



برونى دارالسلام

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

newsletter

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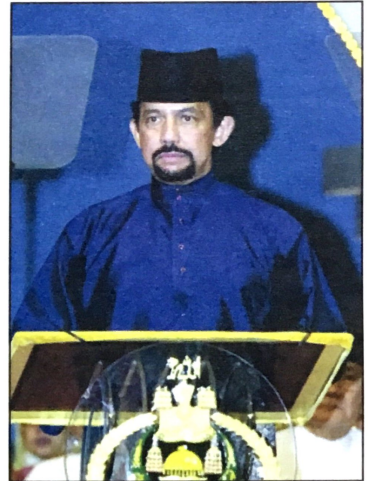
AUGUST 2004

Quran enlightens human kind

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stressed the importance of Al-Quran and how it has enlightened human kind and keep them away from any form of cruelty.

The sovereign said at the National Level Adult Quran Reading competition on August 3 at the International Convention Centre.

His Majesty urged us to get acquainted with the Quran by reading, learning and studying the teachings of the Holy Book. His Majesty also said that there is no other form of light that could show us the path of life besides Quran.



His Majesty delivers a royal speech at the National Level Adult Quran Reading Competition

Winner of the Quran reading competition for the male category receives his prize



Wedding ceremonies commence

Wedding period for the royal wedding of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Dayangku Sarah binti Pengiran Salleh Ab Rahaman was officially opened with the '*Majlis Istiadat Membuka Gendang Jaga-jaga*' on August 26 at the Lapau in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Prior to this ceremony, His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended '*Majlis Istiadat Bersuruh Diraja*' or proposal for marriage ceremony for His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah on August 24 at the Istana Nurul Iman.



His Majesty and members of the royal family at the '*Majlis Istiadat Bersuruh Diraja*'

(more stories inside)

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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Editorial Staff

Editor

Sastra Sarini Haji Julaini

Reporter

Hajah Noorhijrah Haji Idris

Layout Designer

Hajah Zaianit Haji Noorkhan

Photographs

**Photography Division of
Department of Information**

General inquiries

(673) 2380 400/ext BDN Division
Fax (673) 2382 242

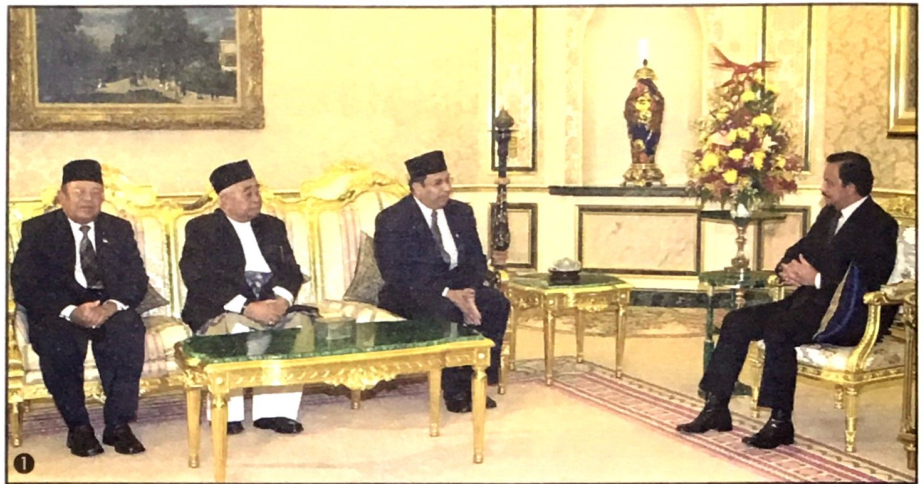
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PALACE NEWSROUND... PALACE NEWSROUND... PALACE



His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received audiences at the Istana Nurul Iman from:

- ❶ His Excellency Prof. Dr Haji Said Agil Hussin Al-Munawar, the Minister of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia on August 3.
- ❷ Her Excellency Dr Sohaila Sediqq, the Minister of Public Health of Afghanistan on August 3.
- ❸ Laksamana Beernard Kent Sondakh & Komandan Kor Marinir, Major General Tentara Nasional Indonesia (Mirinir) Achmad Rival on August 31.



Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha granted in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman for Ibu Dr Anda Hajah Fathimah, the spouse of Minister of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia on August 3.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman from His Excellency M A Hakim, the newly appointed High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei on August 2.



Citizens receive land grants and land lots

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam issued land grants under the Temporary Occupational License land scheme and land lots under the National Housing Scheme Plan to 64 recipients for the Tutong district.

The ceremony took place on August 30 at the Pengiran Kesuma Negara Primary School at Bukit Beruang of the Tutong district.

Sixty people received land grants while four received land lots.

HM attends convocation at UIA

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on August 22 attended the 20th convocation ceremony for the International Islamic University (UIA) of Malaysia.

From 709 graduates, His Majesty presented certificates to 198 recipients. Currently, there are 30 students from Brunei studying various courses at the university.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam send congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency President Sellapan Rama Nathan of Singapore and his Prime Minister, His Excellency Goh Chok Tong in conjunction with the republic's National Day on August 9.
- His Excellency Lee Hsien Leong on his appointment as the Prime Minister of Singapore on August 12.
- Her Excellency President Megawati Soekarnoputri of Indonesia in conjunction with the republic's Independence Day on Aug 17
- His Majesty Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Ibni Al-Marhum Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail, Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and His Excellency Dato' Seri Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, the Prime Minister of Malaysia in conjunction with Malaysia's Independence Day on August 31.

MALAM SERUMPUN

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha attended 'Malam Serumpun' (four-in-one festival) on August 7, which was held in conjunction with His Majesty's 58th birthday

celebration.

Among the itineraries for 'Malam Serumpun' were Borneo tug-of-war competition, floats procession competition, fireworks display and cultural performances.



Colourful festival marks His Majesty's 58th birthday anniversary





His Majesty makes an unscheduled visit to the Ministry of Communications



His Majesty tours around the vicinity of the Ministry of Communications

AROUND BRUNEI WITH THE SOVEREIGN

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made unscheduled visits to Ministry of Communications and Belait District on August 9 and 11 respectively.

At the Ministry of Communications, the sovereign toured various sections of the ministry.

In Belait District, the sovereign visited several primary schools; and multi-purpose hall, health centre and Police Station based in Labi. His Majesty also visited commercial areas around Kuala Belait town.

New Beret and Badge to Special Combat Squadron

The Royal Brunei Armed Forces marked another historic moment in its history with His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consenting to present the new unit's beret and insignia of the Special Combat Squadron (SCS).

The event took place in August 19 at the Penanjong Garrison.



A 'pesambah' (token of appreciation) was presented to His Majesty for consenting to present the new unit's beret and insignia of the Special Combat Squadron



His Majesty and members of the royal family during hiking session at Bukit Shahbandar Recreation Park



His Majesty at an aerobic session held by the Royal Brunei Police Force

Police Force holds aerobic hiking activities

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined the aerobic and hiking activities conducted by the Royal Brunei Police Force on August 15.

Aerobic session was held at Jerudong Park Polo Club while hiking took place at Bukit Shahbandar Recreation Park.

Crown Prince attends dinner for Civic Camp 2004



His Royal Highness greets undergraduates participating in the Brunei Darussalam's Civic Course 2004

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah on August 17 attended a dinner for undergraduates taking part in the 28th Brunei Darussalam's Civic Camp 2004.

The Civic Camp was held from August 15 – 19 and attended by more than 68 undergraduates.



A group photo of His Royal Highness and members of the royal family with participants of the Brunei Darussalam's Civic Course 2004

Her Majesty attends domestic science exhibition

Role of women in the society should not be undermined as they act as shelter for their children.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri stated this at the official opening of the domestic science exhibition and prize presentation on August 8 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Her Majesty also said that every quarter should give their full support towards mothers and housewives as these women strive for a better society everyday.

The exhibition was organised by PERTIWI, one of the women's association in Brunei. It was held in conjunction with the 58th birthday of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.



Her Majesty officially opens the domestic science exhibition



Her Majesty tours the Live Flower Exhibition held at the International Convention Centre



A winner for the Cleanliness and Landscape Competition receives her prize from Her Majesty

Cooperation vital for protection of environment

Protecting the environment is not the responsibility of the government alone. However, it should be a joint responsibility of all parties – both government and private sectors and members of the public.

Her Majesty The Raja Isteri said at the official opening ceremony for the Cleanliness and Landscape Competition and the Live Flower Exhibition on August 12 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

Her Majesty also said that efforts by the government in its bid to protect the environment would not be achieved without cooperation by members of the society.

Her Majesty stated that carelessness in the usage and protection of the environment in the past decade led to various problems namely global warming, zone depletion and the

loss of various animals and plants.

The ceremony was jointly organised by the Brunei Darussalam Women's Institute (WI) and the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation of the Ministry of Development. It was held in conjunction with the 58th birthday anniversary of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah was on working visits to:

- The Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation (SHHF) including its headquarter, school, shopping complex, the institute of Tahfiz Al-Quran and the the housing scheme in Kampong Bolkiah 'A' and 'B' on August 7

- The Brunei Islamic Trust Fund Corporation (TAIB) on August 10

- HMAS Dubbo, the Australian Royal Navy Force's Vessel on August 15

Crown Prince on work visits



His Royal Highness on a working visit at Brunei Islamic Trust Fund Cooperation or known as 'Tabung Amanah Islam Brunei'

The responsibility of ensuring road safety should be a joint effort between road users and the authority.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah made the call on August 6 at the baby show contest at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

Her Royal Highness also said that the government of His Majesty and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam had implemented a traffic regulation which required safety belts and other safety accessories for children in their motor vehicle.

The implemented traffic regulation, according to Her Royal Highness, helped to enhance the safety of children in a motor vehicle. Hence, she urged parents to ensure that their child is wearing a safety belt or safety chair while travelling in a car even if it is a short journey.

This baby contest was organised by 'Pertubuhan Perkumpulan Perempuan' (Women's Institute) as part of the celebration in conjunction with the 58th birthday anniversary of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Traffic regulation for child's safety



Her Royal Highness presents the award to the winner of the baby show contest

More destinations through e-ticketing

Royal Brunei Airlines (RBA) is offering more destinations via Electronic ticketing.

The latest destinations offered are Kota Kinabalu, Darwin and Perth. Currently, Brunei, Brisbane, Auckland, Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur are the destinations offering e-ticketing services.

Passengers now have the option of using this service when they book on-line or through the airline's ticket offices.

Brunei-Australia ties further enhanced

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah attended a meeting with His Excellency Alexander Downer, Australia's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting which was held on August 2, saw both ministers discussing on methods to enhance the bilateral relationship between both nation-states.

The ministers also exchanged opinions on regional and international matters.

His Royal Highness was on a four-day official visit to Australia.



Brunei and Australia share a strong bilateral relationship

Sunken Treasures of Brunei exhibited in Australia



His Royal Highness at the launching of the 'Sunken Treasures of Brunei' exhibition held at the National Museum of Australia, Canberra.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs had launched the 'Sunken Treasures of Brunei Darussalam' exhibition at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.

The exhibition was launched with Australia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Alexander Downer on August 3.

In his speech, His Royal Highness stated that this exhibition could foster a stronger relationship between Brunei and Australia.

The Sunken Treasures consisted of more 13,500 artefacts which dates back to the 15th and 16th Century. The artefacts were found on a sunken ship on Brunei waters. Some of the artefacts found were vase, bowls, plates, cups and small cannons made of copper.

RTB show live telecast for Olympics

Radio Television Brunei (RTB) had announced that the network would provide a 15-hour coverage per day for the Olympics.

The live coverage would be available through channel 10 and 11

from August 13-30.

These was stated by the Head of Sports Section of RTB, Awang Mohd Taha bin Haji Metahir on August 8.

According to Mohd Taha, RTB

would also have a live telecast of the opening and closing ceremony of the Olympics.

Host for this year's Olympics is Athens, Greece.

Bilateral relationship between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore lies on the friendship and mutual respect between both government and its citizens.

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, the Minister of Foreign Affairs said at a reception for the 39th National Day of the Republic of Singapore on August 9 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Royal Highness also said Brunei gained a great deal from exchange of visits and co-operations between both governments. He also said that a close relationship in the field of the economy, technical and finance is vital for the bilateral relationship.

In his welcoming speech, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore to Brunei, His Excellency Hirubalan V.P said that relationship between both nation-states existed since the 1960's. It was formalised in 1984 soon after Brunei achieved its independence.

His Excellency also lauded Brunei's achievement under the guidance of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei-Singapore: Co-operations in economy, technical and finance



His Royal Highness at a reception held for Singapore's National Day

Brunei-Indonesia: Co-operations in various fields



Brunei-Indonesia tie share vast areas of co-operations namely defence, the economy and entrepreneurship

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah said that Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Indonesia share a very strong bilateral relationship.

Co-operations between both nation-states are vast namely: defence, the economy and entrepreneurship; and social-cultural field.

His Royal Highness said at the reception for the 59th Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia on August 20 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Royal Highness also expressed his appreciation towards the government of the Republic of Indonesia and its citizens for the strong bilateral relationship shared between the two nation-states.

Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia established diplomatic relation on January 1, 1984.

FTC pilot project to be conducted

Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia would be conducting the Frequent Travellers Card (FTC) pilot project.

Brunei would conduct the pilot project with the neighbouring state, Sarawak.

The Department of Immigration and National Registrar in its press release stated that members of the public who wish to participate in the

pilot project may hand in their applications from September 1 – 21. Forms are available at the Department of Immigration and National Registrar.

This pilot project would run for six months and would involve more than 1,000 people. This project is opened for members of the civil service, citizens of Brunei Darussalam and entrepreneurs

registered under the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources. It is also opened for bus and taxi drivers who has the Smart identity card and registered under the Department of Land Transport. The bus and taxi drivers should also have travelling record to Sarawak through the immigration control post of Sungai Tujuh for at least five times.

Date for implementation of the pilot project would be informed.

'Education Order 2003' for a better education

To achieve the objective of 'Education Order 2003', every education officer should enforce the education order, monitor and regulate the standard of education.

The Minister of Education, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abdul Aziz said at the briefing session on 'Education Order 2003' and 'Education regulation 2004' on August 4.

He also said that it is important that education officers to understand the order and regulation as any problems encountered could be resolved easily.

'Education Order 2003' is the latest education law for the education system in Brunei replacing the Education act. One of the main aims of the amendment was to fulfil the current and future needs of the education field.



The Minister of Education at a briefing for the 'Education Order 2003'

Brunei to host 2nd ASEAN Quiz



Dato Paduka Haji Sulaiman, the deputy permanent secretary at the Prime Minister's Office awards a prize to one of the winners of ASEAN Quiz 2004 for regional level

MIPR introduces resource centre for SME

Small-and-medium enterprises in Brunei (SME) are continuously given support by the government of His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

This was made evident with the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources providing an industrial and entrepreneur's resource centre for SME's.

The main objective of this resource centre is to facilitate the SME sector with latest information and create efficient communication between local and foreign entrepreneurs.

Brunei host 11th ASEAN Youth Day Meeting

Participation of youth could contribute to nation-building. At the same time, youth should find ways and methods for them to discover their potentials.

This was stated by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, Pehin Dato Paduka (Dr.) Awang Haji Hussain on August 8 for the presentation of the ASEAN Youth Award 2004 at the Centre Point Hotel.

The minister stated that good coordination between youth and the government and private sector could develop and enhanced the youth for a better future.

The presentations of prizes for the ASEAN Youth Award are given to youth of ASEAN who had achieved tremendous achievements in their respective fields including entrepreneurship.

Brunei was the host country for the 11th ASEAN Youth Day Meeting.

Public holiday during *Majlis Istiadat Bersanding Pengantin Diraja*

In conjunction with the royal wedding of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah and Dayangku Sarah binti Pengiran Salleh Ab Rahaman, the Prime Minister's Office had announced that with the consent of His Majesty The Sul-

tan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, September 9, Thursday would be a public holiday.

Majlis Istiadat Bersanding Pengantin Diraja which would be held on that day is the highlight of the wedding ceremonials. This is when the royal couple would be seen

together for the first time where they would be seated at a royal dais at the *Balai Singgahsana Indera Buana* (throne chamber). The royal couple would also be on a procession throughout the city centre on a royal carriage.



Nobilities present at the ceremony

His Majesty at the 'Majlis Istiadat Bersuruh Diraja' or proposal for marriage ceremony for His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Setia Diraja Sahibul Karib Pengiran Anak Haji Idris as the head of delegation for the groom

His Majesty The Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the '*Majlis Istiadat Bersuruh Diraja*' or proposal for marriage ceremony for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah on August 24 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

This ceremony is when the

groom's side to officially declare the intention of the groom-to-be in seeking the hand of the bride-to-be for marriage. A delegation from the groom's side would go to the residence of the bride-to-be and expressed the intention of the groom.

The bride's family would officially reply and accept the noble

attention.

The head of delegation for the groom's side was Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Setia Diraja Sahibul Karib Pengiran Anak Haji Idris.

While Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Maharaja Setia Laila Diraja Sahibul Irshad Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim was the head of delegation for the bride-to-be's side.

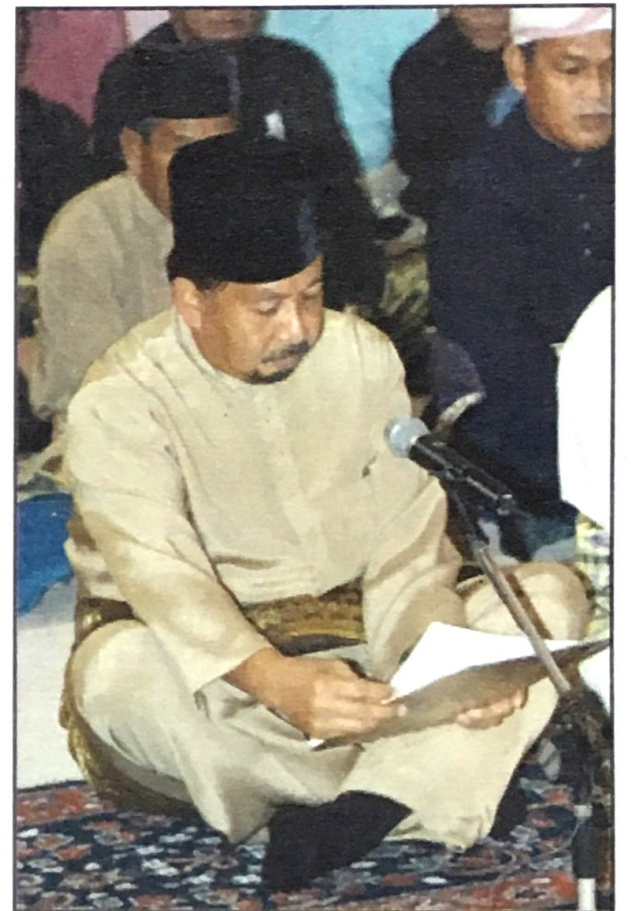
'Majlis Istiadat Bersuruh Diraja'



Nobilities present at the residence of the bride-to-be



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Maharaja Setia Laila Diraja Sahibul Irshad Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim (far right) as the head of the delegation for the bride-to-be's entourage



Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Setia Diraja Sahibul Karib Pengiran Anak Haji Idris, on behalf of the groom, expresses the noble intention of seeking the hand in marriage of Dayangku Sarah

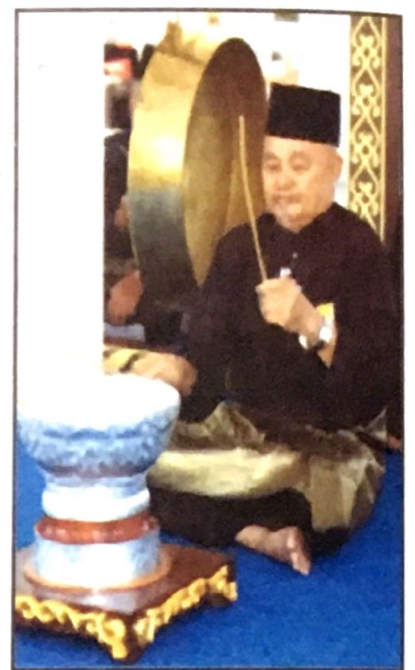


Guests present at the bride-to-be's residence (left and right)





His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah (far right) present at the 'Majlis Istiadat Membuka Gendang Jaga-jaga'



Traditional music using traditional musical instrument being played at the 'Majlis Istiadat Membuka Gendang Jaga-jaga'

'Majlis Istiadat Membuka Gendang Jaga-jaga'

Wedding period for the royal wedding of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Dayangku Sarah binti Pengiran Salleh Ab Rahman was officially opened with the 'Majlis Istiadat Membuka Gendang Jaga-Jaga' on August 26 at the Lapau in Bandar Seri Begawan.

The ceremony was conducted in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah.

This ceremony marked the opening of the wedding period with an orchestra playing traditional music using traditional musical instruments.

This ceremony also saw royal regalia and decorations being installed around the palace.

With the opening of the wedding period, the palace would hold 'Majlis Istiadat Malam Berjaga-jaga' or night of vigil for 14 consecutive days at the palace. Religious activities and the playing of traditional indoor board games would be conducted during the 'Majlis Istiadat Malam Berjaga-jaga'.



An orchestra playing traditional music marks the official opening of the wedding period



Decorations set up around the vicinity of the palace



A 'Balai Pemajangan' as one of royal regalia being installed at the main entrance of the palace



A man carries the 'Dian Tunggal' or a royal ceremonial candle before commencing the 'Majlis Istiadat Berjaga-jaga' or night of vigil



Members of the royal family play traditional board games such as congkak



Quran reading and dikir presentation as part of the activities



'Majlis Istiadat Malam BerJaga-Jaga'



Male guests attending the 'Majlis Istiadat Berjaga-jaga'



Religious activities are also conducted during the night of vigil



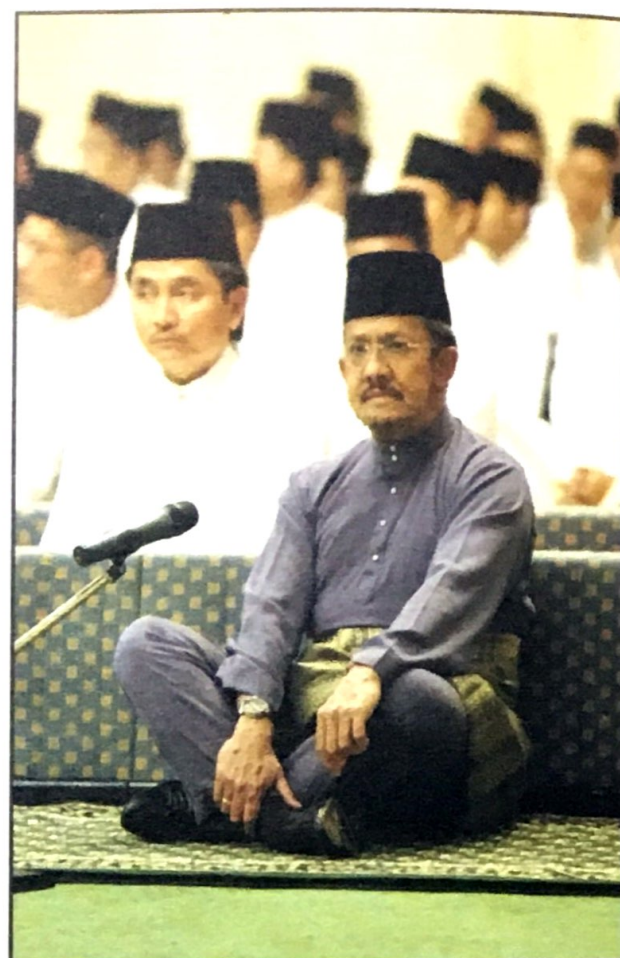
Playing traditional board games is part of the activities conducted for the 'Majlis Istiadat Berjaga-jaga'



'Awang-awang' carrying articles for the 'Majlis Istiadat Menghantar Tanda Diraja'



'Awang-awang' carrying the 'Dian Enam Belas' or the sixteen royal ceremonial candles



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah present at the ceremony

'Majlis Istiadat Menghantar Tanda Diraja'



'Awang-awang' carrying the articles to the bride-to-be's female entourage

As part of the traditional royal wedding ceremonies, 'Majlis Istiadat Menghantar Tanda Diraja' or a pre-engagement ceremony was held on August 31 at the Istana Nurul Iman.

The ceremony was conducted in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

This ceremony is whereby the groom's delegation would be bringing articles to the fiancée's house. Among the items brought were a complete set of Malay dress, a pair of bangles, a pair of ear studs, and rings for both hands.

Brunei In Brief

Official name: Negara Brunei Darussalam

Capital: Bandar Seri Begawan

Land size: 5765 sq. km

Geographical Position: North-west of Borneo Island in Southeast Asia

National Carrier: Royal Brunei Airlines

Official Language: Malay

Official Religion: Islam

Official Website: www.brunei.gov.bn

PUBLIC WARNING. The trafficking of **controlled drugs** carries the **death penalty** in Brunei Darussalam.

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