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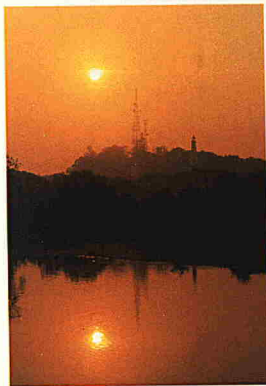
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PERUPAHSAN NEGARA
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SELANGOR



*A
Celebration*









H.M. SULTAN SALAHUDDIN ABDUL AZIZ SHAH ALHAJ IBNI

ALMARHUM SULTAN HISAMUDDIN ALAM SHAH ALHAJ

D.K. (K.M.), D.M.N., S.P.M.S., S.S.S.A., D.K.M.B. (BRUNEI), D.K. (TERENGGANU), D.K. (KELANTAN),
D.K. (PERLIS), D.K. (JOHOR), D.K. (KEDAH), D.K. (NEGERI SEMBILAN), D.K. (PERAK), D.K. (PAHANG),
S.P.D.K. (SABAH), D.P. (SARAWAK), D.U.N.M. (MELAKA), P.I.K.

THE MOST AUSPICIOUS ORDER OF THE RAJAMITRABHORN (THAILAND),
AL-KHALIJAH MEDAL DECORATION (BAHRAIN)

HIS MAJESTY THE YANG DI-PERTUAN AGONG



H.M. TUANKU HAJJAH SITI AISHAH

DK (SELANGOR), DMN, DA (SARAWAK),
KNIGHT GRAND CROSS (FIRST CLASS) OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS ORDER
OF CHULIA CHOM KLAO (THAILAND)

HER MAJESTY THE RAJA PERMAISURI AGONG



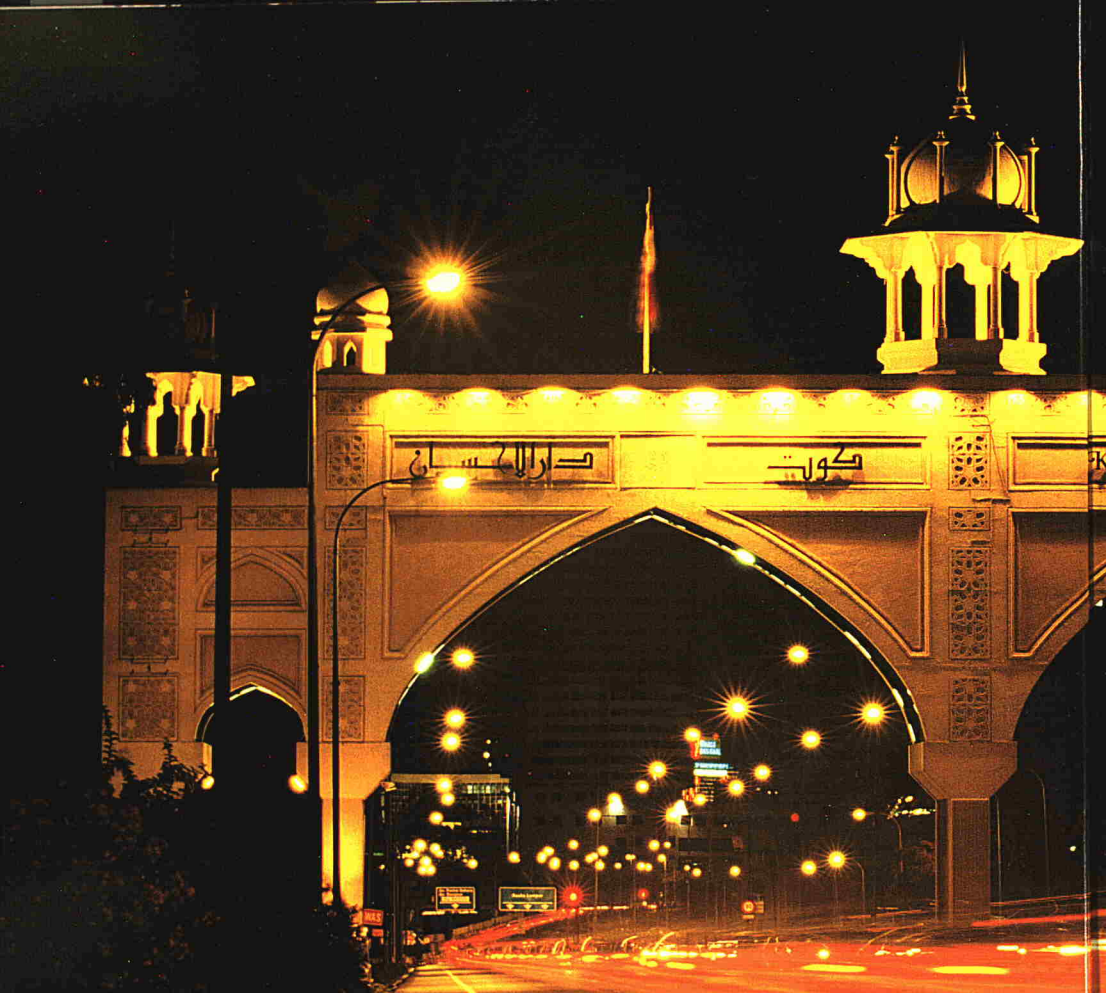


**HRH TENGKU IDRIS SHAH IBNI
SUULTAN SALAHUDDIN ABDUL AZIZ SHAH ALHAJ**
DK,DK. (TERENGGANU), SPMJ

HRH THE REGENT OF SELANGOR







دارالاسلام

کویت



KOTA

DARUL EHSAN

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. . . message

DATO' SERI DR. MOHAMAD KHIR TOYO

The Right Honourable Menteri Besar of Selangor

Selangor is a state that has achieved much for itself and for the nation. So it is with special pleasure that I am writing this message for *Selangor: A Celebration*, a record of events, people, places that have shaped the character of this state.

I can say without fear of contradiction that here in Selangor is the epitome of Malaysianness. We have in Selangor all the physical indications of what the nation aspires to be: its educational infrastructure, its industrial development, and its spiritual devotion. We have Selangorians of diverse backgrounds all living together in harmony and working together to build a model state. Although during the glorious years of the past Selangor lived in the shadow of the Malacca Sultanate, Selangor has a history that is as glorious in many other ways. In Malacca's decline, the royal house of Selangor played a very active role in efforts to redeem all that was lost with the fall of the Sultanate. After Melaka's fall, Selangor's second ruler Raja Ibrahim fought a brave fight to recapture lost territory and lost his beloved uncle, known by the name of Raja Haji fi Sabilillah, in the process. Selangorians won the grudging respect of their Dutch adversaries as a result.

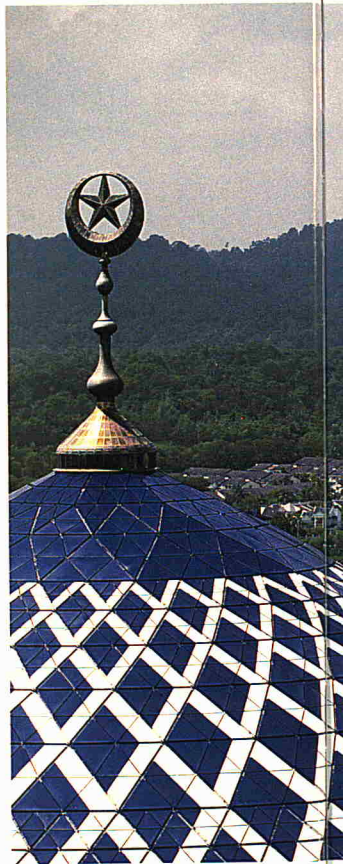
Selangor's contact with the outside world however predated the Malacca Sultanate. In prehistory 'Selangorians' had been trading in tin with buyers who came from lands in the Western flank of Asia, parts known to European cartographers as the Middle East, their middle east. Buyers from the Mediterranean shores

sailed down to Selangor in search of this valuable metal from time immemorial. For a long time Selangor's tin (together with those of other Malaysian states) became the mainstay of the Malaysian economy. And it is this aspect of Selangor - its long contact with the outside world and its resources and industry - that I would like to invite you to bear in mind when going through this book.

For the bulk of visitors to Malaysia, in fact, Selangor serves as their first glimpse of the country at the KL International Airport (KLIA). This is an interesting and exciting first glimpse of Malaysia. But it is not just the modern that makes up Selangor. It is also a state with many other interesting facets: its history, its people, its natural beauty and its diversity. Selangorians are justifiably proud of the state they have built. Agricultural workers in the rural areas, factory hands in the industrial zones, teachers, administrators, business entrepreneurs and petty traders are all parts of the pictorial mosaic that make up the cultural and economic State.

In this book I hope you will get the feel of the vibrancy of our daily life. For those who have been to Selangor I hope this book will serve as a useful memento of the State. For the first-time visitors already here or still planning a date for that visit I hope this book will also serve as a useful introduction.

I hope you will all join us in this celebration of Selangor.





A CHEQUERED LOOK

Journeying into an area as varied as Selangor poses familiar problems: where does one start? Start at the beginning, said Alice, of Wonderland. But where does the beginning define itself, and of the end, where does it begin?

Selangor is no Wonderland in the Carolinian sense, but it has many wonderful aspects. Its history is firmly rooted in the ground, in tin. And the Romans came to Selangor long before the Portuguese, and the Arabs, not to mention the English and the Dutch, in quest of this precious metal and alliances and trade in this lucrative area. Tin has been shimmering through from below and above ground since prehistory, and ancient ingots were found in the tailings of fairly recent mines to remind latter day excavators of ghostly workers of the past who'd toiled since prehistory for the riches of the land. The Malays were miners of tin in Selangor, though not as efficiently and as extensively as immigrant Chinese miners who panned and hydro-blasted and dredged the earth in scales never before seen and who helped lift the state's - and the country's - tin producing profile to world-class stature.

We have devoted a section of this book to this industry even though the drone of mechanical dredging ships and the gush of monitors in open cast mines no longer despoil the landscape. A company with the royal Selangor warrant which transformed the fruits of Selangor's earth and the skills of its crafts people into internationally coveted *objets d'art* is also here even if the company itself, by a political quirk, is no longer in the state. It was in Selangor too that the Hong Fatt mining company dug a hole in the ground so large that it was, for a long time, the largest open-cast mine ever known to man. Now that tin is no longer a worthwhile object of pursuit, the area survives in yet another

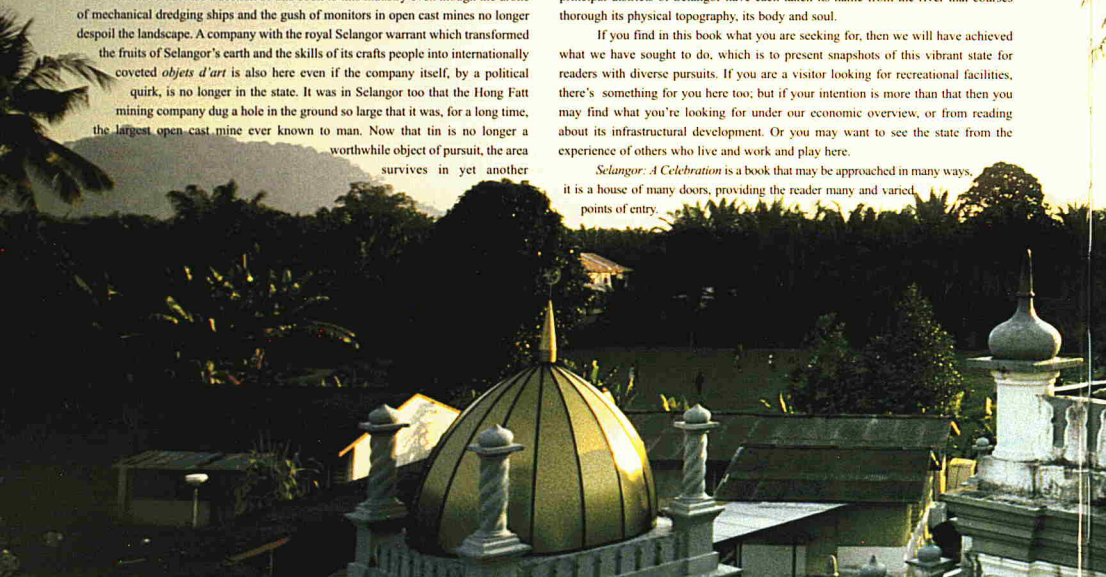
incarnation as an extensive lake on the edge of a shopping mall, a conference centre and a world class hotel on its landscaped banks, existing together in a wondrous conglomeration that names itself after the works that once provided the very basis for the area's exploration. We have included a pictorial glimpse of that too to record how the state and its entrepreneurs have, if anything, transformed the *passé* into the *avant garde*.

Tin has to an extent shaped the modern history of Selangor from a mere settlement on the mouth of the river Selangor (Kuala Selangor) into the modern eponymous state.

We have of course also devoted a section of this book to the history of Selangor, merely to help the reader understand the events which have shaped the present. The past resembles the future more than one drop of water, another, said that great West Asian scholar-historian of the 14th century, Ibn Khaldun. In another sense, water has of course also played a major role in the creation of the polity. All the principal districts of Selangor have each taken its name from the river that courses through its physical topography, its body and soul.

If you find in this book what you are seeking for, then we will have achieved what we have sought to do, which is to present snapshots of this vibrant state for readers with diverse pursuits. If you are a visitor looking for recreational facilities, there's something for you here too; but if your intention is more than that then you may find what you're looking for under our economic overview, or from reading about its infrastructural development. Or you may want to see the state from the experience of others who live and work and play here.

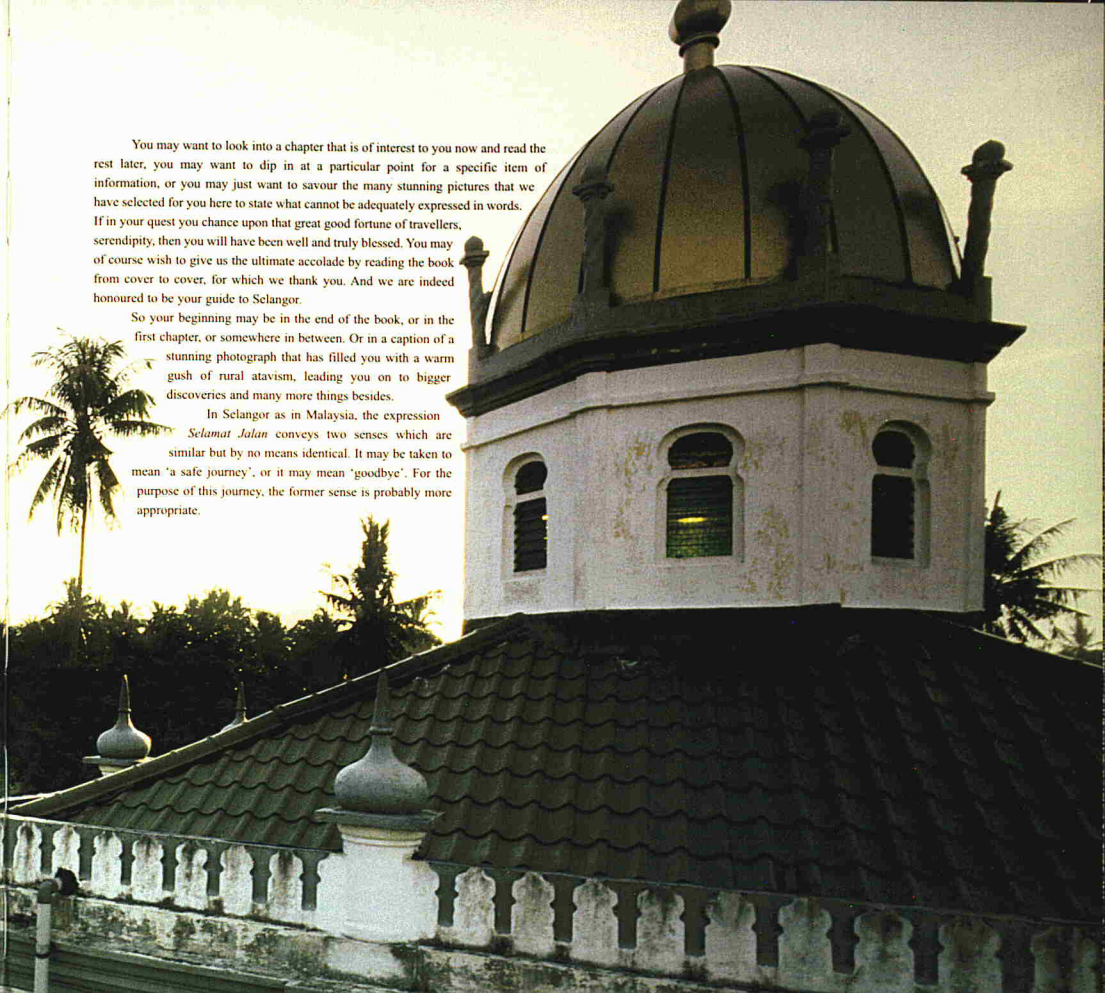
Selangor: A Celebration is a book that may be approached in many ways. It is a house of many doors, providing the reader many and varied points of entry.



You may want to look into a chapter that is of interest to you now and read the rest later, you may want to dip in at a particular point for a specific item of information, or you may just want to savour the many stunning pictures that we have selected for you here to state what cannot be adequately expressed in words. If in your quest you chance upon that great good fortune of travellers, serendipity, then you will have been well and truly blessed. You may of course wish to give us the ultimate accolade by reading the book from cover to cover, for which we thank you. And we are indeed honoured to be your guide to Selangor.

So your beginning may be in the end of the book, or in the first chapter, or somewhere in between. Or in a caption of a stunning photograph that has filled you with a warm gush of rural atavism, leading you on to bigger discoveries and many more things besides.

In Selangor as in Malaysia, the expression *Selamat Jalan* conveys two senses which are similar but by no means identical. It may be taken to mean 'a safe journey', or it may mean 'goodbye'. For the purpose of this journey, the former sense is probably more appropriate.







... Introduction

PRE-HISTORY AND NOW

Like many a state in peninsular Malaysia, Selangor's history has been gathered in quite a desultory fashion, with a rare glimpse of prehistory here, a *Dong So'n* drum there, here a piece of ancient ingot, there a burst of coherent narration in the shadow of old Malacca. The sultanate of Selangor became entrenched in fairly recent times, then a protracted civil war put a glitch in the picture, and the appearance of foreign galleons on the horizon set for it a different course for then and future times. This indeed marked the beginnings of the modern state, the precursor to the here and now.

Selangorians - and the term is used loosely - pride themselves in being denizens of the most forward looking state in the Federation, certainly the most diverse and cosmopolitan in a land where the inter-cultural, inter-racial mix of its people is a demographic byword; and Selangor can lay claim to being the most advanced, the most magnanimous, the most 'central' of all the states of Malaysia, and certainly the most modern. And these claims are not made lightly.

The 'centrality' of Selangor is a notional one, not geographical. For a long time, since colonial days most certainly, it was the focus of government for the States of Malaya. Even the then Straits Settlements of Singapore, Malacca, and Penang could not have claimed to have been at the hub even if they, on their own accord, had cultivated this air of self-presumption in the British colonial days. It was to Kuala Lumpur, in the state of Selangor - but later to be Federal Territory, an entity on its own - that everything turned. It became the administrative, an economic, then federal capital of the colonial government, and later, of Malaysia.

It was this lure that brought to Selangor people of diverse origins. Malays from other states poured in to partake of its success, to stay awhile in a job of work, to mingle accents with native-born

Selangorians, and then to sink roots in the soil and call it home. Their cousins from across the Straits came sailing in to seek that perpetual cliché of an economic life: a better future. And they are still coming in now to settle among their own people in long-established colonies, to become Selangorians all. The Chinese came to work the mines and to be shopkeepers, the Tamils and the Sikhs from across the Bay, heart a-leaping as their ships' captains pulled the sounding device to mark those seafaring vessels' final whoops of arrival at a port of call in a land that was so like and yet so different to what they'd left behind in the bosoms of Mother India. They tapped rubber and built the railways and roads, and became clerical workers and petty officers in the colonial service, in the hub of Selangor.

Generations later - today - this matter-of-fact existence as brothers or sisters in toil and of this being here together now mark the achievement of this glorious state, an acceptance of this togetherness, of fellowship under a common umbrella. To be a Selangorian is to accept this diversity of collective origins, yet it is not a disposition that is as strong in other states of the Federation where it is not at all unusual to find the common greeting turning, as the conversation develops, into a polite probing into one's state of origin in the Federation.

Yet this magnanimity is extended not only to its people but is also an established hallmark in Selangor's relations with other states of Malaysia. On 2nd February 1974, Selangor signed an agreement with the government of Malaysia to cede to it its prized possession, all 243 square kilometres of its capital Kuala Lumpur, to become the national capital of Malaysia and a Federal Territory in its own right, and then again recently, it provided the site for Putrajaya, the new high-tech administrative capital of Malaysia.

(Previous page) Sunset off the coast of Klang seaport.



*Glimpses of the past;
new arrivals :
Selangorians all;
The nurturing of a
state, growth of a
capital.*



1914



... History

From rivers rose
settlements, trade and
the burgeoning of
politics; the Selangor of
today has been shaped
by events of the past.



(Main picture, left) The Istana Bandar (Bandar Palace) in Kuala Langat, birthplace of the 11th Yang diPertuan Agong - Paramount Ruler - of Malaysia, His Majesty Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Al-Haj ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah Al-Haj, eighth Sultan of Selangor Darul Ehsan .

EARLY SETTLERS, EARLY MENTIONS

The story of Selangor is interwoven into a fabric of many colours. Climatic disposition, geographical location, early settlements and later migrations, feuds, alliances, reconciliations and colonisation have all played their part in giving shape to this state. Its transformation from primitive settlements sporadically placed in the interior, into a vast rural sprawl, to the mix of the urban and rural that it is now.

But Selangor essentially rose from the water: from the rivers that sustain agriculture and life, both human and animal, in their surrounds. These rivers more than anything else contributed to the founding of settlements that grew into *kampung*, and expanded into districts and then the fiefdom of some petty chiefs, who would later pay homage to a higher order. The rivers brought early settlers in skimpy dug-outs who fished and lived off the flora and fauna of the riverbanks. Then as society grew more complex, navigable waterways carried even more sophisticated vessels to the hinterland, then carried them again downstream with produce and people travelling to the rivermouths - the *kualas* of Malaysian place names: Kuala Selangor, Kuala Langat, Kuala Lumpur.

These rivers have become in turn the districts of the state as we now know it. Selangor, Bernam, Jeram, Klang, Larut-Jugra, Lukut, and Raya. In historical texts, references to Selangor were without doubt to the river mouth settlement of Kuala Selangor, not to the state as we know it today. In this the river Selangor has been both mighty and fortunate for having lent its name to the entire political entity.

But the early history of Selangor itself, as of its name, is nestled in haze. Even then there are relics and evidences that have been literally unearthed, and there's enough light shone through the mists to descrie shapes and forms - however unsatisfactory - of what quality of life may have prevailed in the remotest past. Historians are generally in agreement, however, that Selangor predates the Malacca Sultanate, a golden period in Malaysian history, by more than mere centuries.

There's evidence to show that the area of Jenderam Hilir had established trading links with Pengkalan Bujang in Kedah, further

north. In *Geographike Huphagesis*, attributed to Claudius Ptolemy in mid-2nd century A.D. there was mention of Sabara, a trading centre in the Malay peninsula. One historian at least, W. Linehan, believed this was a reference to Klang, but others quickly contradicted the claim. Klang, wrote Dato' F.W. Douglas in "Notes on the historical geography of Malaya", was Palanda, another ancient town also mentioned in Ptolemy's work.

Klang was again and again 'located' by modern historians in the works of their more ancient counterparts. S.Q.Fatimi, for instance, believed that 'Kalali', as mentioned in the works of Arab historians Abu Zaid, Abu Dulaf and Ibn Khurdadhibh, was indeed Klang. But this certainty was questioned by others who believed that Klang was a place further north from Kalah.

What is beyond contention is that there were neolithic villages in Selangor in prehistoric times, and that in the early centuries A.D. - and maybe even well before that - tin was extracted in the Klang valley and traded downstream of the Klang river, with buyers coming not only from the peninsula but also from abroad.

Tin was an essential element in the transformation of our primitive past from stone to bronze, and it is again noteworthy that more bronze artifacts were found in Selangor than in other places in peninsular Malaysia; and historians put much store by that.

Selangor may even stake a claim - and there's much ground for that - to being the originator of tin mining and its trade in the peninsula. Tin has been extracted in the Klang Valley in one form or another since the late prehistoric period and its role in the economy only began to wane in the latter half of the twentieth century.

All this goes to show that far from being a vast wilderness, unpopulated except for clusters of *Oriang Asli* (aborigines) in the interior and fisherfolk and *lanuns* (pirates) along the coastal areas, Selangor as we may now loosely call it, has been inhabited by settlers, especially along the riverbanks, for more than 2,000 years.

(Right) Archaeological excavation on Bukit Malawati in Kuala Selangor





When Malaysia's wealth was in its primary commodities, Selangor was a producer in abundance. These archive pictures show two methods of extracting an important produce, tin, from the earth. (Top picture) The gravel pump method of extraction blasts strong jets of water into the tin bearing earth while (bottom picture) ladies pan the washings for smaller tin-bearing ores.



Scenes from a mining past

*(Left) Lady 'dulang washers' search the earth for tin. The smile belies the back-breaking nature of the work in scorching sun.
(Top, right) Mechanisation came with the monster dredge which dromed endlessly, digging a huge man-made lake in the ground where it excavated for tin.*

(Bottom, right) Tin mine workers with characteristic wide-brimmed coolie hats were once a familiar sight in Selangor.



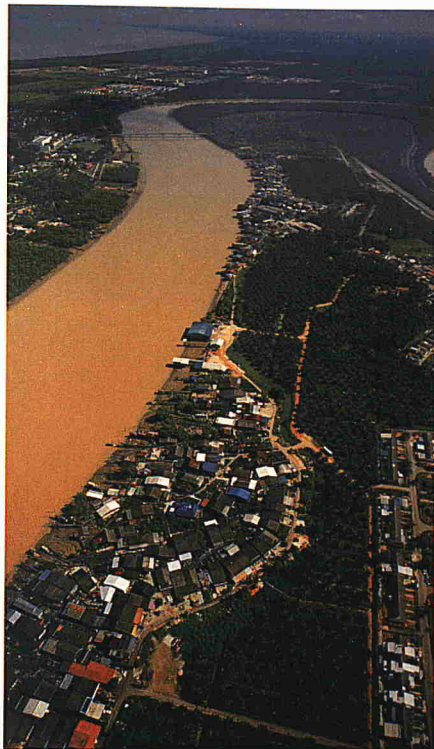
The river that gave the name. The Selangor meanders through the land of Selangor, through lush greenery, unexplored wilderness and then it rolls on. Traffic have been plying its waters since time immemorial: commuters, traders, wanderers. An itinerant warrior at the river mouth of this river was bested by a bluebottle, but was this the incident that gave the state and the river their name?

A RIVER THROUGH TIME

The Selangor river before it acquired its name, had wended its way for many centuries through the land that was to take its name. The word itself has no known Malay linguistic significance, though speculation is rife that it may have been a corruption or a concatenation of other words.

In olden days the entrance to this, the river mouth with no name, was concealed by the tall and lush growth of a species of the mangrove known to the locals as the *mentangau*, which could be seen from a distance by seafarers looking for a port of call to replenish their dwindling supply. They would say: "Oh look, there's the *kuala mentangau!*", or when asked for the whereabouts of a suitable place for replenishing their stock, the knowledgeable would reply: "At *kuala mentangau!*", at the river mouth where grew the *mentangau*, a species peculiar to the place and which also served as useful landmark. Through passage of time this of course became Kuala Selangor, the river mouth of the river Selangor.

Another version of the story of Selangor had an itinerant warrior who stopped by at this unknown place and was soon bothered by a determined bluebottle, the Malay *langau*, which flew hither and thither around his person, and, needless to say, caused him much annoyance. The bluebottle sat on his nose, so the warrior shook it away, then it came back for further contretemps. The resting warrior, thus annoyed, took one careful aim and attempted a hefty swat, but the bluebottle just continued to flit about unperturbed. This gave the warrior cause for contemplation. "I'm a warrior," he said, "yet even my best effort has been thwarted by this one *langau!*" He soon concluded that the place had a presence more powerful than he, gave up his wandering, and, whenever he was asked about the place where he had given up his calling, he would say that this was the place of "*Se langau!*", or the place of the solitary but bothersome bluebottle. The erstwhile warrior's annoyance soon became a point of reference, and then stuck as a place name.



What memory the water holds, coursing its way through the land. Houses clustering where thickets once grew, clearings now where animals once roamed free. When the river murmurs past barricades of mighty trees standing still on the banks of time, is it passing a greeting to these wrenched sentinels or are they sharing a common memory?

Yet another story tells of an unidentified place near the present Kuala Selangor where prisoners were taken to be punished by being tied to a cross and left to dry out like fish in the sun. According to Malay penal tradition, such punishment would have been meted out at land's end (*di hujung pasir*), so the seaward tip of present-day Kuala Selangor would have been an eminently suitable place. There the prisoners would have been tied to a *salang* (a cross), and *di jemur*, (left to dry), in the searing heat. *Salang dan di jemur* - tied to the cross and left in the sun - soon became *Salang Ur*, roughly the two phonetic components of our present day Selangor.

Running parallel to the Selangor of the mangrove, or the bluebottle, or the cross are three equally mighty rivers, the Kelang, the Langat and the Bernam, all making individual contributions to the growth of population and polity. From each, in known history, sprang a satrap who took charge of local affairs while owing fealty to a neighbouring ruler - Malacca during the height of the Sultanate, and Johor-Riau after its fall.

And so both Selangor and Kelang loomed like twin apparitions in the ethereal past. But there was another way in which the Kelang jostled with Selangor for strength of position in those unsettled times before the state became an integral whole. During the time of Sultan Alauddin Shah, the first Sultan of old Johor, Kelang already had a ruler of sorts for the surrounding region, called officially the Mandulika. In 1700 it was recorded that a member of the Klang nobility, To' Engku Kelang, viceroy to the Sultan of Johor, presented a seal of office to the Bugis *Yamtuan* ("the who is made overlord") of Selangor, thus recognising his position. This Tok Engku Kelang may himself have been of interesting pedigree, one account saying that he was scion of Sultan Abdul Jalil IV of Johor, whilst another identified him as one of the two sons of Megat Seri Rama, the man who gained notoriety for ending the life of Sultan Mahmud Shah II in Riau in a celebrated incident in 1699 when he plunged his kris into the Sultan while the latter was being taken around on the shoulders of a loyal courtier.

Throughout much of recorded history Selangor had been visited and settled by the Bugis, the fierce, noble, seafaring people from Sulawesi in present-day Indonesia. The Bugis in diaspora had settled in many parts of the Malay archipelago, participated in many local feuds on one side or the other, and even became intertwined with the Malay power base in exile in Riau, in Johor, Pahang and even as far as Perak and Kedah. In Selangor Bugis settlements date back to the 17th century on the coastal areas of Kuala Selangor and Kelang. There they later prospered by trading in tin with the British who were beginning to make a presence on the two rivers, while also giving tough opposition to the Dutch in trade and war.

The Bugis *Yamtuan* in Selangor continued to hold office until the arrival in Selangor of another member of the Bugis nobility called Raja Lumu in the latter part of 1766 when he was installed the first overall ruler of Selangor, taking the title of Sultan Salehuddin Shah. This marked the beginning of Selangor's emergence as a state, and the end of its allegiance first to the Malacca sultanate, then to the government of Malacca in exile in Riau-Johor.

THEORY OF ORIGINS

While archaeologists are still sifting through the silts of millennia for evidence of origins, the prevailing view is that Southeast Asia has little to account for its place in prehistory. It owes its rise to the great civilisational and cultural influences of its dominant neighbours India and China.

Stephen Oppenheimer, an Oxford-based scientist started his foray into Southeast Asia as a medical researcher probing into the genes of native inhabitants for traces of disease and genetic dispositions. From what he examined under his microscope and from what he had heard of the mythologies extant in the area, from faraway Polynesia to the kampungs of Kelantan in peninsular Malaysia, his bafflement increased that such a vast expanse of space offered little to researchers. Beyond the acceptance that there may well have been an indigenous and complex civilisational basis to the region based on finds attributed to the Dong S'on bronze age culture and its forerunners in the Vietnam of the first millennium BC, there wasn't much else.

"Books on the origins of world civilisations leave out Southeast Asia completely. Histories of specific countries in the region usually skip the prehistoric period in a few lines and concentrate on the Indian and Chinese-influenced cultures of the last 2000 years and the later colonial periods," he was to observe later in his book, "Eden in the East".*

Accepted ethnographic theory also traces the origin of the Southeast Asian people further east, as encapsulated in the 'Express Train Out of China' theory which draws the vivid picture of a train full of ethnic propagators leaving the mainland, through Formosa, and then westward to Southeast Asia, then to Polynesia, scattering genetic and linguistic precursors along the way for the present people of Malayo-Polynesia.

One day, while flying out of the Philippines above the wide expanse of water of the South China Sea, he remembered the flood myths of the native inhabitants of the area. Myths and facts are not mutually exclusive; they inform each other. Oppenheimer decided to study the evidence in earnest.

From evidence he gathered that at the height of the Ice Age around 18,000 - 20,000 years ago Southeast Asia formed a continent twice the size of India, and included what we now call Indo-China, Malaysia and Indonesia. The South China Sea, Gulf of Thailand and the Java Sea were dry, forming connecting parts of the continent.

Most of these were submerged by great floods, not gradual rises in the water level, but cataclysmic events which submerged vast areas with terrifying suddenness, burying underwater, forever, an entire civilisation with all its cultural and technological achievements. This part of the continent which sank after the Ice Age is termed the Sunda Shelf or Sundaland, covering an area as large as India. Eventually only the scattered mountainous islands of the Malay

Archipelago were left above water, with the Malay peninsula now reaching out into the water towards its past in dispersal.

"Oceanographic record shows that the sea rose at least 120 metres (500 feet) during three floods which started approximately 14,000, 11,000 and 8,000 years ago, submerging forever all evidence of coastal settlements and technology before 8000 years ago in Southeast Asia and China. Inhabitants of these flooded areas were forced to flee elsewhere, taking with them their skills," says Oppenheimer.

The last time migrants fled from the sinking Sunda Shelf was during the last great flood between 8,000 and 7,500 years ago when inhabitants fled south towards Australia, east towards the Pacific, west into the Indian Ocean, and north into the Asian mainland. The devastation would have been augmented by earthquakes resulting from the sheer weight of the water, causing cracks in the earth's crust, and then gigantic tidal waves which swept everything along the way.

Descendants of these refugees from the flood are now in Melanesia, Polynesia and Micronesia - speakers of languages of the Austronesian family that are spoken in island Southeast Asia. Their ancestors would have taken with them in their large



* Hardback edition published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1998; paperback edition by Phoenix, a division of Orion Books Ltd., 1999.

ocean-going vessels everything they could to preserve the memory of their daily life in a land now largely engulfed by the sea: domestic animals and food plants, agricultural know-how, artifacts, and production skills. Now some of these splendid artifacts are being unearthed.

Says Oppenheimer: "In their dispersals the Southeast Asians fertilised the Neolithic cultures of China, India, Mesopotamia, Egypt and Crete...The theory I present places Southeast Asia for the first time at the centre of the origins of culture and civilisation. I argue that many people were driven out of their coastal homes in the East by flooding."

Oppenheimer's theory is at its most compelling when he talks about the technical/biological basis for this theory from the standpoint of a medical researcher and scientist. From the genes they carry it can be shown that present inhabitants of Southeast Asia have been there since the Ice Age and started moving in all directions at the time of the floods. All this is borne in the genes.

Gene markers reveal that aboriginals of Southeast Asia are at the root of Asian family trees and had scattered their seeds - in diaspora - to all points of the compass as far away as America and the Middle East. Research has shown that the Polynesian Motif - so-called because a high proportion of Polynesians carry it in their genes, originated in the people of Maluku (the Moluccas) in eastern Indonesia during the Ice Age.

"The fact that this marker has not been found in China, Taiwan or the Philippines contradicts the conventional theory and allows a much older view of Southeast Asian prehistory," he says.

This theory of course runs against the majority archaeological view - the Bellwood and Bhas hypothesis - which holds that island Southeast Asian Neolithic period started only perhaps 4,000 years ago with the arrival of the Express Train from China through Taiwan and the Philippines.

But Oppenheimer isn't the first to put across the alternative argument that ancestors of Southeast Asians were living there at the end of the Ice Age and not only developed the sailing and agricultural skills much earlier than people in the Near East, but also started long distance sailing around Asia and the Pacific more than 7000 years ago. There's support too for this alternative view. There's experienced China archaeologist William Meacham who sees no direct linguistic evidence for a mainland Austronesian homeland; and American archaeologist William Solheim who argues that people of the coastal Southern China were migrants belonging to what he calls the 'Nusanto Network', whose original homeland is in the Sunda Shelf islands of Southeast Asia. These are but two names from a growing band.

(Opposite page) Remains of a Dong S'on drum, one of many found in Selangor. This artifact of uncertain ritualistic significance is indigenous to the region and dates back to the bronze age. Its forerunners are traceable to Vietnam of the first millennium BC.

(Below) Another find from the bronze age. This is a bell believed to have been hung around an elephant's neck.





(Above) Boats, trees and water. These have an important place in the making of Selangor. Reflections on the past in the light of the present

(Below) Intricate carvings on the bowsprit of a Bugis boat. The Bugis played a pivotal role in the establishment of Selangor as a political entity

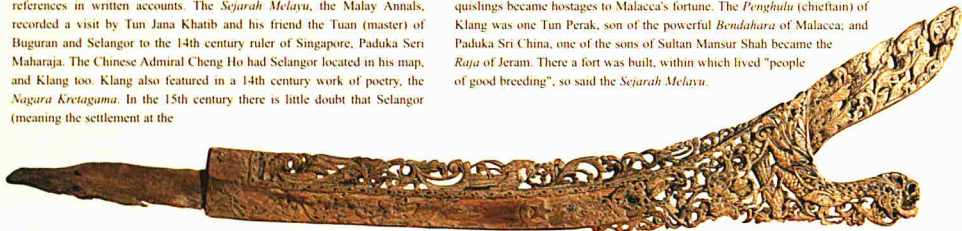
EARLY DAYS, NEW ARRIVALS

There was Selangor in prehistory, sporadic settlements of yore shaping out the starting points of the assemblage that we now know. Selangor, or Kuala Selangor, was just one of them, others included Jugra, and Klang, and other riverine settlements that sometimes listed a mention in ancient accounts of Chinese, or Arab or more exotic travellers. Ancient ingot remains coming to the surface during modern mining activities or so-called *Dong Siau* artifacts unearthed from the deep earth of prehistory, speak volumes about the early peoples of Selangor and their propensity. So much we know of the distant past.

The picture becomes clearer by about the 14th century from specific references in written accounts. The *Sejarah Melayu*, the Malay Annals, recorded a visit by Tun Jana Khatib and his friend the Tuan (master) of Buguran and Selangor to the 14th century ruler of Singapore, Paduka Seri Maharaja. The Chinese Admiral Cheng Ho had Selangor located in his map, and Klang too. Klang also featured in a 14th century work of poetry, the *Nagara Kretagama*. In the 15th century there is little doubt that Selangor (meaning the settlement at the

river mouth) together with Klang, Jeram, Langat, Lukut and Sungai Raya were collectively a satrapy of Malacca. Records show that the inhabitants of these districts had played an active role in the political affairs of the entropet, even after its fall to the Portuguese and later Dutch invaders.

But Selangor, or more precisely, the disparate components that were later to form the cohesive whole, predated the Malacca Sultanate itself which began in the 15th century and reached its apogee and fall from the grace of political fortune in a relatively short span of some hundred years. Being close to a state that was bestriding both wealth and power meant that these political quislings became hostages to Malacca's fortune. The *Penghulu* (chieftain) of Klang was one Tun Perak, son of the powerful *Bendahara* of Malacca; and Paduka Sri China, one of the sons of Sultan Mansur Shah became the *Raja* of Jeram. There a fort was built, within which lived "people of good breeding", so said the *Sejarah Melayu*.





(Above) *Weaponry of the Malay world. The shield on the left is of Bugis origin. The kris in the centre, flanked by their sheaths, are Malay weapons of practical qualities and mystical elements. They form a part of the state regalia: A good kris of excellent pedigree is not only a weapon of choice but also a prized possession.*
 (Following page) *Bukit Malawati seen in morning light from the Selangor Bird Sanctuary (Taman Alam). The hill with its landmark lighthouse built during British colonial administration, is a historic site in the history of Selangor.*

These settlements shared in the glory of old Malacca. Jugra and Klang warranted a mention in the *Sejarah Melayu* to show the expanse of this glorious Sultanate and its teeming people as well as the scope of its trading and commercial ventures.

When the Siamese armed might came down to attack Malacca, Tun Perak enlisted the men of Klang in support of the besieged Malaccans and together they bested these fierce invaders from the north. Tun Perak's reward was preferment as *Bendahara* himself, taking the title of Bendahara Paduka Raja, in which post he excelled and became most certainly Malacca's most famous - and most courageous - first minister.

It was thus that Selangor followed the political fortunes of Malacca. After the latter was overrun by the Portuguese in 1511, the shift of loyalty turned to Johore, the southern seat of Malay power to which Sultan Mahmud and his entourage had set up a court in exile before they finally settled on the island of Bintan. The *Sejarah Melayu* states that Tun Mahmud Seri Agar Raja, son of a Malaccan nobleman, was installed Raja of Selangor by his father when they stopped at the river mouth settlement en route home from an errand for the Sultan in Perak.

And so the royalty and noblemen of Malacca shifted around the peninsula in their peripatetic mission. The Seri Agar Raja also feathering his cap in his lifetime's career with another position of importance, as the Bendahara of Perak, while another son of his patron Sultan Mahmud Shah

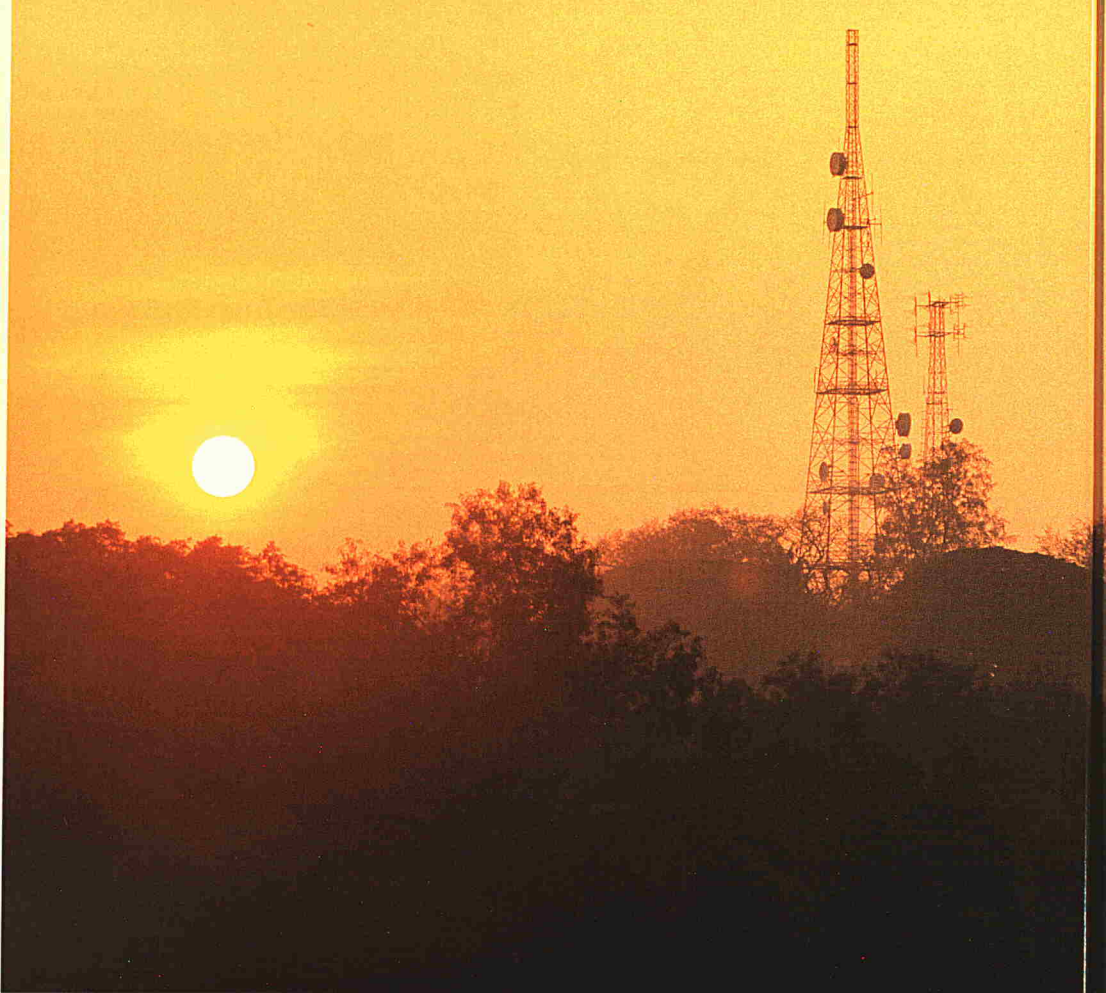
took over the throne of Johor as Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah II two years after the death of his father in Kampar in 1528.

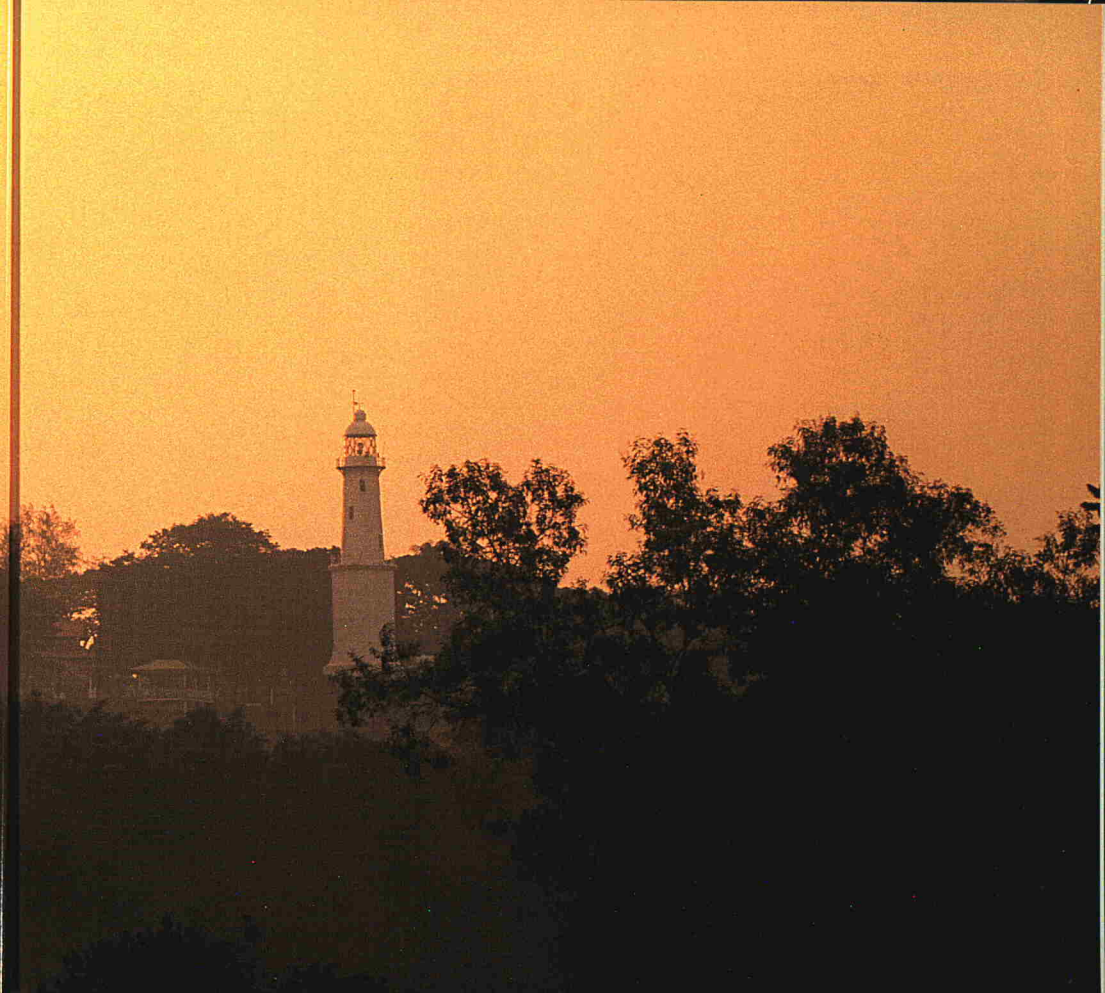
The arrival of the Europeans into Malaccan waters augured great changes in the political rivalry and the art of warfare in the region. The Dutch, like all imperialist powers, sought opportunities for tactical advantage from the political rifts in the region. This later enabled them to embark on punitive expeditions against native forces in the peninsula.

In the meantime, with the dispersal of the Malacca ruling house to various points of the compass in the Malay political world, Selangor was also gaining in stridency, transforming itself by degrees into a more cohesive political and military factor in the power play of the region, with Kuala Selangor pushing ahead as the lynchpin of the new polity that was now beginning to take shape.

If Selangor rose from the water of the rivers that became the foci of disparate power bases in its physical and political geography, the driving force of a new, self-confident and unifying royal house came from the sea, in boats with sails already familiar to the winds of these waters, unfurling as they were now and flapping purposefully in the breeze in the auriferous glow of a new dawn over the horizon.

These were Bugis ships carrying men who were noble, fierce and widely acknowledged as determined seafaring people.







SELANGOR

The State of Selangor is on the west coast of the peninsula. Two rivers, the Bernam and the Sepang separate it from the state of Perak in the north, and the state of Negeri Sembilan in the south. The State of Pahang in the east is separated from Selangor by the central Main Range or the Banjaran Titiwangsa.

The Selangor flag was designed during the fourth Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Abdul Samad (1859-1898) to depict flesh, blood, purity and faith. The quartered parts in yellow and red represent the first two, while the crescent and star represent the Islamic religion and the five Pillars of Faith. Yellow is also the royal colour. The five points of the star are the five pillars of Islam, professing a belief in Allah and His Prophet and angels, the Holy Quran, and predestination as ordained by Him.

The emblem of Selangor again echoes these themes. It consists of an upright spear standing in the centre, flanked by two krises. These represent the state regalia. Around these is entwined the Jawi (Arabic) inscription spelling the word



RUDIMENTS

'Selangor' in the yellow colour of royalty. Underneath this stylised entwining script is the motto in red Jawi script, "Dipelihara Allah" - In God's Protection.

The yellow star and crescent again depict the state religion of Islam and the five Pillars of Faith. Below this is the sash or 'tali bengkang' as worn by the Malay warriors of yore.

Selangor is one of nine Malay states in the Federation which has a Sultan as the head. The present Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah is also the 11th Yang diPertuan Agong or Paramount Ruler of Malaysia, appointment to which is made by the Conference of Rulers. The title moves in rotation among the Malay Rulers of the Malay States of the Federation for a 5-year term of office.

In His Majesty's absence, he appoints a Regent to the throne of Selangor, the incumbent being HRH Sultan Idris ibn Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah.

Selangor has a population of 4.1 million (2001), comprising Malays, Chinese, Indians and other smaller ethnic groups.





... *R*oyalty, Government, Legislature



*A Royal House
established, Selangor
lost and regained;
the state and trappings
of government*

(Main picture, left) The Sultan of Selangor, HRH Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah signing the Federal Territory treaty ceding Kuala Lumpur to the Federal Government as Federal Capital on 2nd February 1974.

HM Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Badlishah of Kedah, the fifth Yang diPertuan Agong - Paramount Ruler of Malaysia - signed on behalf of the Federal Government while other Malay rulers also put their signatures on the document. HM Sultan Salahuddin is now the 11th Yang diPertuan Agong of Malaysia.

THE ROYAL HOUSE OF SELANGOR

With the arrival of the five royal Bugis brothers and their combined might into the political waters of Johor-Riau in early 1700s it seemed inevitable that drastic changes were about to happen in the socio-political make-up of the area. The five siblings, Daing Parani, Daing Menambun, Daing Merewah, Daing Chelak, and Daing Kemasi were *Rajas*, of royal blood, extremely skilled in warfare, interventionists by disposition with an unrelentingly hostile disposition toward the Dutch who were now flourishing on tin and trade on the ruins of old Malacca. To them the Dutch were interlopers in the social and political affairs of the Malay world.

The remnants of Malacca-in-exile in Johor-Riau were on the wane, and the Malay world in a state of flux. The brothers were by no means the first Bugis to have arrived here; there were already Bugis settlers in what may be loosely called the Selangor area, and in the wider area of the region, playing an active hand in the changing fortunes of rulers. They charged a new dynamism into the area, and were arguably also responsible for the injection of new blood into the moribund royal houses of the old Malay empire.

The Royal House of Selangor traces its origin to these brothers through the island of Riau. The first Sultan of Selangor, Raja Lumu, was installed as Sultan Salehuddin with pomp and ceremony by the Sultan of Perak in Kota Lumut in 1766. Here he was presented with the

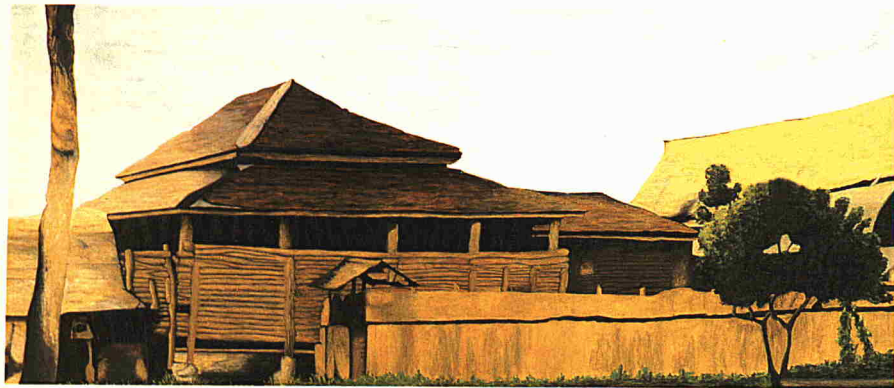
full *nobat*, the court instruments of the royal musical ensemble of the royal houses in the peninsula. By being so anointed he was able to declare himself independent of Johor-Riau; and the entire land of his reign became Selangor, after the river.

The appointment of Sultan Salehuddin to the throne of Selangor was part of the continuing fusion of Malay-Bugis power in the affairs of the Malay states and the neighbouring areas. Prior to his appointment as Sultan or the Yang diPertuan Selangor, Raja Lumu was already Tuanku Raja Selangor or Raja of Selangor, a position that did not however give him overall control of the area later to be known as Selangor. He was merely lord of a section of the Selangor river.

An incident will illustrate this point. Sultan Sulaiman Badrul Alam Shah, the then incumbent on the Johor-Riau throne paid a visit to Malacca in 1756 to thank the Dutch for having helped Raja Mahmud (Raja Buang) to defeat Raja Alam in Siak. As a token of his gratitude, Sultan Sulaiman signed a treaty with the Dutch giving them rights to tin produced in Selangor (Kuala Selangor), Klang and Linggi. Before leaving, he wrote to Daing Kempoja in Linggi, Raja Tua in Klang, and Raja Lumu in Kuala Selangor asking them to accept this new arrangement with the Dutch. Not surprisingly they all turned down this unwarranted imposition.

(Right) Newly restored Istana Bandar, the Bandar Palace, royal birthplace of HM Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, the 11th Paramount Ruler of Malaysia





(Top) The Royal Court of Sultan Abdul Samad, (seated centre) the fourth Sultan of Selangor (1859-1898). Standing to his left is his favourite grandson Tengku Sulaiman Shah who succeeded him to the throne. The mustache-torn man standing with left arm on hip on the right is Syed Mashhor, one of the protagonists in the Selangor civil war
(Bottom) The Jagra Palace, official residence of Sultan Abdul Samad in the district of the same name



(Above) Portrait of Sultan Abdul Samad, of Bugis descent and 4th Sultan of Selangor. He was described as sage-like and an astute man.

(Right) One of the kreses in the Selangor regalia, the Keris Terapong Gubus. The late Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah, father of the present Sultan, wore this keris at the coronation of England's Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

(Right) The Royal Seal of Sultan Abdul Samad. His name and Royal title are inscribed in Jawi (Arabic) script



To illustrate further the growing political complexity of that time as well as the growing ascendancy of the Bugis in the area, the Daing Kemboja of Linggi (who, with his brother *Rajas* of 'Selangor', refused to recognise Sultan Sulaiman's treaty with the Dutch) was the son of Daing Perani who arrived with four other siblings into the local political arena as we saw earlier. Raja Lumu himself was none other than the son of Daing Chelak, Daing Perani's brother and fellow traveller on the royal craft.

Daing Kemboja was, for a year, resident in Selangor before returning to Riau to assume, in 1748, the role of the third Yam-Tuan Muda (lit. junior ruler but effectively a viceroy) made vacant by the death of his uncle (and Raja Lumu's father) Daing Chelak, the second Yam-Tuan Muda three years earlier. This position of Yam-Tuan Muda having become by this time, a special post reserved for the Bugis in the various royal houses of the Malay sultanate.

As Sultan Salehuddin of Selangor, Raja Lumu may be regarded as the founder of the state of Selangor as we now know it, and also the founder of its ruling house which is now into its 234th year.



SELANGOR LOST AND REGAINED

The Perang Satu Malam - the night-long battle - has passed into folklore as a truly remarkable feat when the Dutch, ensconced on their fortress hill of Bukit Malawati was driven back to Malacca after an intense battle which began at dusk on 28 January 1785 and continued until just before dawn the following day.

The man behind this heroic deed was Sultan Ibrahim ibni Sultan Salehuddin (Raja Lamsu), second Sultan of Selangor, a charismatic person who not only further unified Selangor as founded by his late father, but also asserted once and for all the authority of the Sultan on the state. He won the grudging respect of the Dutch for being a formidable opponent in war.

Sultan Ibrahim was into his sixth year as Sultan in 1784 when he joined forces with his uncle Raja Haji of Riau to attack Malacca which, since its fall in 1511, had been under the continuous occupation of foreign powers, first under the Portuguese, now under the Dutch. Power in Malacca meant control of the Straits and its traffic. The combined force of Sultan Ibrahim and Raja

Haji very nearly succeeded in driving the Dutch out of Malacca had not the Dutch received reinforcement from sea, just in time when things were going very much against them.

January of that year could have ushered in a year of jubilation for Malacca, Selangor and the Malay world but instead it ended in tragedy for Sultan Ibrahim; his uncle was slain by the Dutch in battle in Teluk Ketapang, and he was left alone with his men to face the growing wrath of the Dutch colonial power.

Retaliation came in the person of Admiral J.P. van Braam who first attacked and occupied Riau after a short battle. Then focus was turned to Kuala Selangor. In this venture van Braam was aided by the ruler of Siak with whose men he landed in Kuala Selangor in early August 1784. Sultan Ibrahim, with 300 men, beat a tactical retreat to Pahang.

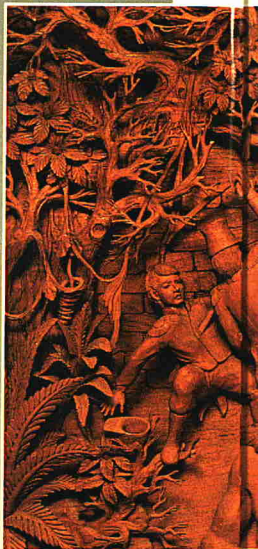
In Selangor the Dutch installed Sultan Muhammad Shah of Siak as ruler, but he soon returned to Siak and left behind his nephew Syed Ali to rule. There the nephew remained as puppet ruler owing his continued existence more to the Dutch armed presence than to acceptance by the local people.

Bukit Malawati (Malawati Hill), Sultan Ibrahim's strategic defensive position overlooking Kuala Selangor was turned by the Dutch into a fortress replete with cannons and other accoutrements of war. Sultan Ibrahim's forts on the hill were renamed Fort Altingsburg and Fort Utrecht in honour of the Governor General of Batavia and the command ship of the Dutch fleet respectively. It looked like a repeat of Malacca.

Then came that day in January 1785 when Sultan Ibrahim and 1000 of his best fighting men crossed Selangor river, stealthily climbed their way up Bukit Malawati and took the Dutch completely by surprise. Sensing defeat the Dutch withdrew to Malacca leaving Selangor back in the hands of Sultan Ibrahim.

From Malacca the Dutch sent battle ships to Kuala Selangor but by this time the Sultan's men had already made it impossible to navigate upstream from the river mouth for the presence of huge boulders dumped into the water. The Dutch ships remained around the river mouth to effect a blockade of Kuala Selangor.

Finally, on 29th July 1786, just over a year after their defeat at Bukit Malawati, the Dutch signed a treaty with Sultan Ibrahim which effectively ended the blockade. It must have been a great relief to both, but for Sultan Ibrahim it was a personal victory. His position was unassailable, Selangor within the short span of its existence as a political entity under one ruler had become a major player in the local political arena.



*(Left) Protective armour used by the Bugis warrior in war. It appears to have been made from crocodile hide
(Right) Bas relief of the overnight battle between Sultan Ibrahim and his followers in a surprise attack on the Dutch on Bukit Malawati. The Sultan was noted for his bravery and as a staunch enemy of the Dutch. He successfully drove the Dutch out of Selangor and the ensuing stalemate of the Dutch siege of Kuala Selangor led to the Selangor-Dutch treaty in 1786.*

(Bottom, right) Sultan Ibrahim's letter to the Englishman Francis Light in Penang asking for passage for one his 'priests' to Mecca



Handwritten text in Persian script, likely a historical document or manuscript, partially visible in the bottom left corner. The text is written in a cursive style and includes a circular seal or stamp.



The Penggawa's Cannon outside the Royal Mausoleum on Bukit Malawati.

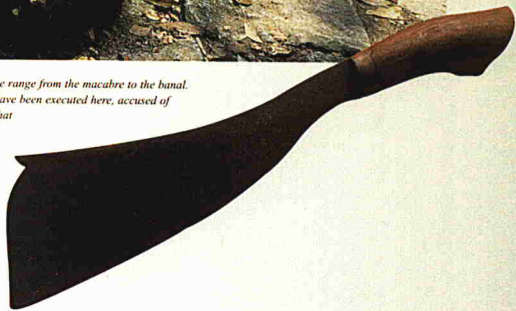
Cannons play a talismanic role in Malay folklore, often acquiring personalities of their own. This particular cannon has an interesting provenance and is regarded by some with reverence. It now sits mute on its plinth, looking out into the vast expanse of the state, but some say it is capable of 'spontaneous expression'. The Penggawa's Cannon is draped in yellow as a mark of respect.



(Above) The Batu Berhampar (Flat Stone) found on Bukit Maluwati. Stories about this stone range from the macabre to the banal. One version has it that this was an executioner's block. One woman from the palace was said to have been executed here, accused of adultery, and her blood scattered in the surrounding area. Another version says that

this was the place used by the third Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Ibrahim - who had a palace nearby - for watching cock-fights and playing board games. This stone may well have been a royal seat. An interesting thing about this stone, which has a heavy mass, is that it is resting on a crumbly earthen mound. Some attribute this to mystical qualities.

(Right) This is reputedly the executioner's implement used to behead the wayward and the disloyal. When the Dutch occupied Bukit Maluwati in retaliation for Sultan Ibrahim's (and his uncle's) attempt to recapture Malacca, they renamed their hillforts Fort Altingsburg and Fort Utrecht in honour of the Governor General of Batavia and the command ship of the Dutch fleet respectively.



A HILL OF VISITATIONS

Bukit Selangor, known widely nowadays as Bukit Malawati, is a hill of much presumption swathed in great mystery. Within its bounds live the spirits of Selangor past, on the physicality of its present. This is the history of Selangor in one big heap, the closest to what the people can call their sacred ground - not for its spirituality, nor its mystical claims, nor simply because much of consequence that happened in Selangor's past happened here. Some historians believe that it was on this hill that Sultan Ibrahim, that most heroic of Selangor rulers, built his palace and fortress, the Kota Selangor or Selangor Fort. There's little evidence for this fortification now, but standing on this hill one has a commanding view of the main waterway access to the heart of Selangor, and an overview of the landscape for miles around. Doubt persists though if he did indeed build a palace here as some historians claim.

The name Malawati is derived from the Malay word 'melawat', meaning 'to visit'. It was said that Sultan Ibrahim was fond of taking important visitors on a tour of the hill, to watch a cock fight maybe, or to play a board game with him on the stone seat that is still there today. It was therefore a Hill of Visitation, the Bukit Malawati.

In 1784 the Dutch, under Dirk van Hogen, came uninvited with a squadron of ships that dropped anchor at Sungai Selangor. From there their cannons began to pound the Sultan's fortress while battle raged between the Dutch (aided by fighting men of Sultan Muhammad Ali of Siak) and Selangorians for two weeks before the home side finally succumbed, with Sultan Ibrahim and his loyal followers beating a tactical retreat to Pahang.

The reason for this savage attack on Bukit Malawati was Dutch anger at Sultan Ibrahim's nearly successful bid to recapture Malacca in a concerted attack with his uncle Raja Haji who was martyred in battle in Teluk Ketapang. The Sultan was to return within the year to recapture the Hill in a night time surprise attack on 28th January 1785.

From Selangor records and oral tradition we get an idea of what the Sultan's fortress was like. It was rectangular, 74m by 30m, and the perimeter walls were of stones piled together by the most skilled stone workers. The walls were buttressed by earth mounds to a height of about 2 metres, with watch towers at every corner of the fortification.

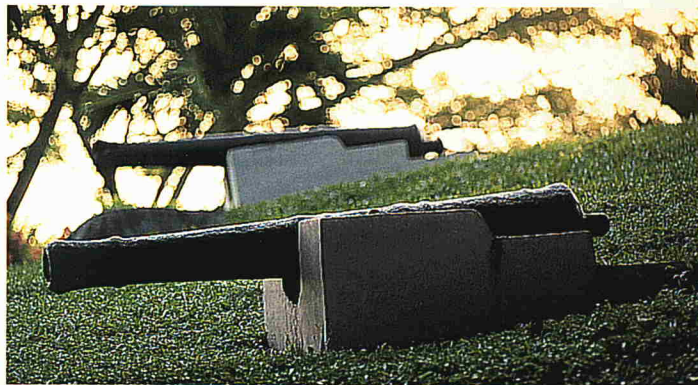
Oral tradition speaks of a mighty cannon called the Seri Rambai which was placed among minor ones within the walls. This cannon was said to have been a Dutch gift to Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah III of Johor who ruled from 1597-1615. In 1613 it was taken to Aceh by an Achinese expedition which defeated Johor in battle, and was later presented to Sultan Ibrahim by Aceh in a gesture of friendship. The cannon had already by then been etched with the name of the Achinese conquering hero in the war with Johor.

The Sultan's banner from the hill was taken back to Holland by van Braams, commander of the Dutch fleet in the East Indies. It is now said to be in the possession of the Royal family of the Netherlands. According to van Braam's records kept in the Dirk van Hogendrop archives, 68 cannons were found on the hill. He also recorded that in the defence of the hill, Sultan Ibrahim's men had hurriedly built a defensive position from mounds of earth midway down the hill slope from where cannons were fired. The Dutch razed this down to build one of their own, and the two forts on the hill were renamed Fort Altnsburg and Fort Utrecht.

Today Bukit Malawati is without doubt the Sultans' hill. The first three Sultans of Selangor were laid to rest in the Royal Cemetery here; and there is a mysterious presence in the air of fact and legend. Many old Selangorians regard the Hill with much respect and tread carefully on its hallowed grounds, said to conceal within itself significant treasures from olden times. There is an ancient tree on the hilltop which is said to be standing on a subterranean chamber which conceals items from the regalia of Sultans. There is a cannon outside the royal cemetery which is wrapped in yellow cloth and which is said to be capable of blasting out in 'spontaneous expression', as an indication of woeful portent.

But the provenance of the cannon itself is a matter of some curiosity: the late Datuk Penggawa, a member of the Selangor aristocracy, received instruction in a dream to await its resurfacing in the Selangor river, where it was indeed later seen to be afloat by the Datuk Penggawa and his men. The cannon is now named the Meriam Penggawa, or the Penggawa's Cannon.





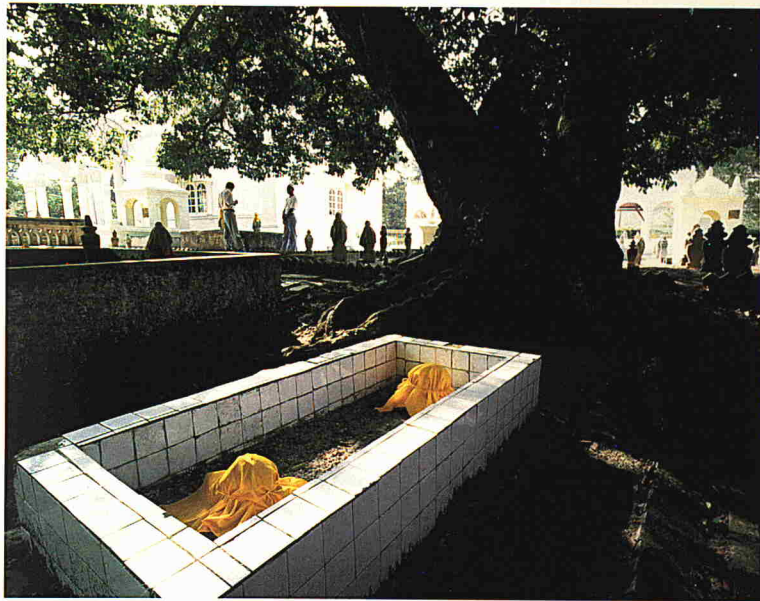
(Top) Loneliness of a Lighthouse keeper. This colonial lighthouse on Bukit Malawati still lights its beacon for passing vessels.

Enck Yazid the lighthouse keeper looks out to sea.

(Bottom) When the Dutch captured Bukit Malawati in the 18th century they found 68 cannons there. Today cannons are still found on the Hill. Some are more famous than others, but all hark back to glories of the past.

(Previous page) An aspect of Bukit Malawati.





(Left) Sultan Abdul Samad's mausoleum at the hilltop Royal Cemetery, Jugra. This resting place of the fourth Sultan of Selangor receives regular visitors who come to offer prayers and to pay their respects.
(Above) Graves in the Royal Cemetery. Yellow wrapping around gravestones indicate that the deceased was a Sultan or of royal descent. The big tree silhouetted in the background has a mound of rocks placed around its base. This is believed to block the entrance to a secret passage leading to the foot of the hill which was used as an escape route during ancient feuds.



HRH Tengku Idris Shah Ibt Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, Regent of Selangor, delivering the speech from the throne at the opening of the Selangor State Legislative Assembly.

The head of State of Selangor is the Sultan who is also head of Islamic religion and Malay custom. Succession is by hereditary lineage. The present Sultan of Selangor is HRH Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Ibn Almarhum Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah who is the eighth Sultan from the Royal Bugis line which was started by Raja Lumu in 1756. The latter took the title of Sultan Salehuddin, the first Sultan of Selangor as a political entity.

In the absence of the Sultan, he may appoint a Regent to act as head of State. At present, in the Sultan's absence as the Yang diPertuan Agong - the

Paramount Ruler of Malaysia - he has appointed the Raja Muda or Crown Prince of Selangor HRH Tengku Idris Ibt Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah as Regent.

By Constitution, state governance resembles the Federal system in microcosm. The Menteri Besar or Chief Minister is head of the state executive, and is a member of the State Executive Council or the Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri, which may comprise no fewer than 4 but no more than 10 other appointees from the state legislative assembly.

MENTERIS BESAR PAST...



Dato' Hamzah bin Abdullah



Raja Tun Uda Al-Haj bin Raja Mohamad



Dato' Othman bin Mohamad



Tun Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Majid



Tuan Mohammad Ismail bin Abdul Latif



Tan Sri Abdul Jamil bin Abdul Rais



The State Secretariat building in Shah Alam. This is the seat of the Selangor government.

These state Executive Council (or Exco) members hold a portfolio relating to particular aspects of state development. The present Chief Minister of Selangor is Dato' Seri Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo, who, at 35, is the youngest holder of the office. He took office in August 2000 and is the 13th Menteri Besar of the State.

Selangor is being ruled by the Barisan Nasional (National Front) coalition party which is also the party of Government at Federal level. Of the 48 seats in the Assembly, five are held by the opposition.

The government holds office for a five-year term. The next elections for the State Legislative Assembly are scheduled to be in the year 2004.

Development of the State is generally conducted through specific government agencies and companies - with targets set specifically for IT, agriculture, housing, education and infrastructure development leading to the year of full industrialisation 2005. The state government has also prioritised 'squatter eradication' and the correction of developmental imbalance in the state.

The seat of government is in the state capital city of Shah Alam.



Dato' Abu Bakar Baginda



Dato' Haji Harun bin Idris



Dato' Haji Hormat bin Rafie



Tan Sri Dato' Seri Ahmad Razali bin Haji Mohd. Ali




Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhammad bin Haji Muhammad Taib



Dato' Seri (Dr) Haji Abu Hassan bin Haji Omar

SULTAN SALAHUDDIN ABDUL AZIZ SHAH IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN SIR HISAMUDDIN ALAM SHAH AL HAJ



His Royal Highness Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Ibni Almarhum Sultan Sir Hisamuddin Alam Shah is the eighth Sultan in the Royal Bugis line which founded the Selangor Sultanate in 1766. During His Royal Highness' reign, since 3rd September 1960, the State of Selangor has been transformed from a leading state into perhaps the most important political, industrial and social power base in the Malaysian Federation. Selangor is now host-state to the new high-tech Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), to Putrajaya, the new IT-savvy administrative capital of the country, and to Cyberjaya, Malaysia's reach into the new age of global information technology. The Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) passes through Selangor, and much of the strategic industrial and new bio-technological promise of the nation also find their home here.

During His Royal Highness' reign too the role of paramount ruler of the nation, the Yang diPertuan Agong, held by the Malay Rulers in rotation and by approval of the Council of Rulers, also returns to Selangor for the second time. The present Sultan of Selangor is also the 11th Yang diPertuan Agong for the whole of Malaysia, a five-year term which ends in 2004. As His Majesty the Yang diPertuan Agong he now resides with his consort HM the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajjah Siti Aishah at the Istana Negara, the National Palace in Kuala Lumpur, the Federal Capital.


As Sultan, His Highness Sultan Salahuddin has also made many important contributions to the growth of Malaysia. On 1st February 1974, during the prime ministership of the late Tun Abdul Razak, he signed an agreement with the Federal Government to cede over Kuala Lumpur, the capital city, as Federal Territory for as long as it remains the capital of the Federation. For the state of Selangor itself, he signed an instrument on 7th December 1978 which made Shah Alam its modern capital.

His Highness Sultan Salahuddin was born on Monday 8th March 1926 at the Istana Bandar (Bandar Palace) as eldest son of the then sultan, Sir Hisamuddin Alam Shah and HRH Raja Hajjah Jemaah binti Raja Ahmad. He

received his early education at the Malay School in Pengkalan Batu in Klang, and then at the Malay College Kuala Kangsar. After the war in 1947, now holding the title of Tengku Laksamana Selangor, a royal title conferred on him by his father the Sultan, he left for London to continue his studies first at a private institution, then at the University of London, at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) where he received training in public administration.

While in London His Highness mingled with many fellow students who were later to become important leaders in an independent Malaysia. They included Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia's first Prime Minister, and Ungku Abdul Aziz, later to become the first non-expatriate Vice Chancellor of the University of Malaya.

Back in Selangor in 1950, the young prince Abdul Aziz held various administrative posts in the Selangor civil service. On 13th May 1950, at the age of 24, he was appointed the Raja Muda, or the Crown Prince. Then followed a period of military training at the colonial armed forces training centre in Port Dickson, culminating in his gaining the Queen's Commission as Captain, then major, in the armed forces.



On 10th March 1956, as Raja Muda, he was engaged to Tengku Rahimah binti Sultan Abdul Aziz, a paternal cousin. They were married on March 21st, 1956. Two years later, in 1958, HRH Tengku Rahimah was appointed Raja Puan Muda (Crown Princess) of Selangor a role later to be transformed into consort when the Raja Muda succeeded to the Selangor throne on the death of his father the Sultan - then also holder of the post of Yang diPertuan Agong of Malaysia - on 3rd September 1960.

HRH the Tengku Ampuan Selangor Tengku Rahimah passed away on 27th June, 1992.

On 3rd May 1990, HRH married Cik Puan Besar Datuk Amar Siti Aishah who was then bestowed the title HRH Tengku Permaisuri Selangor. In June 1999, with the consent of the Malay Rulers HM Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah was appointed the 11th DYMM Yang diPertuan Agong of Malaysia, Tuanku Siti Aishah took the title of HM Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Siti Aishah.

THE ROYAL LINE OF SELANGOR SULTANATE

Raja Lumu, Sultan Salehuddin 1766 - 1778

Sultan Ibrahim ibni Sultan Salehuddin 1778 - 27 Oct 1826 (d.)

Sultan Muhammad ibni Sultan Ibrahim 1826 - 1857 (d.)

Sultan Sir Abdul Samad ibni Raja Abdulallah ibni Sultan Ibrahim 1859 - 6 Feb 1898 (d.)

Sultan Sir Alaeddin Suleiman Shah ibni Raja Muda Musa ibni Sultan Abdul Samad 17 Feb 1898 - 31 March 1938 (d.)

Sultan Sir Hisamuddin Alam Shah Al-Haj ibni Sultan Alaeddin Suleiman Shah 4 April 1938 - 1942; then 1945 - 4 September 1960 (d.)

Sultan Musa Ghiathuddin Riayat Shah Al-Haj ibni Sultan Sir Alaeddin Suleiman Shah (titled Tengku Kelana Putera), 1942 - 1945

Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Al-Haj ibni Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah Al-Haj from 3 September 1960



(Above) HM The Yang di'Pertuan Agong Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah and his present consort HM Tuanku Hajjah Siti Aishah during a formal ceremony.

(Opposite page, top) A close-up of the official tengkolok or Royal head dress of the Sultan. Pinned to the tengkolok is a diamond studded piece bearing the royal crest of Selangor Darul Ehsan in the stylised loop of the Jawi Arabic alphabet spelling 'Selangor' entwined around the two krises of state. Below that is the Jawi form of 'Dipelihara Allah', or 'In the Protection of Allah'. The tengkolok in its simplified form was also the headgear of Malay warriors.

(Opposite page, bottom) The Royal Crown of Selangor, made in 1903. This replaced the Bugis 'Makkota Leleng' or the 'Crown of Leleng' which was forged from gold. This crown, brought to Selangor from HM's Bugis ancestral home was modified during the time of the third Sultan Muhammad (1826-1857) at the behest of a learned Muslim scholar from Indonesia who declared it an unsuitable ornament for a Muslim monarch's head. The present Royal Crown was originally made in 1903 for the installation of the fifth Selangor ruler Sultan Alauddin Sulaiman Shah by a well-known Malay craftsman of the time, Haji Hassan, and his assistant Encik Mat, both from Penang. It was remodelled in 1938 by Mr P.H. Henry, a well known Kuala Lumpur jeweller for the installation of Sultan Hisamuddin Alam Shah, seventh in the Selangor line, and father of the present Sultan Salahuddin.



HM Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah shaking hands with the people after Friday prayers. His Majesty, now the 11th Yang di-Pertuan Agong or Paramount Ruler of Malaysia, likes to meet the people in informal situations like this.



*HM (Top) Another meet the people session for HM Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah and consort HM Tuanku Siti Atishah.
(Bottom) His Majesty, a golfing enthusiast, with winners Tiger Woods (left) and Mark O'Meara (right) during
the World Cup Golf Tournament at the Mines Resort in Selangor, August 1999.*

TENGGKU IDRIS SHAH IBNI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN ABDUL AZIZ SHAH

His Royal Highness the Regent of Selangor, Tengku Idris Shah Ibni Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, born at the Istana Jemaah in Klang on 24th December 1945, is a man of wide experience in administration and state craft. He is also a keen sportsman with many feathers to his cap, having sailed around the world in the yacht S.Y.Jugra and also competed in the Paris-Peking Motor Challenge in 1998. These achievements were firsts for Malaysia and earned His Royal Highness a mention in the Malaysia Book of Records. Besides maritime pursuits and motor rallying he is also a keen mountaineer and likes to take part in vintage car rallies.

In November 1998 he published his first book "From Peking to Paris" in which he recorded his experience in the transcontinental motor challenge.

His Royal Highness was enlisted into public service at an early age, 15, when he was made the 8th Raja Muda (Crown Prince) of Selangor Darul Ehsan. The ceremonial conferment of this title was made at the Alam Shah Palace in 1970.

Since this appointment he has had many opportunities to be involved directly in the affairs of state. He acted as Chairman of the Regency Council from 23rd February to 20th September 1969 when his father the Sultan was away in England. Intermittently, between 1972 and 1997 he had stood in as Regent in the absence of his father. Now with his father the Sultan away as the 11th Yang di Pertuan Agong or Paramount Ruler of Malaysia, His Royal Highness Tengku Idris Shah is once again at the helm as Regent of Selangor Darul Ehsan.

His Royal Highness received his early education at the Jalan Raja Muda Primary School and at the St John's Institution in Kuala Lumpur before continuing his education in Australia from 1960-1964. From Australia he continued his higher education in England until 1968.

He lists his hobbies as reading and photography. He is also an avid collector of vintage cars and old Malay weapons.





Two contrasting roles of royalty-

(Top) HRH The Regent of Selangor arrives for the opening of the State Legislative Assembly accompanied by the Menteri Besar (Chief Minister) Dato' Seri Dr. Mohamad Khir Toyo (dark glasses, centre), and (to the MB's right) the Assembly Speaker Dato' Hj Onn Ismail.

(Bottom) Time to meet the rakyat (the people).



... People, Religions, Festivals



*Festivities of diverse
people, of many faiths;
family recipes for a
special day,
an intermingling of
many backgrounds,
sounds and colours...*

(Main picture, Left) The Jugra Mosque, one of the oldest state mosques in Selangor. Muslims flock to mosques like this one during the two 'Hari Rayas' in the Islamic calendar, the Eidul Fitri and Eidul Adha. The former is celebrated to mark the end of Ramadan, the fasting month. The Adha is a time for pilgrimage to the holy city of Makkah and is also known as the Feast of Sacrifice to commemorate the sacrifice of Prophet Abraham.

A TAPESTRY OF MANY COLOURS

Selangor is a tapestry woven of many colours, incorporating the many religions, cultures and people that make up the fabric of this state. There is a whole panoply here of festivities and celebrations, customs and practices; but the official religion of the State, as with the country as a whole, is Islam, which finds expression in myriad ways - in the daily call of the muezzins from the minarets throughout the nooks and crannies of the land, through the dress code of its devout followers, and through gregarious expression every Friday as the faithful gather for congregational prayers at noon time in the magnificent state mosques - of which the Shah Alam mosque is a fine example - or in the community *madrrasah* of their neighbourhood or workplace.

Yet the state, like the country, is a model for religious tolerance. It is not impossible to find, within a square mile, religious houses attesting to different faiths. There may be mosques of varied designs, temples in bright hues celebrating the glory of some Hindu deities, Chinese prayer houses with palls of smoke from incense and joss sticks rising on a prayerful day of special devotion. There may be a church gathering in a shophouse marked out with a prominent signboard expressing its denominational persuasion.

The exact date of Islam's arrival to the Malay peninsula is still being debated, but by the 15th century it had become entrenched as the state religion when the first ruler of the glorious Malacca sultanate, Parameswara, took the title of Iskandar Shah and converted *en masse* his loyal subjects. Before that Hinduism was the religion of the land as

evidenced by archaeological finds in Selangor, and even more conclusively in the Bujang Valley in the north-western state of Kedah which was an active trading partner of riverine settlers before this conglomeration of settlements were welded into a state. The Hinduism that is now extant is, however, a recent re-introduction, brought by immigrant workers from India who arrived to fulfil the labour needs of the growing plantations. So too Buddhism and Taoism which came with Chinese immigrants from as far back as the 16th century, but in greater numbers during colonial times. Christianity first set foot on the Malay peninsula in the 16th century when Portuguese conquerors arrived with their mission for King, God, and Gold.

Religious Festivals

The myriad of religious festivals in Selangor add to the gaiety of the state. The Muslims end their month-long fast of Ramadhan with the feast of *Eidul Fitri*, when the day starts with alms-giving and the gathering of the faithful of all ages for thanksgiving prayers at the mosques: men in their new *bajus* of bright colours, and the womenfolk in their shawls and *baju kurungs* of equally brilliant hue. This is the start of what Malaysians know as the *Hari Raya* - the grand day - when Muslim houses are open to friends and neighbours irrespective of religion. It is a great day too for the sampling of condiments and traditional sweetmeats, for *sataw* and *ketupat*, and glutinous rice in bamboo tubes served with *rendang* of choice meat cooked in coconut milk and spices by the lady of the house, to the specifications of an old family recipe.

(Right) In the serene atmosphere of the Jegera Mosque, a Muslim sits down in contemplation and prayer. The interior of a mosque is one of stark simplicity, where figures and decorations are forbidden except for Quranic verses normally written in stylised Arabic calligraphy. The structure to the left of the man is the mimbar, or pulpit, from where the Imam delivers the sermon on Friday or on one of the two Eid festivals.





The dome of the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque in Shah Alam, the Selangor state capital, is reputedly the biggest in the world, bigger than that of St Paul's Cathedral in Britain. This mosque, officially opened on 11th March 1988 has become a landmark mosque not only in Malaysia but also in the Muslim world. Encircling the inside and outside of the dome are verses of the Quran written in beautiful Arabic calligraphy by calligraphers from Egypt and Malaysia
(Opposite page) *The faithful gather in the mosque for Friday prayers. Government officials, office workers, petty traders, students and scholars rub shoulders to give thanks and in supplication to the Almighty.*

Eidul Fitri, and its sister festival just over a month afterwards, the *Eidul Adha*, are events in the Muslim lunar calendar in the months of *Shawwal* and *Dzulhijjah* respectively. The *al Adha* is a more sombre affair, but still a *Hari Raya*, to commemorate the sacrifice of Abraham when Muslims who are able gather on the plains of Arafat and in the holy city of Makkah in Arabia to answer the call of Allah. For the home-stayers not on the pilgrimage it is time once again to visit the mosque in choice finery for the start of the auspicious day, after which sheep or cows are slaughtered, and the meat distributed to the needy. The Muslim house is once again open to visitors who come to wish their hosts the seasonal Malaysian greeting of *Selamat Hari Raya*.

To a visitor, Selangor - and indeed Malaysia - is a happy confluence of festivals. The Hindus celebrate *Deepavali*, the Festival of Light, while the Chinese, their New Year. The latter, though not strictly a religious event, may start with prayers for a prosperous year, and culminate in ear-splitting bursts of firecrackers amid chiming cymbals to accompany the dragon as it lilt its way through the festival crowds in Chinatown. These are occasions for inter-faith reunion, for house visits, and friends of all races gather to wish the celebrants all good wishes for the festival. And Christmas comes but once a year, but Selangorians know it in their hearts that this is another holiday, and another occasion to help friends of the faith to celebrate yet another festival.







(Above) As his friends learn the movements in a Muslim 'solat' or prayer in the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque in Shah Alam, a young boy throws a curious glance at the probing camera. Note the pointing index finger on the right hand of his companion to his right. This indicates the oneness of God, Creator of the worlds. (Opposite page) Truly one of the most beautiful mosques in this region the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah mosque is the masterwork of craftsmen from all over the world.





*The Royal Sultan Sulaiman Mosque in Klang. This mosque, a blend of Islamic, Asian and colonial design concepts, was presented to Sultan Alauddin Sulaiman Shah, Selangor's fifth Sultan, by the British colonial administration in the 19th century.
(Above) The tranquility of 'kampung' life surrounds the Sultan Alauddin Mosque in Jugra*



Joss-sticks being lit for prayers in the Buddhist temple on Wesak Day, birthday of Lord Buddha. Devotees gather at temples to hear speeches and to celebrate the birthday of the Enlightened One. The ceremony often culminates in a procession of floats carrying the figure of the smiling Buddha.



Homage to the gilded Buddha during Wesak celebration at the Thai Buddhist Chetawan Temple in Petaling Jaya.

And yet it is not the end. Throughout the year there are other occasions when the faiths commemorate a 'private' as marks of devotion for their respective beliefs. Non believers may still observe from the outside and enjoy the spectacle and the colour of the occasion. The Hindu *Thaipusam* is a yearly gathering of penance, when devotees suffer pains for self purification - hooks anchored into the skin, or little skewers pierced through cheeks, or, even more spectacularly, the *kavadi* of spears protruding from the flesh of the seemingly unperturbed devotee walking delicately like a human porcupine up the steps of Batu Caves in fulfilment of a long-held vow of sacrifice.

Chinese Taoists too have their fire-walking ceremonies in appeasement of some exacting gods; and the benign Lord Buddha smiles from his pedestal on *Wesak* Day, when Buddhists gather in temples to celebrate their Lord's birthday. They - the Chinese - have feasts too for Hungry Ghosts, and special festivals to honour departed souls. The Muslims too celebrate another festival when they come out in procession at a certain time in the year to commemorate the birthday of Prophet Muhammad. A busy time in the religious calendar of a thriving multi-ethnic, multi-religious state.

Non-Religious Festivals

The state too holds festivals of its own. The Sultan's birthday on 11th March each year is an event of special colour with parades and bunting.

The National Day or *Merdeka* (Independence) Day falls on 31st August each year, another occasion for bunting and parades at State and National level. The year 2000 - the Visit Selangor Year - saw Selangor hosting the National Day celebration parade attended by HM the King, the Prime Minister and Federal and state dignitaries in Shah Alam, the state capital. In that year the National Day was declared a month long festival when celebrations continued throughout September.

The state in conjunction with Tourism Malaysia also holds many other festivals throughout the year to keep tourists and residents alike in *joie de vivre*. These are events too for video-makers and camera enthusiasts. Past events have included Shopping Festivals, the *Citrawarna* or the celebration of Malaysian cultural diversity at Federal and State levels. And always the state of Selangor is a celebration, a festival in itself - a thriving, dynamic state, and certainly the most advanced in a multiracial Malaysia.



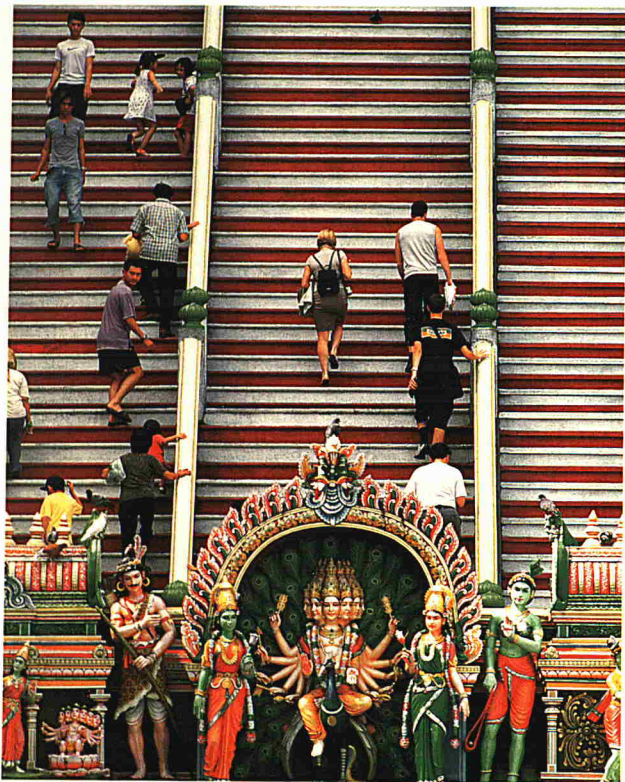


(Clockwise from top right) A church in Selangor.

The art of Bhangra as performed during the Sikh Vasakhi celebration.

Devotees making offerings at a Taoist temple.

(Opposite page) Freeing of doves at the Thai Buddhist Chetawan Temple in Petaling Jaya as part of the Wesak Day celebration.



(Above) Two hundred seventy-two steps leading to the main entrance to Batu Caves. The Cave complex is a Hindu temple area which draws tens of thousands of devotees during the Thai Pusam festival.

(Opposite page) Hindu devotees, men and women, being blessed by the priest before taking part in the Thai Pusam festival. Batu Caves is 13km north of Kuala Lumpur, the federal capital of Malaysia.





Water plays a part in the ritualistic function of many religions. Here Hindu devotees cleanse themselves during the Hindu festival of Thai Pusam at Batu Caves in Gombak, Selangor, home of the famous temple in the limestone cave. Batu Caves is also a fascinating site for nature lovers who wish to see an earth heritage of Selangor. Standing at the main entrance to the main cave you can have a commanding view of Kuala Lumpur in the distance - something that is highly recommended as you'll need this pause for breath after climbing the steps to the top, all 272 of them.



Festival close-ups: Devotees at the Thaipusam annual festival at the Batu Caves are able to withstand physical pain once they've reached ecstatic heights. Hindus in the thousands come to participate in the festival and watch co-religionists do penance.

JOURNEY OF THE MAH MERI

The knowledge of the Mah Meri is in their denial, and the forgetfulness of trees and shrubs still extant. This was a hundred years ago, maybe a thousand, maybe ten of those thousands, who knows? It is locked in the psyche of the Mah Meri people, and in their story telling; maybe their sculpture will tell a tale or two. "Mah Meri, we're called but Mah Meri we're not," says Encik Peon bin Bumbong, master carver and storyteller.

"Mah Meri means people of the jungle, but we are orang laut, people of the sea," he says. And he looks back, maybe a thousand years, maybe ten...

He tells it like it was yesterday. There were people attacking us on the beach as we were travelling to our home. We were fending them off while some of our brothers and sisters continued into the forests to forge ahead to this land. They said they'd leave markers on trees and bushes to give us direction for our eventual reunion after the attackers had been pushed back and gone.

The fighting took a long time of course and when these brave men went into the forest, all those markers had gone, dissipated into the ether, or tampered by forest beings. And so the 'Mah Meris' are still here, Mah Meri by name, but are not people of the land or trees, for they are of the sea, and are people forestalled in their journey back home.

But where were they heading for?

Encik Peon has not the slightest hesitation: "We were going to a land near China, and we believed that there was a bridge somewhere near Thailand put there by god for the ease of our crossing."

Encik Peon lives with a colony of his people on Carey Island of the oil palm plantations and Mah Meri carvings. He is a much sought woodcarver and custodian of the folk memory of his people. His carvings have been exhibited at many prestigious venues, including the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) which Encik Peon mentions as just another stop in his many travels. These distinctive Mah Meri sculptures are now prized items, conversation pieces of the chattering classes.

From fending off attackers on the beach to fame in the world's tallest towers while nursing ancient memories of the lost route to a homeland has been the story of the Mah Meri. They are still here with us, and we are the richer for that; perhaps it is just as well that all the signs in the forest were lost to the Mah Meri - for them the journey seems to have been more interesting than the arrival.

(Right) Encik Peon bin Bumbong telling the story of his wandering people, the 'Mah Meri', amid the totemic masks of his people. He is a master carver and custodian of his people's folklore.



(Opposite page) 4 Mah Meri' carver showing a dragon he'd carved from a piece of wood found by the roadside. The dragon came to him in a dream, he said, and then the creature of his dream just took shape under his skilled hands in the real world.

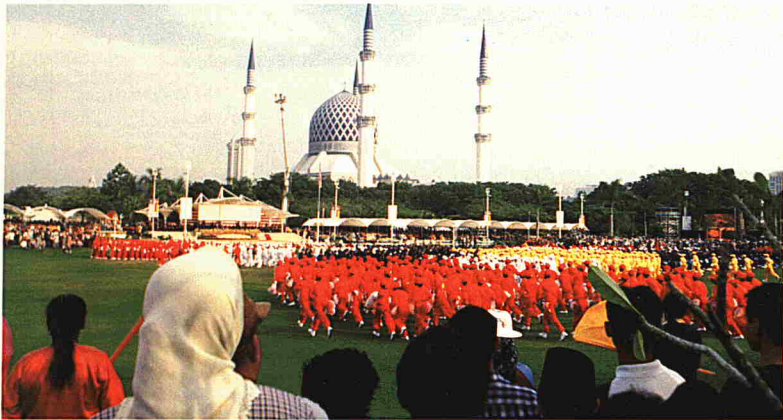




An orang asli girl takes a cooling dip in the heat of day. Her family lives in a house on stilts on this river which runs through a mangrove area. 'Orang asli' - original people - is the collective name for the Malaysian aboriginal people.



Balancing precariously between the modern and the traditional. An aboriginal child stands on a framework of mangrove timber over the soft muddy earth of a mangrove swamp. The swampland looks like a forbidding place to a casual onlooker but it supports an ecosystem that nourishes the ocean and acts as a buffer between land and sea. The wetland is a complex system of checks and balances in the natural world.



*Turning out for the early morning National Day celebration at Shah Alam
In the year 2000 the National Day was a month-long event*

NATIONAL DAY, 31ST AUGUST 2000

Of the national celebrations, this one belongs to and is sacred to all Malaysia's independence day - the National Day - ends the month of August every year in a celebratory mood and a prayerful thanksgiving for this country that is Malaysia. Thirty-first August year 2000 was celebrated, for the first time, as a month-long festival for the whole nation. In that year the nation came once again to the capital of Selangor - but in a different place - to march in procession in camaraderie, and to join the good-hearted throng with friends and family members in commemoration of this special day when the hearts of Malaysians were set free. This was Shah Alam, 31st August, year 2000.

It was in the state capital of Selangor - and the Federal Capital - that the cries of *Merdeka! Merdeka! Merdeka!* rose in the floodlights of the Merdeka Stadium and rose further into the upper stratum, then higher still, to permeate the clouds and the skies above the first day of Malaysia. The trembling voice rising to the celestial rafters was that of Tunku Abdul Rahman, the nation's first Prime Minister and Father of Malaysia. This was Kuala Lumpur on the 31st of August, year 1957.

Forty-four years now stand between the haunting, spirited voice of the Tunku at Merdeka Stadium, and the now confident and defiant tones of

another Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, architect of modern Malaysia. There has been major and minor hiccups, crises in the financial world, global movements that reverberate in the nation, but overall, in spirit and make-up, Malaysia, through the years, is still gaining in strength and still surprising the sceptics and the doubters.

Merdeka, 2000, came back to Selangor; but it was Selangor in another place, and of another era. By the yardstick of Selangor can be measured the progress of Malaysia. There are now factories in Selangor manufacturing products of abstruse sophistication for the highly specialist markets; there are high rise buildings with 'smart' propensities, and the work force are getting better and more knowledgeable.

And Shah Alam is set to be the thriving, capital city of a state that is the most advanced in Malaysia. Now conferred city-status, its future is even brighter.

The National Day theme year 2000 was "Keragaman Malaysia". It was a time for introspection and greater resolutions after all that the country - and the people - had been through during the year of financial crisis.

Keragaman Malaysia - For You, Malaysia.



(Top) And this one's for you, Keranamu Malaysia - For You Malaysia. School children in parade uniform prepare to stand up for the Nation during the 43rd National Day celebration at Shah Alam, Selangor's state capital

(Bottom, left) Flying the flag. A Malaysian Airlines (MAS) stewardess in celebratory mood.

(Bottom, right) Factory workers in the National Day assembly line.

(Following page) Traditional kites and the glorious stripes colour the atmosphere.







Marching proud. Boys of the Victoria Institution school band strike a note on Malaysia's National Day. The school started out as one of the pioneering English language schools in Selangor, and for a long time it was the premier school in the state. The school's name shows its links with the colonial past, Queen Victoria, who was a contemporary of Sultan Abdul Samad, Selangor's fourth ruler.



(Top) The King as commander-in-chief steps out to inspect the parade.
(Bottom row, l to r.) Faces in the parade. Blowing the trumpet for the day. Balloons, and spirits, rising in the air. Red for bravery.
(Overleaf) Dignitaries stand in ceremony. Selangor's day of pride, the nation's day of glory.







*(Top) Swaying to the beat in assorted national costumes.
(Bottom) A float moves past the waiting crowd. In the background, Selangor's most famous landmark.
(Opposite) Chinese fan-dancers in intense concentration*





*Expressions of many traditions.
Classical Indian dancers step out in rhythm while dancers from the Chinese community wait in the background
to fan out in delightful formation*



*Palms meet in traditional greeting, heads bearing tributes of gold.
A Malay troupe dances out a scene from the past when warriors accompanied maidens bearing gifts at a grand wedding.
Many aspects of traditional Malay custom are preserved in the dance form.*





(Top left) Song-and-dance on the night before the Day, by performers from Malaysia's ethnic communities

(Top right) The raucous beats of the bhangra bring in a strong, lively mood.

(Bottom picture) Lions galore from the Chinese community dance troupe.

(Opposite) Catching the wind in sarongs unfurled. A Malay dance movement.



(Top, left) Awaiting the golden hour when the clock strikes midnight, and Shah Alam becomes a Bandaraya, a city.
(Right) Gearing up for the auspicious hour, Selangor Menteri Besar (Chief Minister) Dato' Seri Dr. Mohamad Khir Toyo (centre), flanked by Dato' Haji Amrin Buang (left) and Dato' Haji Mohd Mokhtar Haji Ahmad Dahlan don the tanjak, the ceremonial headgear. In times past, the tanjak was worn by Malay royalty, nobility and warriors. Today the tanjak is still worn on formal occasions to mark special events.
(Bottom, left) The Declaration of Shah Alam's city status arrives with befitting splendour by men clad in warrior costumes. The bearer of the Declaration is carried aloft to the fore. *(Bottom, right)* The carved silver cylinder containing the Declaration of Shah Alam's new city status is received by the Menteri Besar Dato' Seri Dr. Mohamad Khir Toyo (Opposite), and a City declared.





Shah Alam's glittering start as a City. Fireworks rouse the midnight sky with splurges of brilliance as revellers gather at the Dataran Shah Alam for the start of a new beginning for Selangor's capital.

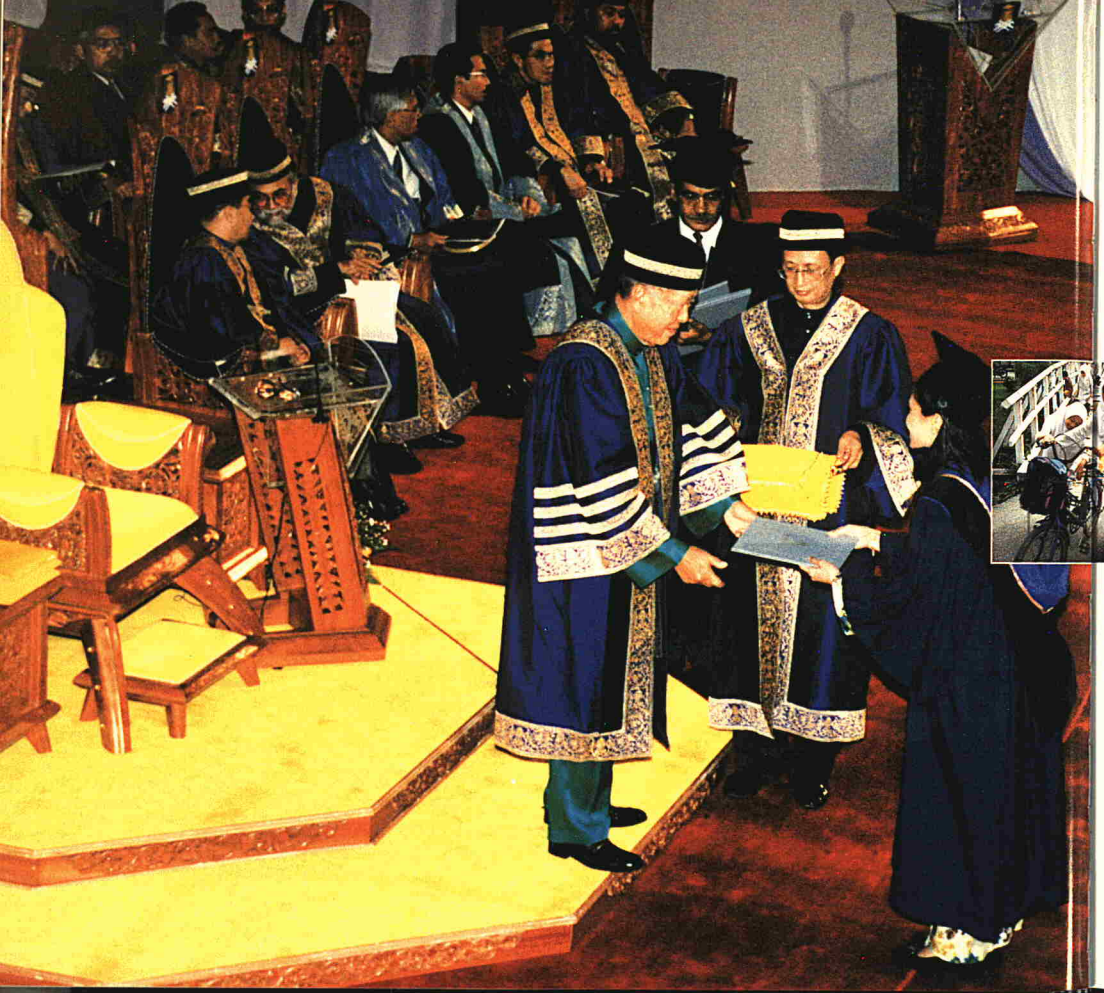




(Top, left) A local singer dances the dance and sings her tune in celebration. (Bottom, left) Singing and dancing for a City. (Right) Regent of Selangor HRH Tengku Idris Shah Ibtis Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah wraps the mantle of office on the first Datuk Bandar (Mayor) of Shah Alam Dato' Haji Abu Sujak Mahmud. (Overleaf) The eyes have it. A meaningful moment captured in the glance of an Indian dancer.







... *E*ducation & Human Resource

*Selangor as a centre
of excellence;
lifelong education for
workers;
power through
learning.*



(Main picture, left) Achievement through education. Pomp and celebration: Convocation, Universiti Teknologi Mara - (UiTM). A student receives her degree from the King on Graduation Day.

INVESTING IN PEOPLE, EDUCATION FOR ALL

A state's richest asset is its people. In this Selangor is fortunate because as the most advanced state in Malaysia, not only is it endowed with a highly educated and motivated population, but it is also a magnet that attracts manpower reserves from other states to its portals.

The view has to be taken from the perspective of the country as a whole. As the main dynamo for Malaysia's progress - the hub of its industrial and intellectual development - it is natural that Selangor draws the best from the nation's reserves to benefit not only itself - something that is wholly incidental - but also the national aspiration. In this light then, the claim is no slight on the Federation's other component entities, but an acknowledgement of the symbiotic relationship that exists within Malaysia, one that contributes to the inherent strength of the national idea.

There are Indonesian blue-collar workers in Selangor, Bangladeshi men on construction sites, and Filipino-help in many households. There are also here factory managers, technical experts, and financial experts from all corners of the globe. But this is not the only sense in which the state is cosmopolitan; it is also enriched by the internal mix brought by the mobility of Malaysia's own interstate workers. It is a role that Selangor has long accepted

without grudge, and which in turn has enriched itself. Go to any housing estate or school within the Selangor area and you'll find a fair mix of Kedahans, and Kelantanese, and Kota Kinabalu folk alongside native Selangorians who would themselves probably feel out of place for having moved a score kilometre or so from their *kampung* birthplace.

This is a unique experience of Selangor that no other state in Malaysia can yet surpass. It is a model for one-nationness.

In the guidelines for state agencies issued through the Chief Minister's office, Selangor undertakes to uplift the quality of this pool of workers by giving them education and training to increase their skills and technological literacy through an integrated human resource development. The guidelines - ten in all - to facilitate the accelerated passage to full development under the state's Vision 2005 also spell out the need to balance the economic disparity between *bumiputra* (indigenous) and non-*bumiputra* sectors of the population. Incorporated into state policy is the creation of a stronger base for the *bumiputra* through wider *embourgeoisement*, for the entrepreneurial and educational upliftment that it entails, through entrepreneur development programmes run by statutory bodies of the state.

(Right) Scrambling for education. Future workers have to be taught early the value of education and that it is an on-going process. The young carry our hopes into the future.





*From the highest level to the lowest, emphasis must be on excellence
Selangor's guidelines to government agencies emphasise the value of moral education as well as
technological know-how. A balanced society must make strides in both.*



(Top and bottom pictures) Private sector education is now a growth industry. The government encourages the growth of private colleges to complement the needs of state education. They are required by law to obtain certification from the government before student enrollment begins. Most have affiliations with reputable foreign universities in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

This massive project for human resource management in an IT age is already continuing apace. A Master Plan for human resource development is being prepared by the national university, the 'Universiti Kebangsaan', with a focus on technopreneur development. The state is gearing itself for an increase in the number of skilled and highly skilled workers to meet the challenges of a new industrial age.

In line with national aspiration, Selangor is also planning to transform itself into a regional centre for excellence in training and education. The state already hosts many centres for learning both public and private, many of which are twinned to reputable universities abroad for international recognition and extension of training for the students. Students from neighbouring countries and some from as far away as West Asia are already here to benefit from this accessibility to the world of higher learning.

Education Facts & Figures.

After completing their primary and secondary education, students may enroll in one of the private colleges for twinning programmes with universities abroad, go for direct enrollment in one of the approved institutions of higher learning abroad, or seek admission into any one of the local universities. Of these, eight are in Selangor:

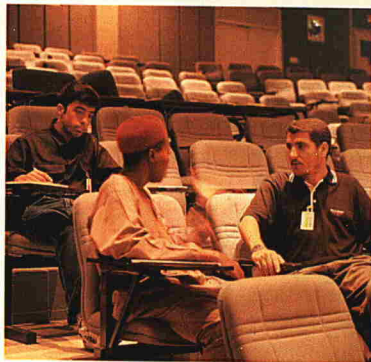
- Universiti Malaya (UM)
- Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)
- Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)
- The International Islamic University (IIU)
- Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN)
- Multimedia University (MU)
- Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM)
- UNISEL - Universiti Industri Selangor

UNISEL, the latest addition in the array of universities in Selangor is devoted to the cultivation of knowledge and skills for the industry. It aims to encourage life-long education through flexible and affordable programmes for Malaysians who wish to keep abreast of technological development. The university took its first intake of 199 diploma students on 9th September 1999.

For the expatriate children there are four international schools teaching varied curriculums. They are The International School of Kuala Lumpur, Maz International School, Mutiara International Grammar School, and ELC International School. And in addition to that, Japanese, Taiwanese, and German nationals of schooling age living in Selangor all have their own respective schools established in this State. They may be far from home...but not from their homework.



The reach of education has to be wide. Girls in school uniform in Pulau Ketam, a village on stilts off the coast of Selangor. Residents of Pulau Ketam are mostly Chinese fishermen who settled there many years ago to escape civil unrest in their homeland. Pulau Ketam's floating village is now a centre for tourism and an important centre for the fishing industry.



Continuing an old tradition. The International Islamic University (IIU) in Gombak, Selangor is a continuation of the Islamic tradition of cosmopolitan universities which received students from anywhere in the Islamic world as well as the tradition of itinerant scholars. Above pictures show students at the IIU in various activities.

(Clockwise, from bottom left) 1. Students at a book sale. 2. Students from abroad give the university a truly international flavour: (l. to r.) Munawar from India, Anar from Azerbaijan, Saifaden from the Philippines, and Sano from Guinea. 3. Two students from the African continent discuss issues before lecture begins. 4. Time to put learning into practise: students in a technical workshop.





The International Islamic University (IIU) or the Universiti Islam Antarabangsa has established an excellent reputation for learning here and abroad. Subjects taught here range from theology to Law (both Islamic and secular) to theoretical and applied sciences.

(Opposite) Watching responses to data input students need to be adept with scientific hardware as with abstract intellectual challenges of university life.

(Overleaf) Convocation at the Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), Shah Alam. This pioneering institution of learning for students of the indigenous community has come of age with university status.



Abdul Kadir

1920
Mars

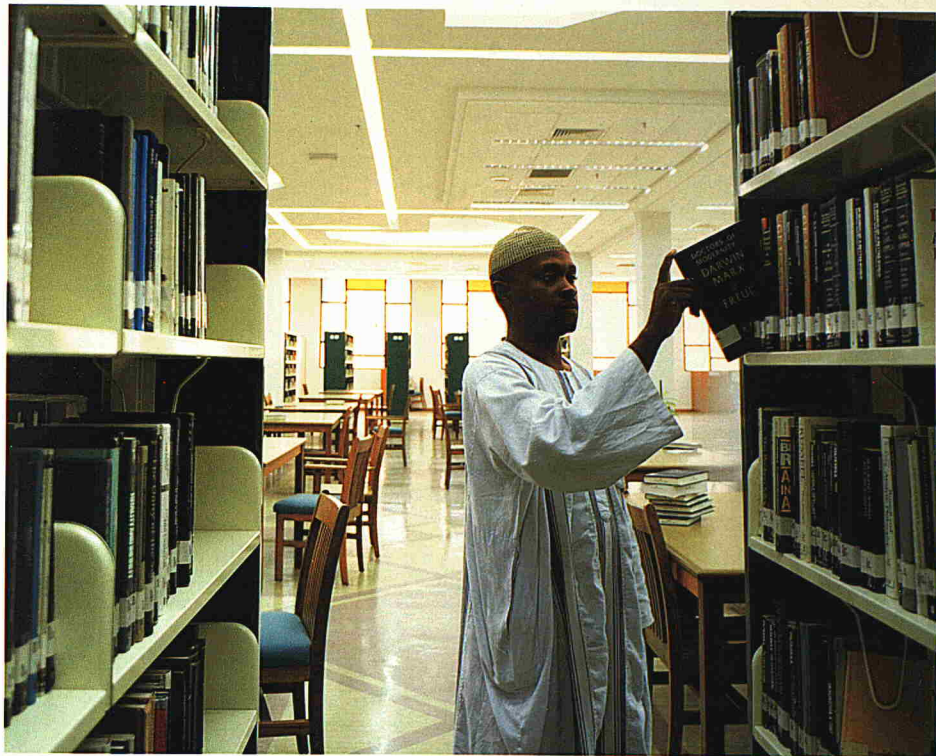
Fakultas
Keguruan dan
Ilmu Pendidikan





Levels of attainment, degrees of learning

Students from a state school in the rural area. To achieve developed status by 2005 Selangor places heavy emphasis on education for all. This is the future not only for the students but also for the State.



Higher education must not only be of the highest standard but must also be global in reach. The International Islamic University or the Universiti Islam Antarabangsa (UIA) has an intake from many parts of the Muslim world and offers subjects in both theology and technology. A student from the African continent is seen here spending his free moment in the well-stocked library.



... *I*ndustry, Commerce, Agriculture



*Industrialised
status by 2005;
cluster concept
for symbiosis;
balancing the
development act.*

(Main picture, left) High-tech engineering work at the Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional (Proton) automobile plant. Proton has been Malaysia's brave new venture into the highly competitive automobile industry. Proton cars are now exported to Europe and the rest of Asia.

INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE ...AND THE BIRTH OF SOUL

It is possible, on a clear day, to look out from the rooftop of any tall building in Petaling Jaya, and work out a litany of familiar names from the myriad factories and office buildings that are scattered all around. Names that are all too familiar from the world of commerce and industry - trademarks, proprietary names, manufacturers' hallmarks; corporations that would be instantly recognisable from wherever you stand anywhere in the globe.

There are factories in Selangor churning up the world's highest volumes of latex rubber gloves, industrial workhouses that produce the world's biggest supply of microchips, and there is an old multinational plantation which claims that on its land today in Batang Berjuntai, Selangor, stands what is probably the first oil palm tree to be grown in the country all those years ago before the first World War. This is no small claim for corporate foresight, considering that now, decades later, Malaysia is the world's leading source of palm oil. But the company stakes yet another claim to fame - proof if anything, that industry breeds art - that its general manager of that time, a Frenchman by the name of Henri Fauconnier, wrote

The Soul of Malaya, now widely regarded as the best novelistic account of colonial Malaya, set in an estate in Kuala Selangor.

Selangor had made international contact in export and trade long before many other states in Malaysia. Tin mining in the state can be traced back to ancient times, when even the Romans spread their sails against the wind to venture out East to the Selangor river mouth in quest of the metal. Later - much later - came the Dutch and the English, all intent on cornering the tin trade for their own respective benefits; and the political alliances and intrigues that they formed to achieve this goal were part of the historical forces which shaped the social and political tone of the region.

Now the lynch pin of Selangor's industrial, commercial and agricultural programme is Vision 2005, which hopes to pre-empt the national Vision 2020 by 15 years. Selangor therefore has set for itself an ambitious target in its social and industrial development - to achieve developed status within a very short space of time, ahead of the national target, in keeping with its position as the leading state in the Malaysian Federation.

(Right) Through industrialisation, progress. A Selangor steel plant shows all the trappings of a high-tech industry.





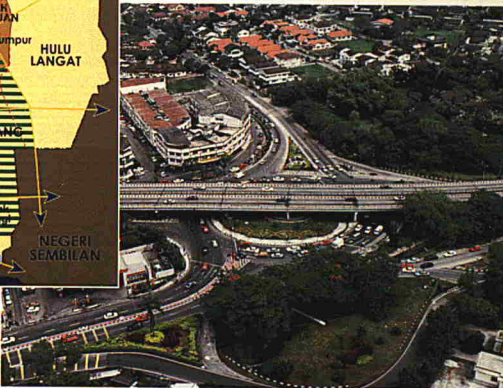
Selangor's industrial blueprint gives equal importance to heavy and light industries. The key to this is through the cluster concept where heavy, medium and small industries co-exist for mutual support

These aspirations are laid down in the *Tonggak 10*, the ten guidelines given out to state agencies in order to fulfill this advanced status of development. The guidelines lay down priorities in the development of the state, embracing industrial, educational, and social aspects that are deemed crucial to the attainment of an improved quality of life for all and for the upliftment of Selangor's status within the Federation as a developed state. Of these, six are directly relevant to the future course of the state's industrial, commercial and agricultural progress.

- to give full support and commitment to the implementation of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), Putrajaya, the new high-tech administrative capital of the nation now ceded by Selangor to the Federal Government; and other Federal projects;
- to balance the development of other areas in Selangor with rapid

progress already made in the Klang Valley, including in areas of land development, housing, industries and agriculture;

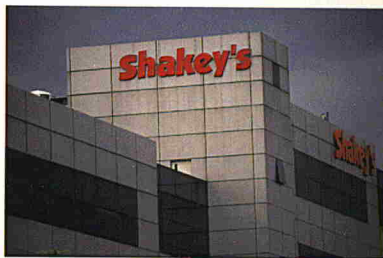
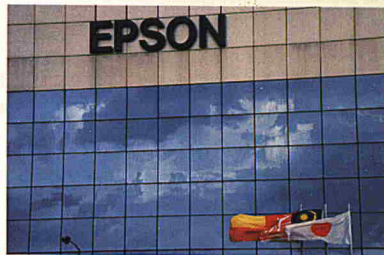
- to create a pool of skilled and technologically-literate workers through an integrated human resource and development programme to meet increasing demands;
- to create a wider base of middle-class *bumiputras* (indigenous people) through entrepreneur development programmes initiated by State statutory bodies;
- to encourage the growth of small-and medium-scale industries and supporting industries, especially in rural areas;
- to modernise and diversify the various agricultural sectors in the outskirts and farms and increase productivity, especially in food and livestock production.



Selangor's industrial blueprint emphasises balance in the approach towards a fully developed state. For this various development corridors have been mapped out so that the tilt towards the Klang Valley as the main industrial basin will be replaced with more evenly spread areas of development. The plan also envisages border developments in conjunction with neighbouring states.



Selangor aspires to be a global supplier for multinational companies as well as makers of complete products such as the Malaysian car (above, top). This strategy was announced under the Global Supplier Programme (GSP) by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry after a meeting with the Selangor Industrial Coordination Committee in March 2000. The rapid growth of Selangor's manufacturing and development sector has been astounding. Between 1995 and 1999 some 1,058 projects were approved, with investment of RM20 billion, 66 percent of which were foreign equities.



Every picture carries a name.

From a vantage position, looking around at the industrial landscape of Selangor it is possible to concoct a litany of household and instantly recognisable industrial names from the buildings that are within sight. These companies have added their names to the vibrancy of the state and have shown faith in the skills of its workers.



PROTON





From this development blueprint planners have further identified priority sectors in the state's economic growth. They are heavy and high-tech industries; manufacturing of building materials, auto-part electronics and small and cluster-scale industries; infrastructure development; marine-based industrial and port-related activities and services; health care products; aerospace industrial parks, telecommunication and information technology; agro-based industries; and trading.

Those are industries to be prioritised; but there are also new areas to be developed to achieve balance in the state's development. These are the NGCs, the New Growth Centres, which have been demarcated into corridors. The Active Corridors comprise the Klang Valley Development Corridor, the Multi-Media Super Corridor (MSC), the Southern Coastal Corridor, the Sungai Buloh - Ulu Bernam Corridor, and the Rawang-Kuala Kubu Baru Corridor.

With the already thriving Klang Valley forming the core corridor of development directly connected to the MSC pathway running south from the famed twin towers of the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC), the other development corridors form strips running roughly north-south in almost parallel formation throughout the state. The exceptions being two (of the four) potential corridors, the Sungai Besar-Ulu Bernam, and the Kuala Selangor - Kuala Kubu Baru which run in the northern half of the state from the coastal west reaching out almost to the eastern border of the state. The other Potential Corridors - the Northern Coastal and the Banting-Bagan Terap - join the serried ranks of the north-south bands of growth areas.

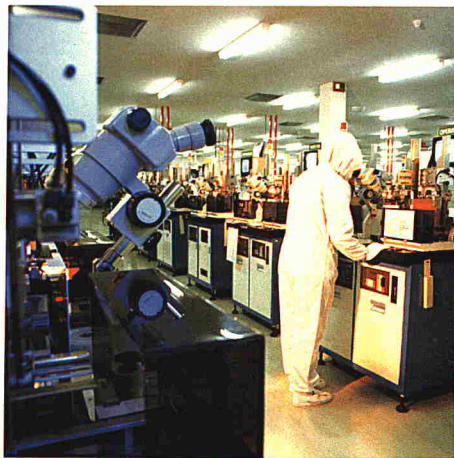
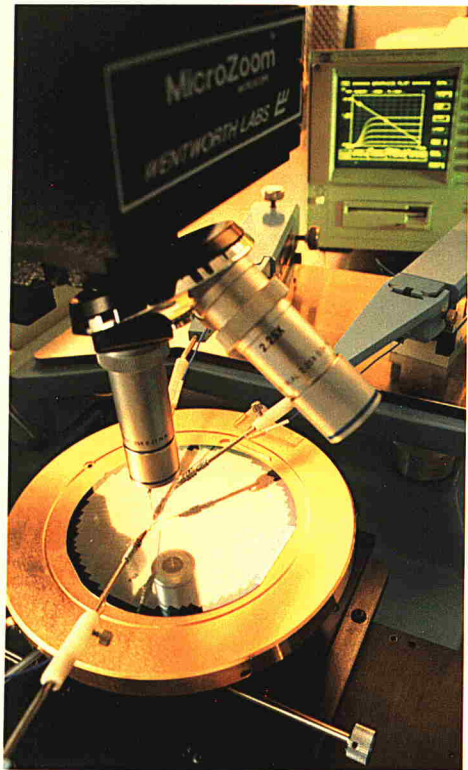
Symbiotic alliances are also being formed with neighbouring states under Border and Regional Development programmes: the Bernam Valley Department with Perak in the north for the development of the Serendah, Tanjong Malim and the border area between two states, and the Southern Regional Development alliance programme with the states of Negeri Sembilan and Malacca to cover development projects in Sepang, Nilai, Port Dickson and the contiguous areas of Selangor-Malacca.



*(Top) Selangor puts great emphasis on skilled and dedicated workers for the sophisticated modern industry.
(Bottom) Familiar international names are seen in the industrial and commercial belts of Selangor.*

*(Opposite page) Bird's eyeview of one part of the thriving Klang Valley area. This part of the state has a highly motivated and educated work force, and is the social, industrial and commercial hub of the state.
(Previous page) The new Proton Waja car proudly displaying its new tiger badge. This badge marks the coming of age of Malaysia's national car and its increasing confidence in the world market*

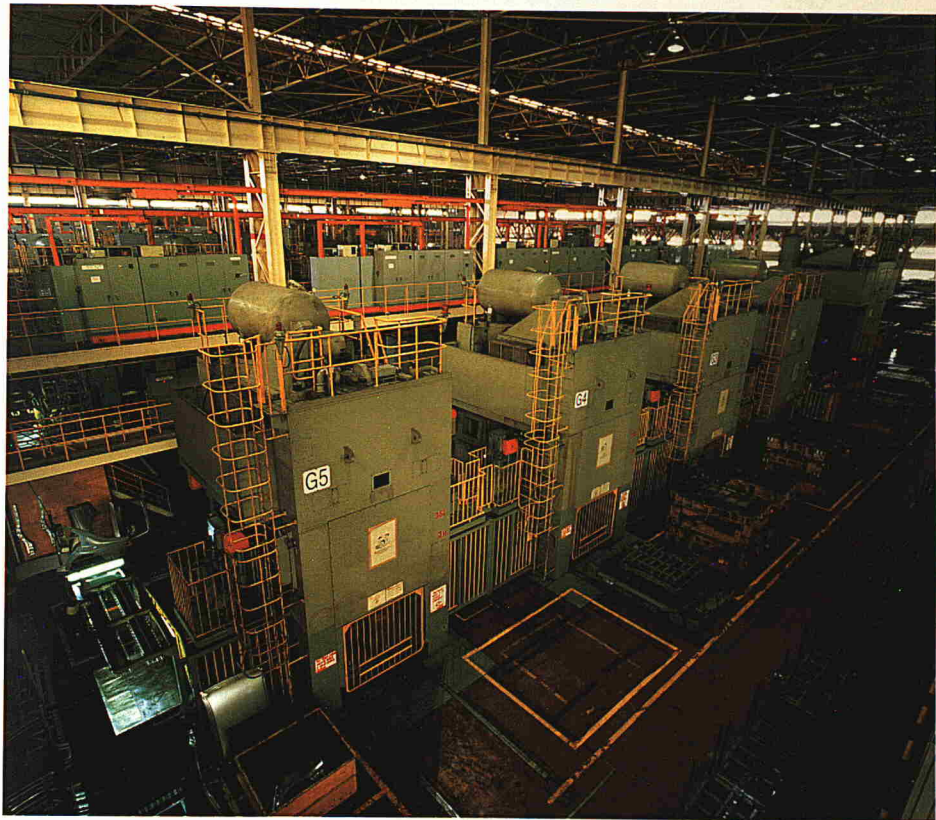




(Left) Working to exact specifications in a modern sophisticated industry requires precise instrumentation and skilled work force.

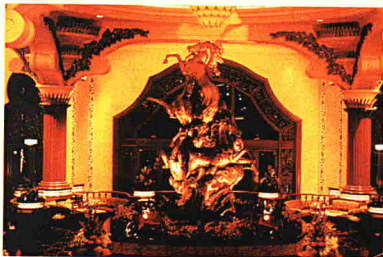
(Top right) The interior of a modern factory with exacting demands, precise specifications.

(Bottom, right) Research workers at MIMOS the Malaysian Institute of Microelectronic Systems, a mission-oriented science ministry R&D corporation.



Cathedral of Work. Constituent parts of the bodywork for Proton cars are moulded under the heavy force of these machines at the stamping plant for Malaysia's national car production.





World-class hotels, leaders in hospitality. These serve not only as holidaymakers' paradise but also provide facilities for the fast growing international conference venues market in a surrounding of service and luxury. (Opposite page) A venue fit for kings. The grand ballroom of the Pan Pacific, KLIA



WYWY

Budweiser

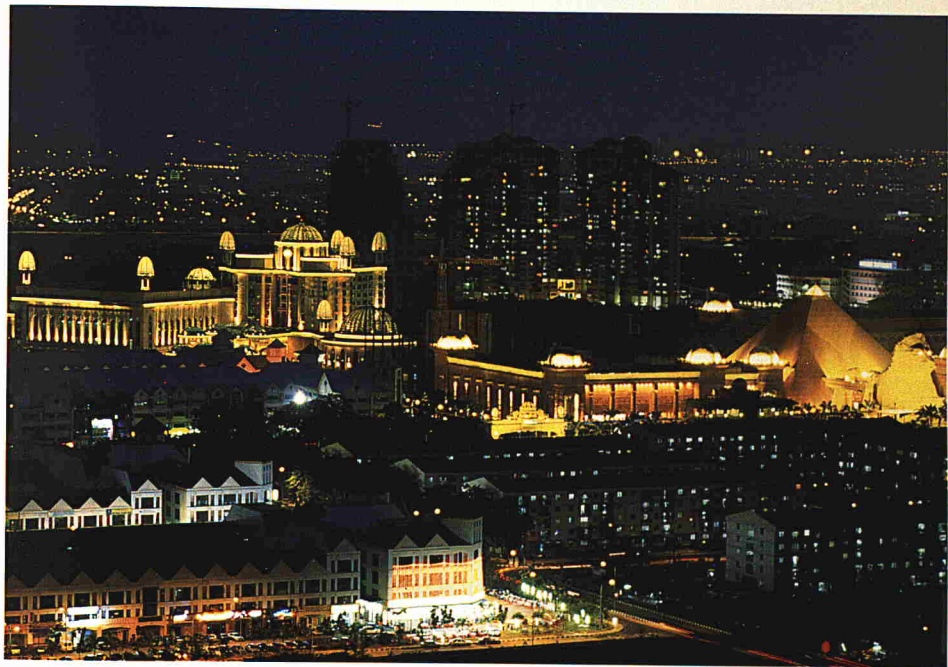
Win RM1,000.00 Shopping Vouchers Daily

70%

YOUR HEALTH BROTHER BROTHERS

YOUR HEALTH BROTHER BROTHERS

BRANDS



Shopping as a national event. Year 2000 saw the launch of the Mega Sale Carnival throughout Malaysia. Shopping is part of the Malaysian way of life, and some of the best shopping centres in Malaysia are in Selangor. Pictures above and opposite show one of the major shopping complexes in the state, interior and exterior. The shoppers' paradise (opposite) is in the pyramid to the right of the above picture.



(Top picture) A Chinese lantern shop. These lanterns are used during the mooncake festival to commemorate the mythical lady Chang-Er who saved the world from the combined heat of ten suns and her husband, who became a wicked emperor.

(Below, L to R.) A local Cash & Carry. Sign-boards in Little India.



Little shops with big bargains. These were the lifeblood of commerce before the advent of mega shopping malls and gigantic department stores. They add colour to the marketplace and give personal attention to the shopper.

*(Top picture) An Indian jeweller's shop in Klang
(Bottom left) A hardware store laden with kitchen utensils
(Bottom right) A textile store with bolts of material.*



The beauty of the small trader. Street vendors and small retailers add colour to the marketplace

These shops are patronised by locals for their daily needs.

(Top, left) The exotic and the familiar. Apples from Australia, bananas on a string, salak fruit from the depths of the jungle

(Top, right) Fruits galore in a triumph of arrangement.

(Bottom picture) Flowers make you smile and add colour to this mundane world



The world of horticulture gives expression to life.

(Top) A centre for plants and flowers in the Sungai Buloh nursery. Flower growers here have catered to the needs of Selangor residents for as long as anyone can remember. It is now still a thriving centre.

(Bottom) Malaysian orchids bloom jauntily in the sun. Orchid-growing has attained a cult status, and the flowers are flown daily to European destinations.







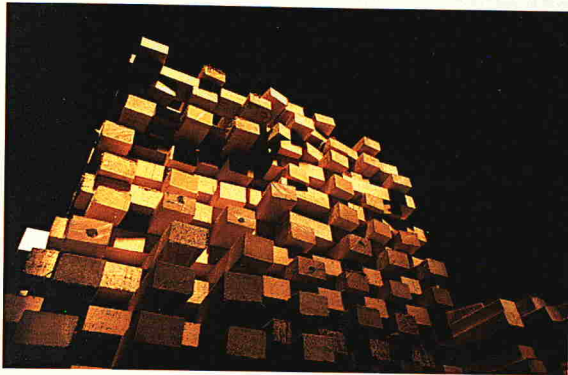
The feel of clay as the potter turns his pot on the wheel. Pottery is an art that is found in many cultures.

(Opposite) *Third generation Selangor potter Aru places his pots in the kiln to be baked and then stacked in his yard with hundreds of other finished products. Aru's grandfather came to Selangor from India many years ago to practise the art. Nowadays, he says, it is difficult to find people who have the knack for good pottery.*

(Preceding pages) *Pride in fish. This woman in Kuala Selangor proudly displays her range of dried fish which glow enticingly against the sun. Fish, salted and dried, is much sought after by gourmets.*







Rubber used to be the mainstay of the Malaysian economy, but nowadays many former rubber estates have been transformed into housing estates. There are still rubber trees in Selangor and elsewhere in Malaysia.

*(Top, left) Sawn rubber wood stacked to be transported to some furniture maker.
(Top, right) From the album of yesteryear. The history of rubber is etched in the tree.*

(Bottom, left) Tapping rubber: letting the latex flow

(Bottom, right) Milk-like latex is collected in the cup.

(Opposite page) A rubber estate. There used to be miles and miles of this in Selangor in the rubber-boom years.





The Sabak Bernam district in Selangor is the rice-bowl of the state. The labour intensive traditional production method has given way to mechanisation (opposite) and more money is being put into research to make agriculture a sunrise industry for Selangor. The emphasis now is on increasing yield without using up too much land. The Selangor Agricultural Development Corporation (SADC) was set up in 1972 to develop the agricultural sector and to take it into the modern age.

(Overleaf) A solitary tree in a field of gold. Harvest time in a padi field used to be a time of hard work and great celebration, but the job is now left to a mechanical harvester manned by a solitary hand.





Pusatnya Melegakan saki kepala dan kerakan

MOGA

DARUL EHSAN

صالح الاسلام

مغوت



...Infrastructure

*Air, rail, road and access
by sea - meeting present
and future needs;
Housing for everyone,
power in every home.*



(Main picture, left) Rush hour traffic along the Federal Highway passing through the Kota Darul Ehsan Arch. This gateway to Selangor marks the boundary between the federal capital Kuala Lumpur and the State of Selangor

MIGHTY INROADS, EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

The network of roads, rails, and seaport facilities in Selangor today is astounding not only for its breathtaking reach, but also by the breakneck speed of its formation. Until the late 1970s, and even into the early 1980s, the main thoroughfare linking the capital Kuala Lumpur to its seaport outlet through the small town of Klang was the Federal Highway, a bold venture for its time, slicing through the broad sprawl of Petaling Jaya still then a burgeoning 'satellite town', through oil palm plantations, and past patches of squatter colonies along the way. By air, the main gateway into the country was the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang, a 60s facility hardly able to cope with the increasing popularity of air travel in the 1980s and 1990s; by sea it was Port Klang, also eking out its existence as best it could in the face of increasing complexity and demands of modern maritime traffic. Commuters or business people along the Federal Highway traffic corridor chugged their haughty course through dense traffic, while others hopped onto buses plying the busy route, or, if luck held for some others still, a vacant taxi cab or two would pull over to speed them along to their respective destinations. Today the scenario is quite different.

A commuter train link now runs at regular intervals between the heart of the Federal Capital Kuala Lumpur and Port Klang, putting new station names like Angkasapuri, Kampung Datuk Harun, Batu Tiga, and Shah Alam into the vast collective unconscious of that

sector of the population ever in transit, from home to work to home, or to various other destinations along the way. For business or pleasure, the choice for the travelling folk is now wide. There's the amazing Light Rail Transit (LRT) link running north-south from rural Gombak through 22 stations to suburban Kelana Jaya. In another direction, from the populous Ampang enclave in Selangor the Star Line wheezes past landmark buildings taking commuters above the traffic congestions of Kuala Lumpur to the heartland of Sentul and beyond. A facility for travel that would have been inconceivable in the minds of the average punter just two years ago.

There are changes everywhere.

Work on the new high-tech aviation gateway, the KL International Airport (KLIA) was the biggest civil engineering venture undertaken this century, with an allocated 100sq km site, the first phase was completed in record time of six years in 1998, costing some RM 9 billion. And it is still expanding. At its peak the KLIA will not only be a gateway to Malaysian destinations, but will also be a destination in itself with its own business, shopping and recreation centres.

On the sea front the horizon is ever expanding. Enlargement plans for Port Klang and Westport will increase cargo capacity by leaps and bounds, going beyond the 72 million tonnes of cargo that they handled at the end of 1998. A fitting ambition for the main seaports for the nation.

(Opposite page) The commercial centre, Petaling Jaya new Town is a very vibrant community in the Klang Valley





*Energising the nation, meeting the needs of domestic and industrial users.
Power pylons rise over the landscape in urban and rural areas. Meeting the energy needs is one of the priorities of state planners.
This power station is in Kapar, Klang. Energy demand is expected to surge in 2005 when
Selangor becomes fully industrialised.*



The power of water.

Two views of the Semenyih Dam which provides hydro electric power to Selangor. More energy will be needed to reach the industrialisation target in 2005. Hydro electric power, not nuclear, is the planner's choice.

(Overleaf) A broad view of the Semenyih Dam.

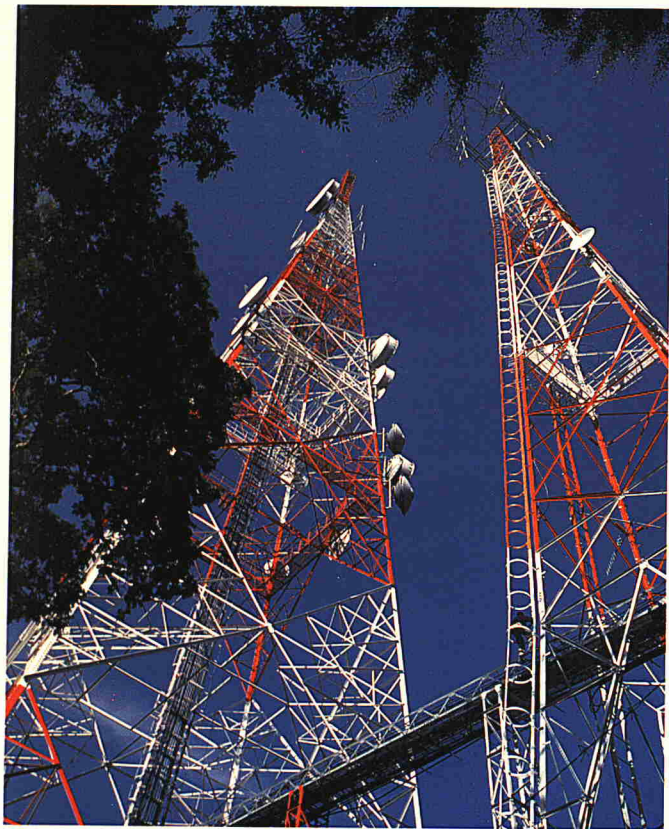
Selangor's infrastructural ambition is to link up all the major towns and villages within its remit for accessibility - by road, rail, or through waterway connections. An infrastructure master plan is even now being prepared to lay down the new inroads still to be made, what new ports and waterway facilities, what new lines of connectivity.

The Selangor Network Consortium (SNC) meanwhile has been set up as a one-stop agency for the realisation of an integrated telecommunication infrastructure in an age when the byword is IT-ability. It is here that the basis for an orderly and integrated development is being laid down, and plans made for a cost-saving and cost-sharing venture among telecommunication companies vis-a-vis the general infrastructure.

And all that will be relying on energy. By 2005, the target year for Selangor to be a developed state well ahead of the rest of the country, it is expected that the main energy supplier Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) will be able to increase its installed capacity to exceed 8000MW when the maximum demand is expected to increase to 3000MW. Since 1995, 14 Main Intake stations, each costing some RM30 million, have been built to meet the increasing commercial, industrial and domestic needs.







Communication towers on Bukit Malawati in Kuala Selangor. Not far from these towers is the old colonial lighthouse which is still functioning - old and new existing side by side.



Water treatment in a modern factory in Selangor. Responsibility is the keyword in modern industrial management. Factories have to avoid polluting the environment and harming the world that we live in.



(Above) The Selangor government hospital is reputedly one of the most high-tech in the country. As in education, so too in medical care where the public and the private exist side by side.

(Opposite) A private hospital in the seaport town of Klang. Private medical care is on the rise as society gets more affluent, but public health care is also meeting the challenges.



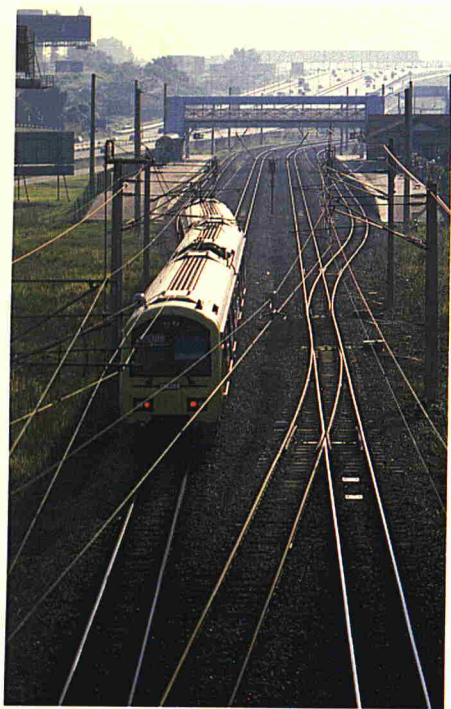


An addition to the already complex infrastructure (Top) An LRT (Light Rail Transit) train, a new feature in the transport network between Selangor and Kuala Lumpur, arrives at one of the suburban stations.

(Bottom) Tracking a new transport future. The LRT track rises above street level. Seen to the left of the picture is part of the PUTRA Line network which runs through Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya.

(Opposite page) The LRT mode of travel is a great leap forward for commuters in the Klang Valley. The stations come close to their place of work.





Everyone on the move

(Left) The upgrading and extension of the commuter train service between Kuala Lumpur and Selangor have been a great boost to passenger mobility. Places which had never before been reached by the train service are now place-names on the route map.

(Top, right) The most spectacular development in transport planning in Selangor has been the growth of new highways. Roads entwine with each other, travelling is made easier, better.

(Bottom, right) Moving traffic at night leaves streaks of light on the urban motorway.

(Opposite) The architecture of an urban landscape.

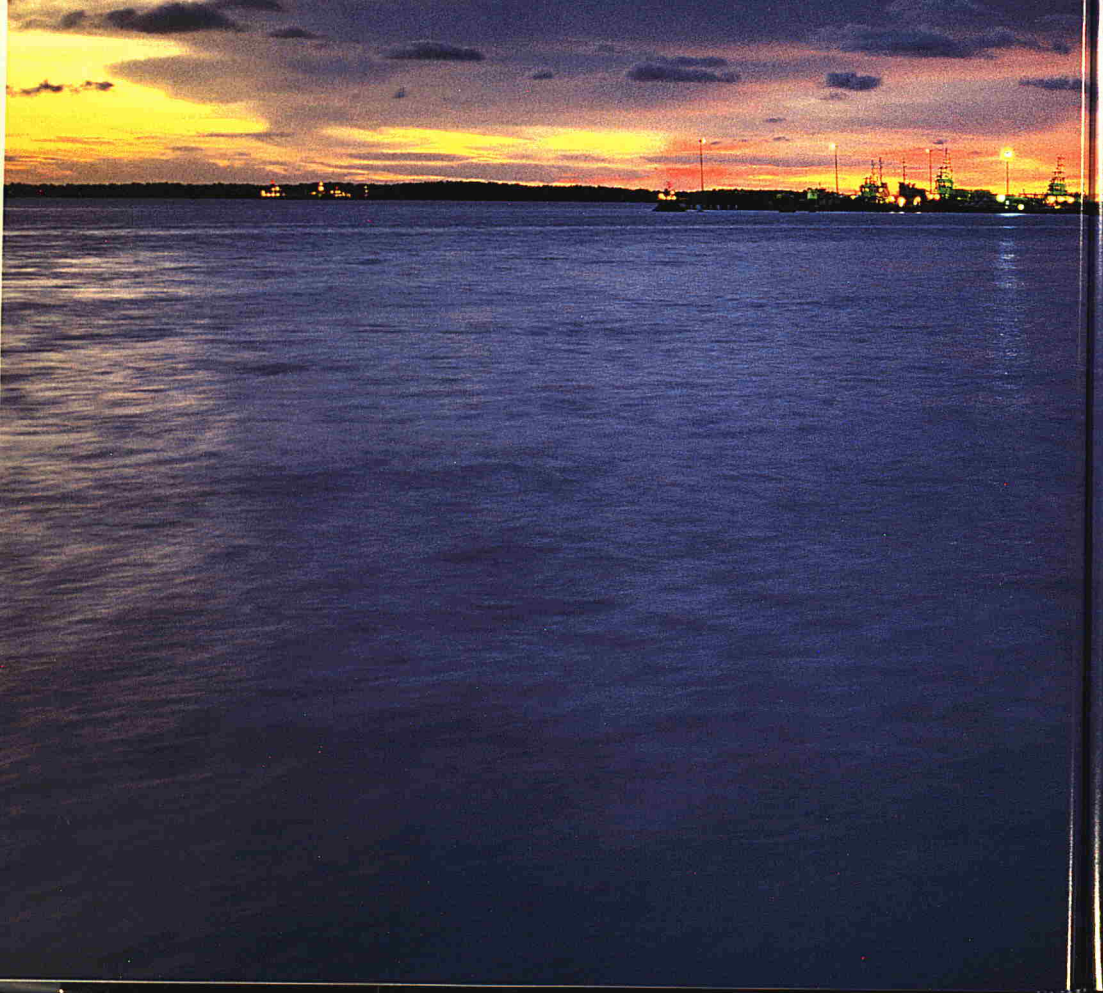




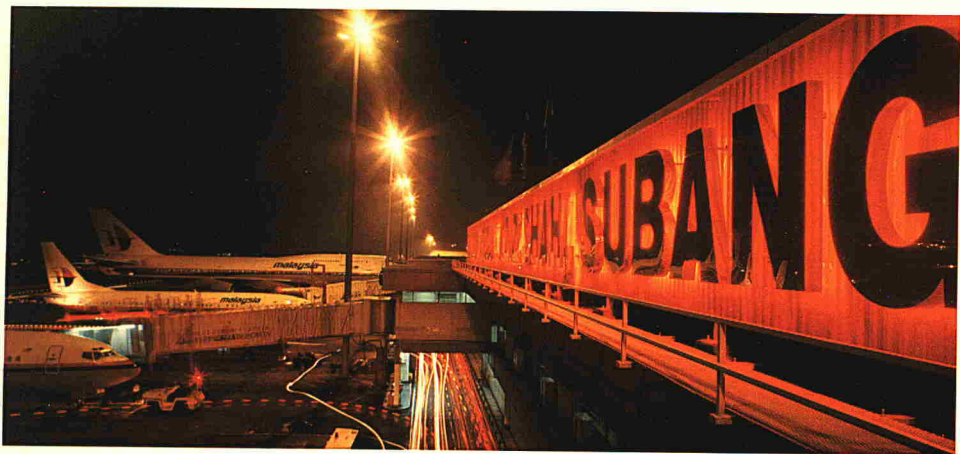
Containerisation has revolutionised cargo handling at modern ports. Westport, Klang, one of Malaysia's most modern, is equipped with the most up-to-date facilities to handle seaborne cargo traffic. This is part of Malaysia's growing infrastructural development which is planned to provide better facilities for air, road and sea transport

(Opposite) From ship to shore to ship. Rapid movement of goods and services are the prerequisites of a modern port.



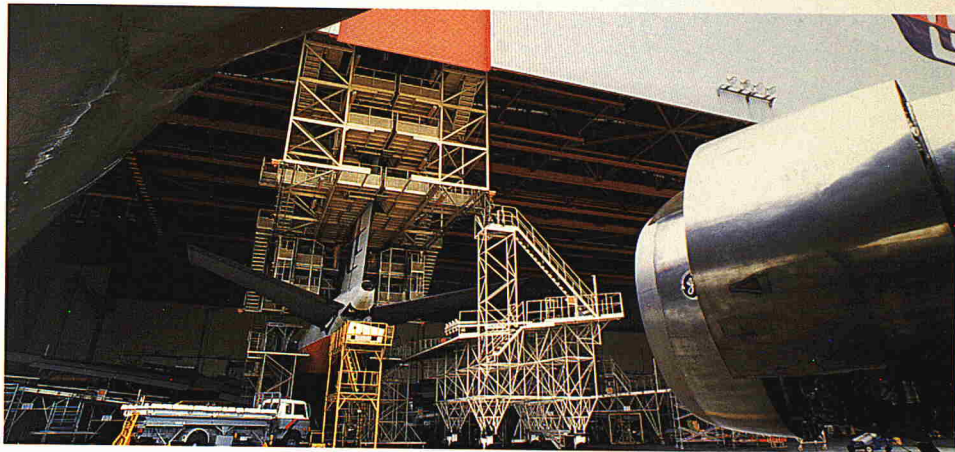




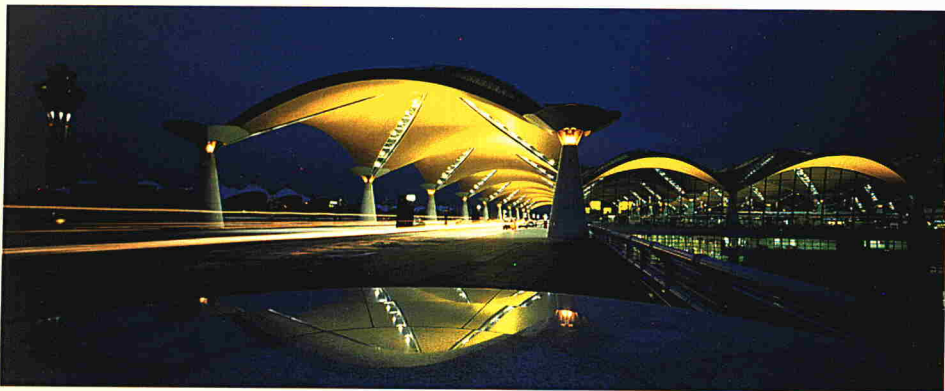


Arguments for change.

The Sultan Abdul Aziz Airport at Subang, Selangor, was a pioneering airport which brought post-independence Malaysia into the international airways network. These pictures show an airport that has outgrown itself (Preceding pages) Westport as bright lights across the blue water.



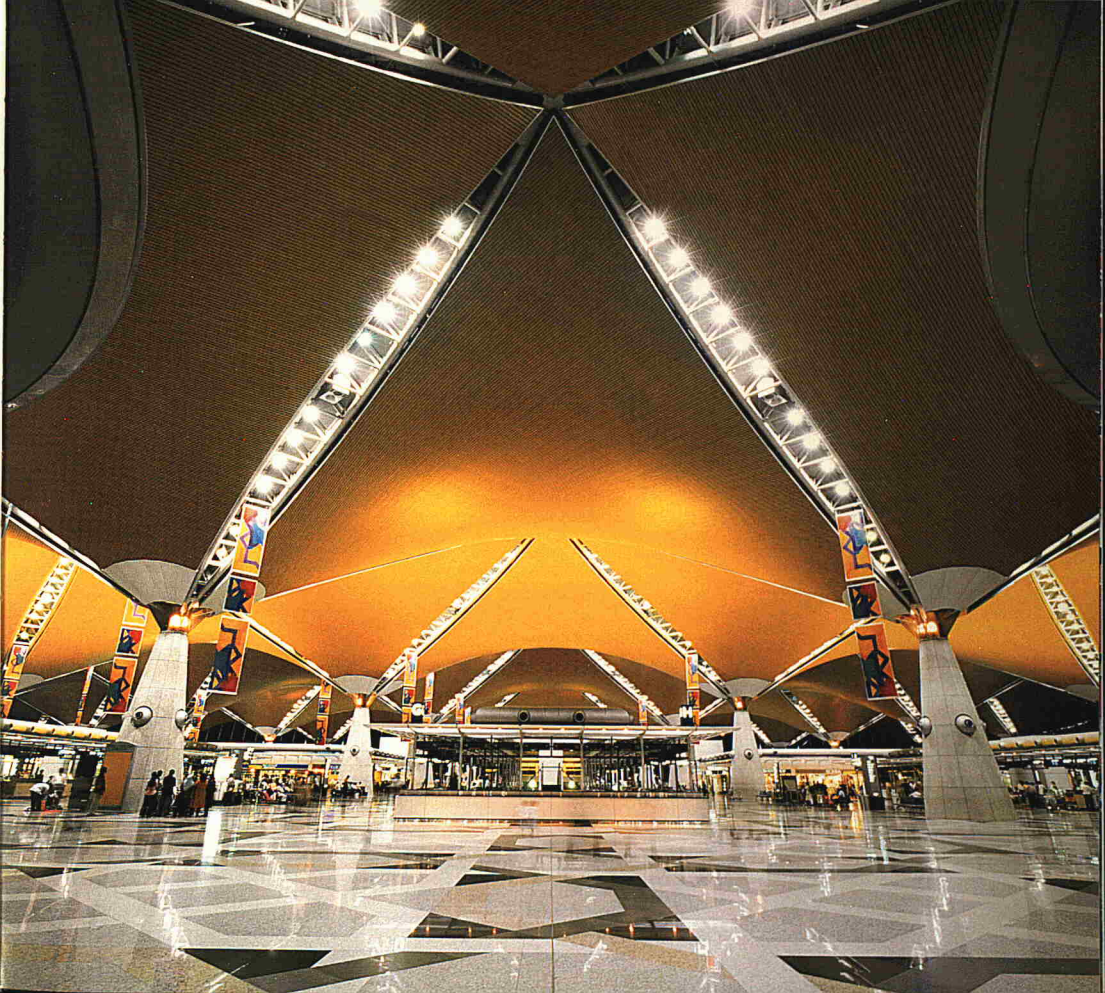
With the completion of Malaysia's new high-tech airport, the KLIA, in Sepang, Selangor, only some domestic flights still land at Subang airport. The above pictures show how with the rapid growth in air traffic the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah airport at Subang is showing signs of age.



The present for the future

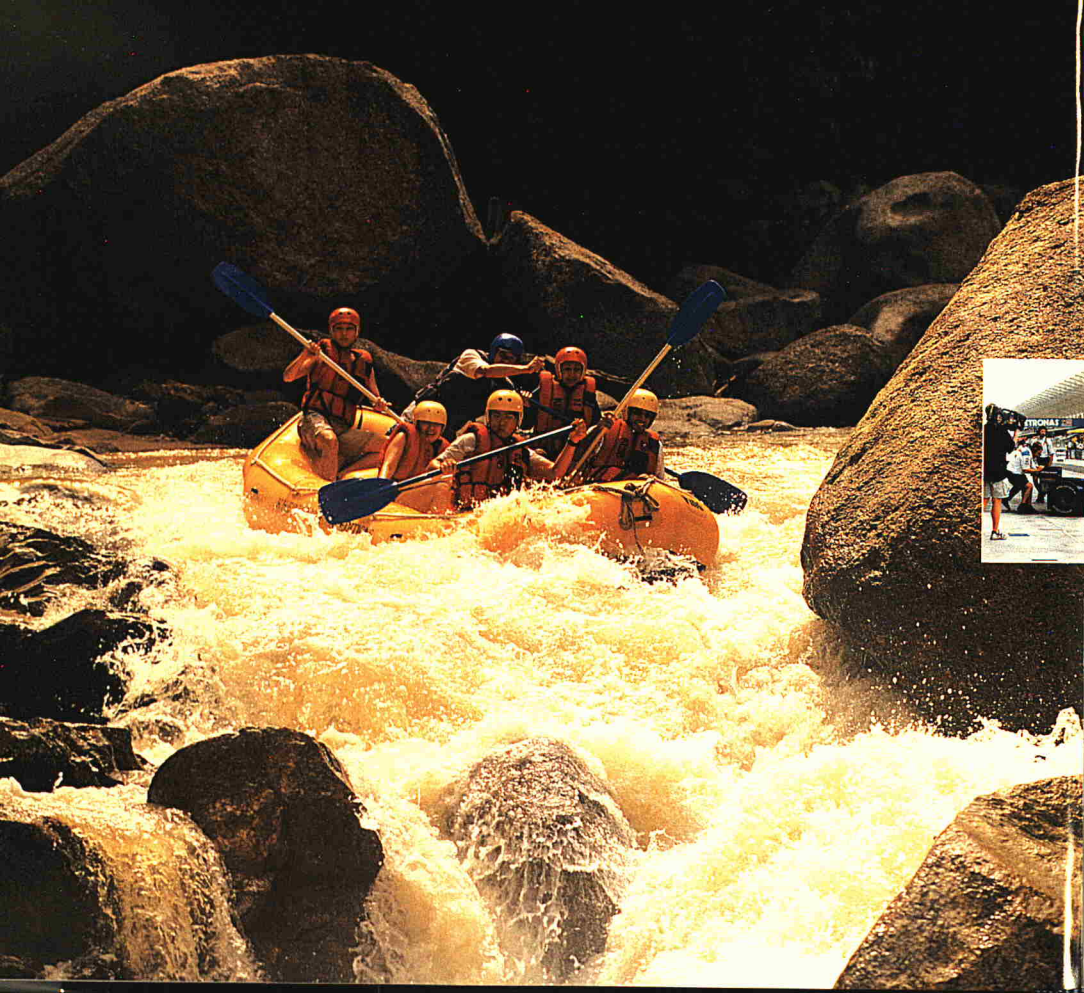
(This page and opposite) The KLIA project was the biggest public works construction in Malaysia. The airport has been designed for passenger comfort and to meet the needs of modern airlines. It is an airport in a forest, a forest in an airport. With the project's full completion, KLIA will not only be handling traffic, but will also be a destination in itself with conference, leisure, and other recreational facilities within immediate reach.

(Overleaf) KLIA seen from the Air Traffic Control Tower at night.









... *Life, Leisure, Sport*

*Adding to the
quality of life,
fishing and other
pleasures.*

*If it's not serious it
ain't sport.*



(Main picture, left) Whitewater rafting on the Selangor river is a challenging experience. This is one of the many outdoor sporting opportunities offered in Selangor.

LIVING THE LIFE, PURSUING SPORT

Selangor of the vast urban sprawl huddled close to the quality network of roads and shopping malls; those rail trains of unflinching efficiency whining and moaning to an ululating pitch like a demented urban monster coursing the tracks through the breadth of the Klang Valley - this is only part of the picture. But this is invariably the first impression that greets the visitor to this State. It is in the Klang Valley that Selangor has reached the apogee of its success with a highly literate population and higher-than-average per capita income. This is life in the fast lane, in a modern environment. This is the Selangor that's leading the nation in the prosperity stake, but beyond this catchment area of high-rise flats and condominiums of opulence, cheek by jowl living of terraced dwellers and grand mansions of the monied classes, another part of Selangor is exercising the minds of politicians and the expertise of planners.

The State has decided that by 2005, it will reach industrialised status well ahead of the rest of the country. This is a huge challenge for the state where a great number of its 4.1 million population still live in rural areas under varying conditions. In the Chief Minister's 10 guidelines issued to government agencies to meet the State's development targets, one of the objectives is a balanced approach to development so that these other areas in the state - these congeries of varying expectations - will not trail behind the prosperity of the Klang Valley in areas including housing, industries and agriculture. Equilibrium, in another word, is essential. Otherwise this whole idea of development will be lopsided.

Housing development has been geared up to meet the "zero squatters" objective to achieve, by the target year of 2005, a developed

squatters" objective to achieve, by the target year of 2005, a developed status, not only in higher economic growth but also with significant improvements in the quality of life of the people. The private sector has already made great strides in the provision of quality homes and urban centres, but meeting the housing needs of the poorer section of the population remains the responsibility of the state. Here three measures have been taken: the creation of the state housing corporation, the maintenance of an up to date data bank on housing, and housing sector development with improvements in the level of housing technology.

But the citizenry need fulfilment not only in housing and home but also in leisure pursuits. Selangorians - Malaysians - are an outdoors people, relishing in meals *al fresco*, going out on shopping-basket tours of street markets for little bargains, touring the *pasar tani* for farm produce, hard-to-get herbs, or some homemade pickles. Their love for food is axiomatic, as evidenced by the ever present food courts in shopping malls, or the 'gluttons' squares' of town centres or in linear townships in out of town areas.

At play they follow all manner of pursuits. Fishing is a fast growing leisure activity, golfing an obsession, and football is something that's followed both at a personal and spectator level. In badminton at international level, Selangorians held the country's image aloft for a long time through the succession of the Sidek brothers in the Thomas Cup or at the All England badminton tournaments. In football, a fond memory still persists of the late Mokhtar Dahari, another Selangorian. This is a sporting state in a sport-loving nation.

(Opposite) The speed of the fall and the memory of water

This is a waterfall near the Sememish Dam, a reservoir in the Hulu Langat area. There are many waterfalls in the Selangor recreation areas.

They make an ideal picnic site, and the sound of water gushing down is relaxing to most people.





(Above) Watching the grass grow. Two generations of nature lovers enjoying the lush greenery outside the FRIM Forest Reserve in Kepong, just outside Kuala Lumpur.

(Opposite) Picnic in the park. Enjoying a cool dip on a sunny day in Sungai Dangai in Hulu Langat

There are other pursuits besides. There's whitewater rafting on the Selangor river, nature treks in forest reserve areas, night time outings in boats to see the wonders of the Selangor fireflies. The mangrove swamp area is an experience so replete with the wonders of nature's management of the ecosystem that it is an education for the whole family as visitors to the Paya Indah Wetland Sanctuary, just 15km north of the KLIA will testify. For ecotourism Selangor is unsurpassed. Besides the fireflies' havens in Kampung Kuantan and Kampung Bukit Belimbing, there are six other areas of environmental interest: The Kuala Selangor Nature Park, the Ampang Recreational Forest, the Gunung Nuang Recreational Forest, Templer's Park, The Commonwealth Forest Park, and the FRIM Forest Reserve area in Kepong.

Theme Parks are a recent introduction, but already there's a wide choice available: the Mines Wonderland, Sunway Lagoon, Wet World Water Park,

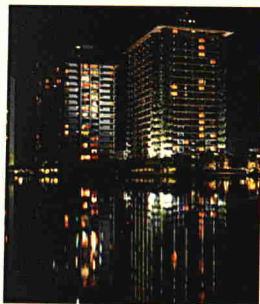
Safari Lagoon Water Theme Park, and the Kajang Water Theme Park, all with their own distinctive qualities.

Sporting Infrastructure

Selangor has hosted many major international sporting events including F1 world championship events at the Sepang F1 Circuit, golfing tournaments, and boxing and cycling events in the recent XXIII Commonwealth Games.

The Sepang F1 Circuit, built on a 260 hectare plot, is deemed to be one of the best and largest facilities of its kind in the world. The Shah Alam Sports Complex, comprising the 70,000 seat Shah Alam Stadium, a warm up track and training field, an indoor stadium to seat 12,000 people, an Olympic-standard swimming and diving centre and an international level tennis complex received, in 1996, the Best Sports Facility in Asia award.





Housing matters in Selangor. Contrasting lifestyles
(Top) Flat dwellers in skysrise towers. This is typical urban living in any metropolis
(Bottom, left) Luxurious condominiums for the rich
(Bottom, right) Houses in a Selangor village. Improving the housing situation of Selangorians is a government priority
(Opposite page) One huge sprawl of suburbia. A modern housing estate in Selangor





*The one that didn't get away. Anglers display their catch.
The camaraderie of the fisherfolk is as valuable as the size of the catch.*



*Anglers taking part in a fishing competition in Semenyih.
Fishing is a fast-growing sport and leisure time activity in the state.*



Casting a net into an irrigation canal in Sabak Bernam. Sabak Bernam is a rural idyll in the rice bowl area of Selangor.



Fishing with father in Sabak Bernam. Long grass and tranquil water, miles and miles of padi field. A warm look from across the generations, a warm smile. These are stuff of memories that the young boy will retain forever as a signpost of his rural childhood. But what about the fish? Well, it was a big one, for sure.



Aspects of Pulau Ketam, a seafood lover's destination and a fishing village on the coast on the eastern side of the island. Transport to the island is by passenger ferry at Port Klang

(Top picture) Houses on stilts at low tide.

(Bottom, left) Waiting for the ferry at the jetty in Bagan.

(Bottom, right) Boats have come ashore, houses going out to sea.

(Opposite page) The Pulau Ketam express will speed you to and from the island amid the din of the engine and the Kung Fu movie on the small screen.

(Overleaf) A bridge over troubled water. A Pulau Ketam journey











Rafting in the wash on the Selangor river.
(Top picture) The lull before the rush. Rafts lined up on the bank awaiting participants.
(Bottom) The 'Chicken Drop' around the famous bend. Whitewater rafting holds many surprises for the brave.
(Opposite page) Rowing down to the finish





*(Above) As the water falls so will I. A picniker does the flip as his friends applaud.
(Opposite) A walkway at the Sunway Lagoon, a popular theme park in Selangor.*



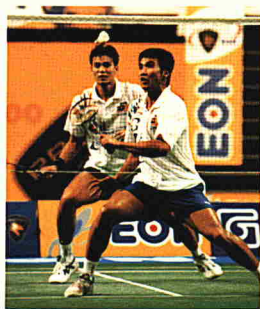
(Top picture) Tiger Woods takes a swing in the World Cup Golf Championship at the Mines Resort, Selangor, 1999. Woods and O Meara were champs. (Opposite) Night golfing at the Monterex Golf & Country Club. Many clubs in Selangor now open till late.





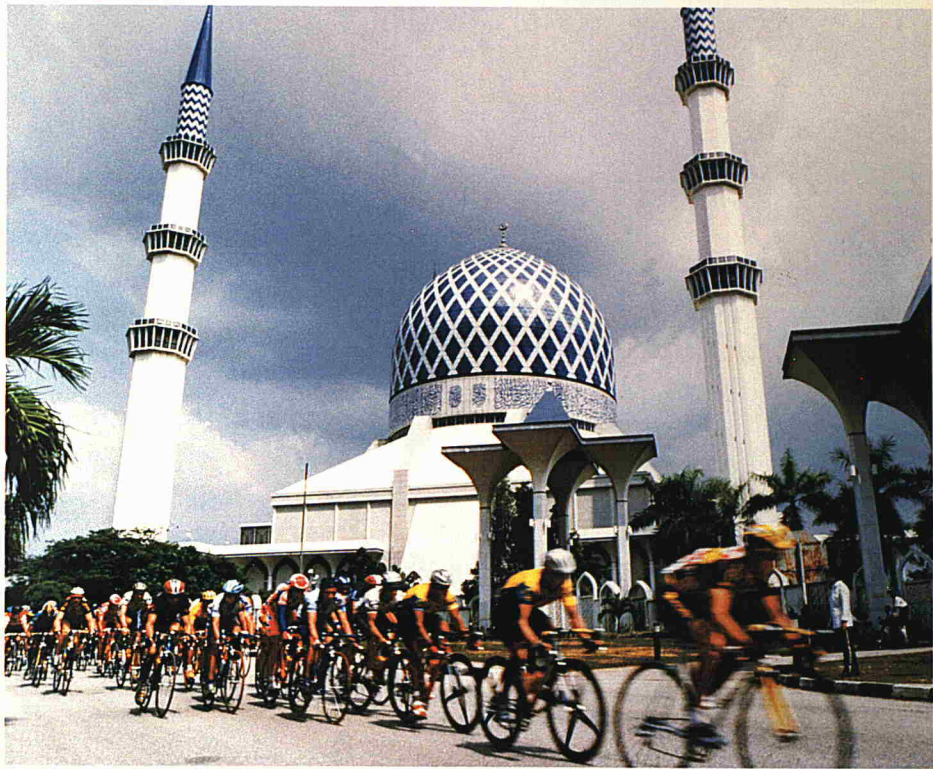
*The Malaysian Rally Championship, Selangor hosts many such events
(Opposite) An excursion into the jungle in a four-wheel drive is gaining popularity among the city dwellers who long for a break
from the concrete surrounding*





Moments of great victory for Selangor and Malaysia.

*(Top picture) The Sidek family's finest hour. For a long time they were the first family of Malaysian badminton. Here (l to r) Rashid, Jallani, father Datuk Hj Sidek, Razif, and Rahman celebrate their victory over the Indonesia team to emerge champs in the 1992 Thomas Cup. The Sideks are from Banting in Selangor
 (Bottom, left & right) Wong Choon Han Choong Tan Fook & Lee Wan Wah, Malaysia's number one singles and doubles players in the Malaysia Open championship 2000 at the Malawati Stadium.*



Cycling in the shadow of a famous Selangor landmark. Participants in the Tour de Langkawi pedal past the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque in Shah Alam. The Tour de Langkawi, starting from the famous island resort off the north-west coast of Malaysia, is now part of the international cycle racing calendar.



MALAYSIA

PETRONAS





VISI MALAYSIA VISI ITAL



*(Top picture) Preparation for the bid. Good teamwork in a supportive environment are essentials in motor racing
(Bottom, left) Marshalls to the fore. These are among the people who've made the Sepang circuit one of their international homes.*

(Bottom, right) Flaunting it to all - trophy waving winner Schumacher at the Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix

(Opposite page) A spectacular view of the canopy tower which offers an unrivalled view of the race from start to finish. Sepang won the Venue of the Best Grand Prix of the race award 1999

(Preceding pages) Hail to the winner. Winner Schumacher drives in to cheering team members, Sepang 2000





Nail-biting, banner-waving crowd enjoying a day out at the F1 circuit in Sepang. Formula 1 motor racing is a new sport in Malaysia but is just building a strong band of local aficionados. Spectators at recent meets came from all over the world, and the events were seen live via television stations worldwide. Motor racing has raised the profile of Selangor and Malaysia as a sporting nation.



(Top) Motorcycle Grand Prix at the Sepang F1 Circuit
(Bottom pictures) Preparations at the starting grid.



FIFA / *Coca-Cola* WORLD CUP CHAMPION
 Malaysia



World-class competitions are regularly held at Selangor venues.

(Top picture) Argentina, the winning team in the Junior World Cup Soccer event celebrate their victory at the Shah Alam Stadium.

(Bottom left) Selangor players - the Red Giants - showing their prowess in the Malaysia Cup competition

(Bottom right) The late Dato' Mokhtar Dahari, once the darling of Malaysian and Selangor soccer fans hands his jersey to the then Raja Mula (Crown Prince) of Selangor, HRH Tengku Idris Shah.



A packed Shah Alam Stadium. This Olympic-class stadium has capacity for 70,000 spectators. It was launched in 1994 and is the central component of the Shah Alam Sports Complex. It consists of a six-level semi-enclosed space over an area of 155,000 square metres. This is a multi-purpose venue with world class specifications.

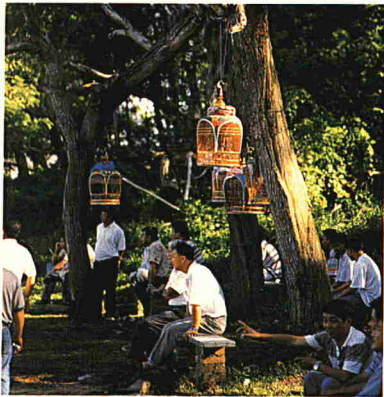
Above pictures show the variety of events that can be hosted at the Shah Alam Sports Complex.

Since its launch in 1997 this complex has hosted many international class events.

(Overleaf) The Shah Alam Stadium by night.

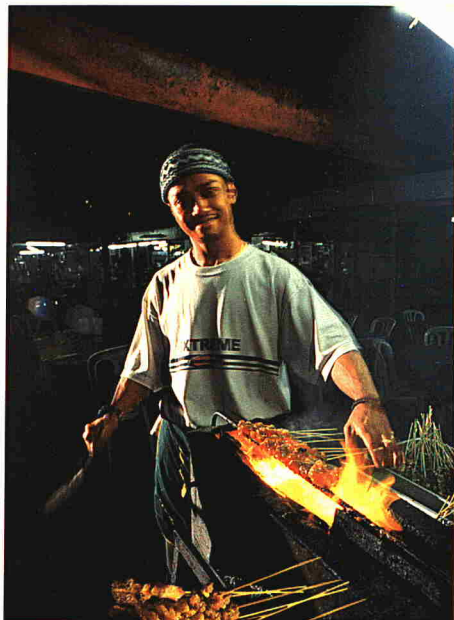
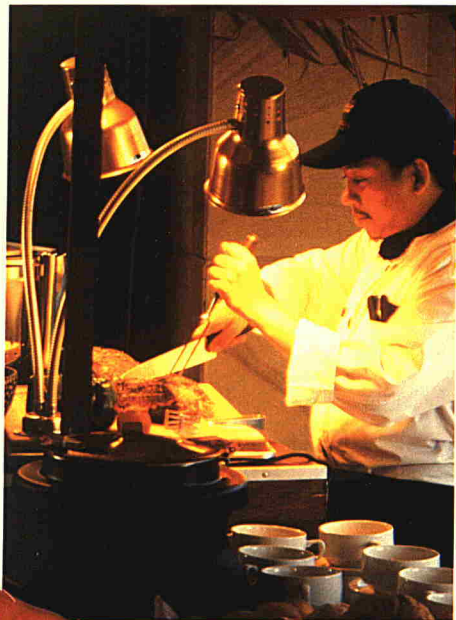






(Top picture) Birdsong competition in Petaling Jaya, Selangor. Contestants hoist the nested birds high on a pole from where they sing to the judges' and owners' delight.
(Bottom picture) This contest is attended by the young and old. Song birds can fetch a very high price.
(Opposite) "Er, what's that song again? I wanna be free...be free as a bird!"





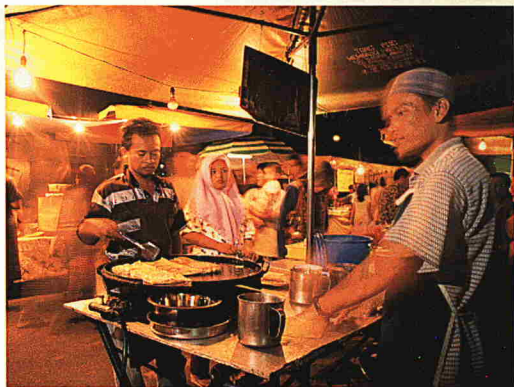
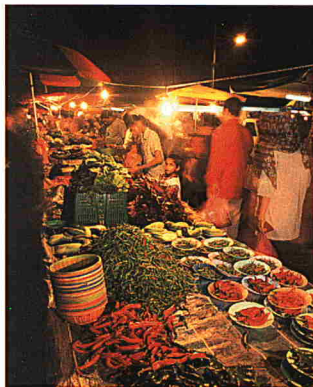
Styles of cooking and eating.

(Left) A hotel staff carves meat in the enclosed atmosphere of a hotel.

Hotel restaurants are patronised by lunchtime diners for their good value buffet meals.

(Right) A satay man grills meat pieces on sticks. These skewered meat or chicken pieces are dipped in a special peanut sauce. Kajang satay in Selangor is renowned throughout Malaysia.



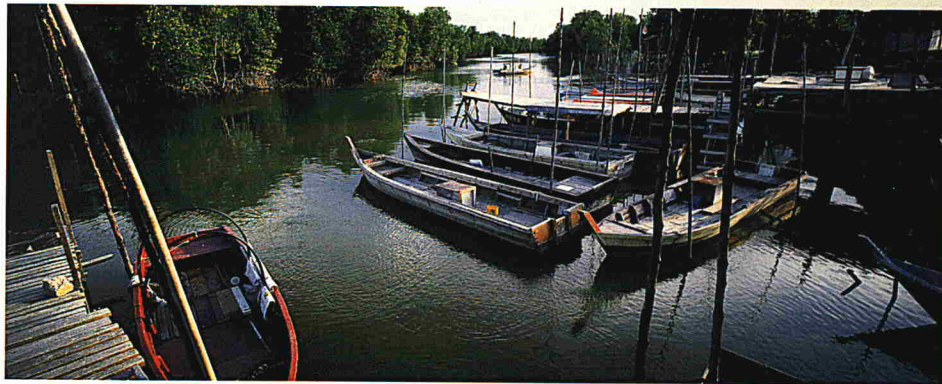


Ways of selling: Buying round the clock.

(Top, left) Food colouring. The pasar tani (farmers' market) is patronised by the cognoscenti for hard-to-obtain herbs and fresh produce. (Top, right) Fried bread. The famous Malaysian 'roti canai' is always a hot favourite.

(Bottom) Night shopping as an outing. A family selects fruits from a stall.





Contrasting modes of travel.

(Opposite page) A Star Cruise liner in Port Klang awaiting passengers for its luxury tour of ports of call along the Straits of Malacca.

(Top picture) A busy harbour in Port Klang. These are everyday boats for various users.

(Bottom) Smaller vessels in tranquil waters.



... *E*arth heritage & the arts



*Twinkling dewdrops on
blades of grass, a
canopy walk in the
treetops; nature's bounty
everywhere, but beware
the durian tree.*

(Main picture, opposite) Leaves filtering the sun highlight greenness in a sea of green. Walking through the forest reserve of FRIM (Forest Research Institute of Malaysia) in Kepong, just outside the federal capital Kuala Lumpur heightens the senses and instils an awareness of one's natural surroundings. The tropical forest holds many surprises. It is a vast store of undiscovered treasure.

TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE EARTH

The onomatopoeic Malay name for the firefly, *kelip-kelip*, best captures the essence of its being. They wink enticingly on the dark sheet of night from branches of the *berembang*, a species of the mangrove tree which lines the riverbanks of the swampland area. On a moonless night the *kelip-kelip*'s courtship presence adds to the deep mystery of the place which, to the eyes of ancient beholders many many moonless nights ago must have reinforced their faith in shamanic forces that moved the earth. And what exacting sacrifices or extravagant offerings the shamans must have required of their flock so that the *kelip-kelip* would twinkle on benignly on the great good fortune of the neighbourhood community? To the modern man of course the *kelip-kelip* is only the *pterophyx tener*, a species of amusing insect that's becoming heartbreakingly rare in the modern ecological taxonomy. So far as is known there are only two spots on earth nowadays - and Selangor is one - that harbour this species of insect known for its unique ability to twinkle away the night in unison. All this is powered of course by love which, as we all know, makes the world go a-twinkle.

The *berembang* tree is also a species predisposed towards fussiness, thriving only where the brackishness of the water is in a precise admixture of the river and sea. Any imbalance in the system, the tree withers and dies, and so too the *kelip-kelip* that gives it this unique quality.

These are earth treasures, its heritage, that makes an area a special place. Selangor is blessed with many of these: in limestone caves, primeval forests, plant species and the unique ecosystem of the wetland areas. It is said that there are many more plant species yet to be identified and named in the Selangor - Malaysian - tropical forests than have been seen and filed. Phytopharmacology is a thriving business in the state and gaining too in respectability as witness the array of bottles and capsules in local medicine shops that contain roots of this and pods of that gathered from the wilds of the jungle.

This is a vast pool of genetic reserve that is to be preserved and kept for future generations. Heaven knows what key it holds for our future well being, what antidotes to debilitating maladies. A visit to one of the many forestry reserves in the State is guaranteed to be educational and fruitful - so long as one doesn't wander too recklessly under a *durian* tree with heavy thorny fruit that have a proclivity for dropping to earth from a great height with great suddenness. The *durian* is also a fruit with as many admirers as detractors. Tigers love it, Asians swear by it, but many airlines will forbid its transport in the hand luggage for its notorious stench, which is irrepressible. It reputedly has aphrodisiacal qualities but the late author Anthony Burgess once said that partaking of the *durian* was like eating custard in a lavatory.

(Opposite) A guided walk on the nature trail in the FRIM Forest Reserve. Many place-names in Malaysia are derived from trees. Many medicines, lifestyle products, and everyday food are plant-sourced. "And look here," the guide seems to be saying, "contrary to Hollywood, the tropical forest isn't covered with man-eating undergrowth. There's ample space for you to walk around for as far as your feet can bear."





(Top picture) Encik Jaafar, (with sunglasses) a guide at the FRIM Forest Reserve in Kepong, Selangor, reveals the secret life of plants to visitors. There are 1,200 species of plants here which have medicinal use. Many more await discovery.

(Below) Natural sculpture. Trees and plants in the wild influence one another, but they develop individual characters. Some attract attention, some keep a low profile for survival.



Canopy walkway at treetop level in the FRIM Forest Reserve in Kepong, Selangor. There are only three such walkways in the world, two of them in Malaysia (Selangor and Sabah) and another in Peru. The basic purpose of the FRIM canopy walkways is research, but they are also open to visitors who enjoy the excitement of tree-watching some 900 feet above sea level. (Following pages) Creeper plants that have grown with the tree. They rise like corkscrews on the shoulders of giants.

You will perhaps opt for safer pursuits like whitewater rafting on the Selangor river, or mountaineering to great heights on Bukit Takun in Templer's Park, or canopy-walking on the wobbly walkways among the treetops several thousand feet above sea level. They do this in Selangor's FRIM Forest Reserve, one of the few places in the world where such an exhilarating activity is available.

In the Batu Caves just outside Kuala Lumpur the federal capital there is a limestone cave and thereby hang many monkeys and a sad but alluring tale. Many hundred steps will take you to the vast cave entrance where you will be rewarded with a choice of viewing. Before you is the deep mystery of this limestone formation of many stalactites and stalagmites along the cavernous tunnel of diminishing light, further and deeper until you see a shaft of light

projecting down from the sky above. There will be tinninnabulation in the air, but this will be from the Hindu temple that has been there in this cave for as long as one can remember. The Hindu Thaipusam attracts many thousands of people here in a ritualistic festival of penance and colour.

If you look closely at the walls of the cave perhaps you'll chance upon a small sailing ship and of petrified human forms. Among these is a beautiful woman and the ship's captain Nakhoda Tenggara, her newly rich husband. Tenggara, the ship's captain, embarrassed in front of his new bride by his mother's humble presence, denied kinship and called her a demented woman. His mother's prayers for retribution was answered and Tenggara, ship and all, were turned to stone. This is the moral tale that many Malaysian children have been nurtured on.







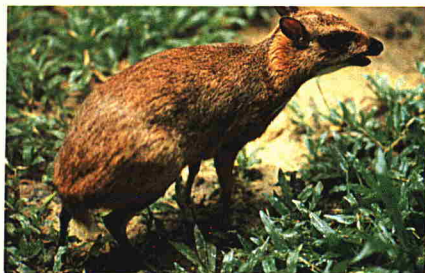
(Above) The lunar landscape features on the bark of the Merbau. Trees are identified by their unique features, smell, colour. In the FRIM Forest Reserve visitors are taught how to identify trees, what animals or insects live on them, and their usefulness to mankind. In Malaysia 5.5 million hectares of forestland have been kept aside for conservation.

(Right) Leaves spreading out like an open palm. Another feature of plants that emphasises order in nature.

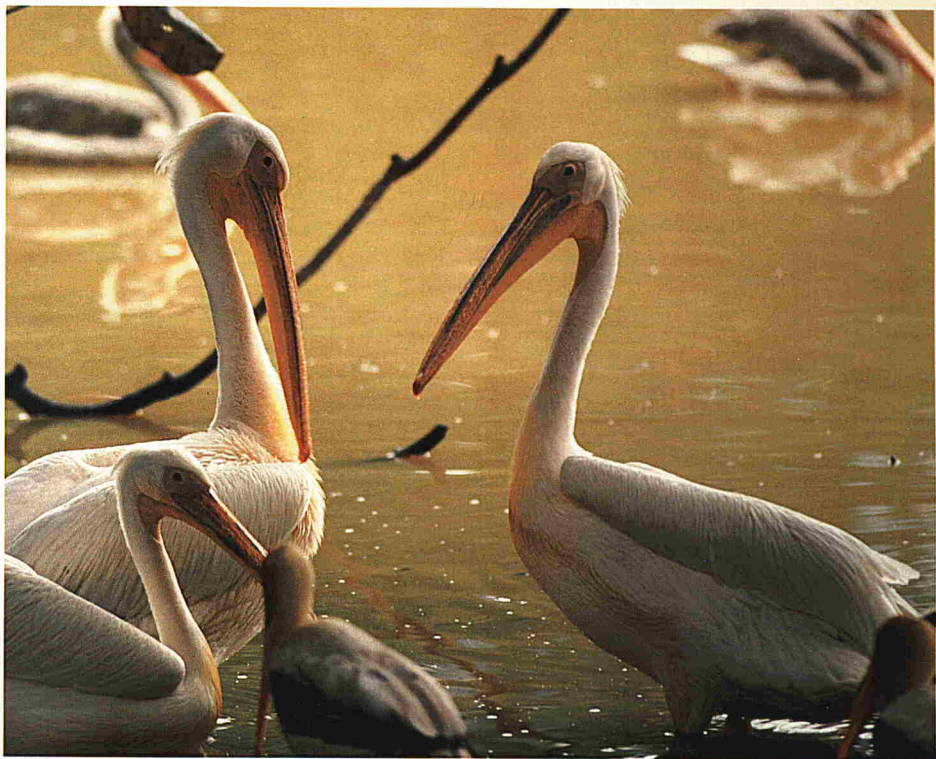




A much admired and much photographed feature of this tropical tree is the ability of its crown to keep its distance from neighbouring trees. This "crown shunning" effect is stunningly beautiful to look at with sunlight filtering through the leaves.



The Zoo Negara (National Zoo) is in Selangor, just outside the federal capital Kuala Lumpur. Children love the animals, adults love walking around in the shade of the giant trees and among greenery. For a long time The National Zoo has entertained and amused, and the old favourites are always there. (Clockwise, from bottom left) 1. The Kancil or Malayan mouse deer. In Malay folk tales, the Kancil has a reputation for intelligence and cunning, enabling it to outwit bigger and more powerful opponents. 2. The elephant entertains an appreciative audience. 3. The Tiger sits and watches. This is another animal that makes a regular appearance in Malay folk tales. The Malayan tiger was the emblem of the Federated Malay States, and is now on the crest of the Malaysian Federation.



Migratory birds stop in one of the many bird sanctuaries in Selangor. There are many places in the state where the eco-tourists can go for a quiet retreat to pursue their hobbies of bird-watching, jungle trekking, or just sitting down amid the sounds of nature before going back again to the toil of their workaday world but recharged and refreshed by the experience.





(Top and opposite page) Bird havens in Selangor attract many kinds of species at various times of the year.

*These birds are left undisturbed in their sanctuaries, the latest being the one near the
KL International Airport (KLIA) which was planned as an airport amidst nature.*

*(Overleaf) The pond in the Taman Alam (Nature Reserve) Kuala Selangor, seen in the soft morning light. In the distant haze with
the communication tower barely visible is the outline of Bukit Malawati, a historic landmark in Selangor.*







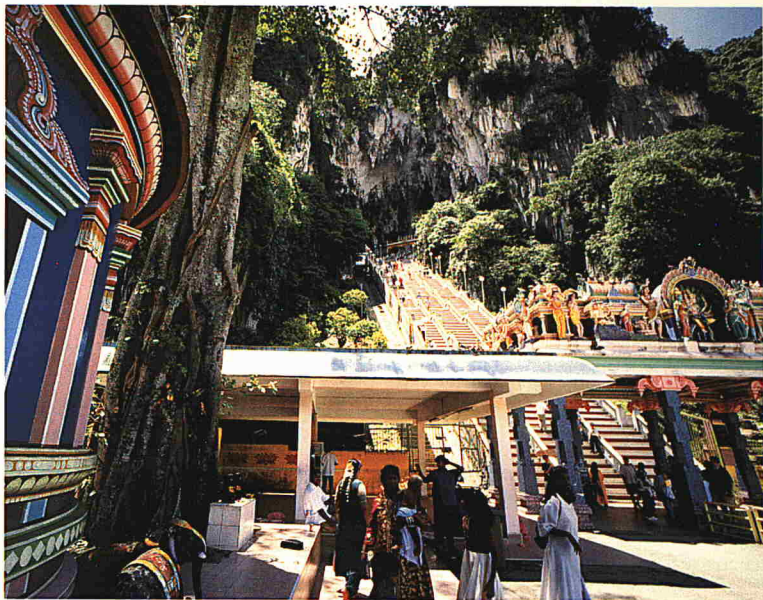
A boatman's view of the journey home.

The Orang Laut or Sea People live on houses on the sandbanks, eking out a living from the natural wealth of the surrounding waters. This is a wetland area, nature's nursery and food producer not only for the human beings who live and work here, but also for life in the water, further than these shores.

(Opposite) *The white cliffs of Bukit Malawati: trees pecking into the calmness of the water.*







The Hindu aspects of Batu Caves (opposite page and above). Man-made sculptures co-exist with natural ones. Besides being a temple cave, the Batu Caves is also a fascinating place to visit to watch limestone formation and the surrounding flora and fauna. There is a sad legend attached to it, of disrespect for one's parent and its consequences. If you look closely at the limestone formations you may even see a moral tale.



*The tranquility of the mangrove swamp belies the lively ecosystem that it supports. There's fish from the water and wood from the trees, and the energetic mud skipper is ever darting around its mysterious errand. The mangrove tree has always provided raw material for the charcoal industry and foragers of firewood, activities which are now under strict control. This is spawning area for prawns, protected habitat for endangered species, and feeding ground for marine micro-organisms. The most common species of the mangrove tree in Malaysian swamps are the *Rhizophoraceae* and the *Bruguiera*. These species propagate by dropping their fruit (bottom, right) into the soft mud at low tide. The long "tentacle" of the fruit plants itself deep into the mud (bottom, left). Ecotours are becoming increasingly popular with tourists who find fascination with the mysteries of nature. The world's ecosystem belongs to the world, and should be of interest to all. Picture shows a group of tourists listening to explanation given by their guide during a tour of the mangrove swamp in Selangor.*



The kelp-kelp or the firefly of Selangor has been a source of wonderment. Though not strictly a fly, the kelp-kelp or the pteroptox tener is actually a beetle. Its life cycle hangs on the berembang tree which lines this river in Kampung Kuantan. The berembang in turn depends on the quality of the water around it. If the balance is tipped, it withers and dies. This is how our ecosystem works, how life works, and how the whole cosmos works on the balance of simple things. The kelp-kelp of Selangor is a synchronous flasher, so the more fireflies on the leaves of the berembang, the merrier the glitter. It is one of the wonders of nature.





Silat exponents show their skill. Silat is a graceful Malay art of self-defence that puts great emphasis on movement. At wedding functions the silat is performed almost as a dance to the accompaniment of the drum and the flute. Practised in anger it can be a deadly form. (Above) A silat exponent leaps over flame.

THE ARTS IN SELANGOR

Selangor's melting pot culture is a boon to the arts. Not only is the state rich in the ethnic cultural expressions of the Chinese and the Indian communities, but it is also a meeting place for various Malay *kesenian* or art forms. The problem is in knowing which is Selangor's indigenous culture and which not because everything is everywhere present. A wedding ceremony here may take place to the rousing beat of the *kompang* drums, the folk-singing of the *dikir barat*, or the lilting sound of the *dondang sayang*. But a cultural purist will say that the *kompang* is southern in origin, the *dikir* northern Kelantanese, and the *dondang sayang* the folk music of the Malacca Straits Chinese. So what then is Selangorian?

If the question is asked at all it should be asked for celebration not an excuse for hand wringing. The many art forms that have arrived here have also enriched the state. After all, which art form is pure? It may be that in times to come a truly Selangorian artistic expression say, in dance, may include many elements from many Malaysian states, as well as Chinese and Indian influences.

As for now, some purists have demarcated the lines. These are the sounds and the movements that are truly Selangorian by birth or by adoption, they say, and we would like to start from them. It is an interesting proposition; so now there are groups busily propagating the *Gendang Sembilan*, the frantic beating of long tubular drums usually carrying strips of many colours. This is ceremonial sound, almost like the *kompang*, but on a bigger scale. There are others who glorify the *compuling*, the mixed sound of an array of drums - flat (in dimension, not sound), squat and tall. The *compuling* is accompanied by folk singing.

In many ways art is alive and well in Selangor. Malay traditional singing thrives here, A. Samad Said, one of the holders of the Malaysian Literature Award lives and still writes here, and Azamin Ahmad, an exponent - in words and deeds - of Malay traditional dances is also a Selangorian (although Perakian by birth). It is in Selangor that they have found space and expression. So if it is art, is it Selangorian? Or does it matter?



Night of the launch of Visit Selangor Year 2000.

(Top picture) Veteran singer Tan Sri Dato' S.M. Saim, a Selangor son, sings for the Visit Selangor Year 2000 night of music, songs, and dance.

(Bottom, left) The compuling ensemble of Selangor. Compuling has attained a Selangor identity

(Bottom, right) Dances on the Selangor Spectacular night for the Visit Selangor Year 2000. Selangor has a very aggressive tourism promotion programme and the state earns some RM 2 billion from tourism.



An elliptical view of life as seen through the mind's eye of Klang artist turned businessman turned artist Kok Yew Puah. Puah's Temple Figures, 1977, (above) is an acrylic on canvas scene showing an intermingling of the real and the devotional, seen by the artist through the filter of a camera viewfinder - a complex concatenation of philosophical posers.



Another view of Selangor life by Klang artist Kok Yew Pua. This painting also shows life through the lens of a camera as seen through the mind's eye of the artist. Camera view of Children on Pulau Ketam, 1993, acrylic on canvas.



(Top) 'Krisis Pilihanraya' an oil painting by painter-calligrapher Haji Idris Salam who holds a degree in Fine Arts from the Birmingham Art College, United Kingdom

(Bottom) Tuan Haji Idris bin Haji Abdul Salam's highest achievement as a calligrapher was when he was commissioned to do the calligraphic work for the dome of the landmark Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque in Shah Alam, for which he worked with the famous Egyptian calligrapher, Prof. Moncim Sharawi.

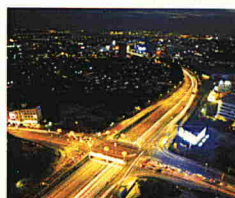
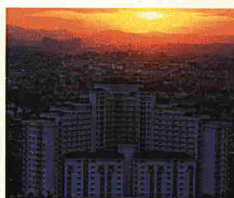
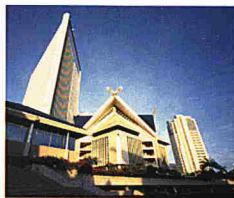


(Top) A Chinese painting by Mr. Chuang Kim Siew, showing a famous thoroughfare in Klang. It is entitled 'Jalan Meru 1997'
(Bottom) The 71-year-old Mr. Chuang came with his father to Klang, Selangor when he was seven. A graduate in fine art from Nanyang University, he's a well-known figure in Chinese calligraphy circles and was President of the Klang Association of Artists.

THESE ARE DAYS, GLORIOUS DAYS, WHEN WE ARE HERE.



THESE BLADES OF GRASS, THESE BRICKS & THE PEOPLE...





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