries, excessive logging has destroyed large areas of forest land, bringing an ecological disaster in its trail, observers pointed out. - **Ignatius Stephen**

10
Years Ago

Wider stairways needed



FEBRUARY 2, 2002 – A Filipino man who had a problem with his right knee had to be helped by a friend when he needed to get down to the road from his apartment on the second floor of a building in Kiulap.

The stairways were too narrow for paramedics to bring him down in a stretcher and there was no lift in the building. Buildings ought to have adequately wide stairways or a lift to facilitate matters in case of medical emergencies – **Rahmat bin Hj Abd Rahman**

Imams taboo Valentine’s Day

FEBRUARY 2, 2002 – Imams yesterday warned Muslim followers in Brunei not to celebrate Valentine’s Day as observing such alien culture is un-Islamic and could actually weaken the Ummah.

“We must remember that attempts by certain elements to weaken the Ummah and destroy Islam are continuing relentlessly. They will try with every means and ways to weaken our Ummah, especially the young generation. This includes by ways of promoting their negative culture into our community such as by promoting ‘Valentine’s Day’ celebration,” warned the Imams in their sermon at the Friday congregation in mosques throughout the country.

The mosque leaders highlighted this issues at their sermon yesterday as Valentine’s Day, the special occasion for lovers to fire up their love on February 14 is just around the corner.

This practice that has its origin in Christianity is worryingly be-

coming popular in this predominantly Islamic country, especially among Muslim youths.

From just writing love letters and sending special Valentine’s Day cards, many Muslim youths now openly celebrate this special occasion by dining out in restaurants with their lovers, partying and even checking into hotels.

The commercial entities in the country, on the other hand, are sadly the main facilitators and promoters of this alien culture, observed several independent observers.

During the past years, some hotels, for example, have openly conducted special promotions for this occasion such as offering special room rates for lovers and even day-rooms to encourage lovers to spend intimate time during the special Valentine’s Day.

Ironically, most of the patrons of these special offers were Muslim followers instead of the non-Muslims, they said. - **Malai Hassan Othman**

Peace in Philippines to benefit Brunei

FEBRUARY 8, 2002 – The calming of the troubled Southern Philippines with the current military help of the United States is expected to see an investment and business boom there, which may benefit Brunei, according to sources.

Southern Philippines’ fish and fruit produce are expected to see a marked increase with peace expected to return to the area and the freeing of human resources now engaged in conflict is hoped to be channelled into more productive areas.

The return of peace and stability, which has

eluded the region for so long, may bring in much needed foreign investment in setting up modern factories to process food items for export.

Brunei stands to gain from this because key areas like Zamboanga and Cagayan De Oro are closer to the Sultanate where a top-class container port is being established in Muara jointly with Singapore.

For the Southern Philippines, it will be more economical to ship their produce through Brunei than Manila. This will be a tremendous start for Brunei and that is possible because of the country’s geographical position and the

Sultanate may emerge as a pivotal transshipment centre in the not too distant future for both the Philippines and Indonesia.

Products like canned fish and fruits, which can be produced abundantly and at a low cost, could be repacked in Brunei and shipped to destinations in Australia, Europe, Singapore and Arab countries, Brunei businessmen speculate.

But observers believe that Brunei should develop a “can do” spirit and get rid of any red tape impediments before the outside world finds Brunei attractive to use it as a hub. - **Ignatius Stephen**