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Front Cover

THE Royal Couple, seated in a specially-modified Rolls Royce, being escorted in a procession around the capital, Bandar Seri Begawan.

Inside of Front Cover

CLUTCHING sinipit (spears) and shields and dressed in traditional red uniforms of ancient warriors, these young members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) play a prominent role as ceremonial escorts during royal occasions.

Inside of Back Cover

PART of the royal ceremonial escorts, like in ancient times, also wear traditional black uniforms and carry swords and shields, as well as lancers and shields (not pictured) as this group of RBAF soldiers show.

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HIS Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah (centre, facing camera) listening to the prospective groom's father, Yang Am during the *Istiadat Bersuruh Diraja* on August 9 when he humbly asked the Sultan if he would accept his son, Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahir Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah. The ceremony, held at the Istana (Palace) Nurul Iman, was also attended by members of His Majesty's family including Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar, Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, the Foreign Affairs Minister, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Abdul 'Azim (partly hidden), and His Royal Highness Prince Abdul Malik and sta

A ROYAL WEDDING TO REMEMBER

For several days and nights last August the richness and grandeur of Brunei Darussalam's royalty was once again open to the world to see and savour.

The royal wedding of Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah and Yang Mulia Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim adhered to the full customs and traditions of a royal marriage

as practised hundreds of years ago. The various rituals of the wedding were beamed live by Radio Television Brunei via its local and satellite channels.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah is the eldest of six children of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha; while her



Mulia Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Anak Haji Kemaludin, to become the life partner of Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah including His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Royal Highness Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisua Pengiran dignitaries.

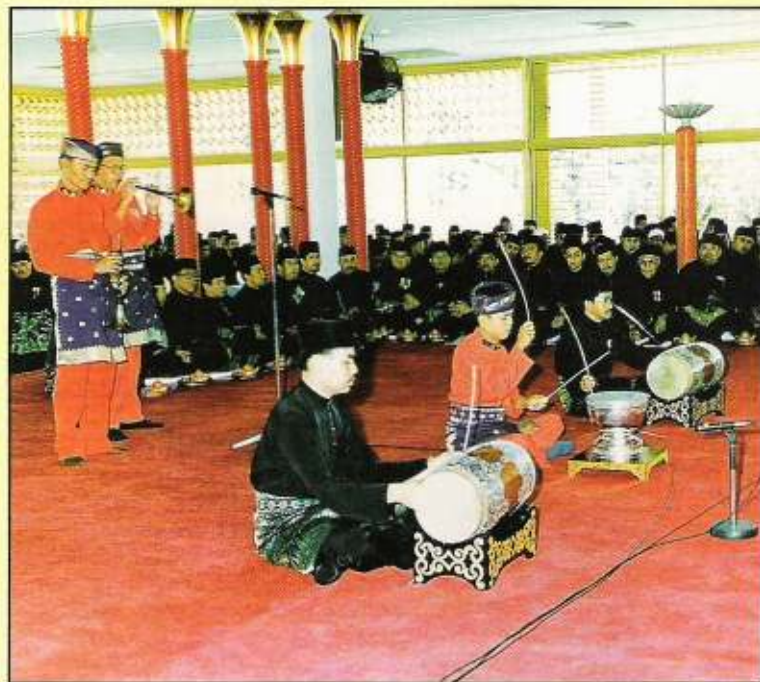
husband who is her second cousin, is the fifth of eight siblings of Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Mahkota Pengiran Anak Haji Kemaludin and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Datin Paduka Hajjah Siti Rafeah, both senior members of the royal court.

The rumors about the impending wedding of the Princess and her prospective groom circulated in the country for months; and being

the first marriage of the Sultan's children, it was eagerly awaited by the people.

A confirmation came in the form of a schedule of events related to the royal wedding issued by the high level committee that was formed earlier in the year to organise a fitting celebration in keeping with the national philosophy of Malay Muslim Monarchy.

The first of the major occasions was the *Istiadat Bersuruh Diraja* or the formal asking of the Princess's hand in marriage on August 9 when the father of the prospective groom and his party went to the Istana (Palace) Nurul Iman to meet His Majesty the Sultan and members of his family. At the ceremony, which was also attended by other state dignitaries, the prospective groom's father humbly made known his intention to His Majesty, who graciously voiced his acceptance of the bridegroom-to-be. With that, the royal wedding celebrations were set in motion.



COURT musicians playing instruments of the *Gendang Jaga-Jaga*, which is part of the royal regalia that heralds the start and end of a major royal event. In the context of the royal wedding celebrations, the *Gendang Jaga-Jaga*, of which one of the aims is to keep the festive mood alive, was played at both the residences of the bride and groom throughout the duration of the festivities.

To herald this, the opening of the *Gendang Jaga-Jaga*, in which court musicians played various traditional musical instruments, was held at the Lapau (Royal Ceremonial Hall) the next day. The *Gendang Jaga-Jaga*, part of royal regalia, marks the opening and closing of a special royal event. It is also played during the period of the celebration, along with other religious or cultural activities including traditional games participated in by VIPs and their wives because one purpose of the *Gendang Jaga-Jaga* is to keep the nights lively at the homes of both the bride and bridegroom. The opening and closing ceremonies of the *Gendang Jaga-Jaga* is each accompanied by a 21-gun salute.

This was followed by the *Menerima Tanda Diraja* (Pre-Engagement) Ceremony on the evening of August 12 when a delegation from the bridegroom brought 21 brass receptacles of gifts comprising, among other things, a piece of *Jong Sarat* (handwoven cloth of gold and silver threads), a set of dress, a pair of bangles, a pair of ear-studs, a pair of necklaces, rings, and



MORE gifts, like the previous one consisted of both traditional *Pertunangan Diraja* (Receipt of Royal Engagement Gift) adorned as bride and groom and were each carried by



AN under-aged girl, dressed as a bride and carried aloft by a *Pengarah* (titled court official), heads the prospective groom's delegation of gift bearers in the *Menerima Tanda Diraja* (Receipt of Royal Pre-Engagement Gifts) Ceremony at the Istana (Palace) Nurul Iman.



and branded items, were brought to the palace in the *Menerima* Ceremony the next day when a little girl and boy, who were *Pengarah*, led the delegation.

branded items including a watch, handbags, shoes, a case of cosmetics and perfumes. Symbolically heading the long line of gifts was an under-aged girl who was dressed as a bride and carried aloft by a *Pengarah* (a titled court personage). A complement of royal regalia bearers of 12 *sinipit* (a type of spear), 6 swords and shields, 6 lances, and 6 *kabok panastan* (silver water containers and trays) escorted the groom's delegation and those in the ceremonies that followed.

On the afternoon of August 13, another delegation from the bridegroom arrived at the palace to present more gifts in the *Menerima Pertunangan Diraja* (Receipt of Royal Engagement Gifts) Ceremony, which formally sealed the betrothal of the royal couple. The delegation was led by a girl and boy, who were both under-aged and attired as bride and groom. Each was carried by a *Pengarah*.

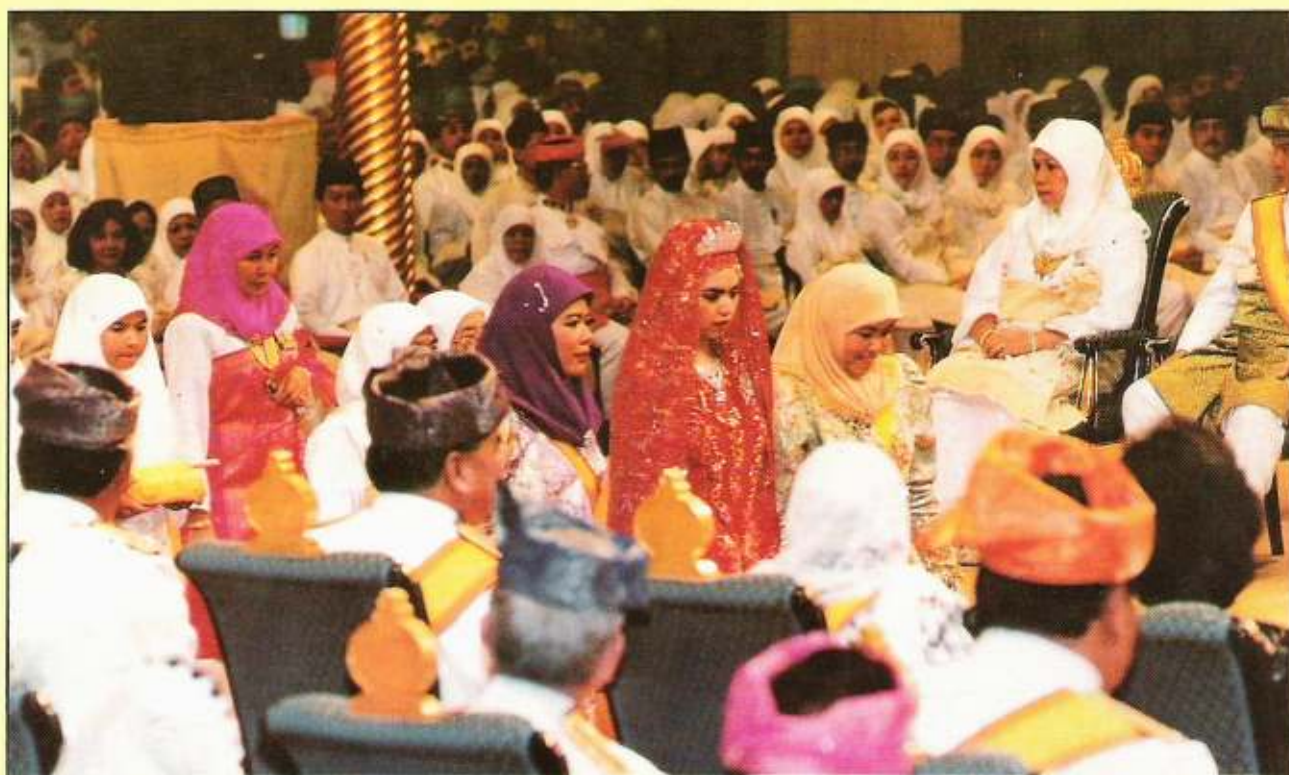
The delegation also brought the *Surat Mahar* (letter of dowry stating the intention of the engagement and list of gifts) and was followed



A group of forty youths, each wearing a yellow sash called *Janar* that represents a sum of \$25.00, also came with the engagement gifts delegation. In a Muslim wedding, the amount, which in this case is \$1,000, is the only portion of the sundry gifts, variously known as *mahar*, *berian* or *mas kahwin*, which is obligatory and incumbent upon the bridegroom to recite during the *akad nikah* or solemnisation of the marriage ritual.



AS in the *Menerima Tanda Diraja* Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz, also headed the reception party of state dignitaries in the *Menerima Pertunangan Diraja* on behalf of His Majesty the Sultan. The Yang Amat Mulia (extreme left) is seen here listening to the leader of the bridegroom's delegation, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Setia Diraja Sahibul Karib Pengiran Anak Haji Idris, who is reading the list of gifts brought that afternoon.



HER Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah, flanked by two of her aunts, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah (left) and Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Masna, entering the Throne Hall for the Royal Powdering Ceremony on the evening of August 14.



HIS Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah applying powder paste onto the palms of his daughter, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah, during the Royal Powdering Ceremony.



HIS Majesty was followed by Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Saleha.



HER Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam.



THE Princess's elder brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah.

by 40 youths bringing the *Janar*, which comprised pieces of yellow cloths worn like sashes and was each equivalent to a sum of \$25. On arrival at the palace the *Janar*, totalling \$1,000 in value, was put into a brass receptacle for handing over along with the twenty-one receptacle of gifts to the bride's reception party, who comprised senior court officials and other state dignitaries as representatives of His Majesty the Sultan. In a Muslim wedding ceremony, the amount, in this case one thousand dollars, is the only gift among the various items of the *mahar* or *berian*, which is also known as *mas kahwin* (gold of the marriage), that is obligatory and that the bridegroom would recite during the *akad nikah* or solemnisation of the marriage.

The gifts were more or less the same as in the previous occasion; only this time they included a *ceramai* (a set of crystal containers with covers for keeping ceremonial powders, the aromatic resin of a certain tree called *kemenyan* and flower petals or buds), and a *kalakati* (a kind of knife for peeling off the skins of areca

nuts).

The following evening, 14 August, the *Berbedak* (Powdering) Ceremony was held for the Princess in the Throne Hall of the Istana (Palace) Nurul Iman, which is His Majesty the Sultan's official residence. She was accompanied from her dressing room in the Palace by two of her royal aunts, wives of senior state dignitaries and women court officials. At the head of the procession were two *hulubalang* (traditional warriors), one carrying a *pemuras* (an ancient gun with flared muzzle) and the other, a *klasak* and *kampilan* (an elongated shield and a long knife with forked end); and several maids-in-waiting bearing other regalia including an umbrella, a *kaskul* (a metal areca nut box wrapped in woven cloth), a *puan* (an octagonal silver container), a *tarian* (a silver flower vase), a *cupu* (a round silver container), and a *kabok* and *panastan* (a silver water container and tray).

The procession was flanked by a full



OTHER members of the Royal Family who attended and took part in the powdering ceremony were (from right, front row) Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Perdana Wazir Sahibul Himmah Wal-Waqar Pengiran Muda Mohamed Bolkihah and his wife, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah; Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkihah and his wife, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati; Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Masna; Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Babu Raja Pengiran Anak Hajjah Besar.



THE other members of the Royal Family who also attended and performed the powdering on the Princess were (from left) Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Bendahara Seri Maharaja Permaisura Pengiran Muda Haji Sufri Bolkiah and his wife, Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajjah Mazuin; Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Haji Abdul Azim; Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Duli Pengiran Muda Abdul Malik; and Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Nor'ain.



SOME more members of the Royal Family, this time the Princess's sisters, who were present at the powdering ceremony and, like the others, at the following rituals in the Throne Hall. They are (from left) Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Muta-Wakillah Hayatul Bolkiah, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Majeedah Nuurul Bolqiah, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajjah Hafizah Sururul Bolqiah, Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah, and Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Puteri Fadzilah Lubabul Bolqiah.



AFTER the completion of the ceremony at the palace, His Majesty the Sultan and other members of the Royal Family went to the groom's residence at Jalan Gadong, a few kilometres from the palace, to carry out similar rites on Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim. Here His Majesty, after applying the powder, is seen sprinkling rose water on the palms of the groom.



HIS Majesty is followed by Her Majesty the Raja Isteri.



AND then Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri, who in turn was followed by the other members of the Royal Family who took part in the powdering ceremony at the palace.

complement of royal regalia bearers of 40 *sinipit* (spears), 16 *pedang* and *perisai* (swords and shields), 16 *tombak* (lancers) and 8 *kabok* and *panastan* (silver water containers and trays).

The ceremony, in which powder paste of seven colours and the sprinkling of rose water were applied to the bride's palms, started with His Majesty the Sultan and followed by Her Majesty Raja Isteri Pengiran Hajjah Anak Saleha, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Isteri Hajjah Mariam and other members of the Royal Family.



CLASPING the hand of the Chief Kadi, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim, a senior Muslim scholar whom the Sultan graciously consented to conduct the ceremony, Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim responds to a statement by the Chief Kadi by affirming his acceptance of the *akad nikah* or marriage solemnisation.



ON the afternoon of August 15, the *akad nikah* or solemnisation of the marriage was held at one of the country's famous landmarks, the Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque in the capital. The picture shows (from left) His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, His Majesty the Sultan, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and other members of the Royal Family and state dignitaries.



THE bridegroom reading aloud the terms of the *akad nikah* including his responsibility as a husband.



SIGNING his commitment to the marriage solemnisation.



HIS Majesty the Sultan graciously putting his signature to the marriage solemnisation.

Once it was over, His Majesty the Sultan, Her Majesty the Raja Isteri and Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri drove to the home of the bridegroom in Jalan Gadong, a few kilometres away, to initiate a similar ceremony for the Princess's husband-to-be.

In the afternoon of the next day, the *akad nikah* or marriage solemnisation ritual, which formally united the bride and groom as husband and wife, took place at the Omar Ali Saifuddin Mosque in the capital in the presence of His



HER beautiful features covered by a red veil, another age-old tradition still upheld by the Brunei Royal Family, the Princess is escorted from her dressing room to the Throne Hall for the Henna Tinting Ceremony.



THE ceremony was initiated by His Majesty the Sultan, who is seen here sprinkling rose water onto the palms of the Princess after applying the henna paste.



THE Sultan is followed by Her Majesty Raja Isteri,



HER Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri, and



HIS Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Mutadee Billah, who in turn was followed by the other members of the Royal Family who took part in the Royal Powdering Ceremony.



AS in the powdering ceremony, His Majesty and members of his family also went to the residence of Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim to carry out the Royal Henna Tinting Ceremony. The picture shows His Majesty applying the henna paste onto his son-in-law's palms.



DOING the same are Her Majesty the Raja Isteri and



HER Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri. Other members of the Royal Family (not pictured), who took part in the palace ceremony, followed suit.

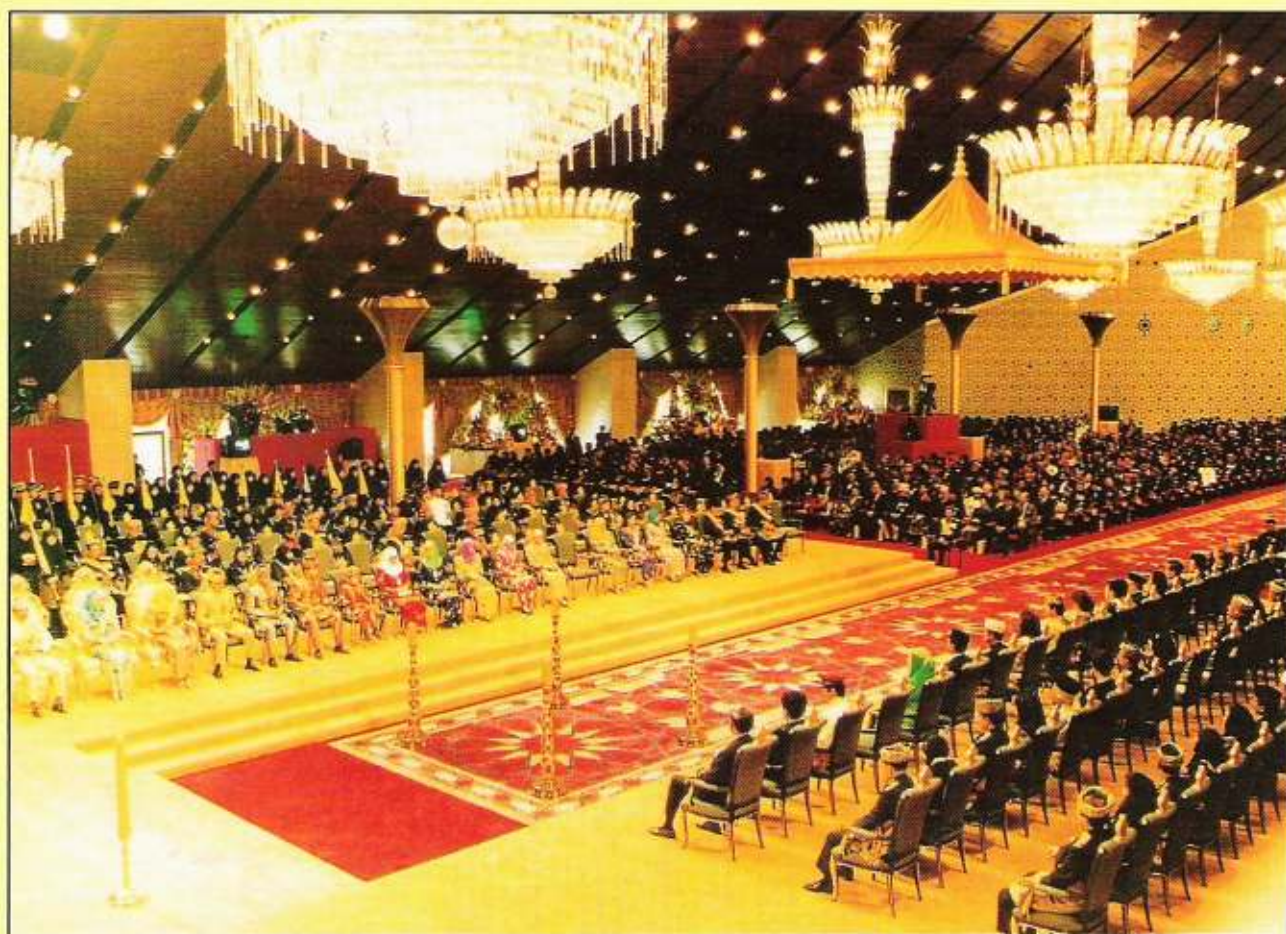
Majesty the Sultan and members of his family as well as state dignitaries. With the Sultan's gracious consent, the Chief Kadi, one of the country's senior religious scholars, performed the ceremony. In accordance with Malay custom, however, the royal couple did not see each other until the *Bersanding* ceremony or sitting-in-state, which is the culmination of a Malay wedding.

Before the *Bersanding* there was another major ritual, namely the *Istiadat Berinai* or the Henna Tinting Ceremony, which was held at the respective residences of the bride and groom. The ritual was the same as the Powdering Ceremony, except henna paste was applied on the palms instead of powder.

On the morning of the next day, Sunday 18 August, the climax of several days and nights of ceremonies materialised in the form of the *Bersanding* or sitting-in-state of the bride and

groom in the Throne Hall of the Istana (Palace) Nurul Iman in the presence of the Royal Family and 5,000 guests including local as well as foreign dignitaries, who included President Fidel Ramos and Mrs Amelita Ramos of the Philippines; the Personal Representatives of President Suharto of Indonesia, Ibu Siti Hardiyanti Hastuti Rukmana and husband, and Ibu Siti Hediati Prabowo; Vietnam's Representative, Mr Tran Duc Luong; the Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister, Dr Amnuay Viravan and his wife, Mrs Khunying Samsonari Viravan; the Sarawak Chief Minister, Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Haji Taib Mahmud and his wife, Datin Patinggi Puan Sri Hajjah Laila; and the Yang Dipertua Negeri of Sabah, Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Sakaran Dandai and his wife, Puan Seri Datin Hajjah Rukaiyah.

The Princess, wearing a traditional Malay



THE next day, Sunday 18 August, the *bersanding* or sitting-in-state of the newly-weds, which is the climax of a Malay wedding when the couple are together for the first time, took place in the Throne Hall before thousands of guests who included foreign dignitaries. Pictured here is the packed Throne Hall, with the Royal Family and their guests waiting for the royal couple to arrive.



THE Princess, flanked by her aunts and ladies-in-waiting, was the first to enter the Throne Hall.

PENGIRAN Anak Haji Abdul Rahim, who was earlier given a grand send-off from his residence in Jalan Gadong, arriving at the palace accompanied and received by court officials.



PENGIRAN Anak Haji Abdul Rahim being led by the Mufti, Yang Dimuliakan Lagi Dihormati Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Abdul Aziz and accompanied by among others Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz (right) and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Indera Setia Diraja Sahibul Karib Pengiran Anak Haji Idris (partly hidden behind the bridegroom) inside the Throne Hall.

dress made of green-hued handwoven cloth and bedecked with beautiful jewellery, was escorted in full regalia from her dressing room to the Throne Hall for the *Bersanding* in the same manner as in the previous ceremonies. Shortly after, her husband arrived in the accompany of court officials and the usual complement of regalia bearers.

As the bridegroom, who was wearing traditional Malay suit of the same material as his lovely bride, approached his seat next to his bride, His Majesty the Sultan got up to take the right hand of his son-in-law and brought it

gently to touch the top of his daughter's head.

After about a quarter of an hour of sitting-in-state during which the *Doa Selamat* or Thanksgiving prayer was recited by the Mufti, a top religious scholar of the country, the Princess's brother, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, invited the royal couple to take part in the procession and escorted them out of the Throne Hall. After a brief break the royal couple mounted the specially-converted gold Rolls Royce for the age-old procession in the capital, where people from all walks of life in their thousands converged and lined the 4 1/2



HIS Majesty the Sultan taking the right hand of his son-in-law and bringing it gently down on the top of his daughter's head, a tradition that signifies the official union of the young couple.



LOOKING radiantly resplendent in their matching apparel, the royal couple at their *bersanding* or sitting-in-state ceremony. Looking on are the *pengangun* or traditional beauticians who had been responsible since the start of the wedding festivities for preparing them at their separate residences, including daily ritual baths in which powder paste of scented rice flour is rubbed over the body, left to dry and then washed off with fragrant water.



SEATED (middle) are His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, Brunei Darussalam Foreign Affairs Minister, and his wife, Her Royal Highness Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajjah Zariah. With them are four of the foreign guests, namely President Fidel Ramos and First Lady Mrs Amelita Ramos of the Philippines (right); and Ibu Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana (one of two representatives of President Suharto of Indonesia) and her husband, Bapak Indra Rukmana (left).



SOME more of the distinguished foreign guests: (from right) Ibu Siti Hadiati Prabowo (the other representative of Indonesia's President Suharto), the Yang Dipertua of the Malaysian State of Sabah, Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Sakaran Dandai, and his wife, Puan Sri Datin Seri Panglima Hajjah Rukaiyah; Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister, Dr Amnuay Viravan, and his wife, Mrs Khunying Viravan Samsonari Viravan; and the Vietnamese Government Representative, Mr Tran Duc Luong.



AFTER the *bersanding* ritual, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah accompanies them out of the Throne Hall to proceed to the next event in the morning's programme, namely the traditional procession around the capital where thousands await to greet them.



THE royal couple riding in a Rolls Royce specially converted for the procession.

km route from the palace to the capital and back, waiting to greet the newly-weds.

Also in the procession were His Majesty the Sultan, Her Majesty the Raja Isteri, Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri, other members of the Royal Family and local as well as foreign dignitaries.

In the evening, His Majesty the Sultan gave a state banquet for the newly-weds and the few thousands wedding guests who, this time, included the Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his wife, Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah and the Senior Minister of Singapore, Mr Lee Kuan Yew and Mrs Lee.

The following night was the *Istiadat Ambil-Ambilan* in which the royal newly-weds emerged from their room to do another *Bersanding* in the Throne Hall before a gathering of mostly family members and relatives.

Another post wedding ceremony called *Muleh Tiga Hari* was held on the third day after the *Bersanding* when the bridegroom returned to his parents for a visit. A delegation of court officials came to the palace in the morning to invite and accompany him, along with a host of regalia bearers, to his parents' residence in Jalan Gadong, a few kilometres away. In the evening, he was escorted back to the palace where his wife was waiting for another *Bersanding* ritual



IN the evening, a state banquet honoured the royal newly-weds and about 5,000 guests. They are seen here with His Majesty the Sultan (third from left), Her Majesty the Raja Isteri (third from right), Her Royal Highness the Pengiran Isteri (extreme left), His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkihah (extreme right), His Excellency President Ramos of the Philippines (second from right) and his wife, Mrs Amelita Ramos (second from left).

in the Throne Hall.

The wedding ceremonies, spread over sixteen days, ended with the official closing of the *Gendang Jaga-Jaga* at the Nurul Iman Palace.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajjah Rashidah, who is 27 and has a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Administration from the University of Brunei Darussalam, had done stints in the Public Service Department, Prime

Minister's Office and the Ministry of Development in 1994 and 1995. Pengiran Anak (Prince) Haji Abdul Rahim, who is nearly 27, furthered his education in the United Kingdom where he graduated with Higher National Diploma in Business Studies. Since his return home, he has been looking after his family business. Both are keen sportspersons. The princess likes badminton and bowling; and he, polo, badminton and soccer.



ONE of the last two televised main events was the *Majlis Istiadat Pengantin Diraja Muleh Tiga Hari*, which took place on the third day after the *bersanding* ritual when Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahim, escorted by court officials, visited his parents in the morning and returned to his wife in the evening. The royal couple are pictured in another sitting-in-state ritual, which was attended by family members, relatives and state dignitaries, in the Throne Hall. The other event was the closing ceremony of the *Gendang Jaga-Jaga* at the Istana Nurul Iman, which formally ended the sixteen-day royal wedding celebrations.



