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DIAMOND JUBILEE OF SULTAN OF  
Johore

A million people throng Johore to honour the Commonwealth's oldest reigning ruler. The Sultan, his wife and their daughter Princess Mariam, arrive at the Istana palace for his diamond jubilee celebrations.

Today the Sultan, completes 60 years on the throne. It is also his 82nd birthday, and the coronation day of Lady Marcella Ibrahim, whom he married in 1940.

Sir Ibrahim became Sultan of Johore six years before Queen Victoria died. Now while Victoria's great-great-granddaughter reigns in England, Sir Ibrahim's wife is crowned in Johore.

The Chief Kathi of Johore places the glittering crown on the Sultan's head.

A truly spectacular way for a reigning monarch to celebrate his diamond jubilee!

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DIAMOND JUBILEE

Commentary  
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23rd September, 1955.

*Park*

Amidst dazzling spectacle and splendour, the oldest reigning ruler in the commonwealth, H.H. Sir Ibrahim of Johore celebrated his Diamond Jubilee and the coronation of Lady Marcella Ibrahim. It was also his birthday, and more than a million people from all over the Federation and from Singapore came to pay homage to the ruler, who, after Queen Victoria, is the only monarch to enjoy 60 years of sovereignty.

Johore Bahru goes gay with banners and posters of praise; people pack the streets to catch a glimpse of this legendary ruler, who has crammed so much in a long and eventful history.

Young men and women, many of whose fathers were not born when H.H. was crowned sultan in 1895, provide the royal escort.

He must feel proud of these young fighters as they swing past, for he himself was schooled early in army discipline.....In the Johore Military Force - the only state army in the Federation - in which he still holds the rank of Major General.

Thousands of school children line the royal route, and the memory of the Sultan's winning smile will live long in the hearts of these young people.

✓ The smiling ruler and his consort alight before the Istana with little princess Marian, their daughter, and the people crane their necks to get a glimpse of the great man.

Ascending the great flight of steps with a vigour that belies his 82 years, H.H. enters the throne room where the state rulers, heads of governments, and representatives of all communities have assembled to pay their respects.

Addressing the people in the throne room and the vast gathering that waited excitedly outside, the ruler speaks in stirring tones of Johore's great past and his trust in an even greater future which rests in the hands of his subjects.

The greatest moment in the life of Lady Marcella Ibrahim has come - her coronation. It's a solemn and impressive ceremony, as the chief Kathi of Johore raises the glittering crown and places it firmly on the Sultanah's head.

The crowd outside runs wild with excitement and are still hoarse with cheering when the sultan appears, composed and smiling after a very tiring morning.

Later there was a spectacular parade on the International Club padang in which more than a thousand men took part, including detachments from the Johore Military Force, the State Home Guard, the Federation Police, Commonwealth Forces, the Royal Malayan Navy, and the Royal Air Force.

H.H. took the salute as they march past in ceremonial review order.....and a magnificent spectacle it was.

The Naval review and regatta is another highlight of the celebrations. H.H., looking proud and happy stands with his family, and surrounded by his subjects, thoroughly enjoying the sights.

For those who were still bursting with energy after all the excitement, there were the water sports.....and the night brought more splendour and spectacle, as Johore Bahru became ablaze with illuminations.

In the meantime more than 300 guests sit down to a magnificent banquet at the Istana. The High Commissioner Sir Donald MacGillivray presents H.H. with a silver salver on behalf of the Queen as a token of her Majesty's friendship and esteem. He then proposes a toast and the guests drink the health of the Grand Old Man of Johore.

Out in the town his subjects express their joy in singing and dancing.....  
as people of all communities pay their tribute.

Lanterns and lighted floats - symbols of varied and delightful customs, reveal  
a dazzling scene - as people from many lands with widely differing cultures bring  
to a climax the celebrations that mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Sultan of Johore.