

Star Special

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DAULAT TUANKU



Celebrating a beloved Ruler

Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah continues to lead by wisdom and example as His Royal Highness marks his 79th birthday today.

Promoting unity and harmony

By WANI MUTHIAH
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SELANGOR Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, who is known for his no-nonsense demeanour and straight talk, has always spoken up when things are not right.

Thanks to the Ruler's timely intervention, many issues that would have otherwise gone unchecked have been brought to the forefront and resolved.

Looking back, one cannot forget how the Sultan intervened to help free a long-suffering woman from a failed marriage following her futile efforts to seek a divorce.

Aida Melly Tan Mutalib's attempts to leave her broken marriage finally materialised after she wrote to the Selangor Palace in desperation, hoping that Sultan Sharafuddin would assist her.

The Ruler did indeed assist by instructing the relevant authorities to expedite the divorce, which was finally granted in 2002 after nearly seven long years.

This year, Sultan Sharafuddin also spoke out against many issues that needed to be addressed and called for unity among the people, as well as respect for national heroes.

In July, the Sultan stressed the need to honour the sacrifices of national heroes who had defended the country's sovereignty and peace.

"Their service and sacrifices should serve as an inspiration and motivation for today's and future generations to understand what has been fought for.

"Indeed, the hardships endured by our national heroes have shaped the peace that Malaysia enjoys today," Sultan Sharafuddin said in his address in conjunction with Warriors' Day.

Tuanku expressed his disappointment that some had forgotten the sacrifices made by the nation's soldiers, who risked their lives to protect the country and its people.

"If we forget and do not appreciate the sacrifices of our national heroes, the history of colonisation and humiliation will repeat itself because we did not strive hard enough to defend the country's sovereignty and did not love the country wholeheartedly.

"Avoid selfishness driven by the desire for personal wealth accumulation that leads to negligence in defending the country, which ultimately will result in the nation being governed and controlled by enemies," Sultan Sharafuddin had been reported as saying.

The Sultan's firm and no-nonsense stance surfaced when he lambasted the Malaysian Football League (MFL) for fining the Selangor football team RM100,000 and imposing a three-point docking for pulling out of the Charity Shield match against Johor Darul Ta'zim (JDT) on May 10 this year.

The Selangor team had opted to withdraw after one of its ace players, winger Faisal Halim, suffered an acid attack just days before the match.



Sultan Sharafuddin, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin and Tengku Amir arriving for an investiture ceremony in conjunction with the Ruler's birthday at Istana Alam Shah in Klang in December 2023. — KK SHAM/The Star



Sultan Sharafuddin presenting Hari Raya aid to people from the Petaling district at the Tengku Ampuan Jemaah Royal Mosque in Bukit Jelutong, Shah Alam, in April this year as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim looks on. His Royal Highness and Tengku Amir Shah also spent time breaking fast with the people. — SHAARI CHEMAT/The Star

To make matters worse, the MFL also instructed that the next match between the Selangor team and JDT be played in an empty stadium.

An evidently angry Sultan Sharafuddin had slammed the MFL for the harsh fine and said it was absurd and excessive to bar spectators from the upcoming match between the teams, scheduled to take place at the Petaling Jaya City Council Stadium.

"I'm angry with the MFL's decision, which is irresponsible, inhumane and made without compassion and without taking

into account the injustice that had occurred," Sultan Sharafuddin had said in a statement.

Sultan Sharafuddin's condemnation of the MFL's harsh actions led to officials from the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) urgently seeking an audience with the Ruler.

Additionally, the Ruler advocates for national unity and consistently encourages the people to foster camaraderie and live harmoniously.

His Royal Highness also regularly reminds the masses to not spread hate by promoting hateful

and negative elements such as matters related to 3R (race, religion, royalty) issues.

In a royal address to commemorate National Day this year, Sultan Sharafuddin said the royal institution must not be dragged into political allegations and slander.

"The royal institution is above politics and thus, any form of reprimand and criticism against the Rulers and the royal institution must be voiced through the correct channel and handled prudently," Sultan Sharafuddin had said.

The Ruler had also advised

leaders and politicians to avoid inciting the politics of hate, adding that His Royal Highness would continue advising them even though some leaders and politicians still practise this negative culture.

"I will never tire of advising the people to always cultivate a high level of unity within the community.

"Any differences amongst the races, religions and political leanings should not be an obstacle for Malaysians in being loyal to the nation.



Daulat Tuanku

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**SULTAN AND RULER OF THE STATE OF SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN AND ALL
ITS DEPENDENCIES**

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On 11th December 2024

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Sultan Sharafuddin delivering a speech during Universiti Putra Malaysia's 48th convocation ceremony at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Arts & Cultural Centre in Serdang, in November. — Photo courtesy of the Selangor Royal Office Facebook page



The Ruler chatting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim during the 267th Conference of Rulers at Istana Negara, Kuala Lumpur, in October. — Photo courtesy of the Selangor Royal Office Facebook page

Speaking out for peace and justice for all Malaysians

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“On the contrary, use the differences as a recipe to create a pluralistic society that is united and respects one another,” Sultan Sharafuddin added in his address.

More recently, Sultan Sharafuddin shared his grievance over the fate of the children that had been under the care of the infamous Global Ikhwan Services and Business Holdings (GISBH).

The Ruler called for the swift rehabilitation of the rescued children and ordered the state government to form a special committee to address the matter effectively.

A posting in the Selangor Royal Office's Facebook page stated that the committee would report directly to the Sultan and be responsible for rehabilitating and reintegrating the children into society.

In another posting, Sultan Sharafuddin said GISBH was oblivious to the fact that children had rights and needed to be treated with respect.

The Ruler had added that it was the children's right to live peacefully in a safe environment without being exposed to criminal acts such as molestation, sodomy, abuse, forced marriage and divorce, as well as forced labour.

The Sultan pointed out that it was not right for the children to be separated from their parents and forced to claim that they were orphans.

Sultan Sharafuddin has also advocated mental health and urged the public to be more sensitive towards the plight of those suffering from mental health problems.

“Individuals who are physically fit may not be mentally fit. Hence, I urge everyone not to ostracise or stigmatise those who face mental health problems

such as depression and acute anxiety,” Sultan Sharafuddin had said in his royal address at the launch of the Tanjong Karang Hospital early last year.

The Ruler said people suffering from mental health issues must receive appropriate treatment with everyone helping out in the healing process.

Sultan Sharafuddin ascended the Selangor throne as the ninth Sultan of Selangor on Nov 22, 2001, following the demise of his father Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah.

Sultan Sharafuddin was born as Tengku Idris Shah to Sultan Salahuddin and his first wife Raja Saidatul Ihsan Tengku Badar Shah on Dec 24, 1945, at Istana Jemaah in Klang.

His Royal Highness became the Raja Muda of Selangor at the age of 15 in 1960, when Sultan Salahuddin was installed as the Sultan of Selangor.

Sultan Sharafuddin attended the Malay Primary School in Jalan Raja Muda, Kuala Lumpur, before enrolling in St John's Institution. The Ruler then continued his schooling at the Hale School in Perth, Australia, in 1960 and later enrolled in Langhurst College in Surrey, England, in 1964.

Upon his return to Malaysia, Sultan Sharafuddin became a civil servant and served in the Selangor state secretariat, Kuala Lumpur district office and police department.

The Ruler has three children – Tengku Zerafina, Tengku Zatahah and the Raja Muda of Selangor Tengku Amir Shah, as well as a granddaughter.

The Ruler is married to Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin.

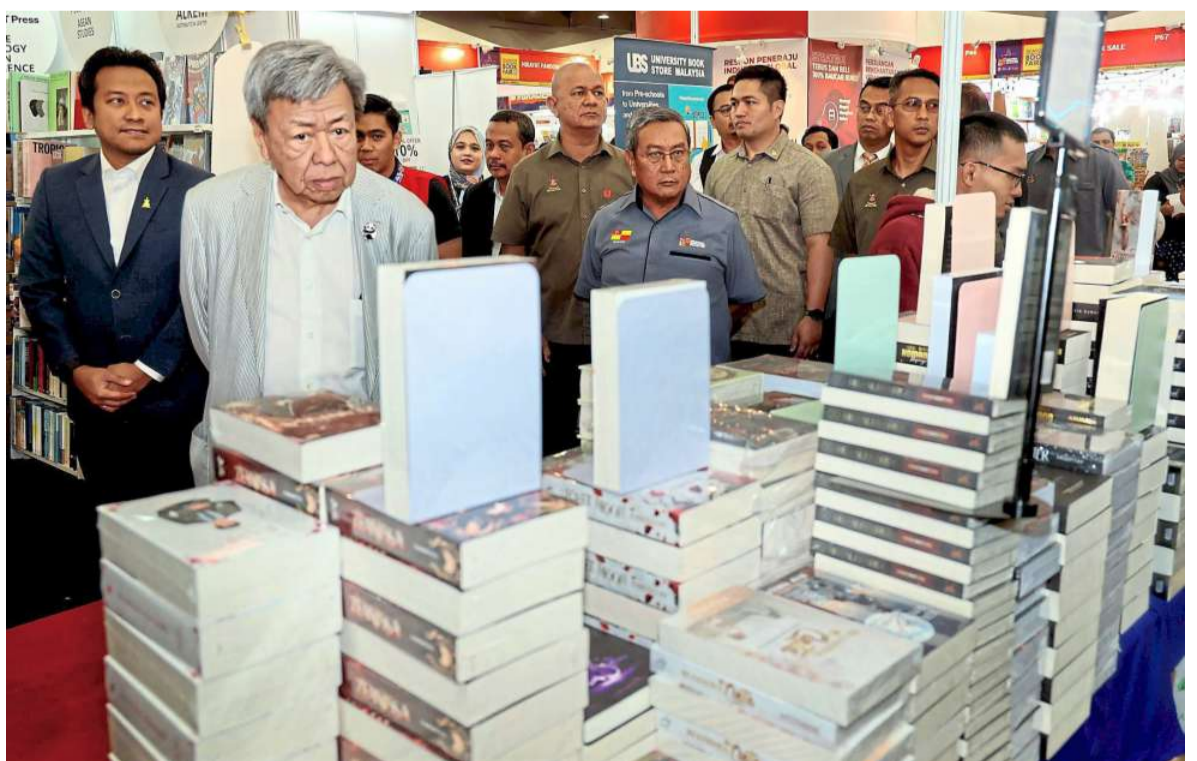
May Sultan Sharafuddin be blessed with good health and many more years ahead.

Daulat Tuanku!

Sultan Sharafuddin taking a photo with a visually impaired child at the Raja Tun Uda Library Foundation in November 2023. With him are YPRTU chairman Raja Tan Sri Arshad Raja Tun Uda and Selangor Public Library Corporation director Datin Paduka Mastura Muhamad. — AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star



(Inset) Sultan Sharafuddin giving the opening speech at a state assembly meeting in Shah Alam and (below) visiting the Selangor International Book Fair after officiating the launch of the Selangor Education Summit at Setia City Convention Centre in November. — KK SHAM/The Star





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Royal voice for animals in need

Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin attending the World Animal Day 2024 celebration at SPCA Selangor in October this year. — AZMAN GHANI/The Star

By **WANI MUTHIAH**
wani@thestar.com.my

MANY animal lovers and rescuers look upon Tengku Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin as a crucial voice that could help end state-sanctioned animal cruelty in Selangor.

Her Royal Highness has risen to the occasion many times by speaking out against local council actions that are deemed cruel and brutal.

Earlier this year, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin spoke out against the Shah Alam City Council's (MBSA) plan to launch a stray dog hunt.

In a statement posted on the Selangor Royal Office Facebook page, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin expressed her sadness upon reading about MBSA's plan to hunt down street dogs.

"I've repeatedly emphasised that I strongly disagree with the catch-and-destroy method carried out by any local authority, including MBSA," Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin stated.

The Tengku Permaisuri noted that there are many more humane ways to manage the stray population, such as spaying and neutering.

Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin also recommended that the local authorities consider setting up shelters for stray animals in every residential area, with the help of the area's animal lovers.

"Local councils must make it compulsory for housing developers to construct such shelters," the Tengku Permaisuri added.

Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin also urged municipal councils to improve and upgrade the animal pounds under their jurisdiction.

She expressed her heartfelt sorrow upon seeing pictures and videos of dogs in dire straits at a



The Tengku Permaisuri officiating the Klang's Cat Park in Bandar Bukit Raja in August. The park aims to provide shelter for stray cats around the district. — AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star

local council pound, which were exposed by animal rescuers.

In an entry on the Selangor Royal Office's Facebook page, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin said: "If the current SOP is proven to be effective, there should not be a video showing the dogs as if they were mistreated, neglected and unmanaged."

On the matter of education, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin, who is the pro-chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM), encouraged graduates during one of the institution's convocations to continue pursuing education beyond their diploma and undergraduate degrees.

"The culture of acquiring knowledge needs to be enhanced because Malaysia requires problem-solvers to help the country face increasingly complex challenges," the Tengku Permaisuri added.

Her Royal Highness had said that institutions of higher learning must empower research as a mission in advancing knowledge, encouraging innovation and addressing current societal challenges.

"In order to encourage research programmes to be carried out at institutions of higher learning, especially at the master's and PhD levels, opportunities for collaboration with industries need to be increased," Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin added.

At the 96th UiTM convocation, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin called for the quality of teaching at the institution to be improved.

"Universities need to introduce preparation programmes so that students can compete globally. This includes programmes that incorporate aspects of language, culture and technical expertise,"



Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin trying her hand at making traditional kuih during the Selangor Heritage Food Festival 2024 in Sepang in November. — Photo courtesy of the Selangor Royal Office Facebook page

she had been quoted as saying.

The Tengku Permaisuri also stated that the university's curriculum must meet current requirements and demands to enhance the visibility of the nation's human capital.

During the 2022 convocation, Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin stated that graduates should play their roles in ensuring Malaysia remains a sovereign nation.

"One of the ways is for us Malaysians to be united. If we are not united, we will not be able to defend our country from various threats posed by those who want to see our nation collapse," the Tengku Permaisuri said in her royal address.

The Tengku Permaisuri had also called upon parents to keep on guiding their children and reminding them not to forget their roots.

Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin

and current Selangor Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah were married at Istana Alam Shah in Klang on Aug 31, 2016. Her Royal Highness was proclaimed the Tengku Permaisuri Selangor effective Sept 8 that same year.

Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin was previously an air stewardess before becoming an award-winning newscaster with RTM, bagging the Seri Angkasa Award's Best TV News Presenter title in 2001 and 2005.

Born Norashikin Abdul Rahman on June 4, 1971, at a military hospital in Terendak Camp, Melaka, the Tengku Permaisuri has two grown-up children from a previous marriage.

In 2017, Universiti Putra Malaysia named a newly discovered species of orchid Vanilla Norashikiniana after Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin.



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Tengku Amir Shah with state public health and environment committee chairman Jamaliah Jamaluddin at an event announcing Bumi the tapir as Selangor's environmental mascot in June this year. — AZMAN GHANI/The Star



Blind pupil Hilman Shakir Mohammad Shahril reading a Braille book to Sultan Sharafuddin and Tengku Amir Shah during the launch of the Raja Tun Uda Library Foundation in November 2023. — AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star

Champion for youth and sports

By WANI MUTHIAH
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THE Raja Muda of Selangor, Tengku Amir Shah, has grown into a suave and handsome man who is a source of pride for the state's royal family and the people of Selangor. The Raja Muda is also starting to mirror his father, Selangor Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, when it comes to speaking his mind and expressing his opinions.

Earlier this year, at the launch of the Petaling Land and District Office (PDT Petaling) Complex in Shah Alam, Tengku Amir Shah had asked that the needs of the people be prioritised.

"With improvements of the facilities and services provided, I believe all transactions will be expedited with a faster processing time."

"I also want the government officers and staff serving in Selangor to always be friendly and attentive towards the issues faced by the people in the state," Tengku Amir Shah had said.

The Raja Muda also reminded the land office staff that it is the duty of civil servants to efficiently implement the policies formulated by the state government for the betterment of the people.

Adventurous by nature and with a love for extreme sports, Tengku Amir Shah scaled Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania last year to raise funds for a worthy cause.

The Raja Muda, along with his brother-in-law Datuk Aubry Rahim Mennesson, cousins Datuk Syed Haizam Hishamuddin Putra Jamalullail and Tengku Ezriq Ezzuddean Tengku Ardy Esfandiari, as well as friend Keong Yeen Yeoh, embarked on the journey to raise funds for establishing a speech and hearing centre for underprivileged children at the Raja Tun Uda Library.

The idea took root after Syed Haizam realised the high costs involved following his daughter's cochlear implant surgery at the age of four.

In July, Tengku Amir Shah cycled with 12 other participants from Universiti Teknologi Mara's Puncak Alam campus to its Shah Alam campus in conjunction with the university's 25th anniversary.

In 2022, the Raja Muda showed his assertiveness in addressing past issues that had plagued the Selangor Football Association (FAS). As its president, Tengku Amir Shah's focus was on bringing the team to the global arena.

"I want to make FAS compete for championships and trophies every year. The biggest goal is to take FAS to the international stage. That would be awesome," Tengku Amir Shah has been quoted as saying.

Syed Haizam had said in a previous interview that the Raja Muda readily helmed FAS knowing how much football meant to Selangorians.

"This was the main reason why he decided to take on the responsibility to revamp and produce a football team the people would be proud of," Syed Haizam had said.

Apart from helming Yayasan Raja Muda Selangor (YRMS) as its royal patron, Tengku Amir Shah also has his own organisation aptly dubbed the Selangor Youth Community (SAY). The Raja Muda had conceptualised SAY to reach out to the state's youths through multi-pronged community-based programmes.

Through YRMS, which was initiated by Sultan Sharafuddin when he was the crown prince, Tengku Amir Shah's patronage has provided many opportunities to marginalised and underprivileged youth over the years.

Some years ago, Syed Haizam,



Tengku Amir Shah (second from left) holding up his insignia flag at the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in September 2023. With him are (from left) Tengku Ezriq Ezzuddean, Keong, Aubry Rahim and Syed Haizam.



Tengku Amir Shah and Love and Care Charitable Association Selangor founder Tan Sri Lim Soon Peng of Titijaya Land Bhd (on Tengku Amir Shah's left) giving ang pows and goodie bags to senior citizens at a Chinese New Year charity luncheon held in Batu Belah, Klang, in March this year. — AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star

who is also a YRMS and SAY trustee, revealed how Tengku Amir Shah wanted to connect the Selangor royal institution with the state's people.

Apparently, the Raja Muda felt that people would become closer with royalty if protocol was minimised for certain events.

"So, we devised a system where the level of protocol was numbered from one to five, with five being the observance of full protocol at formal events held at the palaces," Syed Haizam had said.

Those who know the Raja Muda personally vouch for his unassuming and easygoing ways.

Puan Sri TD Ampikaipakan, a YRMS trustee, recalled how Tengku Amir Shah attended a self-discov-

ery workshop organised by YRMS for Form Five students when he was 18, doing so incognito.

Having been introduced as a visitor, the Raja Muda, who was addressed as Abang Amir by some of the students, had participated in the various activities alongside the other students.

"They only found out the next day that he was the Raja Muda of Selangor. They were thrilled that he was so unpretentious with them," Ampikaipakan had said.

Tengku Amir Shah was installed as the heir to the Selangor throne on May 3, 2002, when he was just 11, and was officially proclaimed as the Raja Muda in October 2016.

The Raja Muda was born in

San Francisco, the United States, on Dec 12, 1990, and is Sultan Sharafuddin's only son. Tengku Amir's American mother, Che Puan Nur Lisa, and Sultan Sharafuddin divorced in 1997.

Tengku Amir received his early education at the Alice Smith School in Kuala Lumpur before studying at Wellington College in the UK from 2004 to 2009.

Tengku Amir underwent training at Sandhurst Royal Military Academy in the UK and obtained a degree in Ecology and Environmental Biology from Leeds University in 2014.

The Raja Muda was also commissioned as Leftenan Muda in the 17th Battalion of the Royal Malay Regiment at Terendak Camp.



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Embracing Klang's rich heritage

By **WANI MUTHIAH**
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FOR those who live in Klang and cherish the city despite its shortcomings, it is often seen as a paradise of sorts, with delicious food and warm, friendly people.

Like any other place, Klang has its flaws but when one chooses to overlook the negatives and embrace the positives, the city can be regarded as a great place to live and raise a family.

Selangor Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah had proclaimed Klang a royal city effective Nov 23, 2023, and its custodian, the former Klang Municipal Council, as the Klang Royal City Council (MBDK).

Klang is the fourth town in Selangor to be proclaimed a city after Shah Alam, Petaling Jaya and Subang Jaya.

Klang offers more than just great food and a vibrant local culture – it is steeped in history, with artefacts from as far back as the Bronze Age unearthed in the district.

During the colonial era, Klang

became a beacon of hope for thousands of immigrants arriving in Malaya through the nation's first port, Port Swettenham, now known as Port Klang.

Immigrants from China and India, seeking better lives, often endured cramped, rickety boats to reach Malaya, where they worked tirelessly in tin mines, on plantations or built roads and other infrastructural needs.

Many of the ethnic Chinese and Indians, born and raised in Klang, are descendants of the pioneers who left China and India to come here and help build the nation.

They brought nothing but their dreams of a better life for their descendants, which has materialised judging by the many successful Chinese and Indian entrepreneurs and professionals who are still in Klang or originated from Klang.

Klang also played an important role in the birth of the Selangor Sultanate in the 1700s after Bugis seafarers and noblemen arrived and settled in the various coastal areas in Selangor.

The city is also the site of the



The Sultan Abdul Aziz Royal Gallery features an impressive collection of personal belongings, including artifacts, paintings, replicas of intricate jewellery and other fascinating exhibits. — KK SHAM/The Star

infamous Klang war between relatives Raja Mahadi and Raja Abdullah between 1867 and 1874, which saw the construction of a protective fort dubbed Kota Raja Mahadi by the former.

Klang is divided into two sections – North Klang and South Klang. North Klang is the older part of the district while South Klang is currently the epicentre with a rapidly growing commercial centre.

Apparently, the old Klang town parameters were only from Bulatan Seratus to the Klang High School in the north and up to Simpang Lima in the south.

The areas outside these parameters were regarded as outskirts

in the past, with South Klang being mainly cemeteries and plantations after the Simpang Lima junction.

The double-decked Kota Bridge, opened in 1961 by Almarhum Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, was one of the conduits that connected North and South Klang in the past.

Recently, the lower deck of the reinforced steel truss girder Kota Bridge was refurbished and opened for use to motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians who want to get to South Klang from North Klang.

History buffs will enjoy a trip to the Sultan Abdul Aziz Royal Gallery at the Sultan Suleiman

Building, which was built in 1909 by British architect Arthur B. Hubback. He also designed the Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh railway stations, Carcosa Seri Negara and Masjid Jamek in Kuala Lumpur, among others.

The Gallery, which was opened by Sultan Sharafuddin in 2007, highlights the state royalty's legacy by exhibiting many of the sultanate's personal belongings including artefacts, paintings and replicas of the various jewellery pieces.

The best way to catch Klang's sights and sounds would be to go on a heritage walk which can be booked at: <https://forms.gle/3peoVzyc9oAt8kQ56>



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SUBANG JAYA CITY COUNCIL AND ALL RESIDENTS OF SUBANG JAYA





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Birthday wishes for a cherished Ruler



“ We extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on the joyous occasion of the birthday of His Royal Highness Sultan Sharafuddin. We deeply appreciate Tuanku's compassionate support for mental health initiatives in Selangor, which has contributed greatly to reducing stigmas and fostering a more inclusive society. Daulat Tuanku! ”

Datuk Dr Andrew Mohanraj,
President,
Selangor Mental Health Association

With great joy, Selangorians have come together to offer their heartfelt congratulations to Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah on the auspicious occasion of his 79th birthday. The people of Selangor wish Tuanku a long life, good health and continued wisdom as His Royal Highness rules the state.



“ Daulat Tuanku! I would like to convey my deepest respects and heartfelt felicitations for a blessed birthday with wishes of good health and much love and happiness. ”

Aminah Abdul Rahim
Former executive director,
Yayasan Raja Muda Selangor



“ Wishing Tuanku much joy on the occasion of His Royal Highness' birthday. I would also like to thank Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin for being a voice for stray animals in need. Daulat Tuanku! ”

Edward Lim
Kennel manager,
PAWS Animal Welfare Society



“ Daulat Tuanku! During my tenure as the South Klang OCPD, Tuanku always supported and emphasised the importance of public order and a safe environment for the people. ”

SAC Shamsul Amar Ramli
Deputy director of Logistics and Technology Department,
Royal Malaysian Police

“ Wishing Tuanku a long and healthy life. May Selangor prosper in science, technology, economy, culture, diversity, education and unity under Tuanku's guidance. ”

Dr Mahaletchumy Arujanam
Science communicator



“ Daulat Tuanku! Wishing you a blessed birthday and good health and happiness always. Thank you too to Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin for having compassion for stray animals in Selangor. ”

Joanne Low
Property agent

“ I extend my warmest and most heartfelt birthday wishes to His Royal Highness, the Sultan of Selangor. May Tuanku be blessed with a long and prosperous life, filled with good health and happiness. Daulat Tuanku! ”

Sasha Lyna Abdul Latif
Lawyer



“ Wishing Tuanku a blessed birthday! Thank you for guiding us the rakyat, and for being a visionary Ruler. And thank you to the Tengku Permaisuri of Selangor for propagating a humane method of stray animal management. ”

Jasvinder Kaur
English teacher



“ I extend my sincere wishes for His Royal Highness' continued good health. I have unwavering confidence in Tuanku's infinite wisdom and believe Selangor will continue to be a vibrant example for other states. ”

Clarence Chua
Lawyer



“ Many happy returns, Tuanku! Selangor has developed and prospered by leaps and bounds under your rule. May the state continue to grow for many years to come. Daulat Tuanku, a true adventurer at heart who is also our king of hearts! ”

Kamal Kanapathy
Fund manager

“ Daulat Tuanku! I pray that the blessings of Allah for you and your loved ones be eternal. As someone who works in the healthcare industry, I would like to thank Tuanku, as the head of Islam in the state, for ensuring that the impoverished receive medical assistance through Zakat Selangor. ”

Rozanna M. Rosly
Clinical dietician



“ Long live Tuanku. I humbly express my gratitude and pray that Your Highness is blessed with good health, blessings, and continued prosperity to head the state of Selangor with wisdom and fairness. Daulat Tuanku! ”

Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid
Economist



“ May Tuanku continue to champion the best interests of children in Selangor, especially the impoverished and abused. Thank you for emphasising that all children have the right to quality care and education. Daulat Tuanku! ”

Datin PH Wong
Executive director, Childline Foundation



Daulat Tuanku

MAY ALLAH THE ALMIGHTY BLESS OUR SULTAN



**HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS SULTAN SHARAFUDDIN IDRIS SHAH ALHAJ
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**SULTAN AND RULER OF THE STATE OF SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN AND ALL
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On 11th December 2024

WITH UTMOST SINCERITY

Setia

Addressing mental health with compassion

By **WANI MUTHIAH**
wani@thestar.com.my

NOTING that many women from the M40 and B40 income groups face immense challenges, the Selangor Mental Health Association (SMHA) has embarked on a mission to help them out.

In addition, SMHA is heeding the call of Selangor Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah for more compassion and understanding towards those facing mental health challenges.

Counselling psychologist Joyce Hue, who is also SMHA treasurer, said the organisation had initiated counselling sessions for these women beginning May 2023.

"We have counselling interns from universities who offer their services and if the problem is a little more serious, I will do the counselling myself," said Hue.

She added that when psychiatric problems are detected, the client is immediately referred

to SMHA president Datuk Dr Andrew Mohanraj, who is a consultant psychiatrist.

Currently, a minimum charge of RM10 and RM30 is charged respectively for B40 and M40 women for a counselling session.

According to Hue, the most common problems faced by the women are financial constraints, overworking, and poor familial and marital relationships.

"Basically, most of them just want someone they can talk to and voice their unhappiness and grievances," she said.

Hue added that many of the women seeking counselling complain of feeling trapped in an unhappy environment.

Some of them have to endure toxic relationships with their spouses, children, bosses and co-workers.

"Unfortunately, those facing stress at their workplaces cannot leave their jobs as that is their only means of earning an income," she added.

SMHA deputy president Firoza



Hue (left) with a client during a counselling session. Hue notes that many women seeking counselling feel trapped in unhappy environments and endure toxic relationships with spouses, children or coworkers, while Firoza (right) says Sultan Sharafuddin's emphasis on mental health motivated SMHA to support marginalised women dealing with depression and anxiety.



Burhan said it is crucial for the organisation to seek out these women, as they may not have the means or knowledge to seek intervention.

As a result, most of them suffer from depression or anxiety in silence.

"Fortunately, most of the time the women just need the space, time and safety to express and share their feelings with someone who would not judge them," said Firoza.

She added that Sultan Sharafuddin's emphasis on mental health has pushed SMHA to embark on a mission to help

marginalised women cope with depression and anxiety.

Meanwhile, SMHA vice-president Jared David thanked Sultan Sharafuddin for his royal concern towards people suffering from mental health problems.

David also revealed that there are many people, including professionals who are part of the nation's workforce, who suffer from various mental health issues.

"Some have checked themselves into mental health nursing homes and commute to and from work from there.

"They are high-functioning individuals who realise and acknowledge the fact that they could face a breakdown anytime and need professional intervention," said David.

Luckily for them, he added, they are able to afford to stay in the nursing homes and take care of themselves.

There are even some high-functioning individuals suffering from conditions such as schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, who live in the nursing homes while pursuing postgraduate education and holding down jobs at the same time, added David.

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Many happy returns of the day, Tuanku!



“ May His Royal Highness the Sultan of Selangor be blessed with good health and longevity on the auspicious occasion of Tuanku's 79th birthday. May the people of Selangor continue to be blessed with Tuanku's comforting presence among us. ”

Long Paul Lin
Auditor



“ Daulat Tuanku! I would like to wish His Royal Highness a very happy birthday. May Tuanku always be blessed with good health and happiness. ”

M. Sasikumar
Film director
Film Directors' Association Of Malaysia



“ May Allah shower His Blessings on Tuanku Sultan Selangor and other members of the royal family. May Tuanku also have a very happy birthday. Daulat Tuanku! ”

Raja Aspalela Raja Adzman
Entrepreneur



“ Wishing Tuanku a joyous, blessed and wonderful birthday! Selangor is lucky to be blessed with your inspired, progressive and benevolent rule. May God bless Tuanku with good health and happiness always. ”

Donald Lim
Legal adviser



“ A million thanks to Tuanku for his enduring care and concern for the people of Selangor. May the Almighty God bless Tuanku and Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin with abundant love, happiness and good health. Happy birthday and Daulat Tuanku! ”

Roy Nyaneswaran Subramaniam
Councillor,
Klang Royal City Council



Daulat Tuanku

SEMOGA ALLAH LANJUTKAN USIA DAN MERAHMATI PEMERINTAHAN TUANKU



**DULI YANG MAHA MULIA SULTAN SHARAFUDDIN IDRIS SHAH ALHAJ
IBNI ALMARHUM SULTAN SALAHUDDIN ABDUL AZIZ SHAH ALHAJ**

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**SULTAN DAN YANG DIPERTUAN NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN SERTA
SEGALA DAERAH TAKLUKNYA**

Sembah Tahniah Dan Ucap Selamat
Sempena Ulang Tahun Hari Keputeraan Yang ke-79 Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultan Selangor
Pada 11 Disember 2024 Bersamaan 9 Jumadal Akhirah 1446H

SEMBAH TAKZIM DARIPADA



UEM SUNRISE BERHAD 200801028815 (830144-W)

Advocating for stray animal care



By **WANI MUTHIAH**
wani@thestar.com.my

TENGGU Permaisuri Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin's repeated reminders for street animals to be treated with compassion have not fallen on deaf ears.

Selangor executive councillor in charge of local councils Datuk Ng Suee Lim (*pic*) said plans are underway in the state to explore the Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage (TNRM) method of stray management in 2025.

"We will emphasise neutering street cats and dogs as recommended by the Tengku Permaisuri," said Ng.

"We will also formulate new standard operating procedures for local councils regarding dog catching, encompassing a more humane method that will not cause pain and suffering to the animals."

Ng said the state was aware of



Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin cuddling a cat during the World Animal Day 2024 celebration at SPCA Selangor in October. — AZMAN GHANI/The Star

the grouses voiced on the plight of street animals and sought to address the matter amicably.

Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin's concern for street animals has also inspired M. Kamini to do more for the welfare of destitute cats and dogs.

She has formed an organisation aptly named HEART Animal Welfare Society, which was recently launched by retired Court of Appeal judge and former Suhakam commissioner Datuk Mah Weng Kwai.

As the president of the society, Kamini says her organisation will focus on several areas such as education on pet ownership,

TNRM as well as helping independent rescuers raise funds to neuter and treat street animals.

"One of our targeted activities is to go to schools and teach children about animal appreciation and responsible pet ownership.

"Many pet owners tend to dump their unwanted pets or abandon them in veterinary clinics. We have to educate people to stop doing this as pets have feelings too," said Kamini.

She added that many pets had been abandoned at her father Dr K. Manikam's animal hospital in Batu Caves over the years.

As for TNRM, Dr Manikam has built a special wing at his animal



Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin's compassion for street animals has inspired Kamini to improve the welfare of stray cats and dogs.

hospital for street animals to recuperate after getting neutered.

"We have been neutering street animals for independent rescuers and animal welfare organisations for quite some time now.

"We also realise that independent rescuers struggle to pay the bill when neutering street animals, so HEART will help raise

funds for them," said Kamini, adding that the animal hospital offers a subsidised cost for neutering street animals.

She said her organisation would also embark on collaborative community action with veterinarians, animal rescuers and volunteers to ultimately empower the community to protect street animals.



Daulat Tuanku

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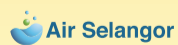
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With Utmost Sincerity



A paradise of hidden travel gems

By WANI MUTHIAH
wani@thestar.com.my

SELANGOR is a state blessed with many beautiful locations that are a boon for tourism. To further enhance these nature's gifts, various activities are also available for all ranging from families and adventure buffs to extreme sports enthusiasts.

Lush greenery, beautiful waterfalls and white sandy beaches are some of the attributes that make the state a holiday attraction.

Some of the prettiest waterfalls are the Kanching Waterfall near Rawang, the Sungai Pisang waterfalls near Batu Caves, the Jeram Perlus waterfall in Hulu Langat, the Chilling waterfalls near Kuala Kubu Baru, the Cherandong waterfalls also near Kuala Kubu Baru, and the Templer waterfalls at the Templer Park Forest Reserve, amongst others.

The Sungai Selangor stretch in Kuala Kubu Baru is also a hot-spot for white water rafting and tubing as the area's terrain consisting of cascading waterfalls makes the sport extra exciting.

The meandering river adds further excitement to the adventure. For those interested in paragliding, there are two must-visit locations for the experience of a lifetime.

The first paragliding spot is at Bukit Batu Pahat in Kuala Kubu Bharu, while the second is at Bukit Jugra in Kuala Langat. Taking off from both hills offers a beautiful view of the greenery and the valley below as one



Many visitors throw red ribbons on the wishing tree located at Redang Beach, Sekinchan. — KAMARUL ARIFFIN/The Star

glides over the terrain.

The green lung areas and forest reserves throughout Selangor offer many hiking trails which are usually packed during the weekends. It is common to see families participating in the activity while enjoying the sights and sounds of nature.

Want to know more about the various Orang Asli communities? The best locations to visit would be the Mah Meri Cultural Village in Carey Island, Kuala Langat, and the Orang Asli Museum in Gombak.

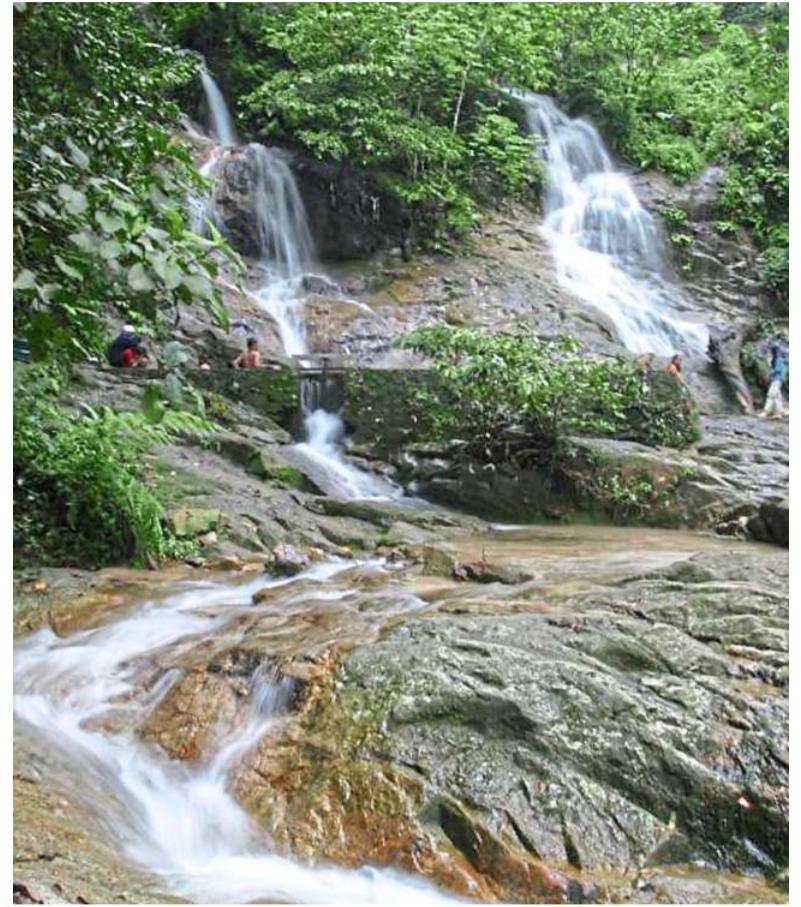
Aside from the culture, beautiful carvings as well as tapestry at the Mah Meri Cultural Village, the museum offers information and exhibits related to all the Orang Asli tribes in the country.

The Selangor Hot Spring is another popular spot where many people soak their legs and feet, as the high mineral content in the hot water is believed to alleviate various skin ailments.

The capital city of Selangor, Shah Alam, is also home to many interesting places to visit. Beyond the technology-focused i-City, attractions such as the Garden of Islamic Arts, the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Mosque (commonly known as the Blue Mosque) and the Shah Alam Lake Gardens also draw many visitors.

The lush green park at the Garden of Islamic Arts is said to be inspired by the Garden of Paradise.

To get a taste of countryside life, Sekinchan in northern



Nature lovers looking to get away from the city can spend a refreshing day at the Kanching Waterfall in Templer Park.

Selangor beckons visitors with its paddy fields and fishing villages.

The padi museum there not only displays the various types of padi and rice that we grow and eat, but also exhibits agriculture tools used over the years as well as the evolution of padi farming.

The Sekinchan Wishing Tree at the Pantai Redang Datuk Kong

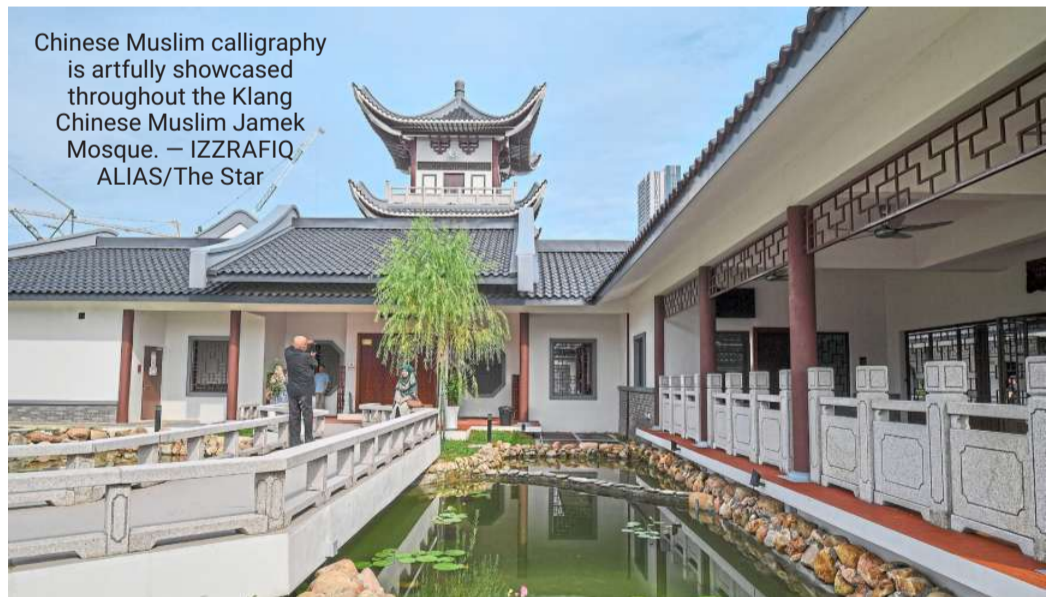
Temple is another attraction, where worshippers make wishes and tie them with red ribbons to the branches of the massive tree.

These are just a fraction of what Selangor has to offer as a tourist destination, as the state boasts many gems ranging from city delights to the sights and sounds of nature.

The Sri Sundararaja Perumal Temple is the largest Vaishnavite temple in Malaysia, dedicated to the worship of Lord Vishnu. — KK Sham /The Star



Chinese Muslim calligraphy is artfully showcased throughout the Klang Chinese Muslim Jamek Mosque. — IZZRAFIQ ALIAS/The Star



By WANI MUTHIAH
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Visit Klang's unique places of worship

KLANG'S diverse communities have shaped the city into a hub of cultural and spiritual heritage, boasting numerous places of worship, some unique to the area. Alongside its many mosques, Hindu temples and Taoist shrines, Klang is also home to Buddhist temples, churches and Gurdwara Sahibs.

Notable places of worship in Klang include the Sultan Sulaiman Royal Mosque, which opened in 1933; the historic Indian Muslim Mosque on Jalan Tengku Kelana, a century-old structure that replicates Muslim architecture in South India; the Kuan Yin Temple, which is over a

century old, serving as a worship point for Klang's Hokkien community; Sri Sundararaja Perumal Temple, the country's first granite temple; and the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The newly inaugurated Klang Chinese Muslim Jamek Mosque is currently a top attraction in the city, featuring a stunning traditional Chinese Muslim three-tier pagoda with a distinctive grey roof.

The mosque's architecture draws inspiration from the Great Mosque of Xi'an in China, with Chinese Muslim calligraphy featured as an attraction

throughout the premises.

Chinese calligraphy has been seamlessly incorporated into the design of the prayer hall and other areas within the mosque.

The Church of Our Lady of Lourdes features glass panels sourced from Sime Darby Medical Centre in Subang Jaya, believed to depict apparitions of Mother Mary and Jesus Christ.

Meanwhile, St Anne's Church in Port Klang serves as an alternative venue for the annual St Anne's feast, offering a closer option for those unable to travel to the renowned St Anne's Church in Bukit Mertajam,

Penang, for the celebrations.

One of the most unique and interesting temples is Kai Hong Hoo, the only temple in Malaysia dedicated to Justice Bao, the renowned judge from China's Song Dynasty.

The more than a century-old Indian Muslim Mosque in Jalan Tengku Kelana was built by Indian Muslims who came from Tamil Nadu, India, and sermons there are held in Tamil.

Busloads of Hindu devotees from all over the country also throng the Sri Sundararaja Perumal Temple, known as the Thirupathi of South-East Asia.

Being a prominent Vaishnavite temple in the region, with a shrine dedicated to Lord Saturn, the premise is exceptionally busy on Saturdays as devotees come to pay homage to the deity.

The over-a-century-old Kuan Im Teng Temple, near Simpang Lima, is a busy place during the full moon and other festivals significant to the Hokkien community.

The temple was almost demolished due to severe termite infestation many years ago but was saved by the timely intervention of the Selangor Ruler, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, who ordered that the original structure be preserved as part of Klang's historical legacy.



Daulat Tuanku

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Board of Directors
Management and Staff



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**YAB Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari
Dato' Menteri Besar Selangor,
The Government And People Of The State Of Selangor Darul Ehsan**