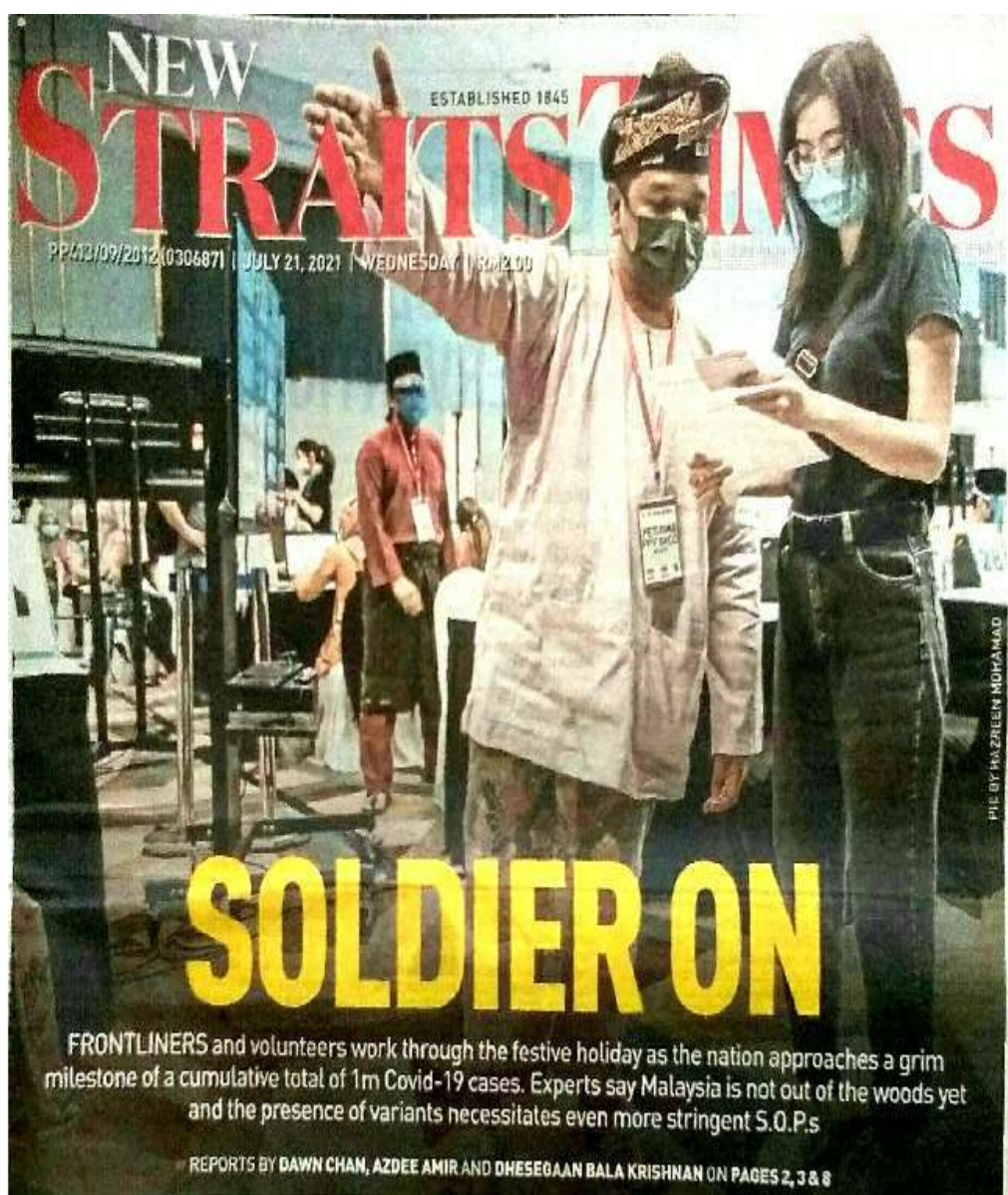


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Volunteers clad in Hari Raya attire attending to vaccine recipients at the Bangi Avenue Convention Centre vaccination centre yesterday. PH BY HAZREEN MOHAMMAD



Qairawani Hamir, clad in a baju kurung, spraying a vaccine recipient's hand with a sanitiser.

TIRELESS DUTY

BANGI PPV EMBRACES SPIRIT OF AIDILADHA

Several volunteers inject a spirit of fun by dressing up in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidiladha

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AS Malaysians ushered in Hari Raya Aidiladha in muted fashion nationwide for the second year running, healthcare workers and volunteers at vaccination centres worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that the National Immunisation Programme (NIP) continues unabated.

However, despite it being business as usual, several volunteers decided to inject some fun into the occasion by dressing up in their Hari Raya Aidiladha finery.

One such volunteer was Qairawani Hamir, 37, an employee of the Malaysian Nuclear Agency who has been on duty at the Bangi Avenue Convention Centre vaccination centre (PPV) since early this month.

Clad in her baju kurung,

Qairawani and her colleagues were kept busy attending to those arriving for their inoculation appointments, ensuring that they wore face masks and sanitised their hands, as well as guiding them to the designated stations.

Qairawani said she had been working from home for some time and jumped at the chance to volunteer at the PPV when offered.

"I figured it was a small way for me to give back to society and serve my country."

On her traditional attire, she said it was just something she and her colleagues decided upon for the occasion since they were unable to celebrate it with their families.

"Some of us even packed Raya goodies such as lemang, ketupat, rendang and nasi dagang for our break."

Qairawani, who is a mother of two, said while being away from her family on the first day of Raya was tough, she viewed it as a necessary sacrifice.

"We're playing our part to help the country achieve herd immunity as soon as possible so that life can continue."

Another volunteer who stood out from the crowd was Ahmad Mukhlis Ameir, 37, who was garbed not only in a baju melayu



Ahmad Mukhlis Ameir, donning Baju Melayu cekak musang and 'tanjak', guiding a vaccine recipient.

cekak musang but also a *tanjak* or traditional Malay headgear for the occasion.

Ahmad Mukhlis said he folded the *tanjak* himself.

"I learnt how to do it from years of 'silat' training."

He said some of the volunteers decided to wear traditional attire to spread some cheer on Raya day among those coming for their inoculation.

Ahmad Mukhlis, a corporate communications manager who works in the defence industry, has been a volunteer at the PPV since it began operations on July 6.

He has been asked many times why he chose to become a volunteer as he could be putting himself at risk of infection.

"My answer is that I wanted to do something proactive to help. This happens to be my way of doing so."

"I want to help the country reach herd immunity as soon as possible even if it means sacrificing my first day of Raya."

CROSSING STATE BORDERS

Police order 5,594 vehicles to turn back at roadblocks

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 5,594 vehicles were ordered to turn back by the authorities manning roadblocks nationwide on the eve of Hari Raya Aidiladha.

This, said police, marked a significant increase from the 4,666 vehicles ordered to turn back on Sunday.

Senior Assistant Commissioner M.V. Srikumar Nair, who is with Bukit Aman's Internal Security and Public Order Department, said 355 compounds were issued at the roadblocks over failure to adhere to the standard operating procedures of the Movement Control Order.

"These compounds were also issued to those who were attempting to return to their hometowns to celebrate Hari Raya Aidiladha," he told *Berita Harian*.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob had recently said law enforcement personnel had been told to be prepared to face an increase in the number of vehicles attempting to cross state borders without permission. This, he said, was to tackle the possibility of people trying to return to their hometowns ahead of the Hari Raya Aidiladha celebration.