

BD rolls out red carpet to welcome Brunei Sultan

A Monitor Report

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Dhaka : A red carpet was rolled out as Brunei Darussalam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah arrived on a three-day visit to Bangladesh on October 15.

A special VVIP flight landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital carrying the Brunei Sultan and his entourage members at 2:24 pm for his maiden Bangladesh visit.

President M Abdul Hamid along with senior ministers and high civil and military officials received the Brunei Sultan, accompanied by his royal family members, ministers of various ministries of Brunei and high-level government officials.

A 21-gun salute heralded his arrival as he disembarked from the aircraft when Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid welcomed him with a bouquet.

A combined contingent of Bangladesh army, navy and air force presented him with a guard of honour while Sultan Waddaulah along with Bangladesh President stood on a makeshift dais when the military band played national anthems of both countries as well. The Brunei Sultan also inspected the guard and then Bangladesh President introduced him to Bangladeshi dignitaries who were present at the reception line.

Sultan Waddaulah also introduced President Hamid to the delegation, accompanying him. Later, Brunei Sultan was escorted to the National Martyrs' Memorial at Savar on the outskirts of the capital in a motorcade from the airport. He placed a wreath at the Memorial in memory of Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War martyrs, planted a sapling and

signed the "Visitors' Book" there.

The Sultan stayed at Hotel Inter Continental in Dhaka, according to the programme schedule.

Sultan Waddaulah held separate meetings with the President and the Prime Minister during his visit.

It was the first ever state visit by the Sultan of Brunei to Bangladesh and a number of Memorandum of Understandings between the two countries for further bilateral cooperation were signed during the two-day state visit.

He returned to Brunei on October 17.

Earlier, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited the friendly nation Brunei in April 2019.