

HIS MAJESTY
SULTAN AZLAN SHAH







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Khoo Kay Kim

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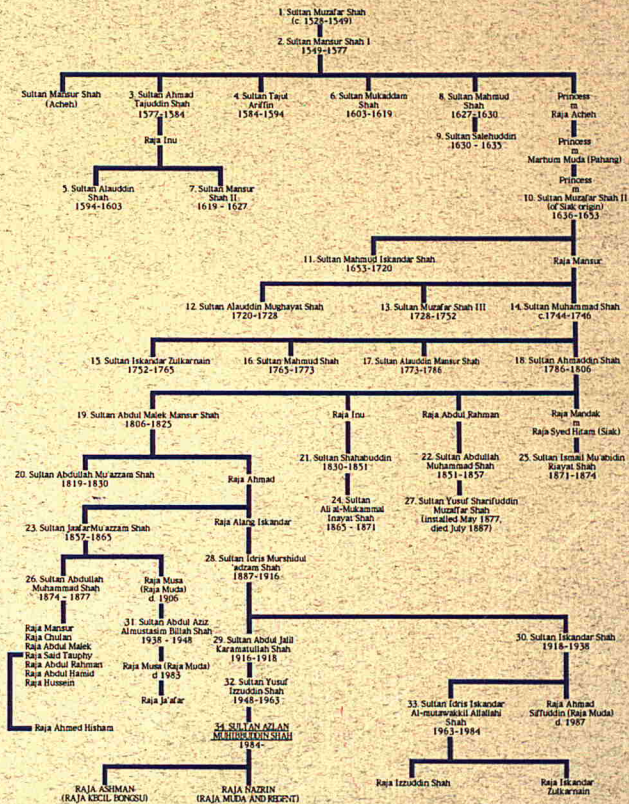
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Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	I. The Tradition	1
	II. The Genealogy	15
	III. Raja Azlan Shah	27
	IV. Legal and Regal	61
	V. Ascension	81
	<i>Acknowledgements</i>	175

PERAK GENEALOGY





I The Tradition

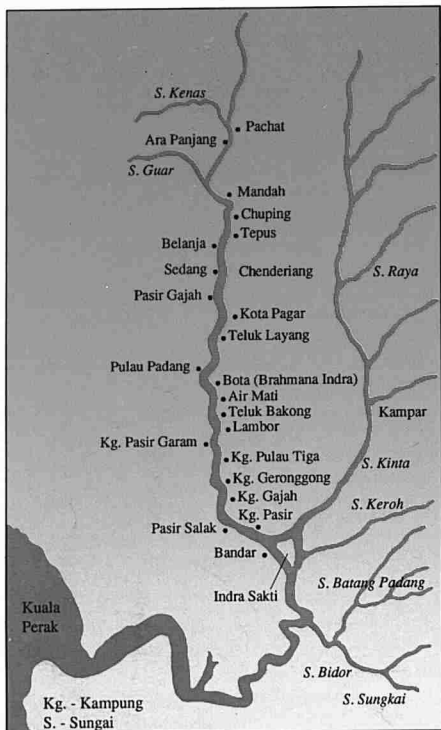
One night two widows in Sumatra see a glow on the top of Bukit Seguntang Mahameru near Palembang, and one of them thinks that it may be the gleam of the gem in a serpent's head. Next morning the widows' padi had golden grain, and the crest of the mountain seems to have turned into gold. Three youths appear, and the third and youngest of them, Sri Tri Buana, is wearing royal apparel and a crown studded with precious stones; he is seated on a white elephant. When the widows enquire who they are, they are told that the princes are of the stock of Raja Iskandar Dzul'l-Karnain [Alexander the Great]. The widows are still sceptical, but the third prince points to his crown as the sign of his lineage, reinforcing the evidence by calling attention to the grains of gold in the padi, the leaves of silver, stems of gold alloy, and the turning of the hilltop into gold. The widows are now convinced....

[O.W. Wolters, *The Fall of Srivijaya in Malayan History*, p.98]

This Sri Tri Buana, according to tradition, was the first Ruler of Temasik (Singapura/Singapore) and it was his descendant, Parameswara, who founded Melaka (c.1400 A.D.).

There is a diversity and a unity in Peninsular Malaysian history which deserve better understanding. Malaysia has nine monarchs; historically, therefore, there was a period in time when there were nine independent kingdoms. Under British administration, these were brought together into a Federation only in 1948. But, even before the adoption of this modern political device, the Peninsular Malay kingdoms were not, in a strict sense, disparate political entities.

The Melaka kingdom, at the peak of its power, extended its hegemony over the entire Malay Peninsula as well as the east



THE PERAK RIVER BASIN
(The Original Kingdom)

coast of Sumatra. The Portuguese conquest, in 1511, did not mark the end of the kingdom for the Malay concept of *ke-rajaa-an* (the state of having a *Raja*) placed primacy on the presence of a monarch rather than the existence of a territory. The Melaka dynasty continued its rule in Johor and, as before, held sway over its former dependencies.

The Melaka-Johor Empire declined in the course of the eighteenth century. But, the weakening of political control did not impair the tradition that Melaka had established. Melaka's ruling house continued to be regarded as the most illustrious. Its *daulat* (in a general sense, 'legitimacy') was impeccable and its polity became the ideal model for all the subsequent Peninsular kingdoms to follow.

In this respect, the Kingdom of Perak occupies a special place in the history of the Malaysian Sultanates; it was the direct extension of the ancient Kingdom of Melaka. It is true, of course, that the origins of some of the older Malay States, as expounded by local traditional and indigenous historiography, cannot be easily verified by existing historical data.

In the case of Perak too, there are at least three versions of the origin of the present Kingdom, not including stories about the existence of an earlier State known as *Gangga Negara* or *Kastan Zarian*, located in the vicinity of Bruas. One story about the founding of the Perak Kingdom is found in the *Hikayat Merong Mahawangsa* (also referred to as the *Kedah Annals*). This text incorporates Byzantium traditions, characters from the *Ramayana* as well as Vishnu's *garuda* (the eagle) said to be subject to Solomon, Lord of the animal world. It includes, too, the story of a cannibal king (Raja Bersiong) which is believed to have been culled from Javanese tradition. Even the King of Rome and the Emperor of China are mentioned in this *Hikayat* which presumes to account for the origin of the Kingdom of Kedah.

Merong Mahawangsa, according to the story, was the first King of Kedah, and his son, Raja Merong Mahapodisat, was said to have founded the Kingdom of Perak. Apparently, the prince,

one day, led an expedition in search of a settlement. The party arrived at the tributary of a large river. Further on, they saw a large sheet of water in the midst of which were four islands. The prince was pleased with the appearance of the islands; he immediately took an arrow, fitted it to his bow, named *Indera Sakti* (in other words possessing magical power), and discharged the arrow. It flew upwards with the speed of lightning and fell on one of the islands which he proceeded to name *Pulau Indera Sakti*. There the prince founded his kingdom which was called PERAK (the Silver State) on account of the silver arrow.

Sir Richard Winstedt, known for his study of Malay history and classics, spoke of the *Kedah Annals* as "a farrago of folktales," a work which is "full of omissions, gross anachronisms and errors, and the lateness of its compilation is corroborated by the paucity and modernity of the manuscript." Perhaps it is more fitting to say that the *Hikayat Merong Mahawangsa* was meant to be functional rather than factual; its primary purpose was undoubtedly the glorification and legitimization of the Kedah dynasty.

Pulau Indera Sakti, also known in Perak as *Cempaka Sari*, was situated at the mouth of the Kinta river. The claim that it was the first capital of Perak is factually erroneous. It was made the royal capital only during the reign of Sultan Iskandar Shah (1762-1765), who was clearly not the first Ruler of the State nor was he of Kedah origin.

W.E. Maxwell, another British official, who did a great deal of research on Perak history in the early years of British administration, discovered that Perak had its own tradition about the origin of the State and it made no mention of Prince Merong Mahapodisat. Maxwell referred to this tradition as "The Legend of the White Semang". A certain Nakhoda Kassim was said to have been sent by the Ruler of Johor, presumably in the sixteenth century, to look for a suitable place for a settlement. He arrived at the upper reaches of the Perak river where he met a group of *Semang* or aborigines. One day a *Semang*

girl cut her hand and white blood issued from the wound. Recognizing that this was no ordinary girl, he married her. It is pertinent to note that Malays believed that members of the nobility possessed white blood, not blue blood as in the West.

On an occasion when the Perak river overflowed its banks, Nakhoda Kassim's *Semang* wife went to bathe and came across a female infant, enveloped all round with cloud-like foam. The child was taken home and called Tan Puteh. On his death bed, Nakhoda Kassim requested that a prince from Johor should be invited to rule Perak. A minister, Tan Saban, was sent to Johor and returned with a prince who traced his descent from the Minangkabau royal family. The prince was duly installed and assumed the title Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin Shah.

This version, however, differs from a third account known as the Perak *Salasilah* (Genealogy). According to this source:

Sultan Mahmud [the Ruler of Melaka who survived the Portuguese attack in 1511] fell ill, and in his illness he gave orders that the Bendahara Paduka Tuan, the Sri Nara Diraja, and two or three other Chiefs should be summoned. And the King leaned on the shoulder of Sri Nara Diraja, so that his forehead touched that of the latter, and Sultan MAHMUD SHAH said: 'In my belief my sickness is unto death, therefore I give the Sultan Muda into the charge of ye all, for he is yet a boy.' Then the Bendahara and all the Chiefs said: 'Tuanku, may God avert from your Highness all evil, nevertheless, if the grass should wither in the courtyard of your Highness, we will by no means do ought in breach of your commands....'

Sultan Mahmud passed away in Bentan in 1528. This is confirmed by contemporary Portuguese sources. The Sultan Muda was made Ruler and adopted the title Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah. He reigned in Johor. The new King had a brother, Raja Muzafar, who was sent away before Sultan Alauddin ascended the throne. He had earlier been designated Raja Muda and was elder to Sultan Alauddin. It was said that he:

... took passage in a merchantman and went to Siak. From Siak he went to Kelang. Now there was a man from Manjung ... who traded regularly between Perak and Kelang. When he saw the Raja Muda

at Kelang, he took him to Perak and had him installed as Raja with the title of Sultan Muzafar Shah.

This is the account found in the *Sejarah Melayu (Malay Annals)*, Ms. No. 18 of the Raffles Collection, considered the most reliable of the several existing texts. It supports the Perak *Salasilah*. But “The Legend of the White Semang” is not totally rejected for it is here that the Perak regalia and *nobat* (royal ensemble) are mentioned. It is said that when Tan Saban brought the prince of Johor over to Perak, he brought with him “the insignia of royalty, namely, the royal drums [*gendang nobat*], the pipes [*nafiri*], the flutes [*serunai* and *bangsi*], the betel-box [*puan naga taru*], the sword [*cura si manja kini*], the sword [*perbujang*], the sceptre [*kayu kampit*], the jewel [*kemala*], the ‘surat chiri’, the seal of State [*cap halilintar*], and the umbrella [*ubur-ubur*].”

In general, these various articles of the regalia and the *nobat* continue to feature prominently in the installation of the Perak Ruler. The first article in the regalia – the State sword *Cura Si Manja Kini* – is symbolic of the antiquity of the Sultanate and the lustrous lineage from which it derived. According to tradition, it originally belonged to Alexander the Great and it was used to hack the dragon *Saktimuna*, and this same sword was used by Parameswara, founder of the Melaka Kingdom, at his installation.

The Ruler of Perak is installed, never crowned. “The Legend of the White Semang” explains why this is so. When the prince of Johor was on his way to Perak, he stopped at *Selat Lembah Jin* (off the Klang coast) to amuse himself. One of his attendants pointed out some fish in the water; the prince then leaned over the side of the boat to look and the crown he was wearing fell into the water and immediately sank. His followers dived in vain for it. From that day, no Sultan of Perak has had a crown.

As mentioned earlier, Perak’s illustrious royal house derived its *daulat* from the ancient Melaka royal lineage which, in turn, was traced back to Alexander the Great. The

installation of Sultan Muzafar, as the Ruler of Perak, marked a major turning point in the history of the State. Sultan Muzafar did not come to Perak without followers. He made his residence at Tanah Abang, now known as Teluk Bakong, where his grave can still be found. Teluk Bakong is located not more than fifteen kilometres north of the present town of Teluk Intan (previously Teluk Anson), now the official residence of the *Raja Muda* (first in the line of succession). A faithful retainer, said to have accompanied Sultan Muzafar, was made *Sri Nara Diraja*. The holder of this office, until the present, whispers the State secret into the ear of each new Ruler at the installation.

It is to Sultan Muzafar and his son and successor, Sultan Mansur, that Perak history attributes the organization of the country under chieftains of various ranks. Sultan Mansur was also said to be steeped in the old Melaka traditions for it was his uncle, Sultan Alauddin of Johor, who had raised him and sent him back to rule Perak after Sultan Muzafar's death.

Perak never forgot its Melaka, and hence Bukit Si Guntang, connection. In 1818, in refusing to send the tribute Siam demanded, Sultan Abdul Malek Mansur Shah said:

I am a king of the ancient race. I am he who holds the Dragon Betel Stand, and the Shell Fish which came out of the Sea, which came down from the Hill of Segontang.... I am the oldest of all the kings in these parts, such as the kings of Siak, Selangor, Rhio, Quedah, and Tringano.

This was no idle claim. In the eighteenth century, the Bugis, based at Kuala Selangor and Linggi, roamed the Straits of Melaka almost at will, despite the presence of the Dutch at Melaka who persistently attempted to impose a monopoly over the tin trade of the Malay States. Perak, in particular, was continually threatened by the Bugis who had, in fact, established a Kingdom at Selangor before the middle of the century.

But, when the Bugis decided to turn their Kingdom into a Sultanate, they did not fail to abide by the tradition prevailing in

the Peninsula. It was to the militarily weaker but genealogically weightier State of Perak that the Ruler of Selangor turned to seek legitimacy (*daulat*). In late 1766, the Raja of Selangor and his entourage sailed up the Perak river and, at Kota Lumut, he was installed by the Perak Monarch as the Sultan of Selangor, adopting the title *Sultan Salehuddin*.

Of the nine kingdoms which exist today, the Sultanate of Perak can lay claim to being the most ancient. Kedah could be of older vintage as a Kingdom but, possibly not, as a Sultanate. Kedah's early history, at any rate, remains shrouded in obscurity whereas it is certain that of the four ancient sultanates - Melaka, Pahang, Johor and Perak - intimately linked by kinship ties, only Perak has survived. It was the *Bendahara* (prime minister) lineage of ancient Melaka-Johor which founded the present dynasties of Terengganu, Pahang and Johor, long after the foundation of the Perak Sultanate.





The rulers of Perak:

Above left: Sultan Yusuf who was Regent (1877–1887) and Sultan (May–June 1887).

Above right: Sultan Idris, His Majesty Sultan Azlan Shah's great grandfather, who reigned between 1887–1916.

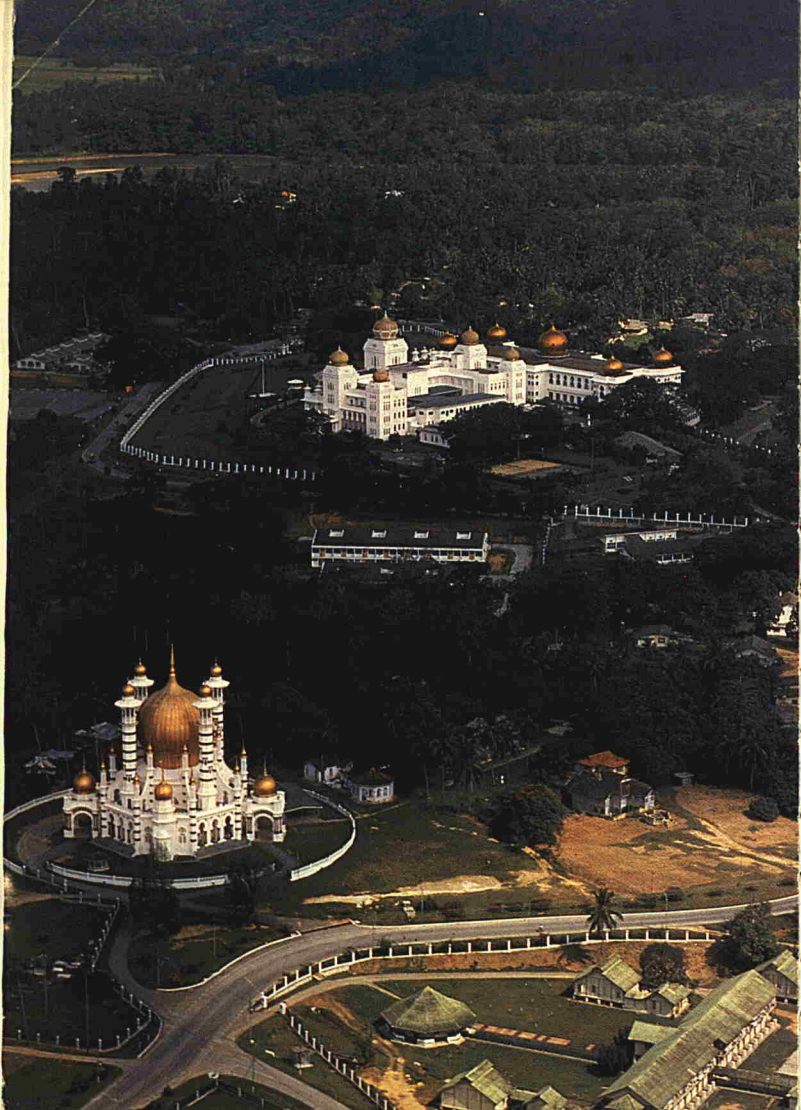
Below left: Sultan Abdul Jalil, son of Sultan Idris, who reigned briefly between 1916–1918, grandfather of His Majesty.

Opposite: Sultan Yusuf Izzuddin Shah (1948–1963) son of Sultan Abdul Jalil, and father of His Majesty Sultan Azlan Shah.









II The Genealogy

Perak history, after the demise of its founder, Sultan Muzafar Shah, is as vague as that of the period of his reign. The available information is culled primarily from one source – the Perak *Salasilah* (Genealogy).

When the first Ruler passed away, he was succeeded by his son who adopted the title of Sultan Mansur Shah. It is believed that the Ruler had sixteen children, three of whom were sons. He passed away in c.1577. Not long after, Aceh invaded Perak. Sultan Mansur's widow and all the children were taken captive to Aceh. But the eldest son was accepted as husband by a princess of Aceh and was consequently elevated to the throne, taking the title Sultan Alauddin Mansur Shah. During his reign, he sent his younger brother back to rule Perak. This third Ruler of Perak, according to Perak tradition, was called Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin. He, in turn, was succeeded by his brother who was known as Sultan Tajul Ariffin.

After four reigns, no precise pattern of succession emerged. The fifth Ruler (Sultan Alauddin Shah), interestingly, was the grandson of the third Ruler. He died in c.1603, and his successor was neither his brother nor his son but his cousin.

A sister of the Perak prince who became Sultan of Aceh had two sons in Perak – Tengku Tua and Raja Bongsu. It was Tengku Tua who became the sixth Ruler of Perak. He was known as Sultan Mukaddam Shah. The official Perak genealogy erroneously identifies him as a son of Sultan Mansur I and, therefore, a brother of Sultan Alauddin Mansur Shah, the Ruler of Aceh.

Towards the end of Sultan Mukaddam's reign, Aceh, under a redoubtable monarch (Mahkota Alam), again attacked

Perak. Once more the entire Perak royal family was carried captive to Aceh. But Raja Mansur, brother of the fifth Ruler (Sultan Alauddin Shah), escaped to Johor; he was soon brought back by a chieftain, the Dato' Maharaja Lela, and installed as Sultan Mansur Shah II. Here, again, there is a discrepancy between the official genealogy and the Perak *Salasilah*. According to the latter, after Raja Mansur had been installed, another chieftain, the Dato' Paduka Raja, arrived with an army from Aceh, together with Raja Bongsu, who was then established as the Ruler of Perak, under the title Sultan Mahmud Shah. Sultan Mansur Shah II was taken away to Aceh. The official genealogy indicates that Sultan Mansur Shah II reigned from 1619-1627, a period of eight years. If the Perak *Salasilah* is correct, then Sultan Mansur Shah II's reign could not have lasted more than about a year. The eighth Ruler (Sultan Mahmud), however, was succeeded by his son, Raja Kobat, who was known as Sultan Salchuddin. With his death, the male line ceased.

At this juncture, Aceh intervened. Among the captives at Aceh was Raja Sulong of the royal lineage of Siak. The Ruler of Aceh gave him for a wife a princess who belonged to the royal lineage of Pahang. Her mother, however, was the grand-daughter of the second Ruler of Perak, and great grand-daughter of Sultan Muzafar Shah, founder of the Perak dynasty. Raja Sulong and his wife were sent to Perak where he was installed as Sultan Muzafar Shah II. Therefore, on the distaff side, the royal Melaka descent of Perak's Rulers was preserved.

Sultan Muzafar Shah II, like the first and second Rulers of Perak, was succeeded by his son who was known as Sultan Mahmud Iskandar Shah. This Ruler had a brother, Raja Mansur, who predeceased him. But it was Raja Mansur's son who became the next Ruler (Sultan Alauddin Mughayat Shah). How or why this occurred is not explained in the Perak *Salasilah*.

Sultan Alauddin Mughayat Shah's reign was brief but eventful. In the course of his reign, he was attacked by his brother, Raja Muzafar, based at the Bernam river. This was the

beginning of a period of intermittent civil war. Eventually the Ruler reconciled with his brother and, when he passed away, Raja Muzafar succeeded him as Sultan Muzafar Shah III. But, enmity soon developed between the new Ruler and another brother, Raja Muhammad. In the mid-1740s, the country was again thrown into confusion.

Raja Muhammad also assumed the title of Sultan and Perak was split asunder. Sultan Muhammad controlled the whole of Lower Perak up to Pachat while Sultan Muzafar Shah III, ruling from Kuala Kangsar, held sway over Upper Perak. Internal dissension, during this period, was compounded by the growth, at this juncture, of Bugis power in the Straits of Melaka. It was consequent upon the Bugis attack on Perak, in 1745, and the resultant turmoil which prompted some of the chieftains to recognize Raja Muhammad as the Sultan.

Perak did not remain divided for long. By 1746, the two brothers were reconciled, and Raja/Sultan Muhammad's son, Raja Iskandar, was proclaimed Raja Muda. Raja Iskandar's relationship with his uncle, the Ruler, was not cordial. Suspicious of his nephew, who showed a propensity to be on amicable terms with the Bugis, Sultan Muzafar Shah III, first, attempted to have his daughter marry a prince of Siak, but, later, upon further reflection, a prince of Kedah. Raja Iskandar, however, proved more resourceful than Sultan Muzafar Shah III had anticipated. He prevailed upon his uncle, by then advanced in age and ailing, to accept that the wisest course to adopt was to recognize him (Raja Iskandar) as the successor. Consequently, Raja Iskandar married the daughter of Sultan Muzafar Shah III, and, when the Ruler passed away in 1752, Raja Iskandar ascended the throne. The period 1720-1752, therefore, saw three brothers ruling Perak, not successively though, for Sultan Muhammad's reign for a period of about three years (c.1743-1746) coincided with that of Sultan Muzafar Shah III's (1728-1752) because of a succession dispute. Though Sultan Muzafar Shah III outlived his brother, who died in 1749, it was Raja/Sultan Muhammad's children who ruled Perak for the next fifty years (vide Genealogy).

Sultan Iskandar, the first of Raja/Sultan Muhammad's children to rule Perak, reigned from 1752-1765. This period is considered a golden age in Perak history and he, alone, of all the Perak Rulers, in the days of yore, has been rendered immortal by a biographer, Raja Chulan, the Ruler's own cousin. The *Misa Melayu* which commemorates Sultan Iskandar's reign, however, is not a biography in the modern sense of the word. It is a panegyric; it contains a brief history of Perak as well as a lengthy poem describing Sultan Iskandar's pleasure trip to the sea.

It was during Sultan Iskandar's reign that the title of *Bendahara* (one of the four major chieftains of Perak) was changed from *Orang Kaya Bendahara* to *Raja Bendahara* when the title was conferred, for the first time, on a member of royalty. The *Raja Bendahara* ranked below the *Raja Muda* and was, therefore, second in the line of succession, superseding the *Raja Di-Hilir*. This practice remained until very recent times when the title reverted to a commoner, and the *Raja Di-Hilir* is, once again, third in the royal hierarchical order.

Sultan Iskandar's reign also marked the beginning of an era when several brothers succeeded to the throne, this time consecutively. Sultan Iskandar was succeeded by Sultan Mahmud Shah. He it was who had the privilege of installing the first Sultan of Selangor at Kota Lumut, Perak. The next Ruler was Sultan Muhammad Shah, and the last of the children of Raja/Sultan Muhammad to rule Perak was Sultan Ahmaddin (vide Genealogy).

The nineteenth century posed, perhaps, the greatest challenge to the Perak Sultanate. When Sultan Ahmaddin died at Chegar Galah, his body was brought to Sayong where it lay waiting for three months because the *Bendahara* (Raja Mahmud) refused to be present for the burial ceremony. Eventually, it was Sultan Ahmaddin's own son, Raja Abdul Malek, who was elected the new Ruler but he received no recognition from Raja Mahmud who held sway at Upper Perak.

Sultan Abdul Malek Mansur Shah had an uneasy reign not only because of internal opposition; the Bugis in Selangor continually harassed him and, in 1818, Perak was overrun by Kedah, carrying out Siam's orders, owing to Perak's refusal to pay tribute. Kedah, in turn, was conquered by Siam in 1821. The British, in 1826, intervened to safeguard Perak's integrity.

Kedah took possession of Perak in October 1818 and, apparently, a few months later, deposed the Ruler, Sultan Abdul Malek Mansur Shah. According to John Anderson, a contemporary British official at Penang, the Sultan's son (the *Raja Muda*) was raised to the throne, and was known as Sultan Tajuddin. The old Sultan passed away soon after Perak was conquered. The Perak *Salasilah* agreed that the son succeeded to the throne but named him as Sultan Abdullah Mu'azzam Shah.

Like his father, the new Ruler faced continual opposition from the other princes as well as harassment from Siam and Selangor. When British protection was extended to Perak in 1826, adjustments were also made to the political system so that there was a *Yang Di-Pertuan Muda* placed above the *Raja Muda* (normally the first in the line of succession).

It was also at this juncture that the famous system of rotation was introduced. This was to allow Sultan Abdullah's cousins to succeed him. Three families were involved in the arrangement: that of Sultan Abdul Malek Mansur Shah and his two brothers, Raja Inu and Raja Abdul Rahman. Since Sultan Abdullah Mu'azzam Shah (son of Sultan Abdul Malek Mansur Shah) was the Ruler, his cousin Raja Chulan (son of Raja Inu) was installed *Raja Muda* and another cousin, Raja Abdullah (son of Raja Abdul Rahman), *Raja Bendahara*. The appointment of a *Yang Di-Pertuan Muda* was very likely a temporary measure as the holder of the office was an old man and he soon passed away. The office was not filled.

Raja Chulan, the *Raja Muda*, did succeed Sultan Abdullah in 1831 with the title Sultan Shahabuddin, and Raja Abdullah succeeded Sultan Shahabuddin in 1851 (vide Genealogy).

Meanwhile, the years 1840-1860, approximately, became boom time in Perak. The growth in tin mining activities in Lower Perak was greatly accentuated by the discovery of new and, by far, richer tin fields in Larut. Simultaneously, the economic thrust from the Straits Settlements increased in intensity. As the Malay states, for the first time, granted land concessions to Straits merchants, numerous new mines were opened, and the influx of Chinese mining workers resulted in the establishment of new settlements. Control of territory enabled the local chieftains to acquire substantial revenue. This aggravated the propensity for Malay aristocrats to involve themselves in succession disputes.

The rotation system, commenced in the 1820s, was subjected to a slight revision after the death of Sultan Abdullah Muhammad Shah in 1857. The new Ruler (Sultan Jaafar) was from the family of Sultan Abdul Malek Mansur Shah; the new *Raja Muda* (Raja Ngah Ali) was from the family of Raja Inu; but the new *Bendahara* (Raja Ismail) was not from the family of Raja Abdul Rahman. Also, he was not of the same generation as the new Ruler and the *Raja Muda*. He was their uncle. His mother, Raja Mandak, was the sister of Sultan Abdul Malek Mansur Shah, Raja Inu and Raja Abdul Rahman. His father, Sayid Hitam, was of Siak origin.

In later years, there were further departures from the original arrangement. When Sultan Jaafar passed away in 1865, the *Raja Muda* succeeded him and was known as Sultan Ali al-Makammal Inayat Shah. But, Raja Ismail, the *Bendahara*, was not elevated. Instead, Raja Abdullah, son of the deceased Ruler, was made *Raja Muda*. When Sultan Ali passed away in 1871, a serious conflict occurred.

Perak tradition required that the new Ruler should be proclaimed before the burial of a deceased Sultan. Raja Abdullah, the *Raja Muda*, however, was not present at the burial ceremony because he had suffered personal embarrassment. The *Bendahara* (Raja Ismail) was then proclaimed Ruler. Raja Abdullah later claimed that Raja Ismail was meant to be only a

caretaker Ruler. But Sultan Ismail thought differently, and refused to surrender the state regalia to Raja Abdullah.

Straits merchants and secret societies became involved in the succession dispute as various parties strove to acquire greater control over tin-bearing territories. The Straits lobby at London succeeded in persuading the Colonial Office to intervene in the Malay states. The British supported Raja Abdullah. On January 20, 1874, he, and many of the chieftains allied to him signed what became known as the Pangkor Treaty which recognized him as the Ruler of Perak and paved the way for British protection to be established in the Malay states.

But Raja Abdullah could not be installed as Sultan Ismail refused to part with the regalia. Before the British could recover the regalia, the first British Resident of Perak, J.W.W. Birch, had been assassinated. There was a brief war between the British and the Malays. Several major chieftains, including the new Ruler, were brought to trial. The British appointed a member of the royal family, Raja Idris, the Judge. The accused were found guilty. Two of the major chieftains were hanged; Sultan Abdullah and Ngah Ibrahim (the *Menteri* of Perak) were exiled to the Seychelles.

Perak was left without a Ruler. In 1877, the British recognized Raja Yusuf as the Regent. He was from the family of Raja Abdul Rahman but was never appointed even as *Raja Bendahara* to which office he was already eligible in 1857. He remained the Regent of Perak until May 1887 when the British finally decided to have him installed as the Sultan of Perak. He died in July 1887. In so far as it is possible to ascertain, he had no male issue. Raja Abdul Rahman's line, accordingly, came to an end.

When Raja Yusuf was proclaimed Ruler, Raja Idris was given the title of *Raja Muda*. And he succeeded Sultan Yusuf in 1887. He and the exiled Sultan Abdullah had a common grandfather; he therefore belonged to the family of Sultan Abdul Malek Mansur Shah. He also married the daughter of Sultan

Yusuf. During his reign, only descendants (patrilineally) of two of the three original families involved in the rotation remained. The majority of them belonged to the family of Sultan Abdul Malek Mansur Shah. Among them, a large number were disqualified, as the British imposed a ban on the children of the exiled Sultan Abdullah. But, Sultan Abdullah's brother, Raja Musa, was appointed *Raja Muda*; he died in 1906. Sultan Idris survived him by many years.

No attempt was made to fill the post immediately. Sultan Idris' eldest son (Raja Abdul Jalil), whose mother was the daughter of Sultan Yusuf, was first appointed *Raja Di-Hilir* and, subsequently, *Raja Muda*. When Sultan Idris passed away in 1916, Raja Abdul Jalil was proclaimed the new Ruler. But, his reign was brief. He died in 1918 during a period of pneumonia epidemic. His successor was his brother, Raja Alang Iskandar, who, between 1916-1918, rose from *Raja Bendahara* to *Raja Muda* and then Sultan.

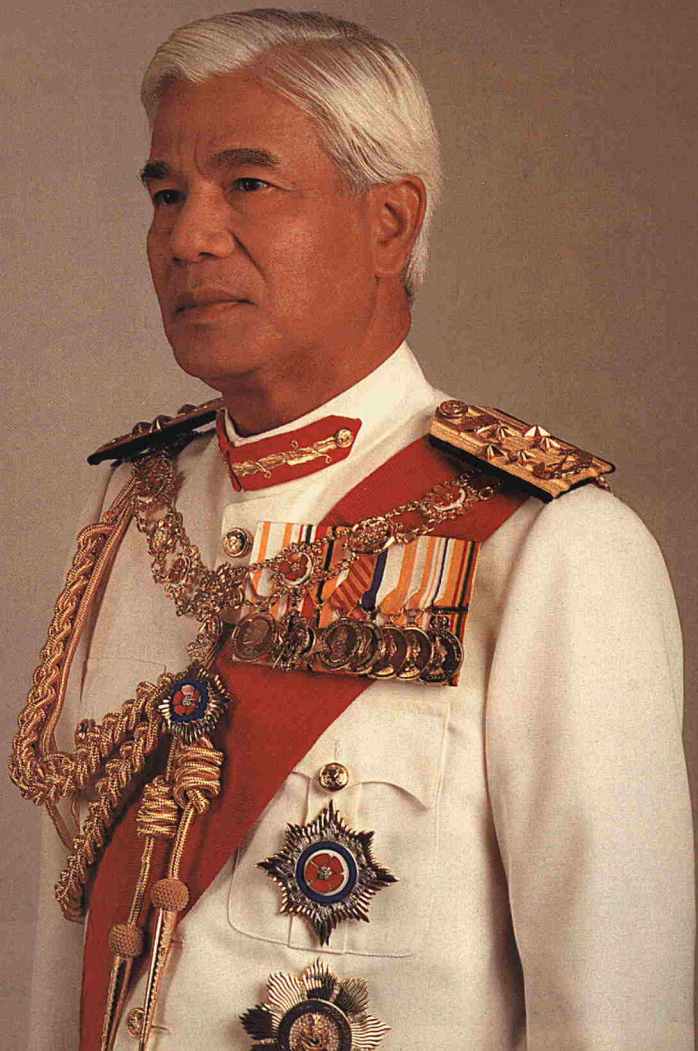
It is pertinent to note that when Sultan Yusuf became Ruler, there still remained three of the original families involved in the rotation: the Ruler himself (from the *Raja Abdul Rahman* line), Raja Idris (from the *Sultan Abdul Malek* line), and Raja Osman (from the *Raja Inu* line). Sultan Yusuf died without male issue; Raja Osman was considered unsuitable to be placed in the line of succession. But, his nephew, Raja Haji Ngah Abu Bakar, an officer in the Perak administrative service, was well regarded and would have been appointed *Raja Bendahara* by 1915 had he not passed away. In the event, it was Raja Abdul Aziz (son of Raja Muda Musa) from the *Sultan Abdul Malek* line who became, first *Raja Bendahara*, and then *Raja Muda* in 1918. He succeeded Sultan Iskandar Shah in 1938.

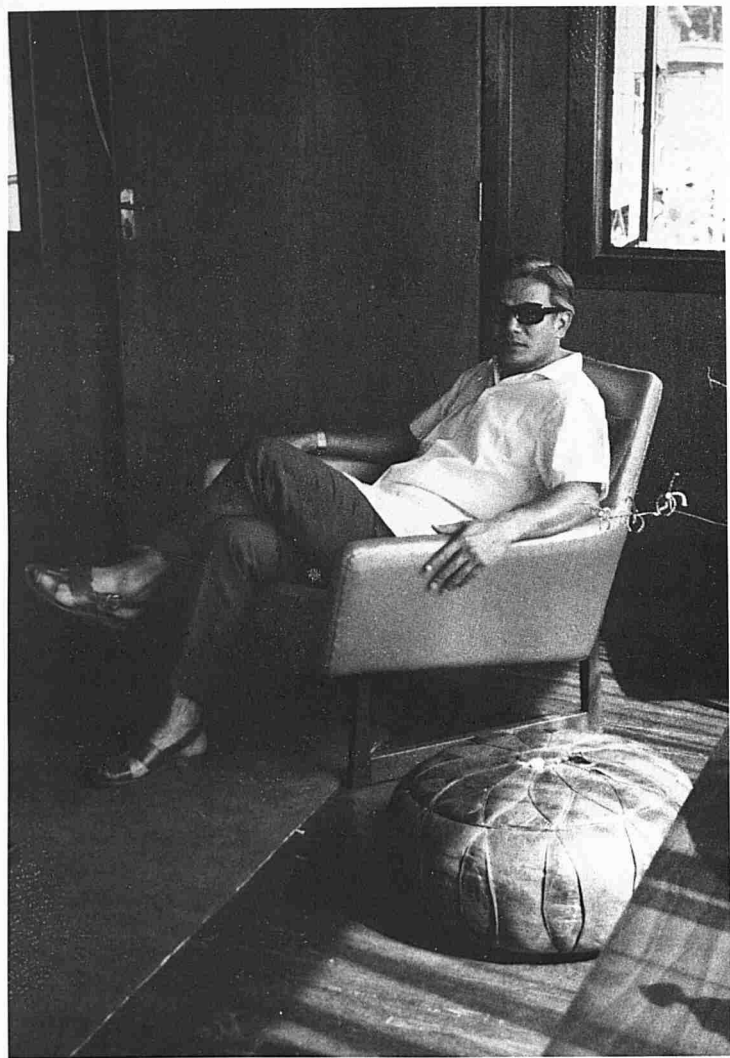
By then, it is possible to discern the beginning of a rotation system among three new families: that of Sultan Abdul Jalil, Sultan Iskandar Shah and Sultan Abdul Aziz, all of whom were direct descendants of **Sultan Abdul Malek Mansur Shah**.





His Majesty as the Supreme
Commander of the Armed Forces.





III Raja Azlan Shah

Batu Gajah (literally elephant stone) was, originally, the name of a pass which joined the States of Perak and Pahang. The name was derived from a stone found there which bore a fanciful resemblance to an elephant kneeling down as elephants usually do when receiving their loads. By the 1880s, a settlement had emerged. It was not one of the bigger settlements in the State of Perak. The British officers, however, considered the place healthy and selected it as the capital of the Kinta District. Beginning from the late 1880s, this district grew steadily and eventually became the richest tin producing territory in the world.

The presence of an European population, bolstered, of course, by a growing number of non-European government servants, turned Batu Gajah into a centre of social activities in the 1890s. By the close of the nineteenth century, Batu Gajah had been linked by rail to Ipoh, a rapidly expanding town. The Sultan of Perak, Sultan Idris (1887-1916), was present to perform the opening ceremony when the line was opened on February 7, 1893. A ball was held at night to celebrate the event. Sultan Idris, in his speech after dinner, remarked that he did not fail to notice the large number of European ladies who had turned up to welcome him. The dance that night, he added, was certain to be "a very pretty sight and, as we say in Malay, the dancers are like flowers blowing in a garden or pearls in a charming setting." However, he left when the dance started.

One year later, a church – the Holy Trinity Church – was also built in Batu Gajah; it was consecrated in 1895. Previously, services were held, sometimes in the Magistrate's house, at other times in the temporary Government offices, and, later, in the Batu Gajah Club. It was in 1892 that the suggestion was first

made to build a church for the Anglican population of the Kinta District. A public subscription list was started. The British administration did not help financially; it merely allowed the use of a quantity of timber from some buildings which were being demolished. But Sultan Idris granted the land rent-free to the Bishop of Singapore for the purpose of public worship and for a burial ground. The church was the second to be established in Perak. The first was the All Saints' Church in Taiping which was built in 1887.

By the early twentieth century, Batu Gajah was described as a town situated some twenty minutes by train from Ipoh, and derived its importance chiefly from the fact that it was the centre of administration for the Kinta District. Most of the Government offices in the district were located there and, "altogether, form an imposing pile of buildings." The European population was larger than in the purely mining towns such as Ipoh, and, as a result, there were "numbers of picturesque houses occupying advantageous positions on hilly ground." A fine race course, golf links, together with a club, provided the means of recreation. There was a hospital for Europeans, and, of course, the English church, earlier mentioned, which drew its congregation from the Kinta District. In later years, Ipoh grew phenomenally, outstripping Batu Gajah which, however, has remained the district capital to this day.

It was in this little colonial town that Prince Azlan Shah was born – on April 19, 1928 (almost exactly 400 years after the founding of the Perak Sultanate), the fifth son of Raja Yussuf ibni Almarhum Sultan Abdul Jalil. Raja Yussuf was then the *Raja Bendahara* of Perak, meaning he was the second in the line of succession. The Ruler at that time, Sultan Iskandar Shah (1918-1938), was Raja Azlan Shah's grand-uncle, in other words, the brother of Raja Azlan Shah's grandfather, Sultan Abdul Jalil (1916-1918). Raja Azlan Shah's eldest brother was Raja Ekram, born in 1918, by Raja Yussuf's first wife, Raja Takyah.

April 19, 1928, was no more than an ordinary day in the history of this country. But, the year 1928 was important for a

number of reasons. It was in 1928 (November) that the controversial rubber restriction scheme – known as the Stevenson Scheme was abolished after having been in operation since 1922 (November). Rubber price had fallen drastically in 1920. As stocks continued to accumulate, the price fell further. In Great Britain, there was fear that American interests might buy up a bankrupt British plantation industry, and there was also anxiety over the international position of the Sterling. The Stevenson Scheme was intended, and did help, to raise the price of rubber but, the Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia) did not participate, and was able, within that period, to narrow down to almost nothing, the gap between Malaya's production and its own which, prior to the scheme, had been considerably lower.

It was in 1928, too, that W.A.G. Ormsby Gore, British Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Colonies, visited Malaya (Peninsular Malaysia). In his report, he said of the Malay States that "They were, they are, and they must remain 'Malay' States....The States were, when our co-operation in government was invited, [Islamic] monarchies, and such they are today. We have neither the right nor the desire to vary this system of government...." On April 24, 1928, Ormsby Gore declared open the new building of the King George V School in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan. It is the only school in the country ever to have been declared open by an official from the Colonial Office.

It was said by the leading article of one local newspaper in late 1928 that "All Malaya is discussing education these days...." On June 1, 1928, Raffles College, located at Singapore, in response to the increasing thirst for tertiary education, accepted its first batch of students – 43 of them, composed of various races including at least one Japanese (T. Mori). Yet, until May the same year, it was not certain when the college would be opened. In June, the college was able to commence on a small scale with an incomplete staff and an unfinished hostel. The new college catered for students pursuing courses in Arts and the Sciences. Since 1905, there had been a Medical School at Singapore. In 1913, it became known as the King Edward VII Medical School, and, in 1920, the King Edward VII Medical

College. These two colleges were merged in 1949 and the University of Malaya was born. The University was progressively shifted to Kuala Lumpur after Malaya's independence (1957). The Chancellor of the University of Malaya, since 1986, is Sultan Azlan Shah.

With the advantage of hindsight, a number of events or developments in 1928, though not necessarily of major significance to the country, can be meaningfully linked to the life of Sultan Azlan Shah.

In late 1928, a young prince – Tengku (later Tuanku) Abdul Rahman ibni Yamtuan Besar Muhammad – returned to the country. He had gone to England in 1925 and entered the Inns of Court, London, where he took up Law and was called to the Bar of the Inner Temple. He was received with pomp and ceremony at the Seremban railway station for his father was the Ruler of Negeri Sembilan. The young barrister soon joined government service and served a few years as an Assistant District Officer in Perak. On August 3, 1933, he succeeded his father as the *Yamtuan Besar* of Negeri Sembilan. When Malaya achieved independence in 1957, he was elected the first *Yang Di-Pertuan Agong* (Paramount Ruler). Sultan Azlan Shah, as the ninth *Yang Di-Pertuan Agong*, completes the cycle, for Malaysia has nine Sultans and the Ruler of each State takes turn (but by election) to serve a maximum of five years as the King of the Nation. Not only was Sultan Azlan Shah born the year Tuanku Abdul Rahman returned from England, both have qualifications in law.

Another national personality qualified in law was the late Tunku Abdul Rahman ibni Almarhum Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah of Kedah, a graduate of Cambridge University in 1925, who was also called to the Bar of the Inner Temple, but in 1949, the year Raja Azlan Shah left for Nottingham University. The Tunku became the first Prime Minister of this country. He gained prominence only after he was elected the President of U.M.N.O. (now Malaysia's leading political party) in 1951. Few are aware that, in 1928, he created quite a furore when, together with a number of Kedah students studying in England, he wrote

a letter to the local English newspapers defending the administration of justice in Kedah.

Earlier in the year, three judges of the Straits Settlements Appeal Court (Justice Sproule, Justice McCabe Reay and Justice Deane) had branded as "amazing" the legal system prevailing in Kedah which State, had, since 1909, come under British administration. As a consequence of that criticism, it was soon announced that a Kedah Court Enactment had been decided upon to the effect that, with certain reservations, lawyers of the Supreme Court of the Straits Settlements or of the Federated Malay States could appear and conduct proceedings in the Court of Appeal and in the First Division of the High Court. This announcement was favourably received by Penang English papers. It prompted Tunku Abdul Rahman and other Kedah students to respond, in particular, to the *Pinang Gazette*, which enjoyed the reputation of being the first English paper to be published (1815) East of Suez. The letter was sent to various newspapers in the country but it was published only in Penang. Referring to a leader article in the *Pinang Gazette*, which had commented on 'Justice in Kedah', Tunku and his compatriots said:

The article ignores the natural position of Kedah. Under the treaties with the British Government, Kedah is a self-governing State, and as such entitled to pass its own laws and administer them. Justice, in this rising and prosperous State, has been administered very acceptably for generations, and whilst Kedah will welcome suggestions we and our compatriots in Kedah will justifiably resent any unwarrantable outside interference. It is surely the doctrine of English Common Law that local allegiance is due from an alien or stranger; and European, Chinese and Indian communities in whom the *Pinang Gazette* takes an interest, are doubtless there voluntarily and for their own benefit, and they knew, or were deemed to know, the law of Kedah with its customs and procedure.

[*Straits Echo*, 20 April 1928]

Tunku Abdul Rahman and the Kedah students added that they considered the criticism of the Judges of Appeal, in regard to the administration of justice in Kedah, rather partial, and

that it was probably inspired by over-zealousness and keenness to see the British system reign supreme throughout Malaya. A little moderation, on the part of the British administration, in their criticism, would have been more appropriate. Kedah, after all, the students said:

... is desirous of remedying defects in our Criminal Law and Procedures, and for that very reason she has sent her Students to England to study amongst other subjects that branch of the subject but allowance must be made for national customs and aspirations, and regard must be had to peculiar local conditions. There is no doubt as a result of these studies in England, reforms will be effected in Kedah, but we would point out that the advance of Criminal Law and Procedure in England has been rightly on slow but steady lines, and even now it is in an incomplete state.

Tunku Abdul Rahman, by then, had graduated from Cambridge University and had been admitted to the Inner Temple. He was the first Kedah Malay to study Law.

In 1928, Raja Yussuf ibni Almarhum Sultan Abdul Jalil, Raja Azlan Shah's father, was already 38 years old. Born at Bukit Chandan, Kuala Kangsar, on January 15, 1890, he received his early education at what was then popularly referred to as the Hogan English School at Kuala Kangsar. This school began, in 1887, with a single class in an existing Malay school. In 1897, a new wooden building was erected, and the school became known as the Government English School. The Headmaster then who retained his post until 1924 was a James Percival Charles Hogan. He was succeeded by Syed Shaidali bin Asgar Ali from the teaching staff of the Anderson School, Ipoh. Syed Shaidali was educated at the Victoria Institution, Kuala Lumpur, the leading school in the State of Selangor. A fine sportsman himself, and an active Volunteer, the new Headmaster, in keeping with the Victoria Institution tradition, introduced hockey and cricket and, in 1925, inaugurated the first annual school athletic meet. This same Headmaster was later to play an important part in Raja Azlan Shah's education. The school at Kuala Kangsar moved into a new building in 1927 and, as Sir Hugh Clifford had been

appointed the new High Commissioner of the Federated Malay States (Perak, Selangor, Pahang and Negeri Sembilan, administratively joined in 1896), the name of the school was changed to "Clifford School".

Raja Yussuf did not remain long in "Hogan's School" for he later joined the Malay College, Kuala Kangsar, known in those days as the "Malay Eton". Started in 1905, the school catered largely for the children of Malay aristocrats. The main aim of the school was to prepare these young aristocrats to assist in the administration of the Malay States.

In 1911, Raja Yussuf began his administrative career as Malay Probationer attached to the Perak State Secretariat, at that time located at Taiping which, until World War II, was the capital of the State of Perak. After completing his period of training at Taiping, he served, first, at Kuala Kangsar, and then Ipoh, in various capacities, in District and Land Offices and the State Treasury. At one time he was in charge of the Sub-District of Parit and Bruas. During those years, he acquired a sound knowledge of administrative work.

In 1919, he was appointed *Raja Di-Hilir* (third in the line of succession) and was elevated further in 1921, holding the office of *Raja Bendahara* (second in the line of succession) with his official residence at Ipoh. He was still *Raja Bendahara* when Raja Azlan Shah was born. Those who knew Raja Yussuf when he was young are emphatic that he was the handsomest prince in the country. Raja Azlan Shah's mother is Toh Puan Besar Hatijah binti Dato' Wangsa Ahmad. In her youth she was, according to her contemporaries, a lady of rare beauty. She now lives at Ipoh.

Raja Yussuf not only participated in district administration but, after he was appointed *Raja Muda* (Heir Apparent) in 1938, became, by virtue of his office, a member of the State Council and its Standing and Finance Committees, besides serving on a large number of Federal and State Committees. In addition, he was Vice-President of the Council of *Raja* and Chiefs, and President of the Council of Chiefs and *Ulama*. He had been,

earlier, an active volunteer having joined the Malayan Volunteer Infantry as a private in 1924. Three years later, he was commissioned as a Lieutenant, a rank which he held until 1933, when he was transferred to the Reserve of Officers of the 1st (Perak) Battalion of what was formerly the Federated Malay States Volunteer Forces, officially established in 1906. In 1934, Raja Yussuf accompanied the Sultan of Selangor to England and was personally introduced to King George V.

Raja Azlan Shah did not stay with his father at Ipoh or at Teluk Anson (now Teluk Intan), the official residence of the *Raja Muda*. He stayed throughout with his mother at Batu Gajah until 1948. As a result, when he was young, he was able freely to mix and play with other children in his neighbourhood, and he was treated by his friends as just another boy. Indeed, he had many friends, especially after he began schooling. There was but one English school then at Batu Gajah. Before independence, the English-medium schools alone had pupils composed of various racial groups.

The English school at Batu Gajah owed its origin to the effort of an Indian contractor, K. Malai Perumal Pillai. He had a large family and he believed that both boys and girls should be educated. He, therefore, opened a school in his own house in 1907. All expenses, including the cost of books for the pupils, were paid by him for about three years. The Government took over the school in 1911, but the turning point in the history of the school occurred in 1928. In that year, Syed Shaidali had come over from Kuala Kangsar to take charge of the school. He was, at the same time, promoted to a superscale appointment for locally trained teachers, being the first in Perak to have been so elevated.

Until he came, parents in Batu Gajah, if they could afford it, preferred to send their children to Ipoh. By 1928, changes were introduced both in the curriculum of the school and in extra-mural activities. Schemes of work were co-ordinated to enable the teacher of the next higher class to carry on from where the last teacher had left off. The House system was

introduced and football, cricket and hockey games were organized.

The Government English School, Batu Gajah, continued to be, comparatively, a small school but it was a remarkable school in many respects. It was one of the first schools in the country to introduce career counselling. By 1931, a Committee of Masters had been formed to advise pupils in the choice of careers and, where possible, to assist them in obtaining employment. The school also achieved notable success in the scouting and girl guide movements.

It was in such a school that Raja Azlan Shah received his education. In course of time, he was exposed to various types of activities, but sports alone captivated him, and he soon developed a tremendous passion for hockey. The two persons who contributed significantly to the growth of interest in the game, not only in the school but also in Batu Gajah, in general, were Syed Shaidali, the Headmaster, and A.K. Sabapathy, a member of the teaching staff. They were organizers as well as players. They regularly played with the school team, for, in those days, it was common for the teachers to play together with the boys; usually each school team fielded not more than one or two teachers.

In 1928, Syed Shaidali also helped to found the Batu Gajah Hockey Club. The first President, J.B. Scrivenor, was a well-known geologist attached to the Federated Malay States Government. He was the famous author of *The Geology of Malayan Ore Deposits* (London, 1928) and *The Geology of Malaya* (London, 1931). Owing to the keen interest taken by various individuals, hockey was an active sport in Batu Gajah, an unusual development in a small Malayan town. Incidentally, the Perak Hockey Association, the first to be formed in the country, was barely six months old when Raja Azlan Shah was born.

Hockey was not the only game that Raja Azlan Shah took an interest in although he did not show the same obsession for soccer and cricket which he also played, quite unlike most boys

at that time who were fanatical followers of soccer. Raja Azlan Shah, in addition, enjoyed running and was considered fast. However, he had not begun participating in competitive sports before the War as he was still young even in 1941, the year when the War broke out. Sports activities, nonetheless, helped to shape his perception of people. Even in a small town like Batu Gajah, most sports were indulged in by youths of various racial groups. Children running about, kicking a rubber ball on the school field or on the public recreation ground, found in practically every town, often socialized easily.

Then the War came. The Japanese troops were in total control of the country by early 1942. Everything changed. All the English medium schools were closed. Schools using Japanese as the medium of instruction replaced them. Many young children preferred not to go to school. In a sense, they had a jolly time, free of responsibility and ambition. Food was scarce even though the Japanese compelled the adult population to plant tapioca as a substitute for rice. In most towns, the recreation grounds were used for cultivating tapioca. Although sports activities in some towns did not come to a complete halt – games, especially soccer, were played sometimes – there was certainly no organized competition.

Raja Azlan Shah's experience of those War years (from late 1941 to August 1945) was no less traumatic than that of the average teenager. Even his father, Raja Yussuf, the Heir Apparent then, was not spared the hardship experienced by the general populace as the Japanese regime, floundering under widespread inflation and the absence of regular production and trade, could not provide the local aristocracy with the kind of amenities they had enjoyed before the War. Raja Azlan Shah continued to stay at Batu Gajah and not with his father at Teluk Anson. Fortunately, there were kind family friends and life was made that much more bearable because of them; at least, food was not wanting. But life in Batu Gajah, as in other towns, was disorganized owing to the inability of the Japanese administration to maintain law and order.

When the War ended and schools were re-opened in October 1945, Raja Azlan Shah was already 17 years old. But for the interruption of War, he would have been in the highest class in the school, known in those days, as the School Certificate Class. Pupils in that class, at the end of each year, took an examination conducted by the Cambridge Examination Syndicate. When Raja Azlan Shah sat the School Certificate Examination in 1948, his last year in the Government English School, Batu Gajah, he was 20 years old.

If the War affected his education, it did nothing to dampen his interest in hockey nor did it retard his development as a player. Even before sports activities had been fully revived, Raja Azlan Shah was showing tremendous promise as a hockey player and made his debut for the State side in December 1946, emulating his grand-uncle, Sultan Iskandar Shah, who, when he was serving as an Assistant Commissioner of Police at Kuala Lumpur before World War I, turned out for the State of Selangor as a centre-forward, at a time when the majority of the leading hockey players in the country were Europeans, some of them Cambridge or Oxford Blues.

Owing to his speed and good ball control, Raja Azlan Shah also played regularly as a centre-forward, a position, in those days (as in the case of soccer too), normally given to a dashing player. It was not uncommon for the centre-forward to be looked upon as the star player. His main task was to score goals and Raja Azlan Shah was a regular goal-getter. The following extract from a newspaper report provides an idea of some of Raja Azlan Shah's scoring feats:

After this the Negeri [Sembilan] defence became ragged and Perak went ahead through Raja Azlan who dribbled through to score. Five minutes from the end, Hassan scored the third goal and immediately after the bully off Raja Azlan put the issue well beyond doubt.

[*Sunday Gazette*, December 13, 1948]

He earned consistent praises from the local press. After one State trial during the early phase of the hockey season in 1947-1948, it was said by one paper that:

An outstanding feature of the match was the display of last year's state centre-forward, Raja Azlan, who bids fair to retain his berth in the state eleven if he keeps his form.

[*Malaya Tribune*, October 12, 1947]

After yet another trial a month later, a Sunday edition of the same paper remarked that:

Perak's defence has never been much of a problem but the quintette has always caused the selectors a worrying time.... This year the same problem presents itself and except for one player, Raja Azlan, who has won the centre-forward berth, the other forward positions are subject to speculation.

[*Sunday Tribune*, November 9, 1947]

Then he missed a State game and was selected to play in a subsequent match. The comment from another paper was:

Raja Azlan's return as leader of the attack is a welcome move as he has all the qualities of a good leader endowed with fine stick work, speed and dash.

[*Times of Malaya & Straits Echo*, December 6, 1947]

He proceeded to play a good game against Johor, and even though he did not score, still earned commendation from the same paper:

Playing on a water-logged ground ... Perak defeated Johore by a solitary goal scored in the tenth minute of play in an inter-state hockey fixture. Raja Azlan, Balasingam and Narian Singh were outstanding among the Perak forwards....

[*Times of Malaya & Straits Echo*, December 22, 1947]

The few years which ensued after the end of World War II were indeed exciting years in Raja Azlan's life though there was more than a tinge of sadness too for, in 1947, Syed Shaidali, the Headmaster who had done so much for the Batu Gajah school, retired. On New Year's day 1950, he was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (M.B.E.) by His Majesty the King of England for outstanding work as the Headmaster of the Government English School, Batu Gajah, for 19 years, and also

for the distinguished career he had in the Malayan Volunteer Forces, holding eventually the rank of Captain. It was said that "He has always been a leader of local opinion and has devoted much energy to the organization of sport in the State. It is however, on his long and unflagging devotion to the course of Volunteering that his reputation particularly rests."

By the end of the same year, A.K. Sabapathy was transferred to the leading school at Taiping, the King Edward VII School. But there was some compensation because one of the newly arrived teachers at the English school at Batu Gajah was Pawan Ahmad bin Ibrahim Rashid, a graduate of Raffles' College who was also a fine sportsman. Activities in hockey continued to be lively in both the school and the town. In 1947 and 1948, a Batu Gajah team took part in the Ipoh and District League with Raja Azlan Shah leading the attack.

Although 1948 was a crucial year in Raja Azlan Shah's school life, for he was due to sit the Senior Cambridge Examination at the end of the year, his participation in sports continued to occupy much of his time. Until the middle of the year, he played soccer and cricket for the school and also ran for the school in the sprint relays. He was the school's fastest runner. When the hockey season began in September, he played for the school, for Batu Gajah, for the Malay Rovers of Ipoh in the Ipoh League, and also for the Kinta District. He retained his position as Perak's centre-forward and represented the State, quite regularly, until late 1948.

Barely three weeks before his birthday, his father, Raja Yussuf, the *Raja Muda*, was proclaimed (on March 31, 1948) the new Sultan of Perak, two days after Sultan Abdul Aziz had passed away. This, however, did not immediately affect Raja Azlan Shah's position though he was increasingly looked upon as "the Sultan's son"; the more important turning point was to come towards the end of Sultan Yussuf's reign. Meanwhile, in order to prepare for higher education, Raja Azlan Shah was

admitted to the Malay College at Kuala Kangsar. In 1949, the School started the first pre-university class known then as the Post-School Certificate Class. In the Senior Cambridge examination, his best three papers were English, Malay and Latin, not necessarily in that order. It was not usual then for a pupil in a non-Catholic school to take Latin in the Cambridge examination. But it was a subject which would assist him to obtain admission to a course in Law in the United Kingdom. Raja Azlan Shah's ambition was manifest.

Raja Azlan Shah was fortunate that, in his own school, there was a teacher who could teach him Latin; otherwise, he would have to travel to Ipoh. Tan Cheng Or, a Raffles' College graduate, was posted to the Government English School, Batu Gajah, in 1947. Although his special subject was English Literature, he had studied Latin under his Headmaster at King Edward VII School, Taiping. Raja Azlan Shah, however, had a companion for Pawan Ahmad, the new teacher, also studied Latin under Tan Cheng Or in preparation for a possible career in law.

It is pertinent to mention at this juncture that Sultan Yussuf's ascension was very well received. In a leader article, on the occasion of his installation, the *Times of Malaya & Straits Echo* (published in Penang and Ipoh) said that "His Highness' subjects, both high and low, will be joined by the Rulers and peoples of the other States and the Colony, in proffering their felicitations to an enlightened gentleman whose easy and friendly ways have earned him the love of all who know him."

Lim Cheng Law, a well-known Penang social commentator, aptly described by one of his contemporaries as "A man of wealth, a man of talent, a man of letters" (and uncle of a well-known personality in Malaysia today, Ambassador P.G. Lim), had a great deal to say about Sultan Yussuf on the eve of the Ruler's installation. He wrote:

His Highness is one of the best known of the Malay Sultans and his unaffected style and bearing, combined with qualities of heart and mind have endeared him to all, high and low, rich and poor, and given him a place in the esteem and regard of officials and unofficials.

[Sultan] Yussuf personally impressed himself upon those who met him and it is certain that he will follow Sultan Abdul Aziz, his cousin, on the throne of Perak with the heartiest good wishes from all who know him personally and realise his sterling worth as a prince and man. His outlook is a broad one and his education is such that he should take his high place with the certainty of being able to exercise his abilities to the advantage of the people, while at the same time the latter need his assurance that he will preserve the best tradition of his race.

[Sultan] Yussuf can perhaps be said to be of the modern order; yet he was trained in the same school like his immediate predecessor. He will ascend the throne of Perak strengthened by the knowledge that there is reposed in him to an unlimited degree the confidence of his people with whom he is deservedly popular. He appeals to them in many ways, especially perhaps by reason of the fact that he is a true sportsman. All who have the privilege of knowing him will not doubt that he will prove a capable and beneficent Ruler.

[Times of Malaya & Straits Echo, April 14, 1949]

Those who knew the late Sultan Yussuf personally, and many did, for he was a particularly amiable person, had no doubt that Lim Cheng Law wrote candidly and sincerely.

Two months after his installation, Sultan Yussuf visited the Malay College, Kuala Kangsar, on the occasion of its annual athletic meet. Also present was Sultan Abu Bakar of Pahang, another old boy, as well as a number of the Perak chieftains. The Malay College was privileged in this respect. Rulers and high dignitaries frequently made their appearance there. For Sultan Yussuf, the athletic meet of 1949 was, in a distinct way, special for among the participants was Raja Azlan Shah who came second in the high jump and third in the 100 yards sprint. The Victor Ludorum that year was Ikmal Hisham bin Mustapha Albakri, now one of the leading architects in the country.

Hockey, however, continued to be Raja Azlan Shah's passion when he was in the Malay College, though he still enjoyed a moderate game of cricket or soccer occasionally. When the 1949 hockey season started, he spent most of his time playing the game at Ipoh rather than at Kuala Kangsar. There were State trials and inter-state games. He also played for the Malay Rovers in the Ipoh and District League. He was so intensely involved in the game that between the end of November and the end of December when he left for England, he played three matches for the Malay Rovers, the last one on December 22. On December 31, 1949, Raja Azlan sailed from Penang by the *Canton* for England to study Law at the University of Nottingham. On the eve of his departure he was entertained by his father at the palace at Kuala Kangsar. The function was attended by a number of princes and members of the aristocracy.

But, Raja Azlan Shah did not obtain a scholarship to study in England and had to depend on the allowance which he was given as the son of the Sultan. The decision to study law was also his own. He was, therefore, ready and willing to lead an austere life in the pursuit of a professional career.

In 1950, there were slightly more than thirty Malay students in London and another twenty odd in other parts of England. Raja Azlan Shah reached England in the middle of winter. The weather was cold but he soon found friendships warm. In London, he stayed at 'Malaya Hall' which had been opened by the Duchess of Kent only on December 12, 1949. It was a students' club and hostel, designed to meet the needs of a vastly increased number of students in England since the War. It was located at 44 Bryanston Square. The original building had been damaged during the War. Abdul Razak bin Dato Hussein (later *Tun* and Prime Minister of Malaysia succeeding Tunku Abdul Rahman) was a member of the Working Committee which planned the reconstruction of the building. He was then President of the Malay Society of Great Britain which had been founded in 1927. Among the guests present at the opening

ceremony was the then *Raja Muda* of Perak, Raja Idris ibni Sultan Iskandar, who had been in England since May 1949. Beginning from October the same year, he attended a course in local government, which was scheduled to end in April 1950, at the London School of Economics.

It did not take Raja Azlan Shah long to adjust to the new environment. The study of Law did not in any way diminish his interest in sports, especially hockey, at which he represented not only the University but also the Northern Counties. But, for the young Raja Azlan Shah, England, as it turned out, was more than merely a continuation of his career in sports and the fulfilling of a personal ambition to study Law. One fine day, in 1952, he joined several other Malayan students who went to the Heathrow Airport to receive a batch of teacher trainees who were due to arrive to study at the Kirkby Teachers' College at Liverpool.

The College had been established a year earlier. When the War ended, there was an unprecedented demand for education in the country. However, supply failed to meet demand because no professional training college for teachers of English-medium schools had yet been established in Malaya. A decision was soon made to lease an Emergency Training College in England. Many such colleges had been established there after the War, in various parts of Britain, to train mature men and women, who had had working experience in different walks of life, to become teachers. This was also due to the acute shortage of teachers in Britain. But, by 1951, many of the Emergency Training Colleges had become redundant and were about to be closed down. The Malayan government chose the college at Kirkby, Liverpool.

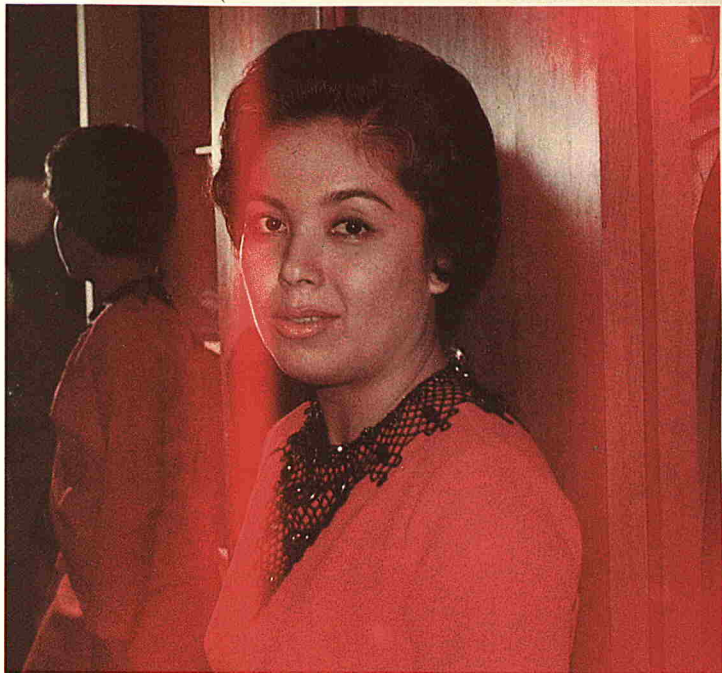
Among the trainees who arrived in 1952 was a young lady from Penang called Bainun binti Mohammed Ali. Her father, Mohammed Ali bin Mann, was also in the education service and eventually retired as the Organizer of Schools. Bainun binti Mohammed Ali was born at George Town, Penang, and received

her secondary education at the St. George's Girls' School there. This was (and still is) one of the leading schools in Penang. She was also active in sports and when studying at Kirkby, represented the College at hockey.

The meeting at Heathrow Airport between Raja Azlan Shah and Bainun binti Mohammed Ali marked the beginning of a romance which was to lead to marriage in 1955. Both completed their education in England by 1954. She returned to Malaya earlier to teach; he was admitted to the English Bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. There was only a brief report about this in the local press at the end of 1954. Altogether eleven persons from Malaya were called to the Bar in London at that time. Only three were from Perak: Pawan Ahmad bin Ibrahim Rashid (who had been a teacher at the Government English School, Batu Gajah, subsequently renamed Sultan Yussuf School in commemoration of the Ruler's reign), Wong Sai Heng and R.A. Shah which, of course, is the abbreviation for 'Raja Azlan Shah'. The young prince returned to Malaya at the end of 1954 without fanfare. He began his career in government service at the Perak Secretariat where, like other young Malay graduates before him, he was given the appointment of Assistant State Secretary. It was a humble beginning and, at that juncture, there was little indication that his career would be in the judicial rather than the civil service.







Above: The Queen—a 1970 photograph.

Below: An early photograph of the Queen in Edlinburgh, Scotland.

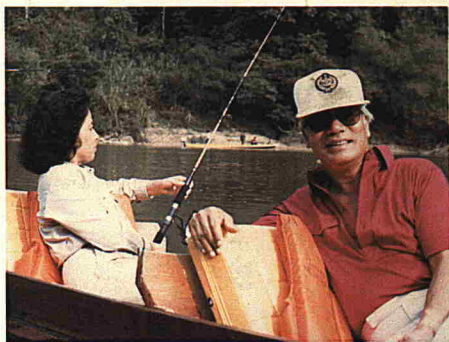
Overleaf: Their Majesties on their beresanding day at Parit Buntar on December 10, 1955.







Their Majesties in Borobudur,
Indonesia.

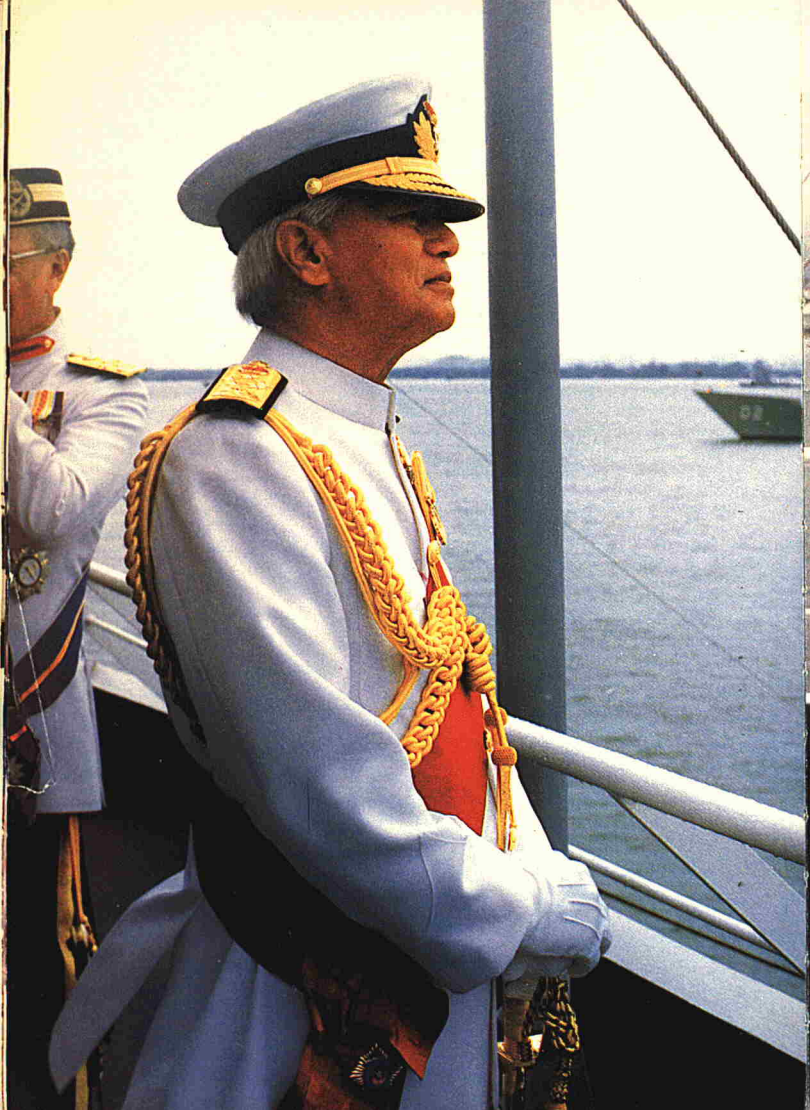




















His Majesty when he was
Lord President of Malaysia (1982-1984).

IV Legal and Regal

1955 was an eventful year in the life of Raja Azlan Shah. He had been attached to the Perak State Secretariat hardly a few months when he was transferred to Kuala Lumpur. This marked the beginning of his career in the judicial service. One of the earlier cases he heard was in the Kuala Lumpur First Magistrate Court on May 4, 1955. He shared duties with other magistrates, namely, Ismail bin Mohamed Jamil, Abdul Rani and Group Captain Howard. Initially, his duties were less onerous. By the middle of June 1955, he had become a President of the Kuala Lumpur Sessions Court. Thereafter, his work increased but he still found time to return to sports spearheading the attack of the Selangor Malay team in the Selangor Hockey Association League competition.

In early December, 1955, Raja Azlan Shah married Bainun binti Mohammed Ali, the girl he first met in 1952. She was then teaching at her *alma mater*, St. George's Girls' School, Penang. The marriage was solemnised in Penang on December 9 by a much respected and elderly Kathi, Syed Salleh Alsagoff. The ceremony was held at the residence of Tunku Haji Ahmad, a son of Tunku Ibrahim. The latter, before his death, had acted as Regent of Kedah. Tunku Haji Ahmad's house was at 51, Northam Road, Penang. A nuptial tea party was also given by the bride's parents at the same place. Congratulatory speeches were made by Capt. Mohamed Noor bin Mohamed, a teacher at the Penang Free School, and C.D. Muir, the then Chief Education Officer of Penang as well as Dr. Cheah Cheng Poh, a prominent Penang Chinese.

On the following day, December 10, the *bersanding* ceremony was held at the home of Che Tak bin Haji Daud in Anderson Road, Bagan Serai, North Perak. Che Tak, a

government servant, had been Raja Azlan Shah's guardian throughout his stay at Batu Gajah. Sultan Yussuf and the Sultanah were both present at the *bersanding* ceremony. The dais for the ceremony as well as the two thrones used by Their Highnesses for formal functions at the Iskandariah Palace at Kuala Kangsar were brought all the way to Bagan Serai for the bridegroom and bride. Apart from the Sultan and Sultanah, the *Raja Muda* and his consort as well as all the major chieftains of the State were present.

After his honeymoon in Penang, Raja Azlan Shah returned to Kuala Lumpur and carried on his judicial duties in various capacities – as magistrate, coroner, President of the Sessions Court and also, from time to time, as magistrate of the Juvenile Court which sat every Saturday in Kuala Lumpur. On one occasion, he dealt with seven juvenile cases in one day, each a special case.

From 1957, he served as Court President in Seremban, Raub and Taiping, in that order. In 1959, he was, briefly, Federal Counsel and then Deputy Public Prosecutor, Perak. At the beginning of 1960, he was transferred to Pahang as the Legal Adviser. He served barely two years in Pahang; before the end of 1961, he had been appointed Legal Adviser in Johor. Until his transfer to Pahang, his wife had continued teaching, from town to town, but resigned in 1960. She returned to teaching in 1963 and continued for the next sixteen years. Raja Azlan Shah served in Johor until the later part of 1962 when he was transferred back to Kuala Lumpur as the High Court Registrar.

1962 proved to be yet another eventful year in the life of Raja Azlan Shah. This was, in fact, an important turning point. On July 19, 1962, Raja Kamaralzaman bin Raja Mansur passed away at Taiping. He was 70 years old and had been holding the appointment of *Raja Di-Hilir* since 1948. An old boy of the Malay College, Kuala Kangsar, he had joined government service in 1910 and served with distinction for 38 years. He was one of the first Malay officers to be promoted to the Malayan Civil Service.

An authority on folklore, he was often described as “a fountain of knowledge” on things relating to Perak. He was, in fact, the grandson of Sultan Abdullah who was exiled to the Seychelles. His father, Raja Mansur, was the son of Sultan Abdullah.

With his death, a number of princes were elevated. The announcement was made on July 30, 1962. Raja Musa ibni Sultan Abdul Aziz succeeded Raja Kamaralzaman as *Raja Di-Hilir*, but, unlike his predecessor, he was second in the line of succession. In February 1953, Sultan Yussuf had promulgated the Second Part of the Laws of the Constitution of Perak. The First Part had been promulgated in 1948 by Sultan Abdul Aziz. One of the changes introduced in 1953 was the abolition of the title of *Raja Bendahara*. However, it was to take effect only when the incumbent (Raja Kamaralzaman) ceased to hold office. When that happened, the ancient title of *Orang Kaya Bendahara* would be resuscitated. This, accordingly, occurred in 1962. Also promoted at that time was Raja Ekram, Raja Azlan Shah's eldest brother, whose new title was *Raja Kecil Besar*, third in the line of succession. This too was an innovation introduced in 1953. Previously, the title which ranked immediately below the *Raja Di-Hilir* was the *Raja Kecil Sulung*. This latter title was retained but ranked one step below the *Raja Kecil Besar*. Other members of royalty elevated in the process together with Raja Ekram, were:

Raja Lope Nor Rashid bin Raja Abdul Rahman	to	<i>Raja Kecil Sulung</i>
Raja Ahmed Hisham bin Raja Abdul Malek	to	<i>Raja Kecil Tengah</i>

But the position of *Raja Kecil Bongsu* was left temporarily vacant by the *Dewan Negara*, the elective body. A Sub-Committee was, however, appointed to make recommendation. On September 25, 1962, it was announced that “Raja Azlan Shah ibni Sultan Yussuf Izzuddin Shah, 34, State Legal Adviser, Johore, has been created a major chief of Perak ... with the title *Raja Kecil Bongsu*.” The report in the press was brief. It was further stated only that:

He is the fifth son of Sultan Yussuf. He married Che Bainun binti Ali, a Kirkby-trained teacher in 1955 and they have five children. He took up his present post in Johore Bharu in late 1961.

This promotion within the royal house of Perak was important for Raja Azlan Shah as he was officially placed in the line of succession though he was, at that juncture, the lowest ranking of the princes holding specific titles. Although this did not mean automatic promotion each time a vacancy occurred at the higher level, the holder of a specific royal title was better placed than those without such titles for consideration when a new appointment had to be made.

1963 was both a good and an unhappy year for Raja Azlan Shah. His fortune was such that within a few months after he became *Raja Kecil Bongsu*, he moved upwards again although this time it was as the result of a personal bereavement. His father, Sultan Yussuf Izzuddin Shah, passed away on January 4, 1963. Sultan Yussuf had suffered a stroke in October, 1962. By January 3, 1963, his condition was quite critical. His children (five sons and a daughter) were present in the palace when he passed away. On January 6, 1963, before the funeral ceremony began, Raja Idris ibni Sultan Iskandar Shah, the *Raja Muda*, was proclaimed the new Sultan. Born on August 15, 1924, Raja Idris was already appointed *Raja Di-Hilir* (at that time, third in the line of succession) by 1933 when he was only nine years old. His father was then the Sultan of Perak.

With the elevation of Raja Idris, all the princes below him also moved one rung upwards. They were:

Raja Musa ibni Sultan Abdul Aziz	: <i>Raja Muda</i>
Raja Ekram ibni Sultan Yussuf	: <i>Raja Di-Hilir</i>
Raja Lope Nor Rashid bin Raja Abdul Rahman	: <i>Raja Kecil Besar</i>
Raja Ahmed Hisham bin Raja Abdul Malek	: <i>Raja Kecil Sulung</i>

Raja Azlan Shah became *Raja Kecil Tengah*, fifth in the line of succession. Promotion within the royal house was soon

accompanied by promotion in the judicial service. In the same year, Raja Azlan Shah was appointed Chief Registrar of the Federal Court, a position he held for about two years.

1965, too, was a memorable year in Raja Azlan Shah's life. On June 17, 1965, His Majesty the King announced the appointment of a Federal Judge (Mr. Justice H.T. Ong) as well as that of three new High Court Judges: H.S. Ong (Solicitor-General), Dato S.M. Yong (who had been in private practice) and Raja Azlan Shah (Chief Registrar of the Federal Court). This was a distinct achievement for Raja Azlan Shah; at the age of 37, he was the youngest judge in the Commonwealth. Although, subsequently, for the next several years, there was no further movement for him, whether in the royal house or the judicial service, in the seventies, he began, increasingly, to loom large in the eyes of the public.

First, he made a return to hockey, not as a player but as an official. In 1970, when he was still a High Court Judge, he was elected Deputy President of the Malaysian Hockey Federation. The President, since 1957, had been Dato', later Tun, Abdul Razak bin Hussein who, in 1970, became Prime Minister of Malaysia. Raja Azlan Shah remained Deputy President for the next several years. In 1971, he was appointed Pro-Chancellor of the Science University of Malaysia. This university, located at Penang, was the second to be established in the country after the University of Malaya. The Vice-Chancellor of the University then was Hamzah Sendut (later Tan Sri) who, together with Raja Azlan Shah, was one of the first batch of Post-School Certificate pupils in the Malay College, Kuala Kangsar, in 1949. In 1972, Raja Azlan Shah became external examiner to the newly established Faculty of Law at the University of Malaya. He always found time to attend to the activities of the faculty. In the same year, he was appointed manager of the Malaysian hockey team which took part in the Munich Olympic Games. In the following year he was again appointed manager when the Malaysian team participated in the Second World Cup Championship at Amsterdam.

In 1973, too, he advanced again in his judicial career; he was appointed a Federal Court Judge. A year later he was made the chairman of the Malaysian Higher Education Advisory Council. He was then 46 years old and it became quite evident to the public that he would continue to grow in stature. But public perception of him was confined very much to his position within the judicial service. Little reference was made to his rank within the Perak royal hierarchy.

In early 1975, he shared the glory achieved by the Malaysian hockey team when, at the Third World Cup Hockey Championship held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia gained fourth place. The country had never achieved such high ranking at the world level. There was a moment, on March 14, 1975, when Malaysia came close to entering the final of the championship. In a semi-final match against India, Malaysia led 2-1; but eventually lost 3-2. Malaysia's monumental effort in earlier matches was greatly appreciated by the fans and, for the match against India, played at the Merdeka Stadium – a soccer stadium – an unprecedented 50,000 spectators turned up to watch the game. Hockey, in the past, could hardly draw a few thousand spectators. In an earlier game, when Malaysia defeated Holland, the defending champion, to enter the semi-final, Raja Azlan Shah was seen wiping away a tear of joy.

Malaysia's first international hockey game was played in 1932 when, in a friendly match against the Indian Olympic team, played at Singapore, the home team was defeated 7-0. Half the players then were expatriates. The country did not play against India again until the early 'fifties. In most of these encounters, the national team was trounced. The national team first played in the Summer Olympics at Melbourne in 1956. In the very first game, Malaya, as the country was known then, drew with Britain 2-2. Although, until 1972, the national team had appeared in all the Olympics except Rome in 1960, the success achieved in 1975 was the best ever. It has still to be surpassed.

Tun Abdul Razak passed away in early 1976 and hockey lost a great leader. The new Prime Minister (Tun) Hussein Onn

became President of the Malaysian Hockey Federation in 1977. Raja Azlan Shah continued to serve as the Deputy President. He lived largely in two worlds at this juncture: the judicial world and the world of hockey. In 1978, he was *Chief De Mission* when the Malaysian team participated in the Fourth World Cup Championship played at Buenos Aires, Argentina. The following year he was again Manager of the national team which took part in the Esanda World Tournament held at Perth, Australia.

1978, indeed, was a more important year than he realized then. At the time he accompanied the national team to Buenos Aires, he had already risen one rung in the royal hierarchy. In late 1977, Raja Lope Nor Rashid bin Raja Abdul Rahman, another grandson of the exiled Sultan Abdullah, passed away. Born in 1909, he had been educated at the Malay College, Kuala Kangsar, and Balliol College, Oxford. When the Malay Regiment was first formed in 1933, he was one of the first batch of 25 to join up as an ordinary soldier. He rose steadily and was commissioned in 1936. During the Japanese Occupation, he became an active worker against the enemy. At one stage, he was the liaison officer between Sultan Abdul Aziz of Perak and the Force 136 which was the Southeast Asian Division of the British Special Operations Executive under Lord Mountbatten. After the War, he served in the 3rd Battalion Malay Regiment as a Company Commander and he became the first local officer to be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 1956. From then until he retired in 1961 (he was a Brigadier, now Brigadier-General, since late 1959), he was the most senior Malayan officer in the Federation Military Forces. Within the Perak royal house, at the time of his death, he held the rank of *Raja Kecil Besar*, third in line to the throne. As a result of his demise, Raja Ahmed Hisham, the *Raja Kecil Sulung*, became *Raja Kecil Besar* and Raja Azlan Shah became *Raja Kecil Sulung*. This movement within the Perak royal family, however, received little public attention.

Then, on June 9, 1978, Raja Ekram, Raja Azlan's eldest brother, and the *Raja Di-Hilir*, passed away. He died of a heart attack at his official residence in Ipoh. He was 60 years old then.

As mentioned earlier, he was appointed *Raja Kecil Besar* when Raja Kamaralzaman died in 1962 and when his father passed away less than a year later, he was elevated to the position of *Raja Di-Hilir*. At the time of his death, he was slightly older than Sultan Idris ibni Sultan Iskandar, and about the same age as the *Raja Muda*, Raja Musa ibni Sultan Abdul Aziz. On August 1, 1978, it was announced that Raja Ahmed Hisham ibni Raja Abdul Malek, a grandson of the exiled Sultan Abdullah, had been named the new *Raja Di-Hilir*. He was then almost 72 years old. He was educated at the Anglo-Chinese School, Teluk Anson (now Teluk Intan) and the Malay College, Kuala Kangsar. He had, in 1930, served as Registrar of Criminals, Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States, at the Police Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. Later, he was attached to the intelligence branch of the Police, and, on the eve of World War II, was involved in activities against the Japanese Fifth Column and was arrested by the *Fujiwara Kikan* (the Japanese Fifth Column with headquarters at Bangkok), following the fall of Kuala Lumpur. After his retirement from the police force, he began to serve the State in the capacity of a traditional chieftain. The position of *Raja Kecil Besar* which he vacated was given to Raja Azlan Shah.

Despite his advancement within the Perak royal hierarchy, the public continued to view Raja Azlan Shah primarily as a bright star in the judicial service. This was not unjustified for on March 6, 1979, Raja Azlan Shah once more gained promotion in the judicial service. He was appointed Chief Justice of Malaya (the judicial services of Malaya, Sarawak and Sabah had not been unified), succeeding Tan Sri S.S. Gill who was retiring. Interestingly, the announcement in the press made no mention of his royal title. In the middle of the same year, the University of Malaya conferred on him the Honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

From this moment onwards, the public began to read more and more about Raja Azlan Shah in the press. For example, it was brought to the notice of the public, in early January 1980, that he had directed that Sessions Court presidents should be

formally dressed in court in order to enhance the dignity of the court and create an atmosphere of solemnity in the proceedings. It was explained that, since all Sessions Courts then were air-conditioned, and presidents were no longer required to go on circuit, there was no reason why formal attire could not be worn. The attire prescribed for male presidents in open court was: white shirt, black tie, black jacket, dark trousers and barrister's robes; except for Sikhs, no head-dress need be worn. In the case of women, the proper attire was white blouse with black jacket and barrister's robes.

Later in the year, he spoke on the subject of corruption. It thrived, he said, where there was authority. "In fact, it must have been born almost simultaneously with the birth of authority and continues to thrive in any society," he added. He acknowledged that there was no lack of effort in Malaysia to check corruption but little had been achieved in terms of reducing or even checking it. "We may console ourselves by saying that other countries are worse off in corruption. But that is not a good yardstick," he stated. There was no easy solution to the problem as corruption was difficult to detect and even more difficult to prove. Both parties – the giver and the taker – stood to gain and as both parties, in law, committed an offence, neither would venture to complain.

Despite the personal advancement he achieved in the late 1970s, Raja Azlan Shah could hardly have foreseen the dramatic changes which were to occur in his life. That he would soon be elevated again in the judicial service, it was plain for all to see. In 1981, Tun Mohamed Suffian, the Lord President, was already 64 years old. He was due to retire in 1982.

Meanwhile, Raja Azlan Shah continued to be vocal on a number of issues. Education, understandably, was one of them as he was both Pro-Chancellor of the Science University of Malaysia as well as Chairman of the Malaysian Higher Education Council. In one instance, in May 1981, at a four-day symposium held at the University at Penang, he spoke on the concept of "life-long education" which, he felt, ought to become

more central to the purposes of universities in the Asian region in the last two decades of the 20th century. To make the concept more viable, he suggested that it should be tackled in two ways: firstly, through a short-term plan to get the project started and, secondly, a long-term programme with projected targets. Continuing in a somewhat similar strain about a month later, he urged that universities and colleges ought to cater for groups beyond those of the immediate post-secondary population. He was referring to the hundreds who aimed and yearned for better academic knowledge but were unable to achieve their ambition because of limited opportunities in local universities. He also sympathised with those not fortunate enough, owing to family and social responsibilities, to continue their education but had to find employment upon leaving school and could only hope to strive to better their educational standards later on.

In 1981, too, Raja Azlan Shah finally became President of the Malaysian Hockey Federation after having served a decade as the Deputy President. (Tun) Hussein Onn had resigned as Prime Minister of Malaysia as well as the President of the Malaysian Hockey Federation. Soon after, Malaysia was given the opportunity to host the Second Junior World Cup Hockey Championship to be played in mid-August 1982 provided Kuala Lumpur could assure that all the games would be played on astroturf. Raja Azlan Shah, as the President, was only too pleased to accept the challenge. The responsibility of building the stadium was entrusted to the Public Works Department. They duly completed their job by the end of July 1982 and the stadium was named after Tun Abdul Razak who was President of the Malaysian Hockey Federation from 1957 until his untimely demise in January 1976.

By 1982, Raja Azlan Shah had also become Vice-President of the International Hockey Federation and later President of the Asian Hockey Federation. He performed his task as head of the national body with considerable relish if not occasional impatience. For example, he wanted the National Sports Council, under whose charge the Tun Razak Stadium had been placed, to hand over the administration of the stadium to the

Malaysian Hockey Federation. He complained that the stadium had been poorly maintained. "Look at this place," he said, "It is so dirty, there is no one to operate the scoreboard, the water supply is bad and the roof over the grandstand is already leaking." This was about one year after the stadium had been completed. He did not have his way.

1982-1984, was manifestly the most dramatic period in Raja Azlan Shah's life and it had nothing to do with hockey. In 1982, he was already 54 years old. In government service, the retirement age, in general, is 55 years. Judges, however, retire at the age of 65. On November 12, 1982, Tun Mohamed Suffian, the Lord President, retired. Raja Azlan Shah was sworn in as the new Lord President before the Deputy King (the Ruler of Negeri Sembilan) who was exercising the right of the *Yang Di-Pertuan Agong*. At least in this instance, the local press, in announcing the appointment of the new Lord President, also mentioned that he was the *Raja Kecil Besar* of Perak.

One of the first important cases he had to deal with in his capacity as Lord President was in January 1983 when Karpal Singh, controversial lawyer and politician, argued that the High Court was not legally constituted in the Federal Territory and hence had no jurisdiction to try his two clients who were jointly charged under the Internal Security Act with having a pistol and 50 bullets at a house in Kuala Lumpur on December 27, 1978. Two issues, in fact, had to be considered:

1. whether the Federal Territory was an integral part of Malaysia, and
2. whether the High Court of Malaya sitting in the Federal Territory was lawfully constituted.

In a written judgment dismissing Karpal Singh's application, the new Lord President expressed the court's concern that it had been thought at all necessary to raise the first question. "The first question puts forth the preposterous proposition that the Federal Territory is *res nullius* or no man's land," he said. In such an event, the court would be sitting "in

the middle of nowhere". The Federal Territory had been constitutionally excised from Selangor by "Part I of and the Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) (No.2) Act, 1973 (Act A 206) which came into force on February 1, 1974." According to Section 4, he continued, the Federation still had sovereignty over the Federal Territory. The answer to the second question was clearly provided for in the Provisions of Section 6(1) of Act A206 which stated that "any written law existing and in force in the Federal Territory shall continue to be in force until repealed, amended or replaced by law passed by Parliament."

Raja Azlan Shah was much respected and admired as a judge. Many lawyers remember vividly that his judgments were sharp, simple and to the point. Tun Mohamed Suffian, Raja Azlan's predecessor, had this to say of him:

At work on the Bench he was a good and patient listener, seldom interrupted or asked questions and thereby gave the impression of agreeing to what was being said. It was a good way of curbing prolix counsel, for the experienced judge knows that with some counsel the more you try to steer them away from tedious repetitions and irrelevancies the more persistent and garrulous they become, all the while you are thinking of the reversed judgments still to be pondered and written and the long list of trials and appeals to be disposed of. It was only after Raja Tun Azlan Shah had delivered judgment that counsel realised to his dismay that the Lord President's reticence meant that he was only listening, but not necessarily agreeing.

[Journal of Malaysian and Comparative Law, 1984].

Professor J.C. Smith, when reading the oration on the occasion the University of Nottingham conferred the Honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on Raja (by then Sultan) Azlan Shah, on July 11, 1986, said:

In twenty years on the Bench he tried cases and heard appeals involving a great range of law and many of his learned judgments are reported in the law reports. It is a remarkable tribute to his judicial work that those judgments have been collected and published in a separate volume: *Judgments of His Royal Highness Sultan Azlan Shah With Commentary*, edited by Professor Dato' Dr Visu Sinnadurai,

Professional Books Publishers, 1986. They constitute a great contribution to the development of the law in Malaysia at a crucial time in its history. A study of these judgments reveals how much of the common law is indeed *common* to both England and Malaysia. We invoke the same principles and frequently rely on the same authorities.

At the launching of the book on March 1, 1986, Professor Dato' Visu Sinnadurai, the editor, said that, throughout his judicial career, Raja Azlan Shah had delivered over 300 judgments which were reported. The decisions which he delivered in those cases still remained as landmark cases in that particular area of law. In many of the decisions, he showed that he held steadfastly to the opinion that no person was above the law, and that all persons were entitled to equal protection of the law as provided for in the Constitution. In many of his decisions, too, he did not feel compelled to adhere solely to the strict application of the law but was influenced by the rules of equity.

Despite his pre-occupation with law, the Lord President never forgot that he was also directly involved in the development of education, especially at the tertiary level. Speaking at the Science University of Malaysia's 12th Convocation on July 30, 1983, he suggested that the Government should set up a higher education loan fund which would greatly help needy students, in particular, those from rural areas. The scheme would also lessen Government's burden in financing institutions of higher learning. Besides, he added, students who obtained such loans would be inclined to be more responsible and study harder. Through scholarship schemes, the Government could also plan its manpower resources to meet the country's needs. He then called on the private sector to give more scholarships to *Bumiputra* (native) students to help them achieve the objectives of the New Economic Policy which aimed at uplifting the economic position of the indigenous population.

By that time, his own life, in fact, had become very complicated. On May 12, 1983, the *Raja Muda* of Perak (Raja Musa ibni Sultan Abdul Aziz) passed away in London after a short illness. He was 64. He was first appointed *Raja Kecil Bongsu*

in 1939 when his father was Sultan. He was born in Teluk Anson (now Teluk Intan). He was a member of the State Legislative Council (1955-1958) and Ex-President of the State Council of Religious Affairs and Malay Customs.

On August 11, 1983, the Secretary of the *Dewan Negara* of Perak, announced that Raja Azlan Shah had been appointed *Raja Muda* (Heir Apparent) of Perak. Raja Ahmed Hisham, the *Raja Di-Hilir*, remained in his position owing to his poor health. Because Raja Azlan Shah had served as Lord President for approximately one year, there was widespread discussion among members of the public as to what he would do – quit the judicial service or turn down the offer of the *Dewan Negara*. It was believed that, under the Perak Constitution, the *Raja Muda* could not hold any government office, in other words, “an office of profit.” But, Raja Azlan Shah publicly explained that such an interpretation was erroneous. His own view was that “The law is silent on this. Even the Federal Constitution is silent on this point of holding an office of profit.” However, there was, he pointed out, a ruling in the Perak Constitution which stated that, as a member of the *Dewan Negara* of Perak, the *Raja Muda* was not supposed to receive any emolument from any Government. The word “Government” referred to the State Government. It meant that the *Raja Muda* could not be an employee of the State; in other words, he could not hold any Government position in the State, for instance, the appointment of State Secretary or district officer. In his meeting with the press on August 13, 1983, he confirmed that he would accept the appointment of *Raja Muda* which had been backdated to July 1, 1983.

But, discussion among members of the public continued and the general view was that Raja Azlan Shah should choose one or the other despite a further clarification by Federal Judge, Mr. Justice Datuk Eusoffe Abdoolader, that there was a specific provision in the Perak State Constitution which enabled the *Raja Muda* to hold even an office of profit under the State Government. This, he said, was contained in Article 32 of the Second Part of the Laws of the Perak Constitution.

By early December 1983, Raja Azlan Shah decided that, out of practical necessity, rather than because of legal constraints, he ought to relinquish his post as the Lord President. But he would do so "in due course" as he had unfinished business to attend to, one of the most important of which was the extension of the Legal Profession Act to Sabah and Sarawak. The Act had been passed by Parliament not long ago. It provided *inter alia* for the formation of a unified Bar for the three regions of Malaysia – Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak – to allow the mobility of lawyers to serve in any part of the country. Hitherto, Sarawak and Sabah lawyers had had the protection of their respective State Advocates Ordinance which stated that no person could be admitted unless he or she had "Sarawak or Sabah connection". Another provision required that a person could only be admitted if he or she had been a resident in the States for more than six months prior to the date of application for admission. More than that, the lawyers in Sabah and Sarawak were also protected by Article 161B of the Federal Constitution which prevented non-residents from practising before courts in Sabah or Sarawak.

Raja Azlan Shah was in Kota Kinabalu on December 6, 1983, where he convened a high-level meeting of judges and officials of the various State Bar committees to discuss the formation of a single Bar for the whole country. The meeting was attended by the Chief Justice of Borneo (Tan Sri Lee Hun Hoe), Federal Court Judge (Mr. Justice Eusoffe Abdoolcader), Attorney-General (Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman), the Attorney-Generals of Sabah and Sarawak as well as representatives of the Malaysian Bar Council, the Sabah Law Association and the Sarawak Advocates Association.

Representatives from Sarawak and Sabah, in general, agreed to the extension of the Act to be made by order of the *Yang Di-Pertuan Agong* (King) but proposed certain modifications which would be "acceptable to all parties concerned." Sabah and Sarawak lawyers wanted a "residential qualification" clause to be included in the Act. This was to avert the possible influx of non-resident lawyers to the two States.

Raja Azlan Shah's hope of a unified Bar Council has not been realized. He did not have the time to see to the completion of his mission. The later part of 1983 was too critical a period in the history of Malaysia. Even as he tried to bring about a unified Bar Council, a controversy had arisen centring on Article 66(5) of the Constitution dealing with royal assent to enable Bills to become law. Amendments were passed by Parliament in August 1983 which provided for Bills passed by Parliament to become law 15 days after they had been presented to the King for royal assent. If assent was withheld, it would be deemed to have been given after the 15 days. Hitherto, without royal assent, Bills passed by Parliament would not become law. There were also amendments to Article 150, dealing with the power to declare an Emergency by substituting the word "Prime Minister" for "Yang Di-Pertuan Agong" and amendments to the Eighth Schedule which dealt with the need for royal assent at State level.

The King (Sultan Ahmad Shah of Pahang), according to the Prime Minister (Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir), had agreed to the amendments before they were tabled in Parliament but, subsequently, could not give his assent after Parliament had passed them because his brother Rulers disagreed. He had, therefore, to respect their wishes. This sparked off a confrontation between the Government and the Rulers. There were some politicians who urged the Government to go ahead and gazette the amendments although the King had not given his assent.

Raja Azlan Shah was placed in an unenviable position but not because he was directly involved. As the Lord President, he was the custodian of the law. The public expected that he would openly make his views known as to which party stood on firmer legal ground. There was also a possibility that the matter might be brought to court. As the *Raja Muda* and, therefore, very likely, the future Sultan, it was thought that he would make a move to help prevent the erosion of the Rulers' authority. He did neither. But the public was made aware that, at a crucial point in the crisis, he commuted between the Rulers and the Prime Minister, conveying messages from one party to the other as they

endeavoured to find a solution to the problem. It would be surprising if, in the process, he did not play at least the role of intermediary, advising, cajoling, and influencing both parties to adopt a "give and take" attitude.

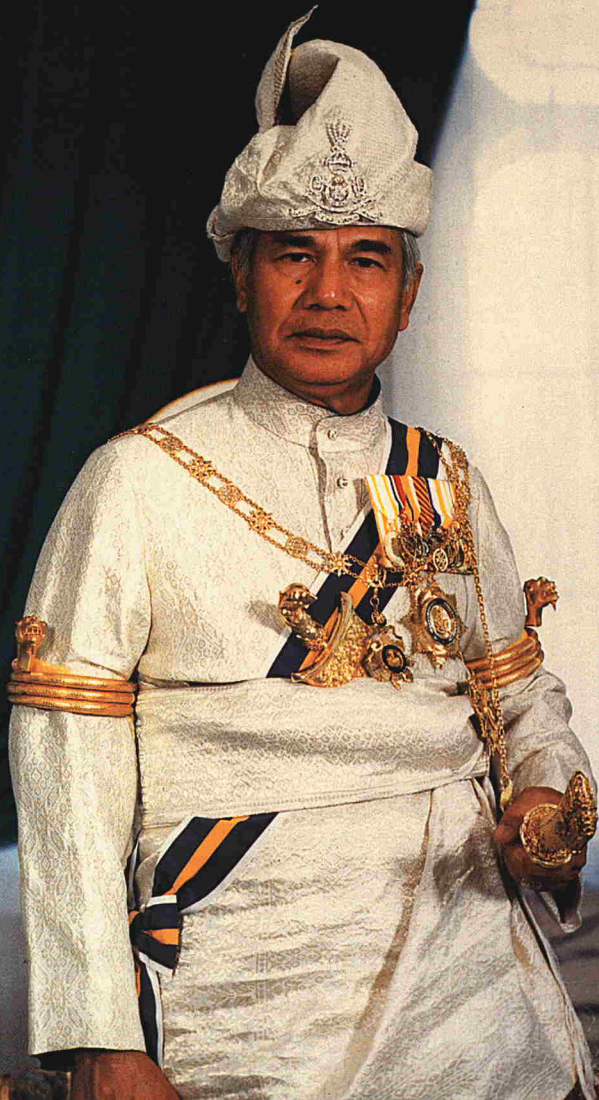
On December 8, 1983, the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir) wrote to the King proposing a new formula. The King then met all the Rulers, except those of Terengganu and Perak who were overseas, on December 11, 1983. Their views were conveyed to the Prime Minister by Raja Azlan Shah on December 13, 1983. It was Raja Azlan Shah too who had, earlier in the day, informed the King of the Government's anxiety to arrive at a solution. The country must count itself fortunate that both sides accepted the new formula. The Deputy King (the Ruler of Negeri Sembilan) signed the Constitution (Amendment) Bill on December 15, 1983.

The new formula provided that the King would be given 30 days instead of 15 to give his assent to a new Bill. A new provision was added which allowed the King to express his disagreement with a Bill which, if it happened, would be sent back to Parliament for further debate. If the Bill was then carried by a two-third majority, it would be presented to the King again and would become law after 30 days. The proposed amendments to Article 150 and the Eighth Schedule were dropped.

The crisis having blown over, Raja Azlan Shah was in a better frame of mind to take a vacation. He left for England in the middle of January 1984. He was still Lord President. While he was on vacation, Sultan Idris unexpectedly passed away, a victim of heart attack, on February 1, 1984. He was 59. His demise occurred while he was having dinner at a restaurant in Sitiawan. He was seen bending down to pick up his napkin while seated at the table and he never got up again. Sultan Idris was one of the more colourful Malay Sultans in modern times. He had a great passion for music and often played the clarinet. Creative and artistic, he yet had a child-like obsession for driving a train. He held a licence. His mood was unpredictable but he

was a simple and kind person, very much loved by the common people.

Raja Azlan Shah was still in England when he received the news of Sultan Idris' demise. He rushed back to the country. From Kuala Lumpur he boarded a Hercules C-130 aircraft for Ipoh but did not proceed immediately to the royal town of Kuala Kangsar. His mother who was unwell was in hospital and Raja Azlan Shah visited her first before proceeding to the palace at Kuala Kangsar to participate in the funeral ceremony. By then, he had been named, but not officially proclaimed, the new Sultan of Perak.





V Ascension

When the *Dewan Negara*, the Council charged with the responsibility of electing a new Ruler met within a day of the demise of the previous Ruler, to elect his successor, it was hardly a matter of speculation that Raja Azlan Shah would be the inevitable choice. It was not because he was already *Raja Muda*, the Heir Apparent, for, traditionally, there was no automatic succession, but because, in the eyes of many, he could not be excelled. The official announcement on February 3, 1984, that he had indeed been elected brought both cheer and pride to the people of Perak.

In accordance with tradition, the announcement was made (in the Throne Room of the Iskandariah Palace) before the funeral rites of the previous Ruler began. Failure to be present at the time of the funeral had, in the past, resulted in strong candidates being by-passed. As mentioned earlier, in 1871, the Heir Apparent, Raja Abdullah, failed to turn up for Sultan Ali's funeral and he was consequently not elected and his displacement led eventually to British intervention in Perak in 1874 for he sought British assistance to oust his rival, Sultan Ismail, elected before the funeral.

Raja Azlan Shah, striking and dignified in full traditional costume, stood before the coffin while the principal chieftain – the *Orang Kaya Bendahara* – read the proclamation letter. The secretary of the *Dewan Negara* then presented the letter of oath to the new Ruler who read and signed it. This was greeted by three shouts of *Daulat Tuanku* by those present, led by the *Orang Kaya Bendahara*. The *Nobat* (royal ensemble) then began playing while a cannon outside the palace started firing fifty-nine times indicating the age of the late Sultan Idris. The State Mufti read

a *doa selamat* (prayer). After that, the new Sultan placed his right hand on the coffin which was the signal for it to be carried out of the Throne Room for burial in the Royal Mausoleum.

Sultan Azlan Shah officially relinquished his post as Lord President on the same day. He visited his Chambers in the Federal Court on the afternoon of February 8, 1984. There, he met a few judges who had come to bid him farewell. They were happy for him but sad for the judicial service. Not a few lawyers have openly said that, had he remained in the judicial service until his retirement, he would have brought about a number of useful reforms. Asked by reporters how he felt at the reality of having to leave the judicial service, he was obviously distraught and could not find words to express his feelings. One day later, Sultan Azlan Shah was also elected the Deputy King of Malaysia.

Just before the late Sultan Idris passed away, he was, in fact, the favoured candidate to be elected the new King of Malaysia. The previous King, the Sultan of Pahang, was about to complete his term of office. At that juncture, only the Rulers of two States, Perak and Johor, had not served as the King of Malaysia. Sultan Idris was the senior of the two. For a while, it was conjectured that Sultan Azlan Shah, Sultan Idris' successor, might be elected Sultan and King within the space of a few days. It was thought, by many, that Sultan Azlan Shah, steeped in legal tradition, would bring to the throne the highly desired notions of constitutional rectitude. But, eventually, seniority was given prime consideration, and the new King chosen was Sultan Mahmood Iskandar of Johor.

Sultan Azlan Shah was, therefore, able to enjoy the freedom of concentrating on his own State, a duty which was of prime importance to him as the new Sultan. In discharging his responsibilities, he quickly displayed both enthusiasm and comprehension. He focused his attention on subjects which were clearly beyond the ken of the less enlightened. He cautioned, for example, that people in Perak should not continue to believe that the state, once the most prosperous in the Peninsula, was still rich and required little to be done in terms of further

development. He was, constructively but candidly, critical during his first official visit to the State Secretariat. Some projects had achieved no noticeable success because there was, he said, simply a lack of dedication, honesty, knowledge and experience. Moreover, development clearly depended on the availability of funds, so he urged the relevant authorities to make an earnest effort to increase the revenue of the state. The collection of arrears of assessment rates, quit rent, and other items had to be intensified. He called, too, for the diversification of Perak's economy.

That, however, was only the beginning. In the ensuing months, his attention turned to numerous other problems which, he felt, needed to be dealt with immediately. On the subject of Islam, he expressed concern that Muslims, once the most progressive people in the world, had not kept abreast of modern advancement. Clearly, their attitude must change. He also asked religious workers to preserve the sanctity of mosques and not allow them to be turned into arenas for political activities. Returning to the subject of development, he appealed to the banks to play a more important role in advancing the economy of the country. At the same time, he called on manufacturers to increase the quality of their products so that consumers would buy their goods instead of imported ones.

His busy schedule, of course, included hockey, the game for which he had the greatest affection since his youth. He was then (and still is) the President of the Malaysian Hockey Federation. As the Ruler of Perak, he wanted the State to be an important centre for international competitions. In keeping with modern progress, an astroturf was a necessity. On July 21, 1984, he laid the foundation of a hockey stadium which, he insisted, should be ready by the end of November the same year for a major international hockey tournament – the Tun Hussein Onn Cup. It was. The Sultan Azlan Shah Stadium, in Ipoh, has been, since 1984, the scene of a number of high-level international competitions.

There was hardly a week, during the first few months of his reign, when he did not remark on shortcomings in Perak, in particular, and the country, as a whole. He frowned on pollution commenting that "Some rivers have become ditches and fresh water life is threatened", and expressed displeasure over the lack of cleanliness in Taiping, a historic town and once the capital of Perak. His intolerance of incompetence and inadequacies, however, was matched by his impatience to see that constructive plans were quickly implemented. While he called for the opening up of new areas and townships, in readiness for the year 2000, when the population of Perak was expected to increase to 2.2 million (compared to 1.7 million in 1980), he delightfully announced, in declaring open, for the first time, the budget session of the State Assembly, in early November, 1984, that 756.08 hectares of industrial land had been developed because the State Government was fully committed to industrialization. More areas, especially in the Kinta valley, he said, would be developed in due course. At the same time, the State Government had, under his urging, approved a site in the Sri Iskandar township, a new settlement situated along the Ipoh-Lumut road, for the construction of a branch campus of the Science University of Malaysia as well as that of the Mara Institute of Technology.

Of all the subjects which he spoke on, the one which he, understandably, continually referred to was law and the constitution. In a lecture organized by the Malaysian Institute of Management on "The Supremacy of the Law," delivered at the Tunku Abdul Rahman Hall, Kuala Lumpur, on November 23, 1984, Sultan Azlan Shah reminded the audience that the constitution, as law, was the supreme authority in the country. However, he pointed out that when one talked of law in Malaysia, one usually referred to statute laws, in other words, laws which had been passed by Parliament. Often, the layman overlooked case-law or judge-made law, namely, a decision made by a judge in a particular case which had a binding effect and, therefore, became law. While emphasizing the importance of law and the constitution, he remarked that the Malaysian Parliament, nonetheless, was duty-bound to ensure that the

Federal Constitution was dynamic in nature and did not remain static in the face of social change and progress. There were, he assured the audience, stringent procedures to be followed for change to be introduced. More important still, the final authority actually rested upon the people; they, in fact, decided how their representatives ought to exercise power.

On another occasion, touching on constitutional monarchy in Malaysia, he explained that it had existed even before independence. What was enshrined in the constitution at the time of independence was the result of an agreement between the people, represented by the then Alliance Party, and the Rulers. That agreement must be respected. Elaborating on the relationship between the monarch and the government, he quoted the remark of the learned constitutionalist, Sir Ivor Jennings, who once said, "We can damn the Government and cheer the Queen". But, Sultan Azlan Shah said that he did not like "the Government to be damned, the Ruler cheered or the Ruler to be damned, the Government cheered". Both could be cheered if they played their respective roles in a dignified manner, in keeping with the principles enshrined in the constitution. "The sovereign reigns and the Government rules," he added. The two functions were different. "As a Ruler," he said, "I cannot participate in planning or formulating a programme. I am not a political leader. I am not an administrative officer; I am only a consultant." In so saying, Sultan Azlan Shah obviously had in mind the words of Walter Bagehot who described the three rights of the monarch as: "the right to be consulted, the right to encourage, the right to warn." These rights confer influence rather than power, yet they are not insignificant. And the monarch of great sense and sagacity would exercise them with prudence.

When celebrating his 57th birthday, in mid-April 1985, he could not resist returning to the subject of law and the constitution, reminding his subjects that in the interests of national security, peace and harmony, there must be respect for the Federal Constitution and all other laws. Civil liberties could not, he said, exist in absolute terms but must, of necessity, be

qualified. The freedom of expression, he emphasized, was not merely an end in itself, it also served an indispensable function in a democratic system. When addressing a gathering of political parties, the Malaysian Bar Council, trade unions and other organizations in the middle of 1985, he extolled the superiority of parliamentary democracy. It was a system which allowed a government "to control the governed and yet be itself controlled."

One year later, at a banquet held for the Rulers at the Iskandariah Palace at Kuala Kangsar, Sultan Azlan Shah explicated a subject only vaguely understood by the average Malaysian, namely, the Conference of Rulers. The Conference, he said, indeed had great influence in ensuring the nation's stability, prosperity, peace and success because it was a constitutional body vested with executive, deliberative and consultative powers. The powers of the Conference included the granting of royal consent or rejection vis-a-vis religious matters in the country as a whole. It could also agree or disagree with laws that touched on the special privileges of the Rulers or laws that proposed to alter state boundaries, and it offered advice on appointments to special posts. The Conference was also consulted on matters affecting Malay rights and those of the *bumiputra* (natives) in Sabah and Sarawak. The executive functions he earlier referred to included the power to appoint the King (*Yang Di-Pertuan Agong*) and his Deputy.

Sultan Azlan Shah was installed on December 9, 1985. The installation of the Sultan of Perak is an elaborate affair. Part of the ceremonies involved are believed to date back to ancient times. But, written or printed records have been available only since 1887 (May 11), when Sultan Yusuf was installed. He passed away the same year. His successor was Sultan Idris whose installation took place on April 5, 1889. By 1874, Perak had come under British administration. At their installations, therefore, a new element was incorporated in the form of the Sultan's oath and the overall programme included a military salute, the attendance of a guard of honour, and a military band as well as a banquet at the palace attended by the leading Malays and the

British officers. There were also popular entertainments including races, sports and displays by the Perak Sikhs. Existing records indicate that beginning with the installation of Sultan Idris, followed by that of his children, Sultan Abdul Jalil (on September 7, 1916) and Sultan Iskandar (on April 7, 1919), the ceremony involved became more elaborate. But, then, little information is available on earlier installations.

It is possible, however, to ascertain that, from the time Sultan Abdul Aziz was installed on March 4, 1939, the installation of every Perak Sultan has been basically similar. There have been variations of course. For example, in 1939 and again in 1949, during the installation of Sultan Yussuf (Sultan Azlan Shah's father), the British High Commissioner and the British Resident were two important persons participating in the ceremony on the first day when the Sultan took the oath of office and the proclamation was read. Since the country achieved independence, the bureaucracy has not been given a major role in the installation ceremony except that the Chief Minister (*Mentri Besar*) pledges, on behalf of the State Government and the people, undivided loyalty to their Royal Highnesses.

A general comparison between the installation in 1939 with that of Sultan Azlan Shah's will illustrate more clearly the variations which have been introduced. In 1939, after the Sultan had taken his seat on the Throne, the *Tengku Panglima Besar* led a procession with the *Dato' Bentara Seri Nara Di-Raja* bearing the State Sword (*Cura Si Manja Kini*) and he was supported by the *Panglima Perang Kanan* and *Panglima Perang Kiri*. Behind them came the bearers of the State Regalia. The rear of the procession was brought up by two *Bentara*. It was the *Raja Kecil Muda* (a title no longer extant) who handed the *Pontol Bernaga* (amulets) and the *Bunga Nyior* (coconut-flower pattern) chain to the Sultan. It was he, too, who handed the State Sword to His Royal Highness.

At Sultan Azlan Shah's installation, the ceremony began with the *Dato' Pengelola Bijaya Di-Raja* bringing in the *Al-Quran* accompanied by the State Mufti together with the *Raja Cik Muda*

Pawang Di-Raja who carried the State Sword. The three were preceded by the *Panglima Dalam*, the *Panglima Perang Kanan* and the *Panglima Perang Kiri* along with two *Bentara*. It was also the *Raja Cik Muda Pawang Di-Raja* who presented the State Sword to the Sultan.

It is not difficult to discern that there must be some connection between the titles *Raja Kecil Muda* and *Raja Cik [Kecik] Muda Pawang Di-Raja*. In fact, there was a time when there was a *Raja Kecil Muda* as well as a *Pawang Raja*. The Title of *Raja Kecil Muda* was conferred on a number of occasions in the 18th and 19th centuries on high-ranking princes. This was the third of the lesser titles once held by members of royalty which were, in their respective order: *Raja Kecil Sulung*, *Raja Kecil Tengah*, *Raja Kecil Muda* and *Raja Kecil Bongsu*. As mentioned earlier, in 1953, during the reign of Sultan Yussuf, the title of *Raja Kecil Muda* was removed from the list (and *Raja Kecil Besar* added). It seems clear, however, that it was then merged with the title of *Pawang Raja*.

The *Pawang Raja* was an ancient institution and, traditionally, the holder of the position played an important role during the installation of the Sultan especially in conducting the ceremony known as "Invocation of the Guardian Spirits" (*Tabal Jin* or *Tabal Pusaka* as it is now called). It is believed that the *Pawang Raja* continued to perform the function till the installation of Sultan Abdul Jalil in 1916. Sultan Iskandar, whose installation took place in 1919, dispensed with this ceremony. His reign lasted until 1938 in the course of which the role of the *Pawang Raja* became obsolete because one of the *Pawang's* main duties in bygone years was "to keep alive" the State weapons (part of the Regalia), to conduct the feasts for the Royal *Nobat*, and to sacrifice to the Guardian Spirits at an annual ceremony in which he made obeisance to the Regalia and offered delicacies to the Spirits. Such ceremonies were not performed.

At the installation of Sultan Abdul Aziz in 1939, the ceremony of *Tabal Jin* was revived. But since there was no *Pawang Raja*, the holder of the title *Raja Kecil Muda* (an elderly person

who had lived under four Sultans) was, for the first time, asked to undertake the role of the *Pawang Raja*. He was not, however, chosen at random for, apparently, in earlier times, the title was usually given to the Assistant to the *Sultan Muda* (a title later infrequently conferred) who, according to beliefs, controlled the Guardian Spirits (*Jin Kerajaan*) and other invisibles.

At the installation of Sultan Yussuf in 1949 (April 16), there was again a *Pawang Raja* performing the ceremony of *Tabal Jin*. He (Raja Alang Bibi of Kampar) was said to be the grandson of the old *Pawang Raja*. In 1953, as mentioned previously, *Raja Kecil Muda* was removed from the list of lesser royal titles. Subsequently, it must have been merged with the title of *Pawang Raja* for, at the installation of Sultan Idris in 1963 (October 26), the ceremony of "Invocation of the Guardian Spirits" was performed for the first time by a person holding the title *Raja Cik Muda Pawang Di-Raja*. This was repeated at the installation of Sultan Azlan Shah.

Apart from this ancient ceremony, there are two others which are also steeped in tradition during the installation of a new Perak Ruler. One, performed on the same night as the "Invocation of the Guardian Spirits", is the lustration ceremony. The royal couple have to sit on a platform of several tiers (*Panca Persada*). Although *panca* means 'five', the structure is usually more than five tiers. When they have taken their seats, they are sprinkled with lustration water. In the past, rice water (*air tepung tawar*) was used for this ceremony. For Sultan Azlan Shah's installation, the lustration water was collected from seven tributaries of the Perak river.

The other ceremony that the royal couple have to perform is the pilgrimage to the royal graves. Most of the graves are strung out along the left (for the Malays right) bank of the Perak river. The grave of the founder of the dynasty – Sultan Muzaffar Shah – is located at Teluk Bakong, in the Mukim of Lambor Kanan, Parit. The last part of this ceremony is conducted at a place called Beting Bras Basah, situated a little over seven kilometres off the mouth of the Perak river. Here, it is believed,

the founder of the dynasty had stopped before proceeding upstream.

These traditional ceremonies are of immense symbolic importance. They emphasize the fact that the Perak Sultanate was established in ancient times, long before the first modern constitution was proclaimed in the Malay Peninsula. It was Sultan Abu Bakar, founder of modern Johor in 1885, who, just before he passed away in 1895, gave Johor a modern written constitution. In 1911, Sultan Zainal Abidin III of Terengganu followed Johor's example. No other constitution was drawn up until after World War II when the British introduced, in 1946, the Malayan Union which was rejected by the Malays and it was then replaced, in 1948, by the Federation of Malaya Constitution which brought into one political unit nine Sultanates and two Settlements (Penang and Melaka). Another constitution was promulgated when the country became independent in 1957. It was this constitution which provided for the establishment of the institution known as *Yang Di-Pertuan Agong* (the Paramount Ruler or King of Malaya then and, since 1963, Malaysia).

The installation of the *Yang Di-Pertuan Agong* is comparatively very simple. Sultan Azlan Shah was elected *Yang Di-Pertuan Agong* on March 2, 1989, by the Conference of Rulers. Like his predecessors, he will serve for five years from April 20, 1989 to April 25, 1994. He was installed *Yang Di-Pertuan Agong* on September 18, 1989. Briefly, the ceremony consisted of, first, the King receiving the Holy Quran and placing it on a table after kissing it. The Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed) then read the Proclamation of Installation followed by the Grand Chamberlain (*Datuk Paduka Maharaja Lela*) presenting the *Keris* of State to His Majesty who, after receiving it, placed it on a table. His Majesty then read the Oath of Office. The Royal *Nobat* (from Perak, unlike in all previous instances when it was from Kedah) then played "Raja Bertabal" and the audience acclaimed *Daulat Tuanku* three times. The subsequent part of the ceremony involved the Prime Minister reading a message of felicitation and pledging loyalty on behalf of the government and the people after which His Majesty delivered

the Royal Address. The ceremony was brought to a close after prayers had been recited.

The Malaysian monarchy (the *Yang Di-Pertuan Agong*) is a unique institution. Tunku Abdul Rahman, the first Prime Minister of this country, has explained that, in establishing the system he was inspired by the political system in vogue in Negeri Sembilan (literally 'Nine Territories') whose sovereign, called the *Yang Di-Pertuan Besar*, has, since early times, been elected (by four territorial chiefs). Here, in Negeri Sembilan, when the institution of *Yang Di-Pertuan Besar* was established, it was envisaged that the holder was to have no political power. In other words, he was not to rule. His position was purely symbolic: he was the symbol of unity and integrity; he was also the fount of justice. Not unlike him, the *Yang Di-Pertuan Agong* is the symbol of national unity and continuity in a pluralistic democracy.

But quite unlike the Sultan in his own domain, the *Yang Di-Pertuan Agong's* relation with the people is more formal and less direct. He is, one might say, the epitome of the modern constitutional monarch. The Sultan, in his own state, straddles two traditions – the ancient (called *Adat*) and the modern (*Constitution*). His position in the modern state is clearly delineated by the constitution: his function is primarily ceremonial. But, in practice, the modern constitution has not fully eradicated tradition (*adat*). So much of the ancient heritage continues to prevail, and it effectively governs the emotional ties between the Sultan and his subjects. The Sultan is regarded with extreme reverence. As it was decreed by the ancient laws of Melaka, the Ruler's subjects must abide by the commands of the Ruler; whether the Ruler was tyrannical or not, the subjects must follow his commands. On the other hand, it was, in traditional times, said of the Ruler that:

His father is the religion of the Prophet; His mother is the Custom and the Law; His brothers are the officers of high and low degree; His children are the whole body of the subjects, for the Raja is as though he has no father or mother or children. The child on his lap he must

put down; but even the common monkey in the jungle is his care. Should ever the Raja forsake these truths, then will the country be destroyed.

Much is, therefore, expected of the *Sultan* or *Raja* or *Yang Di-Pertuan Besar* in his domain by the common people whose perception of the monarch can best be illustrated by the concept of *kerajaan* (now used as an equivalent of the English term 'government') for central to the concept is *Raja* (the state of having a *Raja*). It is not territory and its concomitant, boundary, which is basic to the making of the political entity. Before the advent of the British administration, where the *Raja* was, there his kingdom was located. And where the subject resided (set foot); there, must he submit himself to the Ruler of the realm (prop the sky), as the Malay saying goes: *Di mana bumi dipijak, di sana langit dijunjung* (literally, where one sets foot there must one prop the sky).

As the King of Malaysia, for the present and the next few years to come, Sultan Azlan Shah will be more preoccupied with affairs concerning the nation rather than his own State. One of his very first major duties was to play host to Queen Elizabeth II when she visited the country in conjunction with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) which was held in Kuala Lumpur from 18th to 24th October, 1989. For Sultan Azlan Shah, it was undoubtedly one of the more memorable moments of his life. He once remarked that Queen Elizabeth II and he had something in common. Both did not, in their early lives, envisage that they would become monarchs.

More than that, for both sovereigns, the meeting was, to some extent, a renewal of old acquaintanceship. In 1902, Sultan Idris, Sultan Azlan Shah's great grandfather, had attended the coronation of King Edward VII, Queen Elizabeth's great grandfather. In 1934, Sultan Azlan Shah's father, then the *Raja Bendahara* of Perak, had accompanied the Sultan of Selangor to England and was personally introduced to King George V, the grandfather of Queen Elizabeth II. Sultan Yussuf was in England again in the middle of 1953, being one of the Malay Rulers chosen to represent the Federation of Malaya at the coronation

of Queen Elizabeth II. Sultan Azlan Shah himself, of course, was then a young law student at Nottingham University. He began his professional career subsequently, in late 1954, at a time when Britain, under the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, was still exerting political control over what is now Malaysia: in 1954, Sabah and Sarawak were still British Crown Colonies and the Malay States had been under British Protection for a long time.

The next few years will undoubtedly place greater demand on Sultan Azlan Shah's life. He will have little privacy as invitations pour in for him to attend to national as well as international affairs and functions. For example, before Queen Elizabeth's visit, he was invited to deliver the 8th Tun Dr. Ismail Oration at the 23rd Malaysia-Singapore Congress of Medicine organized by the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia. The title of his oration was "Medicine, Ethics and Law". Within the next couple of weeks, he was invited to declare open an international chemical conference on silicon and tin at the University of Malaya. He is the learned King as he had been the learned judge. He is intellectually versatile; the people are aware of it. They naturally cherish the presence of an educated King and he has been most obliging.

In late March 1984, Sultan Azlan Shah was invited to launch a book written by former Cabinet Minister, Tan Sri Shariff Ahmad, entitled *Sire With Love*. The book was dedicated to the Sultan of Pahang. In commending the author, Sultan Azlan Shah remarked that, in the past, writers, when dealing with Rulers, tended to touch on their origins, bravery, mystique and everything else that was awe-inspiring. Rarely were there books that highlighted the Rulers' ties with the people. Even in modern times, the people knew only of the ceremonial functions of the Rulers especially as depicted on television. They had no idea of the thoughts and feelings of the Rulers. In films, Rulers were often depicted as arrogant and uncaring. This could well impair the Rulers' relationships with their subjects.

There is considerable veracity in what he said. Sultan Azlan Shah himself has attracted more than the usual attention.

The people talk frequently about him. Many have seen him flittingly as he passes by; others have been able to view him, more intently perhaps, but still only from a distance. Not a few, however, have been more fortunate: his childhood friends, his classmates, his teammates in sports and his teachers. In later years, there were those who studied law with him. Then, there were his superiors when he served as a junior officer. In course of time, there were those who became his subordinates. They all knew him before the demands of office made it increasingly difficult for him to fraternize freely even with his close personal friends.

In appearance, Sultan Azlan Shah is stern and a little intimidating. One lawyer described him as imperious-looking. Prim, proper and dignified rather than flamboyant, he has, although not prone to frivolity, a spontaneous sense of humour. His mind is naturally logical; the influence of law is unlikely to wear off. The years he spent in the company of common people have stood him in good stead. In those years, he was able to cultivate genuine friendships as few princes have been able to do. When a close friend and classmate passed away, when he was still in school, he cycled with other friends to attend the funeral. When studying in the Malay College, Kuala Kangsar, he did not demand that he should be given a single room although he was the son of the Perak Sultan.

He realized a long time ago that his children were his greatest assets. Therefore, he provided them with the best possible education. The eldest son, His Royal Highness Raja Nazrin, Heir Apparent (*Raja Muda*) and now, the Regent of Perak, is a graduate of Oxford University with, in addition, an M.A. from Harvard University, and is still a registered doctoral student of the latter university. In school, both here and in England, he was very active in sports. Athletics and rugby were his first choice. He is now President of the Perak Rugby Association. In 1989, he was appointed a Pro-Chancellor of the University of Malaya. The eldest daughter, Raja Azureen, holds a degree in Mathematics and Economics from the University of Syracuse, United States, as well as a Master's degree in Business

Administration from the London Business School, University of London. Raja Ashman Shah, the second son and younger to Raja Azureen, has an Economics degree from the University of Nottingham, and a post-graduate law degree from Cambridge University as well as Bar-at-Law, Lincoln's Inn, London. Raja Eleena, the second daughter and fourth child, has graduated in law from the University of London, and Bar-at-Law, Lincoln's Inn, London. Raja Yong Sofia, the youngest of the children, graduated from the International University, London, with a Master's degree in Business Administration. Both she and her eldest sister are married.

Sultan Azlan Shah's continued interest in sports is perhaps the clearest testimony of the persistence of the past in the present where his predilections are concerned. His overwhelming passion for hockey which he now no longer plays is manifest although he has since turned to golf which he plays with relish. But, it is hockey which runs in his blood and which, for him, irrepressibly revives memories of those years when he played the game with such dash and verve. It is not beyond him to quip, when watching a game: "They don't make them the same anymore."

Sultan Azlan Shah is a product of the 'thirties and forties'. Those were the formative years of his life. The younger generation among the English-educated in this country at that time had a more carefree perception of life. There were no classes after four. Most school children were preoccupied with sports. Teachers then never ceased to tell their pupils, "All work and no play make Jack a dull boy." The word "all-rounder" was widely bandied about and was practically the nomenclature for the ideal student. It was the sportsman who was always admired in the school. His exploits were talked about for years.

But Sultan Azlan Shah's world view is undoubtedly coloured by both the simplicity of Batu Gajah and the more sophisticated English society into which he was thrown in his early adolescence, except that, in the last four years before his departure for England, his activities in sports enabled him to

savour a little more of the very colourful traits of Malayan urban life. As a schoolboy then, he was already socializing with adults as he followed the Perak state hockey team all over the country to participate in inter-state encounters. In 1948, on the two consecutive days before the School Certificate Examination began, he played hockey for the State and the Kinta Malays respectively. No student today would venture to do the same.

England, undoubtedly, has also left a few indelible marks. Certainly he has little difficulty appreciating Western classical music, humour and style. In gait and posture, countenance and mannerism, he is not typical of the traditional Malay Sultan. There is strength in his movement and his personality is robust rather than debonair.

While usually affable he has been known to throw tantrums and, from time to time, is given to nostalgia, more especially when he is surrounded by friends of Batu Gajah days. It is this human element in him which has enabled him to function thus far as an agent of stability. The nation, yet in its infancy, comparatively speaking, has continued to face serious challenges. It very much requires a prudent rather than a cantankerous King. Sultan Azlan Shah has demonstrated that he is capable of a controlled and composed handling of controversial and contentious issues. A country can ask little more of its monarch.



Her Royal Highness the Raja
Permaisuri of Perak in 1984.



On December, 1985, began the installation ceremony of the Sultan of Perak at the official palace in Kuala Kangsar.

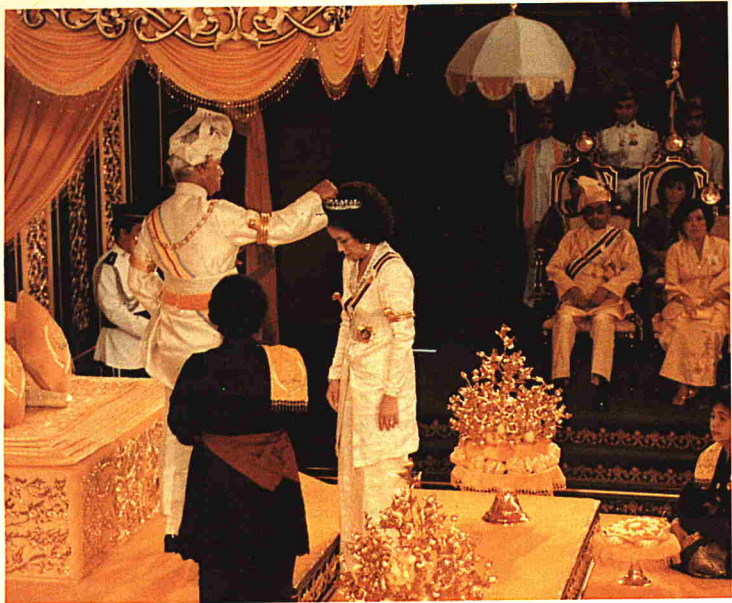
Above: Their Royal Highnesses, the Sultan and Raja Permaisuri, on their way to perform the installation ceremony.

Below: Their Royal Highnesses entering the Throne Room.





His Royal Highness the Sultan
receiving and kissing the State
sword *Cum Si Manja Kini*.



Above: The ceremony of bestowing the royal title on Her Royal Highness the Raja Permaisuri.

Opposite: His Royal Highness the Sultan delivering the Royal Address.





The Ceremony of Invocation of the Guardian Spirits.

Above: Articles of the State Regalia being brought into the Throne Room.

Below: Their Royal Highnesses seated on a special settee embroidered in gold, flanked by the bearers of the State Regalia and candle bearers.

The Installation ceremony followed the ceremony of the Invocation of the Guardian Spirits.

Opposite left: The Royal Platform in the palace ground.

Opposite right: Their Royal Highnesses on the way up the Royal Platform.

Opposite middle: Their Royal Highnesses seated on the top tier of the Platform.





The Royal House Boat specially built for the ceremony.
Below: His Royal Highness the Sultan washing his face and feet at Beting Beras Basah.



Opposite page

Above: His Royal Highness the Sultan sprinkling water at the tomb of Tok Temong.

Below: His Royal Highness the Sultan at the tomb of Sultan Ali at Gedong Siam, Kota Lama Kanan.

















The King (*Yang Di-Pertuan Agong*) is the Supreme Head of Malaysia. He is a symbol of the unity of the country. His term of office is five years. In exercising his functions he must act with the advice of the Cabinet or of a Minister acting under the general authority of the Cabinet. There are, however, some functions which he exercises in his discretion, that is (a) the appointment of a Prime Minister; (b) the withholding of consent to a request for the dissolution of Parliament; and (c) the requisition of a meeting of the Conference of Rulers concerned solely with the privileges, position, honours and dignities of Their Royal Highnesses, and any action at such a meeting. Although the King is one of the constituent parts of Parliament, there are certain functions which he exercises in relation to Parliament separately. He can summon, prorogue, or dissolve Parliament. And he may address either House of Parliament or both Houses jointly. In general, it may be said that the office of *Yang Di-Pertuan Agong* is the essential one of the Malaysian Constitution without which all others become meaningless.

Opposite page

Above: His Royal Highness taking the Oath of Office of the *Yang Di-Pertuan Agong*.

Below: His Royal Highness Sultan Azlan Shah seated among Their Royal Highnesses the Rulers, their Representatives and the Governors.







His Majesty inspecting the Guard of Honour before the Installation Ceremony.



Opposite: Their Royal Highnesses and their Representatives arriving for the installation of the 9th Yang Di-Pertuan Agong.

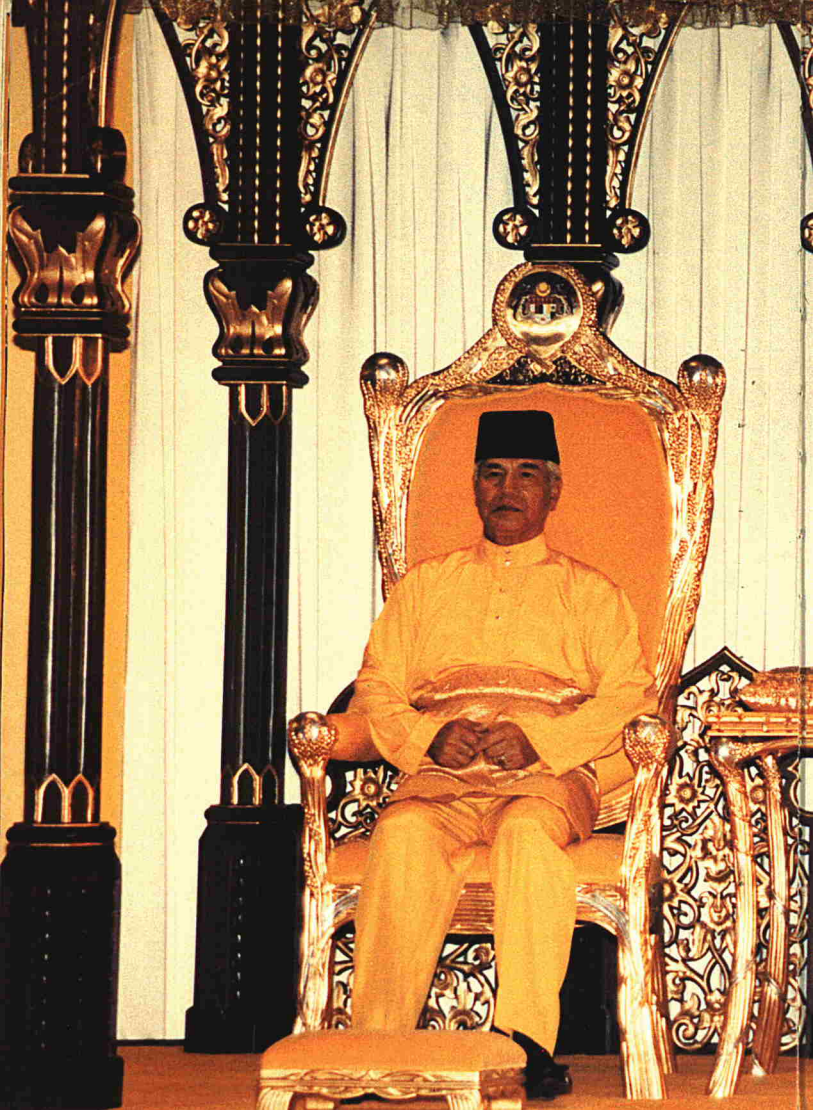




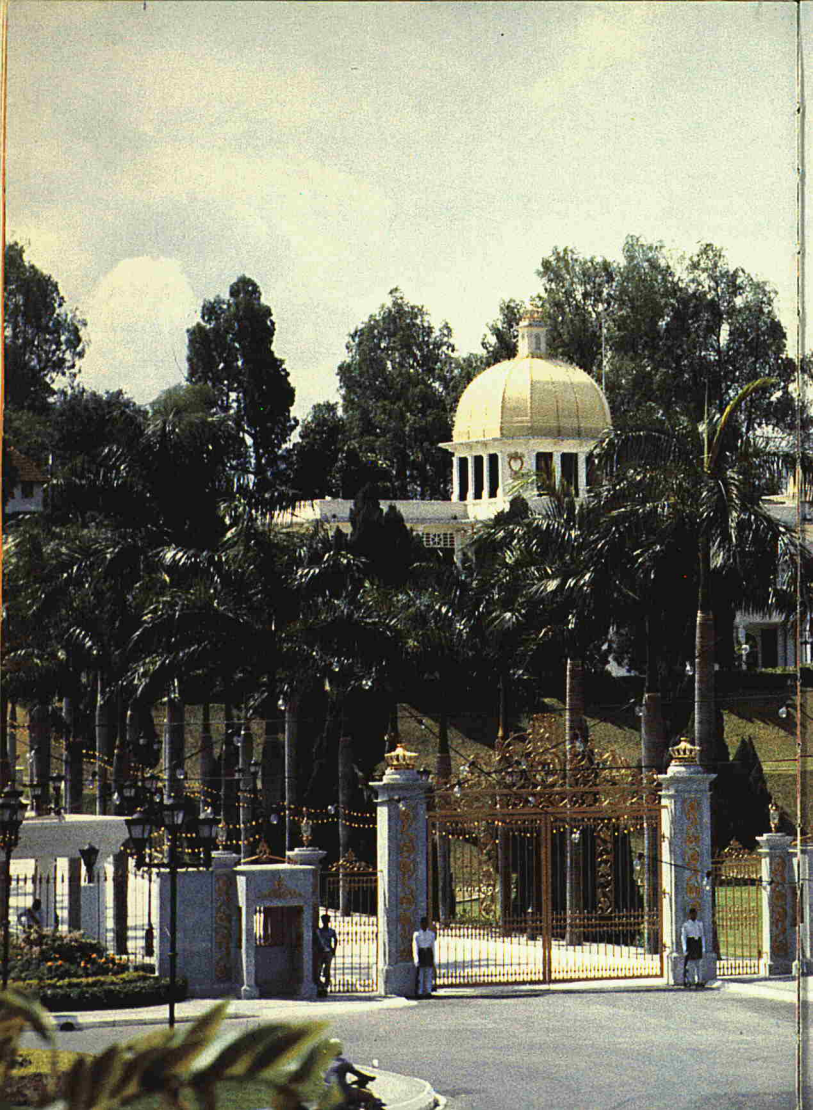
The installation of the *Yang Di-Pertuan Agong* is brief and simple. Three of the more important parts of the ceremony shown here are: firstly, the Grand Chamberlain presents the Holy Quran to His Majesty who then kisses it; secondly, His Majesty receives the *Keris* of State from the Grand Chamberlain and also kisses it; and thirdly, the Grand Chamberlain presents the Document of the Royal Oath of Office to His Majesty who then proceeds to read the Document.

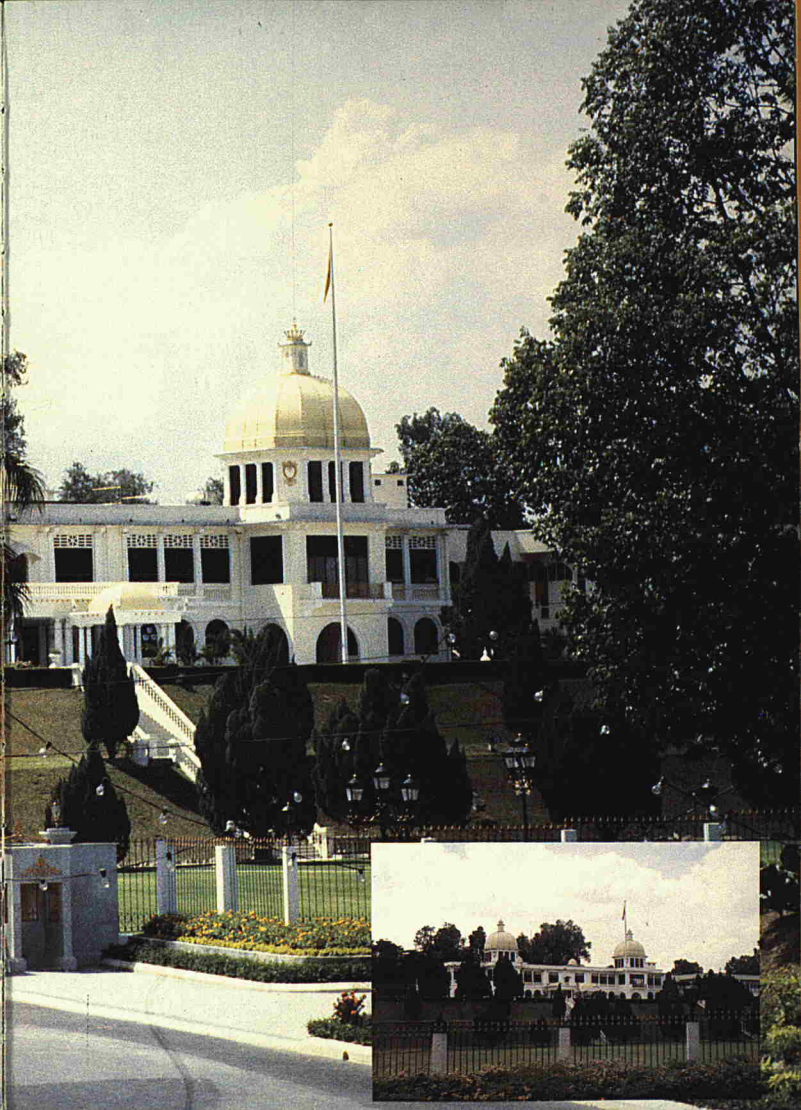


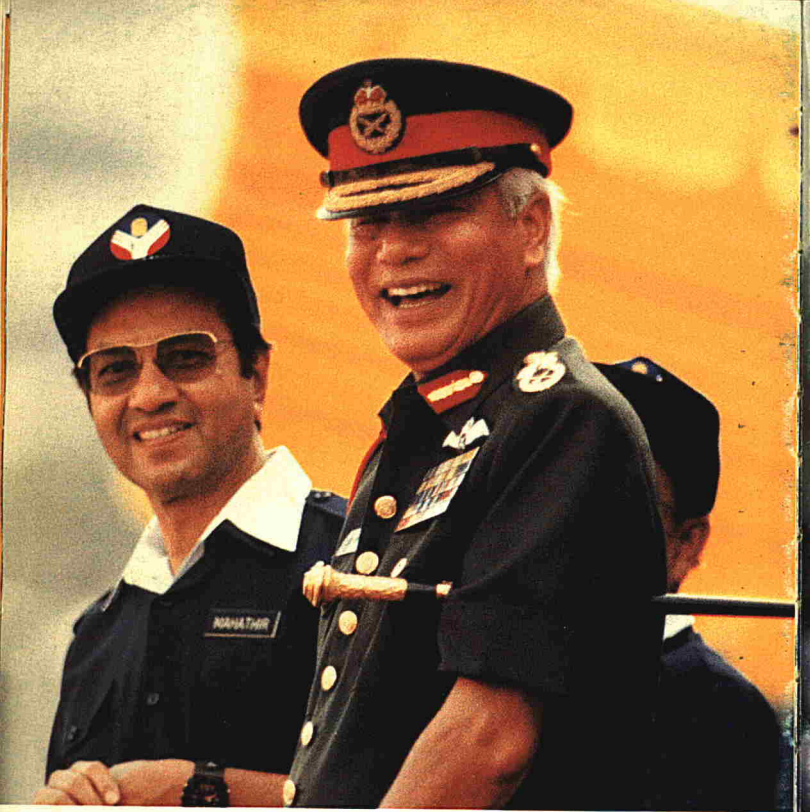












Previous page: His Majesty's Official Residence
in Kuala Lumpur.



His Majesty with Prime Minister Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.



When launching the authorised biography of Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra (*Tunku: A Pictorial Biography*) at the Royal Selangor Club on August 28, 1984, His Majesty said "None of us can claim to have lived a fuller and more varied life than Tunku." His Majesty further described the Tunku as "a man of wholesome sincerity and dedication to his belief." The Tunku "fathered a nation and harmonised the races." On his retirement as Prime Minister, he did not sit idly by but devoted himself to the cause of Islam and the welfare of his fellow men. "Here then," His Majesty said, "is someone who cannot but be loved and respected by all for his integrity, dedication and devotion in the several fields he has ventured into."

His Majesty with Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, the First Prime Minister of Malaysia.

His Majesty with Tun Abdul Razak,
the Second Prime Minister of
Malaysia.



His Majesty with Tun Hussein Onn,
the Third Prime Minister of
Malaysia.







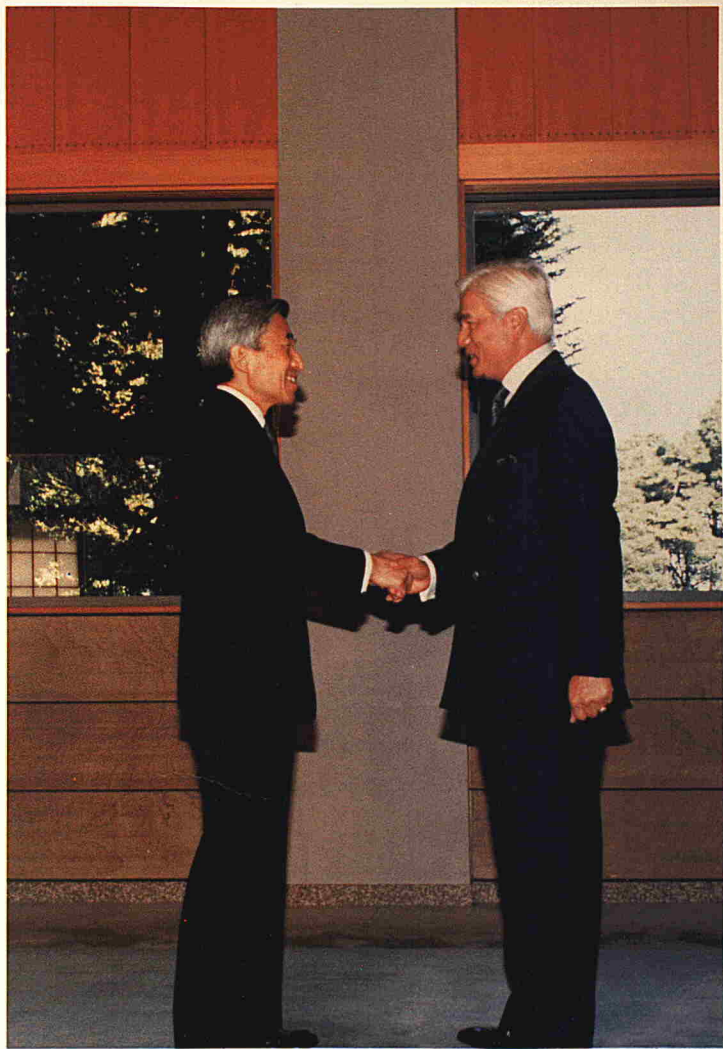
His Majesty accompanying Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth during her official visit to Malaysia, (October 18-24, 1989).





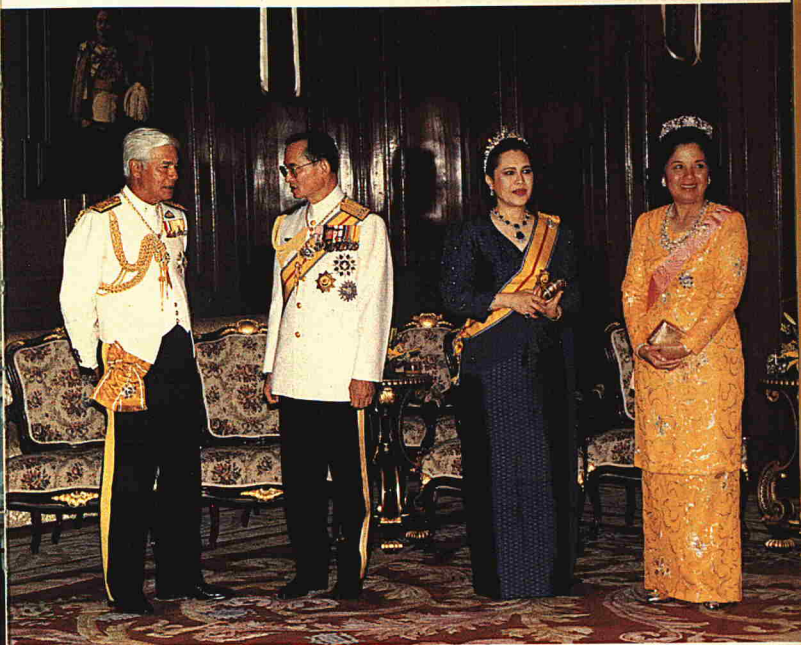


Their Majesties and His Majesty Emperor Akihito and Her Majesty Empress Michiko of Japan. Their Majesties were in Japan to attend the Enthronement Ceremony of the Emperor in November 1990.





His Majesty with His Majesty the Sultan of
Brunei Darussalam.

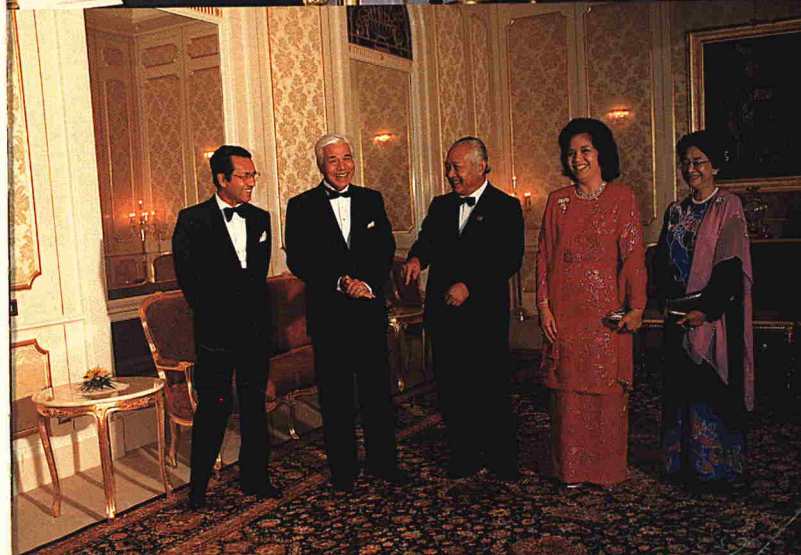


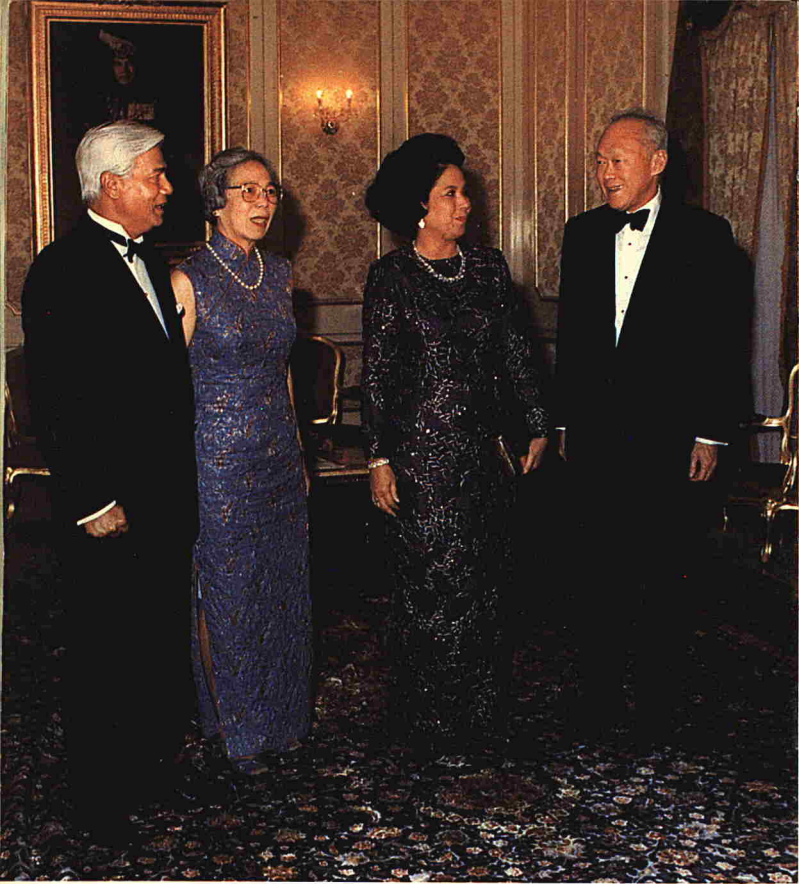
Their Majesties with His Majesty King
Bhumibol Adulyadej and Her Majesty Queen
Sirikit of Thailand in Bangkok in September
1990.



His Majesty with President Suharto in Indonesia in September 1990.

Opposite page:
Their Majesties with President Suharto, Dato Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and his wife, Datin Seri Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.





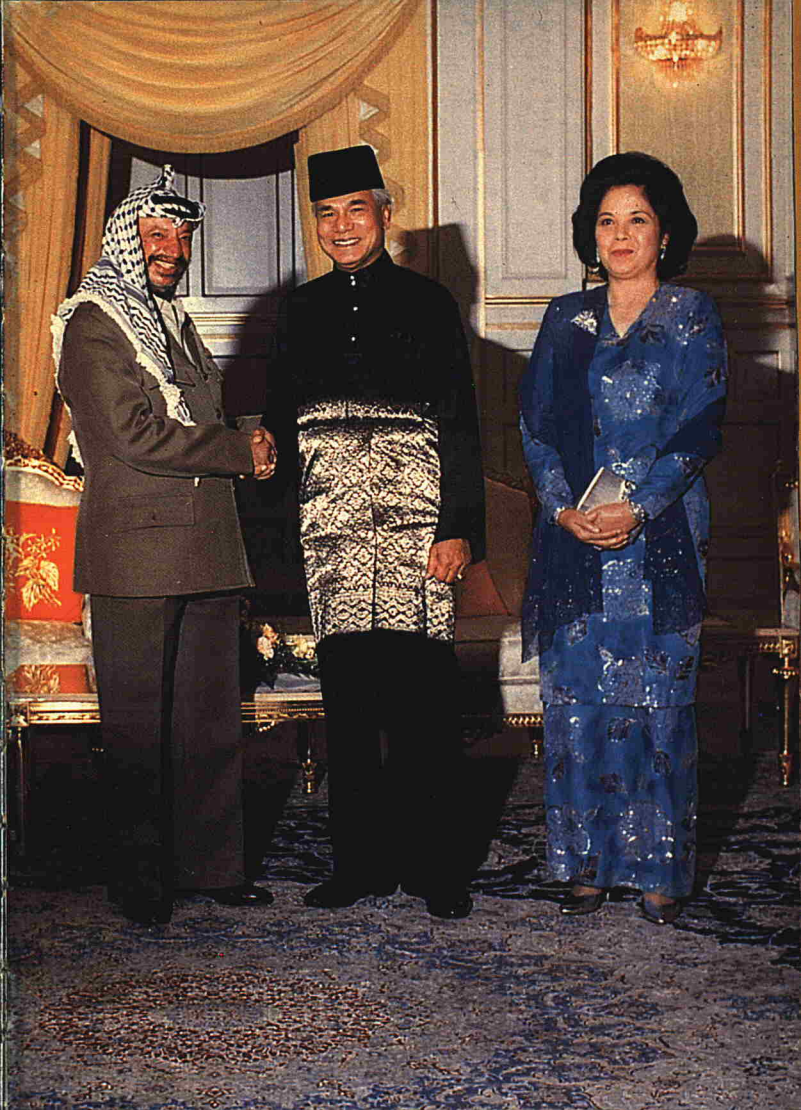
Their Majesties with Mr Lee Kuan Yew of
Singapore and Mrs Lee.



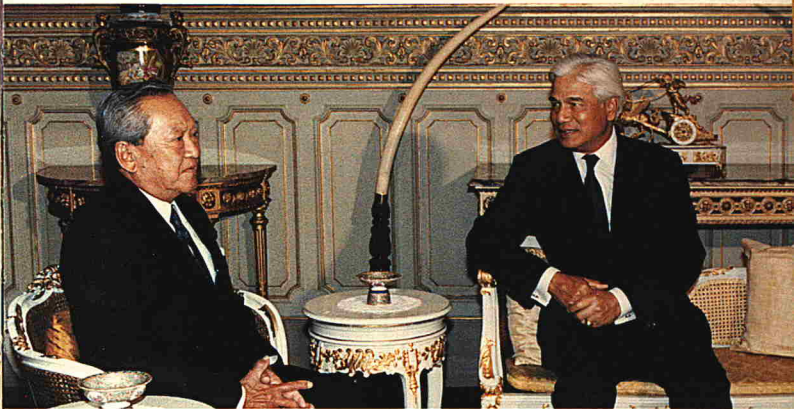
His Majesty with Mr Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of Singapore.

Overleaf: Their Majesties with Mr Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, March 6, 1990.









His Majesty with
General Chatchai Choonhavan,
Prime Minister of Thailand, on March 4,
1990.

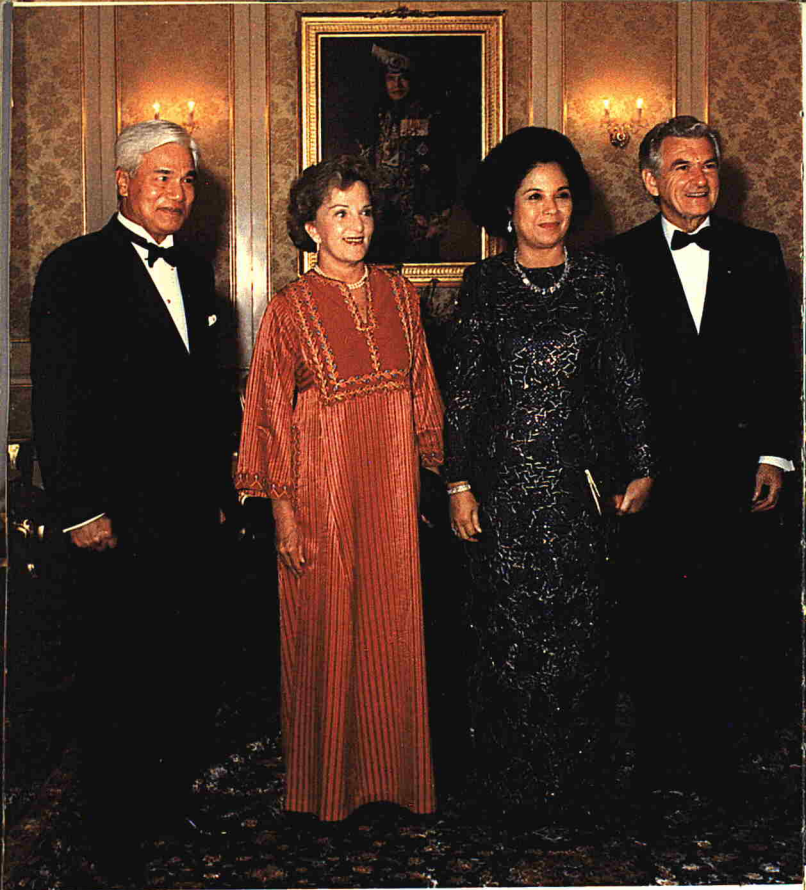
Opposite:
His Majesty with Mr Nelson Mandela, Deputy
President of the African National Congress
when the latter visited Malaysia in November
1990.



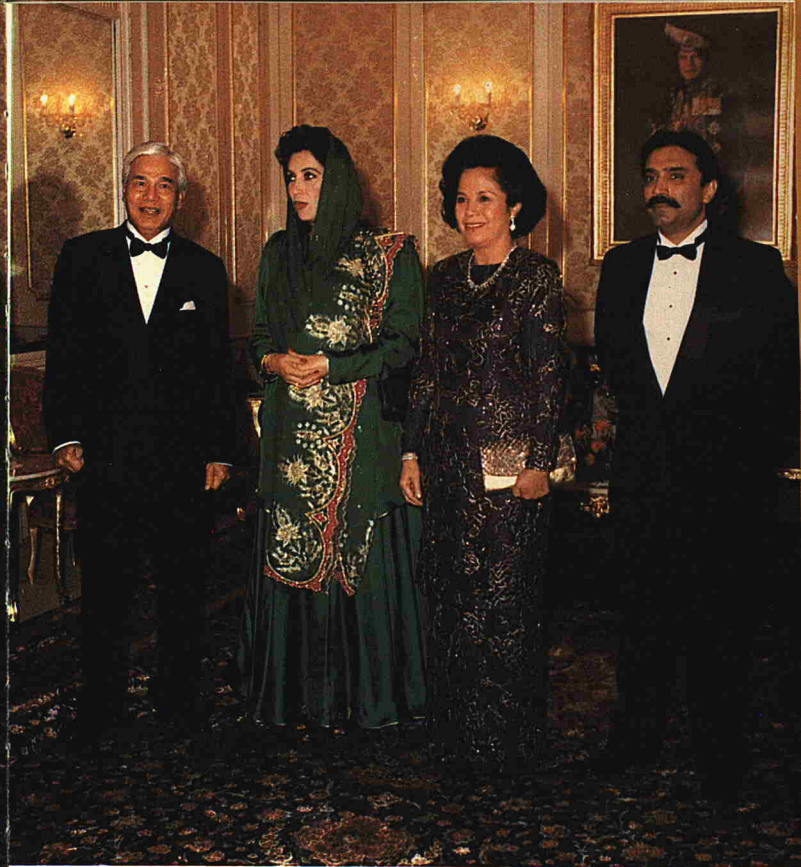


Opposite: His Majesty talking to Dr Julius Nyerere, President of Tanzania (1964-1985), and Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Above: Their Majesties with His Excellency Dr Borisan Jovic, President of Yugoslavia, and Mrs Jovic, June 5, 1990.



Their Majesties with Mr Bob Hawke, Prime Minister of Australia and Mrs Hawke, October 19, 1989.



Their Majesties with Ms Benazir Bhutto and her husband, Mr Asif Ali Zadari, October 19, 1989.



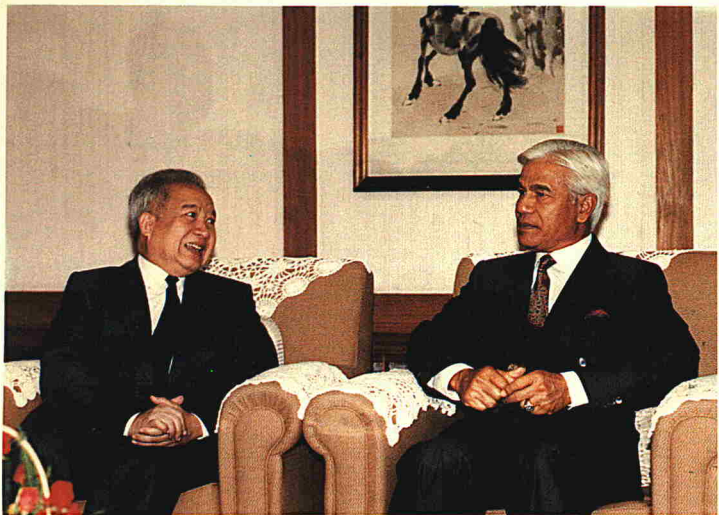
His Majesty with His Excellency Yang Shangkun, President of the People's Republic of China, October 4, 1990.



Below: Their Majesties with His Excellency Li Peng, Prime Minister of the Republic of China, in December 1990.



His Majesty in China.



His Majesty with Prince Norodom Sihanouk of
Cambodia, October 4, 1990.

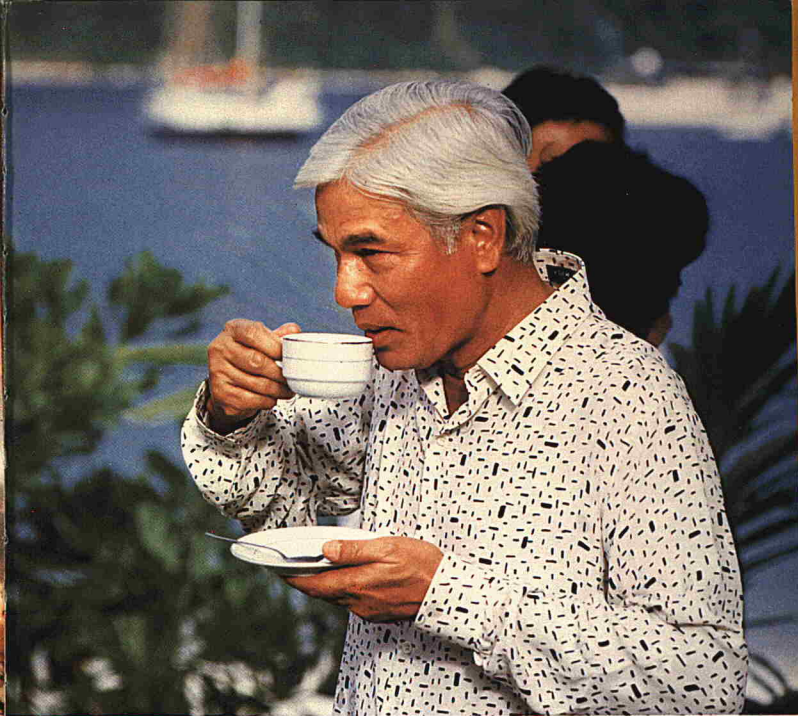


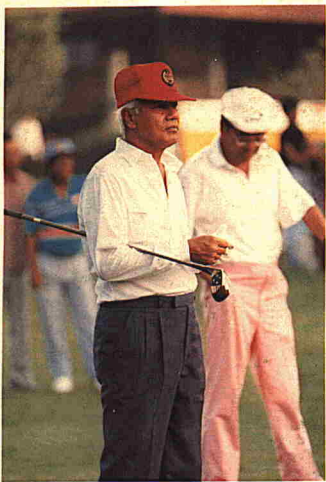


His Majesty mingling with the people.

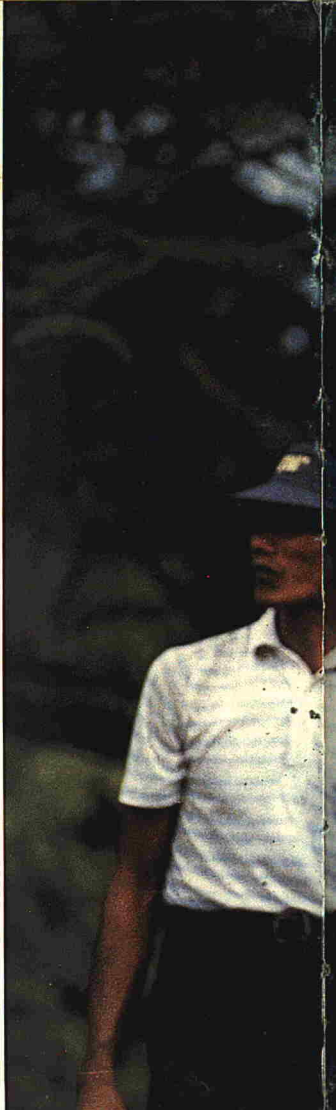




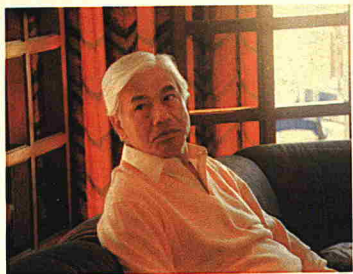
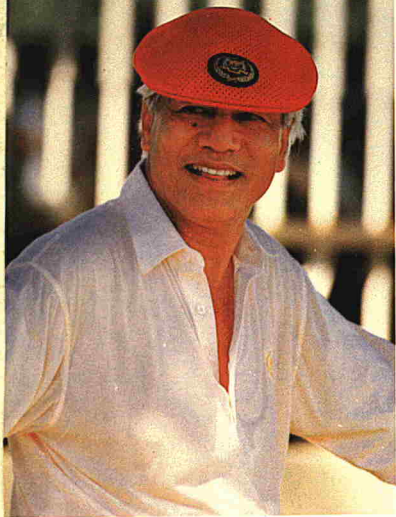


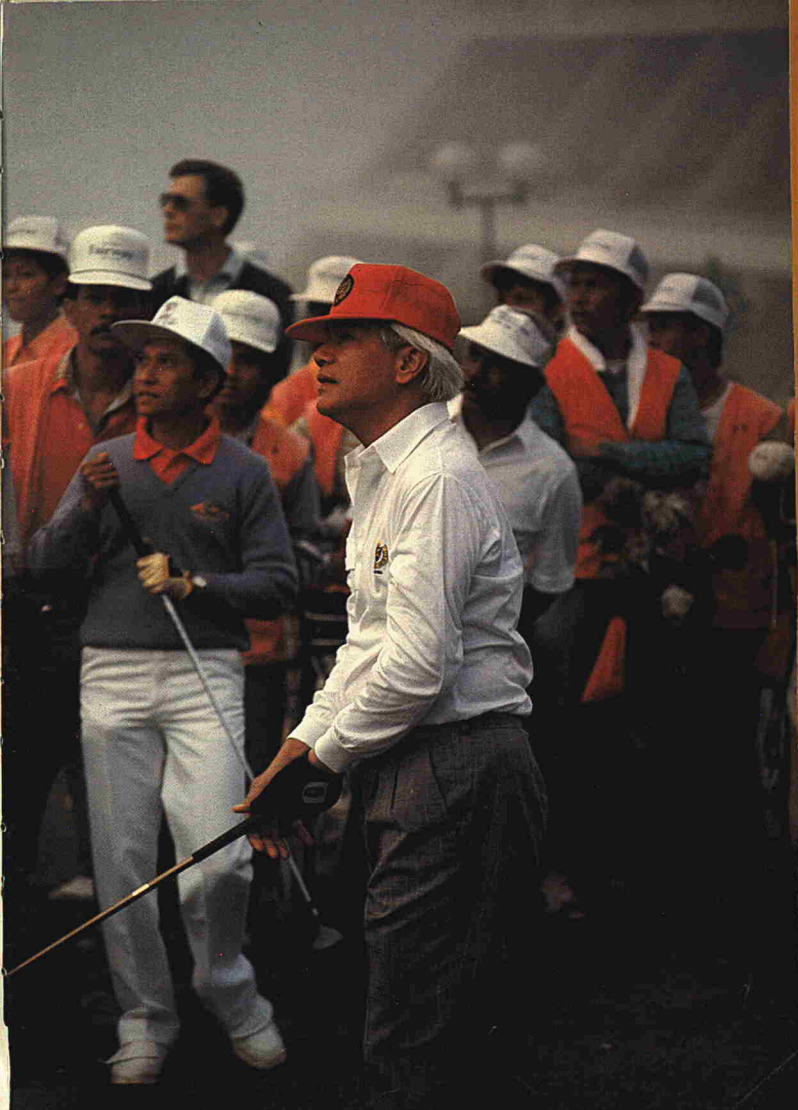


His Majesty is an avid golfer.















Previous pages:

His Royal Highness
Raja Nazrin Shah ibni Sultan Azlan Shah,
the Regent of Perak.

Opposite: His Highness Raja Ashman Shah
ibni Sultan Azlan Shah, the *Raja Kecil* of
Perak.





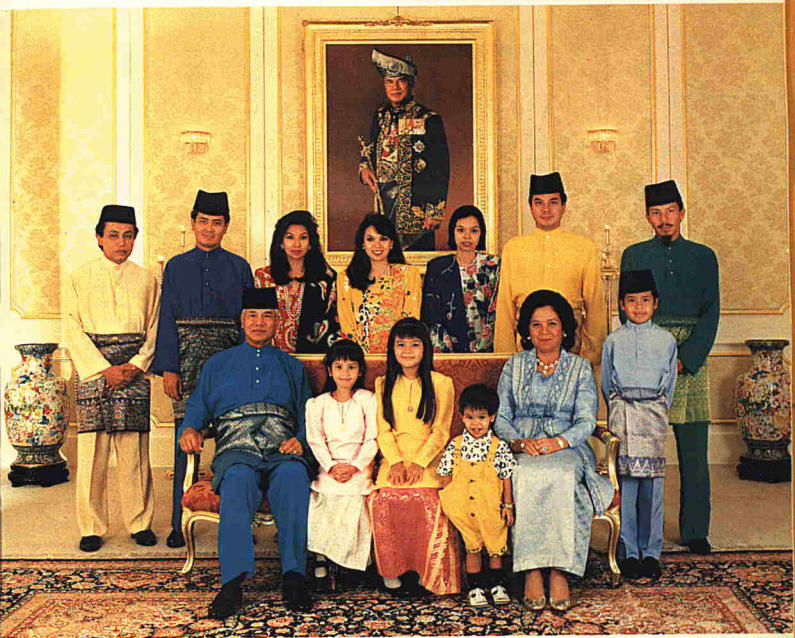
Raja Azureen, eldest daughter of Their Majesties.



Raja Eleena, second daughter of Their Majesties.



Raja Yong Sofia, third and youngest daughter
of Their Majesties.



The Royal Family.

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to thank His Majesty for generously making available all the photographs in his personal collection.

Numerous other persons contributed to the preparation of this book. As usual, it is not possible to mention them all. I am particularly indebted to the following for invaluable information on His Majesty in his youth: Mr. D. Nadarajah of Ipoh, a neighbour in the 1930s; Tuan Haji Mohamed bin Abdul Rahman of Petaling Jaya, a classmate; Mr. Tan Cheng Or, also of Petaling Jaya, a former teacher of His Majesty's school; Mr. Philip Sankey of Ipoh, a teammate in the Perak Hockey side; and Tan Sri Hamzah Sendut, another classmate but in the Malay College, Kuala Kangsar. Tan Sri Hamzah was also the Vice-Chancellor of the Science University of Malaysia when His Majesty was a Pro-Chancellor. Mr. R. Neelakandan, Executive Secretary of the Malaysian Hockey Federation, provided useful material on His Majesty's role as Vice-President and then President of the Malaysian Hockey Federation. I also spoke to a number of lawyers who, however, prefer to remain anonymous. Although I have followed His Majesty's career, both in sports and in the judiciary, since the 1940s and 1950s respectively, much of the impression of his personality and predilections is derived from several years of conversation with persons who have had the privilege to know His Majesty over a longer period of time.

Considerable material was also obtained from research in the University of Malaya Library. The staff in the Circulation Division very patiently and cheerfully tolerated my idiosyncrasies. Ms Ong Beng Thye, as always, competently and meticulously typed and re-typed numerous drafts.

Finally, my eternal gratitude goes to Mr. Ng Tieh Chuan of Pelanduk Publications. But for his energy, drive and commitment, this book would not have materialized.

Dato' Dr Khoo Kay Kim, J.S.M., D.F.M.P.
Professor of Malaysian History
University of Malaya

2nd April 1991

Picture Acknowledgements

All the photographs in this book have been graciously provided by His Majesty Sultan Azlan Shah from his personal collection.

Photographs from the time of His Majesty's installation as the *Yang Di-Pertuan Agong* were photographed by Shahrel Yusof, with the exception of those that appear on the following pages: Johan Ariff; iii, v, 25, 111, 113, 135, 136, 137; Goh Boon Pah; 132; Eric Pasquire; 14, 52.

Index

- Abdul Rahman ibni Yamtuan Besar Muhammad, Tuanku 30
- Abdul Rahman, Tunku 30, 31, 32, 91
- Abdul Rani 61
- Abdul Razak bin Hussein, Tun 65, 66
- Abu Talib Othman, Tan Sri 75
- Ahmah, Tunku Haji 61
- Alexander the Great 1, 6
- Asian Hockey Federation 70
- A.K. Sabapathy 35, 39
- Bainun binti Mohammed Ali, Tuanku 43, 44, 61
- Batu Gajah Hockey Club 35
- Che Tak bin Haji Daud 61
- Cheah Chen Poh, Dr. 61
- Conference of Rulers 86
- Constitutional Crisis 76-77
- Cura Si Manja Kini* 6, 87
- C.D. Muir 61
- Eusoffe Abdulocader, Justice Datuk 74, 75
- Fourth World Cup Cham - pionship, Buenos Aires 67
- Government English School, Batu Gajah 35, 37, 38, 40
- Hamzah Sendut, Tan Sri 65
- Hussein Onn, Tun 66, 70
- H.S. Ong 65
- H.T. Ong 65
- Ikmal Hisham bin Mustapha Albakri 41
- International Hockey Federation 70
- Ismail bin Mohamed Jamil 61
- James Percival Charles Hogan 32
- J.B. Scrivenor 35
- Kirkby Teachers' College, Liverpool 43
- Lee Hun Hoe, Tan Sri 75
- Lim Cheng Law 40, 41
- Mahathir bin Mohamad, Dato Seri Dr. 76, 77
- Malay College, Kuala Kangsar 40, 41
- Malaysian Higher Education Advisory Council 66, 69
- Malaysian Hockey Federation 65, 67, 70, 83
- Merong Mahawangsa 3
- Mohamed Noor bin Mohamed 61
- Mohamed Suffian, Tun 69, 71, 72
- Mohammed Ali bin Mann 43
- Ngah Ibrahim 21
- Parameswara 1, 6
- Pawan Ahmad bin Ibrahim Rashid 39, 40, 44
- Perak Hockey Association 35
- Perak *Salasilah* 5, 15, 16, 19
- Queen Elizabeth II 92, 93
- Raja Abdul Rahman 19, 20, 22
- Raja Abdullah 20, 21
- Raja Ahmed Hisham bin Raja Abdul Malek 63, 64, 68
- Raja Ashman 95
- Raja Azureen 94
- Raja Chulan 18, 19
- Raja Ekram ibni Sultan Yusuf Izzuddin Shah 28, 63
- Raja Eleena 95
- Raja Haji Ngah Abu Bakar 22
- Raja Idris ibni Sultan Iskandar Shah 64
- Raja Inu 19, 20, 22
- Raja Iskandar Dzul'-Karnain 1
- Raja Ismail 20, 21
- Raja Kamaralzaman bin Raja Mansur 63, 68
- Raja Lope Nor Rashid bin Raja Abdul Rahman 63, 64, 67
- Raja Mandak 20
- Raja Merong Mahapodisat 3
- Raja Musa ibni Sultan Abdul Aziz 63, 64, 68, 73
- Raja Nazrin Shah, His Royal Highness 94
- Raja Ngah Ali 20
- Raja Takyah 28
- Raja Yong Sofia 95
- Science University of Malaysia 65, 69
- Second Junior World Cup Hockey Cham - pionship 70
- St. George's Girls' School, Penang 44
- Sultan Abdul Aziz Almustasim Billah Shah (1938-1948) 22, 39, 41
- Sultan Abdul Jalil Karamatullah Shah (1916-1918) 22, 28
- Sultan Abdul Malek Mansur Shah (1806-1825) 7, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22
- Sultan Abdullah Muhammad Shah (1851-1857) 19, 20
- Sultan Abdullah Muhammad Shah (1874-1877) 20, 21, 22
- Sultan Abdullah Mu'azzam Shah (1819-1830) 19,

- Sultan Abu Bakar 41
 Sultan Ahmad Shah (Pahang) 76
 Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin Shah (1577-1584) 5, 15, 19
 Sultan Ahmaddin Shah 18
 Sultan Alang Iskandar 22
 Sultan Alauddin Shah (1594-1603) 15
 Sultan Alauddin Mughayat Shah (1720-1728) 16
 Sultan Alauddin Riayat Shah 5
 Sultan Ali al-Mukammal Inayat Shah (1865-1871) 20
 Sultan Idris Iskandar Almutawakkil Allalahi Shah (1963-1984) 77, 78, 82
 Sultan Idris Murshidul 'adzam Shah (1887-1916) 21, 22, 27, 28
 Sultan Iskandar Shah (1918-1938) 28, 37
 Sultan Iskandar Zulkarnain (1752-1765) 17, 18
 Sultan Jaafar Mu'azzam Shah (1857-1865) 20
 Sultan Mahmood Iskandar (Johor) 82
 Sultan Mahmud Shah (1627-1630) 16, 18
 Sultan Mahmud Shah (1765-1773) 18
 Sultan Mahmud Shah (Ruler of Melaka) 5
 Sultan Mahmud Iskandar Shah (1653-1720) 16
 Sultan Mansur Shah I (1549-1577) 7, 15, 16
 Sultan Mansur Shah II (1619-1627) 16
 Sultan Muhammad Shah (1744-1746) 17, 18
 Sultan Mukaddam Shah (1603-1619) 15
 Sultan Muzafar Shah (1528-1549) 5, 6, 7, 15, 16
 Sultan Muzafar Shah II (1636-1653) 16
 Sultan Muzafar Shah III (1728-1752) 17
 Sultan Salehuddin (1630-1635) 8, 16
 Sultan Shahabuddin (1830-1851) 19
 Sultan Tajul Ariffin (1584-1594) 15
 Sultan Yusuf Sharifuddin Muzafar Shah 21, 22,
 Sultan Yussuf Izzuddin Shah (1948-1963) 28, 32, 33, 34, 36, 39, 40, 41, 62, 63, 64
 Syed Salleh Alsagof 61
 Syed Shaidali bin Asgar Ali 32, 34, 35, 38
 S.M. Yong, Dato 65
 S.S. Gill, Tan Sri 68
 Tan Cheng Or 40
 Teluk Intan 7
 Third World Cup Hockey Championship, Kuala Lumpur 66
 Toh Puan Besar Hatijah binti Dato' Wangsa Ahmad 33
 University of Malava 30
 University of Nottingham 30, 42, 72
 Wong Sai Heng 44
 W.A.G. Ormsby Gore 29