

Family, friends share joy

Wedding steeped in traditional pageantry

KUALA KANGSAR: Family and friends of newly-weds, the Raja Muda of Perak Raja Dr Nazrin Shah and Zara Salim Davidson, have expressed happiness that everything went well at the *akad nikah* (marriage solemnisation) at Istana Iskandariah in Bukit Chandan here yesterday.

About 300 guests, including members of the Perak royalty, state dignitaries and friends witnessed the ceremony.

"Everything went well and I'm very happy for the lovebirds," Zara's older brother Jeffri, who was present at the ceremony, told Bernama.

Raja Nazrin's aunt Datuk Lily Abdul Majid was thankful that he had tied the knot with Zara whom she described as a humble person.

"Zara is a person who enjoys doing charity work and this will help her win the heart of the rakyat," she said.

"We, as a family, would like to welcome Zara into the royal household."

Raja Dr Nazrin's cousin Datin Nina Jureen, who is also an actress, said the wedding had long been awaited by the royal family.

"I'm very happy that this has finally happened and I hope that they'll live happily ever after," she said. - Bernama

KUALA KANGSAR: Raja Muda Perak Raja Dr Nazrin Shah and Zara Salim Davidson were married in a ceremony simple yet steeped in Perak royal custom, at Istana Iskandariah in Bukit Chandan here yesterday morning.

The marriage was solemnised by Perak Mufti Datuk Seri Harussani Zakaria and witnessed by the Sultan of Perak Sultan Azlan Shah, the Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Bainun, other members of the Perak royal family and Zara's family at the Balai Istiadat (ceremonial room) of the palace.

At 11am, Raja Nazrin, 50, who cut a dashing figure in a white baju Melayu with matching sampin, calmly pronounced the marriage vow once, watched by about 300 guests. Zara was seen crying, wiping her tears with a white handkerchief, after the solemnisation.

His younger brother Datuk Seri Raja Ashman Shah, who is the Raja Kecil Tengah of Perak, and Datuk Seri Mohd Salleh Ismail, the husband of Raja Nazrin's younger sister Datuk Seri Raja Azureen, were the witnesses for the *akad nikah* (marriage solemnisation).

Zara's father Salim Davidson had delegated the role of *wali* (guardian who gives away the bride) to Harussani for the marriage solemnisation with the signing of the letter of representation held at the palace on Wednesday.

The ceremony was also witnessed by Zara's mother Sharifah Azaliah Syed Omar Shahabudin and brother Jeffri.

Zara is the great-granddaughter of the 24th Sultan of Kedah, Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah, and granddaughter of Tunku Aminah and Syed

Omar, Kedah's third mentri besar.

After the marriage solemnisation, Harussani read the *doa* (thanksgiving prayer) followed by a recital of the *Salawat Nabi* (praises to the Prophet) by the Haqqani Maulud Ensemble. Raja Azlan Shah and Tuanku Bainun then left the Balai Istiadat while

Raja Nazrin went over to the next room where Zara, 54, was waiting for the bridegroom to slip the wedding ring over her finger.

Zara looked lovely and resplendent in a contemporary long French lace *kebaya* liberally sprinkled with sparkling crystals and beads,

with matching chiffon sarong in ivory hue, and a 3m veil of French netting adorned with crystals.

The exquisite bridal ensemble is the creation of fashion designer, Kuala Kangsar-born Radzuan Radziwill.

After being slipped a diamond ring by the bridegroom, Zara slipped a silver ring over Raja Nazrin's finger.

She then kissed his hand and he kissed her forehead.

The marriage solemnisation ceremony began with the Orang Kaya Temenggong Paduka Raja Datuk Seri Wan Fathir Wan Hussain paying homage to Sultan Azlan Shah to seek his permission to begin the ceremony. - Bernama



Perak Mufti Harussani performs the *akad nikah* ceremony witnessed by Sultan Azlan Shah and Tuanku Bainun (above).



A radiant looking Zara poses on a specially erected *pelamin* (bridal dais).

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