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# AN EVENTFUL 1977

THE year 1977 will probably go down in the annals of Malaysian history as the most eventful in the post-Merdeka era.

It was one of great achievements — the year saw the country emerging unscathed from the grips of inflation and recession — in as much as it was marred by tragedies — the Japan Airlines crash on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur and the MAS Boeing 737 crash in Johore were the worst in local aviation history.

The year also saw much politicking with the PAS withdrawal from the National Front coalition providing the limelight. The trial and subsequent jailing of former Umno Youth leader and Selangor Menteri Besar, Datuk Harun Idris, caused quite some anxious moments.

On the international level,

Malaysia was in the limelight with Kuala Lumpur hosting the Asean Summit in August, followed by Prime Minister Datuk Hussein Onn's fruitful official visits to the United States, Japan and the Philippines to further cement cordial bilateral relations.

The country was also involved in a dispute with Britain over London's request for use of Malaysian airspace for its Concorde flight to Singapore. The dispute remains unsettled.

For the Police and Armed Forces, it was a highly successful year — public enemy No.1 was caught, tried and sent to the gallows, while security forces scored successes in joint operations with Thai troops along the Malaysian-Thai Border, sanctuary of the remnants of

the Communist Party Malaya.

In the field of sports, the Federal Capital was the venue of the South-East Asia (SEA) Games — Marina Chin firmly established herself as Asia's fastest woman hurdler and in the process doing Malaysia proud. The Asean basketball tourney, Asean women's hockey meet and the Junior World Cup hockey competition served as good entertainment for sports fans.

Featured in this book — must in every home, office and library — are the events as they occurred, illustrated with more than 100 pictures that will prove to be an effective record for easy reference.

**A. RAGUNATHAN**  
(PUBLISHER)

## CONTENTS

● BIG SHOTS IN STORMY SEAS	5
○ HISTORY IN THE MAKING	13
● MCA MEN TO GO TO POLLS	33
● CONCORDE	38
● POWER STRUGGLE	40
● GOOD YEAR FOR MALAYAN RAILWAY	41
● DEATH OF SPEAKER	42
● BOTAK CHIN	44
● DAP CRISIS	47
● UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY	48
● \$10m MOTOR SHOW	50
● THAT FATEFUL DAY	52
● DEATH AT MB'S HOUSE	53

● HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO US., JAPAN	54
● SEA GAMES	56
● HOCKEY: JUNIOR WORLD CUP	68
● ASIAN BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP	70
● WOMEN'S HOCKEY	72
● DOCTORS FIGHT BACK	73

● JAL CRASH	74
● THE 'LION' DIES	79
● THE GUN BOY	80
● MAS CRASH	82
● NEW PAY SCALES	87
● BREAD COSTS LESS	89
● BUS CHAOS	9
● FUEL PROBLEM	
● SABAH CLAIM	
● 20th YEAR	
● INSURANCE UP	
● WATER SHORTAGE	
● ARMY RESHUFFLE	
● END TO FREE — PORT STATUS	
● THE BUDGET	
● PRIVATE SECTOR GETS ITS SHARE	



JAL CRASH

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# BIG SHOTS IN STORMY SEAS

FOUR Mentri Besar and a Chief Minister in five States had to contend with more problems and votes of no confidence in 1977 than in any other year — problems arising from political issues and personality clashes.

The Mentris Besar who had "trying" times were Tan Sri Ghazali Jawi of Perak, Datuk Mohamed Nasir of Kelantan, Datuk Mansor Othman of Negri Sembilan, Datuk Seri Syed Ahmad Shahabuddin of Kedah and Chief Minister of Malacca, Haji Abdul Ghani Ali.

Tan Sri Ghazali could be

said to have had a most difficult year compared with the rest which culminated in his resignation in late September.

He faced a no confidence vote passed by the Parit Buntar Umno division in late December 1976.

However the crisis between the Mentri Besar and the division ended in July following a meeting between the party's State liaison committee, the division's committee, and Umno secretary-general, Datuk Senu Abdul Rahman.

At the meeting held at the

Mentri Besar's residence, Tan Sri Ghazali shook hands with the chairman of the Parit Buntar Umno division, Encik Sulaiman Haji Taib.

The division's vote of no confidence was made after it was alleged that the Mentri Besar had not considered an application for land by the division for its building project.

The Umno Supreme Council formed a four-man committee under Culture, Youth and Sports Minister, Datuk Samad Idris to investigate the situation.

The Council directed the "rebel" division to withdraw



Datuk Hussein chairing the meeting