

25 AUG 1997

Brunei-arrival

BRUNEI SULTAN ARRIVES FOR A FOUR-DAY VISIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei arrived here today for a four-day state visit to further strengthen ties between the sultanate and Malaysia.

He was received on arrival at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah airport in Subang by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Sultan was accompanied by Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and Pengiran isteri Hajah Mariam and other members of the royal family.

Also present to receive him were the prime minister's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Agriculture Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud, who is minister in-attendance and Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The Sultan later left in a motorcade for the official welcoming ceremony to Parliament Square.

Members of the royal entourage include cabinet ministers, senior officials and a business delegation.

The visit, at the invitation of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Ja'afar, reciprocates that by the King to Brunei in September last year.

Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah last visited Malaysia in 1992.

Tuanku Ja'afar and the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah received the royal visitors at Parliament Square.

As the national anthems of the two countries were played, a 21-gun salute was fired.

The Sultan inspected a guard-of honour mounted by officers and men of the 1st Battalion Royal Malay Regiment and was later introduced to members of the Malaysian cabinet and the diplomatic corps.

Later today the Sultan is scheduled to grant an audience to Dr Mahathir at his hotel suite during which the prime minister will be conferred the sultanate's highest award normally bestowed upon members of royalty, the Darjah Kerabat Laila Utama Yang Amat Dihormati (DK).

In the evening, the Sultan will attend a state banquet hosted by Tuanku Ja'afar at Istana Negara here.

Tomorrow, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, who is also Brunei's prime minister, will hold bilateral talks with Dr Mahathir at the Prime Minister's Department.

His itinerary in the federal capital includes visiting the Mines Resort at Sungai Besi, the broadcasting centre of Malaysia's satellite television and radio network, Astro, at Bukit Jalil and meeting the Brunei community at Istana Sharif Ali at Jalan Ampang here.

On Wednesday, the Sultan, who is also Brunei's defence minister, will visit the Royal Malaysian Air Force base and AIROD, the aircraft maintenance centre, at Subang.

The Sultan will deliver a key-note address to prominent businessmen and entrepreneurs over a luncheon organised by the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

He will also speak on "Tomorrow's Southeast Asia: A Bruneian Perspective" at the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations in Petaling Jaya.

The Sultan will grant an audience to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim before leaving for home on Thursday. -- BERNAMA

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