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New Cabinet Ministers swear in



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting a Letter of Appointment to His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 9 – The Swearing-In Ceremony for Brunei Darussalam's new cabinet for four-year term took place at Istana Nurul Iman in the presence of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan

Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. Also in attendance were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's sons and sister, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah,

the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO); His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness 920 Major (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Letter of Appointment was read by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Penggawa Laila Bentara Istiadat Diraja Dalam Istana Pengiran Haji Alauddin bin Pengiran Paduka Tuan Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, the Grand Chamberlain.

His Majesty holds the position as the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Minister of Finance and Economy and Minister of Foreign Affairs while His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince remains as the Senior Minister at the PMO.

Leading the swearing-in was His Royal Highness the Crown Prince followed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa bin Pehin Datu Perdana Manteri Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Ibrahim as Special Adviser to His Majesty and Minister at PMO.

This was followed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman as Minister of Religious Affairs; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yusof as Minister at the PMO; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar as Minister of Health; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah as Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof as

Courtesy call to the President of the Republic of Rwanda



KIGALI, REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, June 23 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam made a courtesy call on the His Excellency Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda, held at Urugwiro Village (Presidential Office), Kigali.

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His Majesty receives audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman:



His Excellency Masagos Zulkifli bin Masagos Mohamad, Minister for Social and Family Development, Second Minister for Health and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs, Republic of Singapore on June 11.



His Excellency U Htin Lynn, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam on June 11.

Her Majesty receives audiences

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman:



Ms. Jumelah Ja'afar, spouse of the Minister for Social and Family Development, Second Minister for Health and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs, Republic of Singapore on June 11.



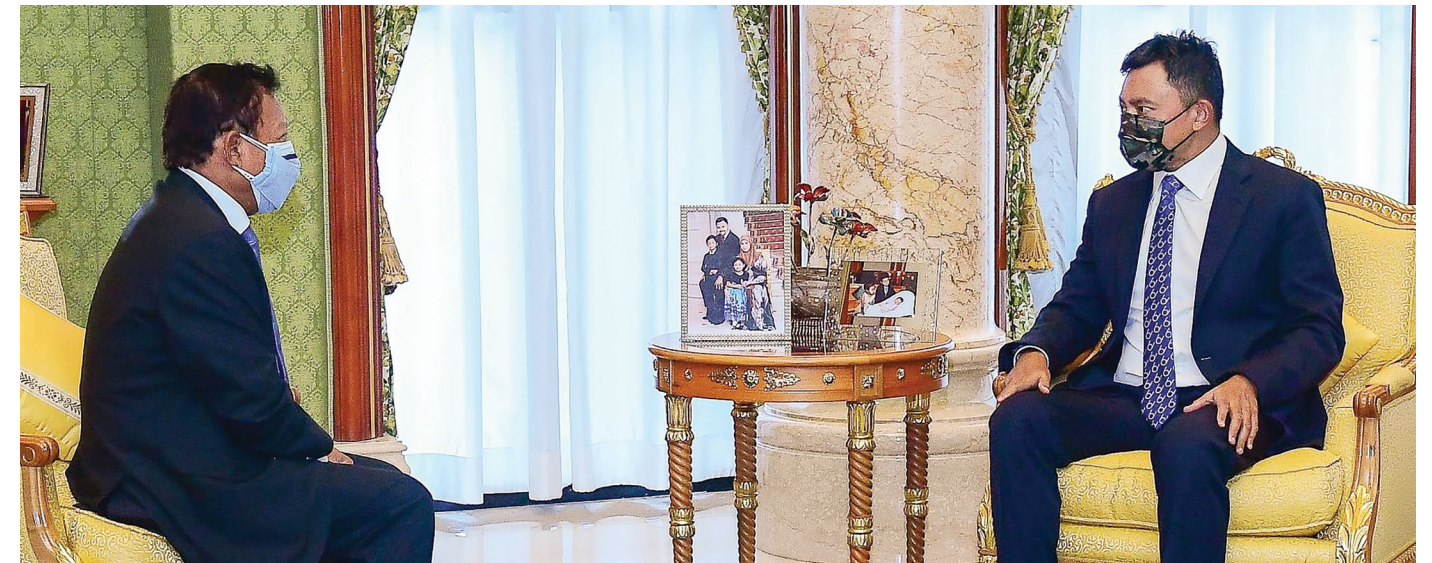
Madam Daw Hnin Hnin Ko, spouse of the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam on June 11.

HRH the Crown Prince receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, received in audience at Qashr Al-Meezan:



His Excellency Masagos Zulkifli bin Masagos Mohamad, Minister for Social and Family Development, Second Minister for Health and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs, Republic of Singapore on June 11.



His Excellency U Htin Lynn, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam on June 11.

HRH Prince 'Abdul Malik receives audience

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah received in audience at the Cheradi Ratna Otika Istana Nurul Iman from His Excellency Maeda Toru, Ambassador and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam on June 8.



His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzadin Waddaullah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and The Right Honourable Boris Johnson MP, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom as well as members of the royal family, the government and the people of the United Kingdom on the occasion of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and Birthday Anniversary on June 2.
- His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni, King of the Kingdom of Cambodia and His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techno Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Cambodia June 9.
- His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President Republic of the Philippines, the government and the people of the Republic of the Philippines on the occasion of the 124th Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines on June 12.
- His Excellency Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, the government and people of the Russian Federation on the occasion of Russia Day on June 12.
- His Excellency Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. on the occasion of his inauguration as the 17th President of the Republic of the Philippines on June 30.

New Cabinet Ministers swear in (continued)

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Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Muhammad Juanda bin Haji Abdul Rashid as Minister of Development; Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Paduka Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md. Salleh as Minister of Education; Yang Berhormat Pengiran Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha as Minister of Transport and Infocommunications; and Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Nazmi bin Haji Mohamad as Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

It later continued with the swearing-in of seven Deputy Ministers led by Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw as Deputy Minister of the Department of Energy at PMO; Awang Mohammed Riza bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohammed Yunos and Dato Paduka Awang Haji Sufian bin Haji Sabtu, both as Deputy Ministers at the PMO; Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Abdul Razak bin Haji Abd. Kadir as Deputy Minister of Defence; Awang Haji Khairuddin bin Haji Abdul Hamid as Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy; Pengiran Hajah

Zety Sufina binti Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Sani also as Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy and Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Haji Mohammad Tashim bin Pengiran Haji Hassan as Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam witnessing as His Royal Highness the Crown Prince swears in. Also present His Royal Highness 920 Major (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



His Majesty at the Swearing-In Ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman.

New Cabinet Ministers swear in (continued)

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Second Minister of Foreign Affairs; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman as Minister of Home Affairs; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin as Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism;

Also present at the ceremony were Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti and Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Ahmad bin Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa, the Attorney General.

The appointment, transfer and retention of the Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers took effect on June 7, announced in a *titah* (royal speech) by His Majesty, broadcasted on all radio and television channels from Istana Nurul Iman. All appointments are for a four-year term.

In the *titah* His Majesty also expressed appreciation and thanks to the former Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

"Finally, I give my appreciation and thanks to those who are no longer appointed on their services and deeds contributed. May Allah bestow blessings and continued happiness to them," concluded His Majesty.



His Majesty presenting a Letter of Appointment to Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Bakti Diraja Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Isa bin Pehin Datu Perdana Manteri Dato Laila Utama Haji Awang Ibrahim Special Adviser to His Majesty and Minister at PMO.



His Majesty presenting Letters of Appointment to Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman as Minister of Religious Affairs (left), Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof as Minister at the PMO (centre) and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar as Minister of Health (right).



His Majesty presenting Letters of Appointment to Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah as Minister at the PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy (left), Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof as Second Minister of Foreign Affairs (centre) and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman as Minister of Home Affairs (right).



His Majesty presenting Letters of Appointment to Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin as Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism (left); Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Muhammad Juanda bin Haji Abdul Rashid as Minister of Development (centre) and Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md. Salleh as Minister of Education (right).



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New Cabinet Ministers swear in (continued)

From page 7



His Majesty presenting Letters of Appointment to Yang Berhormat Pengiran Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha as Minister of Transport and Infocommunications (left); Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Nazmi bin Haji Mohamad as Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports (centre); and Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw as Deputy Minister of the Department of Energy at the Prime Minister's Office (right).



His Majesty presenting Letters of Appointment to Awang Mohammed Riza bin Dato Paduka Haji Mohammed Yunos (left); Dato Paduka Awang Haji Sufian bin Haji Sabtu (centre), both as Deputy Ministers at the PMO; and Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Haji Abdul Razak bin Haji Abd. Kadir as Deputy Minister of Defence (right).



His Majesty presenting Letters of Appointment to Awang Haji Khairuddin bin Haji Abdul Hamid (left) and Pengiran Hajah Zety Sufina binti Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Sani (centre), both as Deputy Ministers of Finance and Economy; and Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Haji Mohammad Tashim bin Pengiran Haji Hassan as Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs (right).



His Majesty and members of the royal family in a group photo with Brunei Darussalam's newly-appointed Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

His Majesty receives intending Hajj pilgrims



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) during the Audience and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony for this year's intending hajj pilgrims.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 13 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to grace the Audience and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony with intending hajj pilgrims at Istana Nurul Iman.

Also in attendance was His Majesty's son, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

A total of 431 intending pilgrims from Brunei Darussalam consisting of 199 males and 232 females will perform the hajj this



year together with 38 officers from the Hajj Pilgrims Management Office for Administration and Medical team as well as officers from Hajj Package Services Companies.

The intending hajj pilgrims will depart for Madinah on two separate flights, which are on June 15 and 16.

Prior to the Audience and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony, the intending hajj pilgrims were treated to a luncheon before performing the Zuhur and Sunat Hajat Prayers.

The male pilgrims were given a bag containing white *ihram* clothes, whereas female pilgrims received *telekung* (prayer veil).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince during the *junjung ziarah* (get-together) with male intending hajj pilgrims.



Intending hajj pilgrims performing Fardu Zuhur and Sunat Hajat Prayers before the Audience and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony.



Farewell Ceremony for Second Battalion of RGR personnel

SERIA, June 14 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam graced the Farewell Ceremony for 650 personnel of the Second Battalion of the Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR).

Upon arrival at the British Forces Brunei (BFB) Headquarters, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by Lieutenant Colonel Andrew P. Todd, Commander of the BFB.

His Majesty then received a Royal Salute and inspected the Guard of Honour comprising personnel of the Second Battalion RGR under the command of Major Ben Norfield.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being welcomed to the British Forces Brunei (BFB) Headquarters by Lieutenant Colonel Andrew P. Todd, Commander of the BFB (above).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being briefed during the visit (left).



His Majesty being briefed during the visit.



His Majesty signing the royal parchment.

Farewell Ceremony for Second Battalion of RGR personnel (continued)



His Majesty meets soldiers from the Second Battalion, Royal Gurkha Rifles (RGR).



His Majesty meets Hornbill School students.



His Majesty looks at some equipment and weaponry.

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At the ceremony, His Majesty consented to sign the royal parchment and was later given a briefing on BFB's operations.

His Majesty then mingled with the British officers and personnel who have also assisted the Ministry of Health in carrying out the COVID-19 screening tests at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleh Hospital; Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah Hospital, Tutong; Suri Seri Begawan Hospital, Kuala Belait; and Panaga Health Centre, Seria.

Afterward, His Majesty proceeded to the BFB Sports Complex



His Majesty looks at some equipment and weaponry.



His Majesty being introduced to British Forces Brunei personnel.

Courtesy call to the President of the Republic of Rwanda (continued)



From front page

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

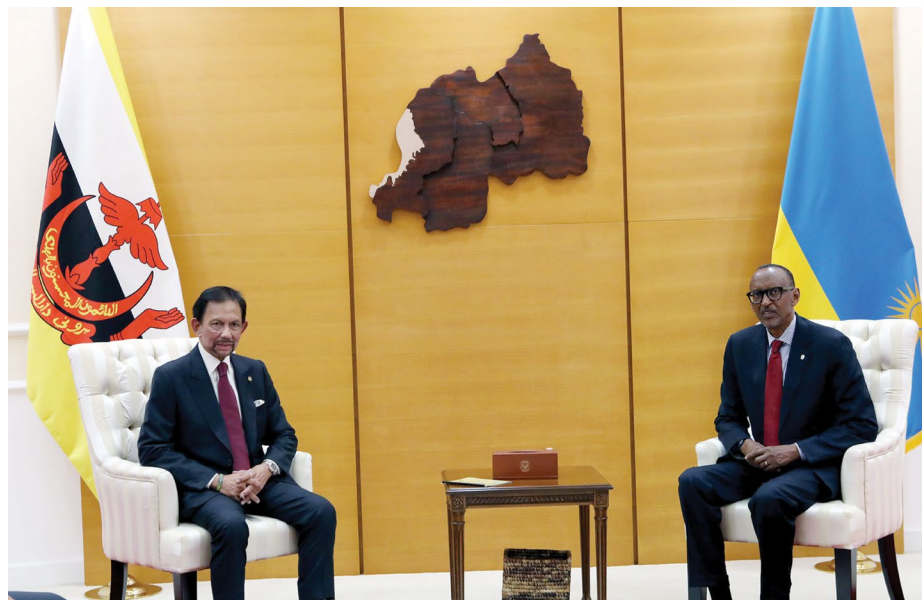
During the meeting, His Majesty and His Excellency the President of the Republic of Rwanda exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Rwanda were established on December 9, 2020.

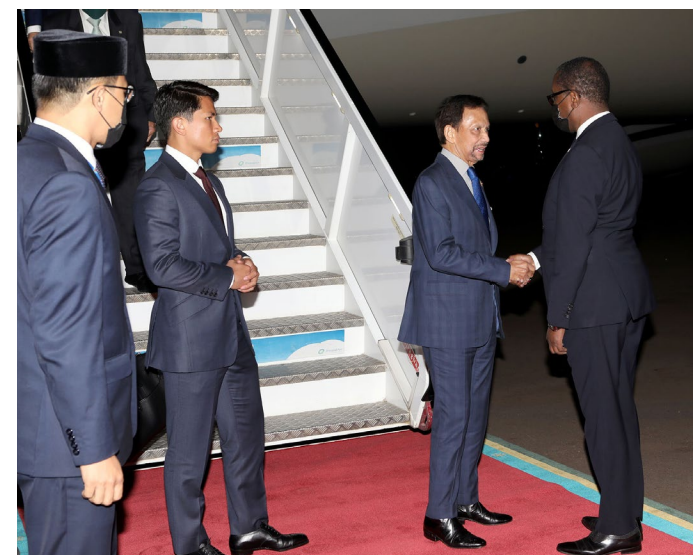
Earlier, His Majesty and His Royal Highness arrived in Kigali International Airport to attend the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), which will be held on June 24 - 25.

Present at the airport to welcome His Majesty was The Honourable Dr. Vincent Biruta, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen with His Excellency President of the Republic of Rwanda.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the Courtesy Call with His Excellency President of the Republic of Rwanda.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness being greeted upon arrival by The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda at Kigali International Airport.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness upon arrival at hotel in Kigali.

His Majesty attends Formal Opening of 26th CHOGM



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency President of the Republic of Rwanda and The Right Honourable Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.



His Majesty with Prince Charles, Prince of Wales at the Opening of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Rwanda.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness arrive at the Kigali Convention Centre.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the CHOGM Opening Ceremony.

KIGALI, REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, June 24 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Formal Opening of the 26th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM); Restricted Executive Session; and Executive Session, which were held at Kigali Convention Centre.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was greeted by His Excellency Paul

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attends the Official Welcome Reception and State Dinner.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the Official Welcome Reception and State Dinner.

His Majesty attends Formal Opening of 26th CHOGM (continued)

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His Majesty in a group photo with the Commonwealth Heads of Government.

Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda; and The Right Honourable Patricia Scotland QC, the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth.

His Majesty then proceeded to the Plenary Hall to attend the CHOGM Formal Opening with other Commonwealth leaders and later attended the Restricted Executive Session to discuss the appointment of the new Secretary-

General of the Commonwealth.

His Majesty then attended the CHOGM Executive Session, chaired by His Excellency President of the Republic of Rwanda and attended by Commonwealth Heads of Government.

Meanwhile, last night, His Majesty accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen also attended the

Official Welcome Reception and State Dinner for the heads of government attending the 26th CHOGM. The reception and state dinner held at Kigali Convention Centre was hosted by His Excellency President of the Republic of Rwanda.

On arrival, His Majesty was greeted by His Excellency and Her Excellency Jeanette Kagame, First Lady of the Republic of Rwanda.

His Majesty attends Her Majesty the Queen's Dinner and four-Eye Meeting

KIGALI, REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, June 24 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended Her Majesty the Queen's Dinner for Heads of the Government and Spouses/Partners hosted by His Royal Highness Prince Charles, Prince of Wales held at the Kilimanjaro Ballroom, Kigali Marriott Hotel.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted on arrival by Lord Rosslyn, Master of the Household to the Prince of Wales.

The dinner was also graced with a speech from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

Prior to the dinner, His Majesty also held a Four-Eye Meeting with His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore.

The meeting of the two leaders reflects the warmth and closeness of the special ties that have long existed between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Singapore further strengthen the relationship between the two countries.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Her Majesty the Queen's Dinner for Heads of the Government and Spouses/Partners hosted by His Royal Highness Prince Charles.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a Four-Eye Meeting with His Excellency Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore.

Retreat Session: His Majesty highlights mental healthcare



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam upon arrival at the Retreat Session of the 26th Commonwealth Heads of State Government Meeting (CHOGM).

KIGALI, REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, June 25 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) at the Retreat Session of the 26th Commonwealth Heads of State Government Meeting (CHOGM) stressed the importance of ensuring continuity of fair and equitable distribution of vaccines in the COVID-19 recovery efforts.

His Majesty also expressed appreciation to members of the Commonwealth who assisted others, including Brunei Darussalam.

Speaking at Intare Conference Arena, Kigali, His Majesty further highlighted the importance of mental healthcare and the well-being of the people as part of the post-COVID-19 recovery phase and ASEAN's efforts on the matter and congratulated Bangladesh for its initiative on mental health (Roundtable on Mental Health: 'Rethinking Mental Health: A Commonwealth Call to Support, Care and Transform').

Earlier, His Majesty also congratulated Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as Head of the Commonwealth on celebrating her Platinum Jubilee and 70 years of devotion to the Commonwealth.

His Majesty also extended congratulations to His Excellency Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda on assuming the Chairmanship of CHOGM, and to the Republic of Rwanda on hosting the first in-person meeting after a two-year delay.

Republic of Rwanda after attending the 26th CHOGM.

Present at Kigali International Airport to bid farewell to His Majesty were The Honourable Dr. Vincent Biruta, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Republic of Rwanda; and His Excellency First Admiral (Rtd) Pengiran Dato Seri Pahlawan Norazmi bin Pengiran Haji Muhammad, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to the United Kingdom and Eire.

Brunei Darussalam became the 49th member of the Commonwealth when it regained independence on January 1, 1984. Since then, the country has participated in several CHOGM meetings which presented a useful platform for discussing international issues and promoting bilateral relations, including in the fields of education, finance, health, law, women, and youth.

In addition, Brunei Darussalam has also gained vast benefits from the assistance and training provided by the Commonwealth in areas of trade, industry, and human resource development.

CHOGM 2022, which carries the theme: "Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming" serves as a platform for setting agendas and decision-making amongst Commonwealth member countries including Brunei Darussalam.



The Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Republic of Rwanda bidding farewell to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at Kigali International Airport.

Appointment of Senior Officers

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 17 - By command of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, it is hereby announced that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to the appointment of three senior officers.

Awang Abdul Walid bin Haji Matassan, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Municipal and District at the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) has been appointed as Permanent Secretary at MoFA with duties and responsibilities in the area of municipality and districts.

Dayang Nor Hamidah binti Haji Hamidon, Deputy Director of Internal Security Department, Prime Minister's Office has been appointed as Deputy Permanent Secretary at the MoHA with duties and responsibilities in area of Security and Welfare.

Meanwhile, Awang Haji Ahmad Nizam bin Dato Paduka Haji Ismail, the Senior Special Duties Officer has been appointed as the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the MoHA with duties and responsibilities in area of Laws, International and Research.

The date of appointment for the said officers are effective from June 18.

300 receive State Honorary Medals



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah upon arrival at Balai Singgahsana Indera Kenchana (above); Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti reading the *doa selamat* (below)



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office at Balai Singgahsana Indera Kenchana.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah at Balai Singgahsana Indera Kenchana.

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300 receive State Honorary Medals (continued)

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His Royal Highness the Crown Prince as personal representative of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting the P.J.K Medal to His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Manager and Head of the National's Polo Team (left); and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi ibni His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, a National Polo Athlete (right) and Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Jurulatah Adat Istiadat Diraja Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mashhor bin Haji Awang Metahir who was conferred with Pingat Bakti Laila Ikhlas (P.B.L.I) (below).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 2 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to award State Honorary Medals of Brunei Darussalam to 300 recipients in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's birthday celebration.

Conferring the medals at Balai Singgahsana Indera Kenchana as personal representative of His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Also in attendance were His Majesty's sons and brother, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Ninety-five recipients were conferred with Pingat Jasa Kebaktian (P.J.K) comprising of personnel from PMO, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Development, Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and private sector including national polo and wushu athletes and members of the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association.

Among the P.J.K recipients were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Manager and Head of the National's Polo Team and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Abdul Qawi ibni His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, a National Polo



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince presenting the P.J.K Medal and the Pingat Indah Kerja Baik (P.I.K.B) to some of the recipients.



Athlete who won the gold medal at the 30th South East Asian Games (30th SEA Games) in 2019.

One recipient, Yang Dimuliakan Pehin Orang Kaya Jurulatah Adat Istiadat Diraja Dato Paduka Haji Awang Mashhor bin Haji Awang Metahir was conferred with Pingat Bakti Laila Ikhlas (P.B.L.I), meanwhile 204 officers and staff of PMO received the Pingat Indah Kerja Baik (P.I.K.B).

To bless the ceremony, a *doa selamat* was read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.



Overcome global challenges together



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the Launching of the 18th International School Brunei Borneo Global Issues Conference.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 25 - As many countries are moving towards endemicity, the long-term impact of the pandemic are being assessed and understood, while the long-term impact on health and well-being are still being discovered.

Therefore, the duty of each and every member of the society to participate, to the best of our abilities in safeguarding good health and well-being of everyone.

This was stated by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman as the Royal Patron of ISB BGIC, in a *sabda* (royal speech) at the Launching of the 18th International School Brunei Borneo Global Issues Conference (ISB BGIC).

"Undoubtedly, we will all benefit from continued close inter-governmental and public-private sector co-operations, in our efforts to overcome the mounting global challenges together," said Her Royal Highness.

"From what we have seen in the past few



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah rings the ceremonial gong to launch the conference.

years," Her Royal Highness added, "the role played by the youth as volunteers has been indispensable, and valuable in overcoming adversity now and in the future, therefore it is important to engage our youth as agents of future change in the country."

"ISB BGIC provides a platform for our young people to emulate world leaders in producing resolutions to promote health and well-being for everyone, reduce international disparity, and mitigate the negative impacts of COVID-19.

"All of us should feel very proud for caring and contributing to this student-led conference. We are all doing our part in our social investment and demonstrating our social responsibility in nurturing youth's voice and action," said Her Royal Highness.

"I call upon our young delegates to emulate our role model ASEAN leaders and community leaders - be vocal in your opinions, yet remain open-minded and receptive during your Committee debates and take the time to consider different ideas and the circumstances of others,"

urged Her Royal Highness.

"BGIC encourages strong and diverse partnerships, which strive for mutually respectful and peaceful collaborations, promoting the importance of working collectively and in solidarity," added Her Royal Highness.

In his welcoming address, Tony Macfadyen, the Executive Principal of ISB was proud to host the conference as it may encourage a significant collaboration from various sectors with local communities and enhancing the benefit of the learning experience within post pandemic recovery.

Earlier, two invited speakers, Dr. Peter Tay, Chief Executive Officer of Gleneagles JPMC and Lailatul Zubaidah binti Haji Mohd. Hussain, the Founder Impian Project and Health and Nursing Care Sdn. Bhd. also delivered keynote addresses on the conference theme 'Good Health and Well-Being'.

At the ceremony, Her Royal Highness presented mementos to sponsors and supporters - Brunei Shell Petroleum Company Sdn. Bhd., Brunei LNG Sdn. Bhd., Gleneagles JPMC Sdn. Bhd., Dynamik Technologies Sdn. Bhd., Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam and Butra HeidelbergCement Sdn. Bhd. and also certificates of participation to representatives from 21 schools attending the conference.

The conference, which was held at the International Convention Centre, was organised by ISB in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in support of the Brunei Mid-Year Conference and Exhibition (MYCE) 2022.

The ISB BGIC Conference is an annual student-led Model United Nations style conference where participants represent countries to share their views on current and real-world issues.



Her Royal Highness presenting a memento to the sponsor.



Her Royal Highness presenting a certificate to a student.

Brunei-France discuss mutual interest

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 22 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) received a courtesy visit from His Excellency Bernard Regnaud-Fabre, the Ambassador of France to Brunei Darussalam, at the LegCo Building.

During the visit, the Speaker of LegCo and His Excellency Ambassador of France to Brunei Darussalam discussed mutual interests and concerns including matters in the field of education and legal field.

According to the Speaker of the LegCo, apart from the annual conference discussing the national budget, LegCo members also utilised other platforms such as dialogue sessions and visits to government ministries and departments



Yang Berhormat Speaker of the Legislative Council and His Excellency Ambassador of France to Brunei Darussalam during the courtesy visit.

to understand more on strategic matters, policies and the implementation of ongoing and planned projects.

Both sides also expressed their

appreciation for the long-standing cooperative relationship and hoped that it would continue to grow and be further strengthened through the exchange of visits and cooperation.

BRUNEI 2022 MID-YEAR CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION MYCE 2022

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 1 - The Brunei Mid-Year Conference and Exhibition (Brunei MYCE) 2022 began with the launching of the International Waqaf Conference and the Brunei Islamic Week Exhibition at the International Convention Centre (ICC).

Themed, "Realising a Comprehensive Waqaf Implementation and Management", the conference was jointly officiated by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs; Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia

International Waqaf Conference



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs; Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs; and Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism at launching of the International Waqaf Conference and the Brunei Islamic Week Exhibition.

Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs; and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

The conference aimed at enhancing the understanding of waqaf and its role in

generating and stabilising the economy. It also sought to highlight the privileges and advantages of waqaf institutions as an agent in developing the Ummah.

The Brunei Islamic Week Exhibition also features waqaf clinic during the conference.

Digital Technology Week

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 8 - This year's Brunei Mid-Year Conference and Exhibition (MYCE) Digital Technology Week is branded with the theme "Towards a Transformed New Normal", in line with the ideas outlined in Brunei Darussalam's 2025 Digital Master Plan.

Held at the International Conference Centre, the launching ceremony was jointly officiated by Yang Berhormat Pengiran Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications; Yang



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications, Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism and Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports launching Digital Technology Week.

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Digital Technology Week (continued)

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Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism; and Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Nazmi bin Haji Mohammad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

The four-day conference covers 26 topics ranging from digital transformation, 5G readiness, smart cities, data analytics and creative industries to data security. It aims to enhance further the understanding on the development of digital technology

in the new norms with the participation from the government sector, institutes of higher education, government-linked companies (GLCs), the private sector and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).

The Minister of Transport and Infocommunications during the tour of the exhibitions also launched the website of Brunei Computer Emergency Response Team (BruCERT), www.secureverifyconnect.info which



provides access of information online to the public on cybersecurity issues through social media, cyber-bullying, online predators as well as cybersecurity for children.

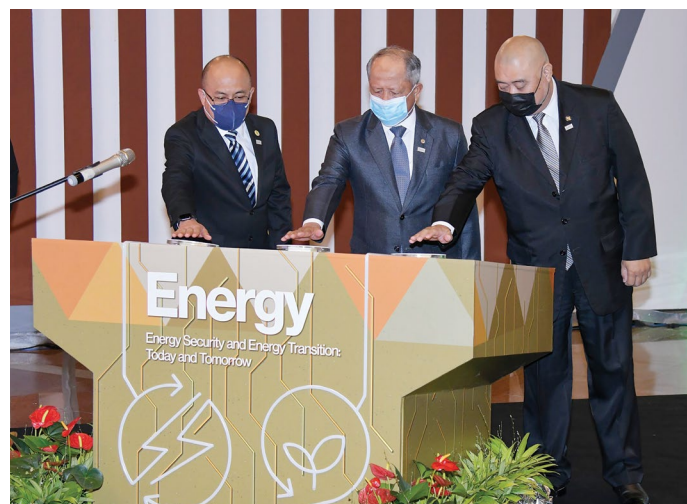
Energy Week

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 15 - The "Energy Security and Energy Transition: Today and Tomorrow" exhibition was officially launched as part of a series of events for the Energy Week in conjunction with the Brunei Mid-Year Conference and Exhibition (MYCE) 2022 at the International Conference Centre (ICC).

The Energy Week aims to raise awareness on the energy sector's resilience in the wake of the ever-changing global energy market, with energy security and energy transition being its central focus. The four-day event also celebrates the sector's significant contribution as the key engine of Brunei Darussalam's economic growth in building a brighter future for Bruneians.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Dr Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism and Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Nazmi bin Haji Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports launched the event.

A series of interactive sessions between businesses, entrepreneurs, the public and the energy sector's professionals and related agencies are being organised to raise awareness on the energy sector's development. A market engagement session



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism and Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports launching Energy Week.

is being held over the four days, to connect local entrepreneurs and companies with the country's leading oil and gas operators as part of the initiatives to support local businesses' penetration into the energy sector.

Climate Action Week



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism; Yang Berhormat Minister of Development; Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications; and Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture Youth and Sports jointly launching Climate Action Week.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 22 - The Climate Action Week of the Brunei Mid-Year Conference and Exhibition (MYCE) opens with officials stressing the urgency to address the rapidly changing and intensifying global weather crisis.

Climate Action Week, themed "Towards a Low Carbon and Climate-resilient Brunei Darussalam", was jointly launched by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Dr Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism; Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mohd Juanda bin Haji Abdul Rashid, Minister of Development; Yang Berhormat Pengiran Haji Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications; and Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Nazmi bin Haji Mohamad, Minister of Culture Youth and Sports.

Climate Action Week will have two sub-events – a conference and exhibition to be held at International Convention Centre

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Climate Action Week (continued)

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(ICC), which began today and will run until June 25, while the Eco-Street Festival is scheduled to be held at Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Complex on June 26.

The conference will engage local and international speakers that comprising experts from several countries, including Japan, Singapore, Indonesia and Viet Nam. The topics will include the carbon market, electric vehicles, clean energy, nature-based

Economy Week

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 28 – The Economy Week was officially launched at the International Convention Centre (ICC), under the auspices of the Brunei Mid-Year Conference and Exhibition (MYCE) 2022.

Themed "Towards a Dynamic and Sustainable Economy", activities during the Economy Week will focus on topics related to economic growth and development, including gross domestic product (GDP) and factors contributing to growth, development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and the promotion of trade through free trade agreements (FTAs).

Economy Week aims to deepen the understanding of the Sultanate's economy and the contributors towards economic growth, enhance knowledge and understanding of the global and regional economic outlook as well as provide opportunities for the public, especially budding entrepreneurs, to broaden their knowledge and awareness on setting up and developing a business through the workshops conducted.

The Economy Week Symposium was attended by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy and Yang Berhormat Dato

solutions, climate resilient infrastructure and crops as well as research and innovation on adaptation and resilience.

Apart from raising awareness, especially on the impact of gas emission from primary industries, the seminar and workshop also aim to educate the public on climate action through reducing carbon emissions particularly those related to human activities. At the same time, it also aims to increase green services such as installation of solar panels at home, complex, and primary industries.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy and Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism as the guests of honour.

Seri Paduka Dr Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism as the Guests of Honour.

An exhibition throughout the week will feature the priority sectors and key industry players as exhibitors.

Dinner reception welcomes Singapore Minister



Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs with His Excellency Singaporean Minister for Social and Family Development, Second Minister for Health and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 10 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs, and spouse, Datin Hajah Nahriah binti Haji Asbi hosted a dinner reception to welcome His Excellency Masagos Zulkifli bin Masagos Mohamad, Singaporean Minister



The spouse of the Minister of Religious Affairs with the spouse of Singaporean Minister, Ms. Jumelah Ja'afar (right).

for Social and Family Development, Second Minister for Health and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs who is in a three-day working visit.

It took place at the Minister's residence in Kampung Sungai Besar.

Intending pilgrims leave for hajj



Present at the airport to bid farewell are Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs; Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; Yang Berhormat Minister of Health; Acting Second Minister of Finance and Economy; and His Excellency Saudi Arabia Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam (left); a *doa selamat* was read before departing (right).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 16 - The first and second batch of intending Hajj pilgrims left the country for Saudi Arabia today and yesterday after two years of suspension due to COVID-19 pandemic.

This year's hajj quota was limited to less than 500 pilgrims compared to 1,000 during the pre-pandemic times.

A total of 454 intended pilgrims left the country for Madina where 248 of it travelling on the first flight and 206 were on the second flight. They were registered under Darussalam Holdings Sdn. Bhd. (DHSB), Straits Central Agencies (B) Sdn. Bhd. (SCA) and Al-Hijrah Travel and Tours Sdn. Bhd. Hajj packages.

Both delegations were accompanied by officers from the Hajj Affairs Medical

Office and officers from the selected Hajj packages.

Present to bid farewell at the Brunei International Airport for both flights were Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs and spouse; Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, the Minister of Health and spouse.

Also sending off the pilgrims were Awang Haji Khairuddin bin Haji Abdul Hamid, Acting Second Minister of Finance and

Economy, as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of DHSBD and several senior government officials and His Excellency Emad bin Abdul Aziz bin Saad Al-Muhanna, Saudi Arabia Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.

Before departing Brunei International Airport, a *doa selamat* for the first batch was read by Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Haji Emran bin Haji Kunchang and the call to prayer (Azan) was recited by Begawan Mudim Awang Haji Abd. Latif bin Haji Saman.

Meanwhile, a *doa selamat* for the second batch was read by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Haji Mustafa bin Haji Murat and the call to prayer was recited by Begawan Mudim Awang Haji Amran bin Haji Mohd. Salleh.

Continuous efforts to increase hybrid paddy

PENGKALAN BATU, June 9 - The Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT), through the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood, held a Doa Selamat Ceremony in conjunction with the handover of the hybrid Paddy Titih Seedlings for the Titih Planting Pilot Project, which took place at the Wasan Agricultural Development Area (KKP).

The Guest of Honour at the ceremony, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism presented the seedlings to three farmers from Koperasi Setia Kawan (KOSEKA) Berhad, Lieutenant Colonel (Rtd) Haji Jamaludin bin Ghafar; PWT1 Fsm (Rtd) Awang Haji Mohammad Zain bin Abdul Ghani Psb; and Staff Sergeant (Rtd) Yusrie bin Haji Latip whom were chosen to participate in the planting pilot project.

The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism later watched a short video clip on the efforts, achievements and planning of the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood in the production of hybrid paddies.

Paddy cultivation using high-yielding paddy varieties is the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood's primary strategy to enhance paddy yield per hectare.

Several varieties of paddy have been introduced previously such



Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism handover the hybrid Paddy Titih Seedlings to one of the chosen farmer.

as Paddy Laila which had an average production of three metric tonnes per hectare per season in 2009, to BDR5 and MRQ76 paddy varieties with average productivity of three to four metric tons per hectare per season in 2016.

Following efforts to further increase paddy productivity, in 2018 the Sembada188 Hybrid Paddy variety from PT. Biogene Plantation, Republic of Indonesia has already been identified

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Continuous efforts to increase hybrid paddy (continued)

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with an average productivity yield of five to six metric tons per hectare per season with an irrigation system.

So far, Sembada188 Hybrid Paddy variety has been planted in areas with an irrigation system of 490 hectares.

Paddy Titih is a hybrid variety as a result of a collaboration project between the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood and Sunland Agritech Pte. Ltd. from the Republic of Singapore with an average productivity yield of six to eight metric tonnes per hectare per season.

In 2019, the department has appointed Syarikat Bina LNS Sdn. Bhd., a local private company that specialises in hybrid rice breeding for planting services through the Titih Seed Production Project.

In 2022, to ensure that Titih rice seeds can be supplied continuously, the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood has also offered a site of five hectares in the Batong Agricultural

Development Area to Syarikat Bina LNS Sdn. Bhd. for a pilot project of hybrid paddy seeds production.

Currently, the department is actively working to identify higher-yielding paddy varieties that can produce more than eight metric tonnes per hectare per season by implementing various research projects together with regional and international research institutions.

In the meantime, a joint research project with Yuan Longping High-Tech Agriculture Co. Ltd. from the People's Republic of China has already started in October 2021. It is entering its second season with rice varieties that have the potential to produce around ten metric tons per hectare per season being explored.

Also present, Hajah Tutiatty binti Haji Abdul Wahab, Permanent Secretary; deputy permanent secretaries at the ministry, Acting Director of Agriculture and Agrifood, representatives from institutions of higher learning; senior officials of the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood as well as KOSEKA paddy entrepreneurs and the Pengkalan Batu Consultative Council.

16th ADMM: Strengthens solidarity harmonised security



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office with ASEAN Defence Ministers in a group photo.

PHNOM PENH, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA, June 22 - With this year's theme of "Solidarity for Harmonised Security", the 16th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) observed the adoption of three concept papers by Kingdom of Cambodia, one Terms of Reference (TOR), and notation of two discussion papers.

The meeting also successfully adopted a Joint Statement titled "Phnom Penh Vision on the Role of Defence Establishments in Support of COVID-19 Recovery" as well as the "Joint Declaration of the ASEAN Defence Ministers on Defence Cooperation to Strengthen Solidarity for Harmonised Security".

Held at the Ministry of National Defence of Cambodia, the meeting marked the first time all ASEAN Defence Ministers and Defence Representatives gathered physically after two years of virtual meetings.

The meeting was chaired by His Excellency Samdech Pichey Sena Tea Banh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence of Cambodia.

Representing Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang

Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

Following the conclusion of the meeting, the ASEAN Defence Ministers and Defence Representatives made a joint courtesy call on His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of Cambodia, at The Peace Palace.

On the sidelines, the ASEAN-Japan Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting was convened and co-chaired by His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence of Cambodia and His Excellency Kishi Nobuo, Minister of Defense of Japan.

This was followed by the ASEAN-China Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting, which was convened virtually and co-chaired by His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence of Cambodia and His Excellency General Wei Fenghe, State Councilor and Minister of National Defense of China.

Bilateral meetings were also held between Brunei Darussalam with Cambodia and Japan. Cambodia will host the 9th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) and ADMM Retreat in November.

Donate blood, save lives

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 14 June - Every millions of lives around the world require blood transfusions and blood products to get on with everyday life.

At this time there is no replacement yet for blood and blood products, and blood that is donated by voluntary blood donors is blood that is most suitable and safe to be used by patients who often require an immediate blood transfusion, such as emergency patients, patients experiencing bleeding while undergoing surgery, mothers with severe bleeding during pregnancy or childbirth, and children who suffer from anaemia due to blood and bone marrow disorders such as thalassemia and leukemia.

This was shared by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health in a message delivered in conjunction with World Blood Donor Day 2022. The World Blood Donor Day falls on every June 14 around the globe aiming to express appreciation to all blood donors who voluntarily donate without expecting any reward.

"In addition, this celebration aims to raise public awareness on the need and importance of continuous blood donation to ensure an adequate supply of blood and blood products that is safe and of quality for the use of patients in need.

"The slogan of this year 'Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives', highlights the importance of the contribution and role of voluntary blood

donation in saving lives and increasing unity in civil society," said the Minister of Health. This further strengthens the global call for more people around the world to donate blood continuously and contribute to better health.

The special focus of this year's celebration is the role of all walks of life in ensuring that a safe blood supply is always at a healthy level.

The actions of various parties and all communities in the country are needed to lead activities and initiatives to achieve a safe blood supply through regular voluntary blood donations.

The Minister went on to say that the public and private sectors and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) play an important role in jointly participating in efforts to maintain the supply of blood stocks and in turn helping to save the lives of those who require blood transfusions and blood products.

"The Ministry of Health through the Blood Donation Centre of the Department of Laboratory Services," he added, "will always work together with government agencies, educational institutions, uniformed personnel, the private sector and NGOs to coordinate blood donation campaigns in all districts."

According to the Minister, in 2021, the Blood Donation Centre recorded 16,666 blood collections donated by 12,305 blood donors, including 3,694 newly registered donors. In 2020, a total of 16,156 blood



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health delivering the message in conjunction with World Blood Donor Day 2022.

collections were recorded, including 3,215 newly registered blood donors. This means an increase of 3.1 per cent (510 units of blood) in blood collection was recorded in 2021 compared to 2020.

Meanwhile, the goal for the annual achievement of the number of blood donors recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) is in the range of one to three per cent of the total population to meet the country's needs in addressing anxiety situations.

"Therefore, in conjunction with World Blood Donor Day, let us together raise awareness on the importance of unity in ensuring adequate and safe blood supply, through continuous voluntary blood donation activities," added the Minister in his message.

Brunei-US enhance multi-lateral cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 15 - The United States (US) Embassy in Brunei Darussalam hosted a celebration to mark the 246th US Independence Day at the official residence of US Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Brunei Darussalam.

Present as the Guest of Honour representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health and spouse.

Her Excellency Caryn Roberta McClelland,

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Yang Berhormat Minister of Health and Her Excellency United State Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Brunei Darussalam during the cake-cutting ceremony in conjunction with the 246th US Independence Day.



Brunei-US enhance multi-lateral cooperation (continued)

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the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the US lauded US-ASEAN cooperation in a host of areas, ranging from improving regional security to combatting climate change and strengthening people-to-people relations through professional and academic exchange programmes.

"In many ways, the pandemic forced us to be more creative about how we collaborate to solve mutual challenges, yet it never diminished our resolve to work together for the betterment of our countries and the Indo-Pacific region," she said.

Her Excellency also reiterated His

Excellency Joseph R. Biden Jr., the U.S. President's commitment to enhance US relations with its regional partners to support post-pandemic recovery, strengthen economic ties, promote environmental sustainability and maritime cooperation as well as improve connectivity.

The NPAG encourages adequate physical activity



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health and guests warm up with a stretching exercise using resistance bands at the events.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 28 - Conducting consistent physical activity needs to become a daily practice because it not only can prevent obesity and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), but also control the occurrence of related complications.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health stated that it has been proven that doing physical activities is effective in helping maintain a healthy weight, improving mental health, improving brain functions such as learning, attention span and memory, reduce the risk of Osteoporosis or bone fragility as well as reducing injuries caused by falls, especially among the elderly.

The Minister went on reminding that the lack of physical activity is one of the long proven risk factors of NCDs and adverse health effects.

NCDs such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes and stroke are the leading causes of death in Brunei Darussalam. Therefore, measures to prevent related risk factors such as unhealthy diet, lack of physical activity and smoking are necessary to prevent the development of NCDs.

In this regard, one of the initiatives to increase physical activity is launching the Second Edition of NPAG.

"Despite the positive trend among the population in general, part of the population is still not able to meet the guidelines' target of at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week.

For example, women have been found to be twice as less active than men. In addition, the latest Global School Health Survey 2019 also shows that 88.5 per cent of adolescents are still unable to achieve physical activity targets of at least 60 minutes per day," added the Minister at the launching of the Second Edition of the National Physical Activity Guidelines (NPAG) for Brunei Darussalam at Mulia Hotel.

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In this regard, one of the initiatives to increase physical activity is launching the Second Edition of NPAG.

The Second Edition of the NPAG contains several new recommendations, advantages for generating physical activity, and new topics on the side effects

of a sedentary lifestyle.

The guidelines also prescribe the level and duration of physical activity for different age groups, including young children under five.

A sedentary lifestyle includes excessive screen time while using electronic devices such as mobile phones, computers, televisions or video console can lead to adverse effects on health of children and adolescents.

The NPAG can be used by health professionals in hospitals and clinics and instructors at all levels of education, gym clubs, sports clubs, fitness centers and organisations.

In addition, it can also be used to increase people's understanding of physical activity and a sedentary lifestyle through social media marketing, health campaigns and even the BruHealth app.

It is hoped that the involvement of various sectors, organisations and communities will work together and support these guidelines to encourage our society including children, adolescents, youth, adults, women, the elderly and the disabled to be more active.

Diversify Brunei's economy through Maritime Industry

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 29 - The contract signing ceremony of the Integrated Marine Maintenance and Decommissioning Yard project in the country marks the launching of the Brunei Darussalam Maritime Cluster (BDMC), which acts as an anchor facility.

Present as the Guest of Honour witnessing the signing ceremony held at the Theater Hall, Ministry of Finance and Economy was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy, who is also the Chairman of the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB).

Earlier, the Guest of Honour in his keynote address said the project benefits the country's economy and the people of Brunei Darussalam as the public and private sectors work together to achieve another major step towards the economic diversification agenda through a Whole-of-Nation Approach.

"The BDMC has the potential to earn \$10 to \$25 million worth of annual vessel maintenance and onshore decommissioning in the short term and the aspiration to create 4,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities in the country in the long-term through the enhancement of the range of new



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy in a group photo during the signing ceremony.

business opportunities and infrastructure improvements.

"There will be spin-off opportunities for local entrepreneurs to venture into and for foreign specialists in other industrial services to show their presence in the country, which will create more investment opportunities and knowledge and technology transfer to local SMEs", said the Minister.

The contract signing ceremony saw four project agreements between Anson International Sdn. Bhd. and the

Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam represented by the Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE); BEDB; and Brunei Shell Petroleum.

Also present were Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw, Deputy Minister of Energy Department at the PMO; Awang Haji Khairuddin bin Haji Abdul Hamid and Pengiran Hajah Zety Sufina binti Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Sani, Deputy Ministers of MoFE and several heads of Foreign Delegations to Brunei Darussalam.

COVID-19: The new normal

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 30 - The Ministry of Health in its press release stated that as of today, five cases of COVID-19 are in Category 4, requiring treatment in the Intensive Care Unit and 827 cases have recovered yesterday.

As of today as well, the total second dose vaccination for children aged 5 to 11 is 74.6 percent. 73.1 percent of the country's population has received the third dose of the vaccine, and 2.2 percent for the fourth dose.

On June 9, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy announced by the consent of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the COVID-19 Steering Committee has made few updates to COVID-19 control measures commencing on Wednesday, June 15.

This includes the scanning of BruHealth



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy at the press conference on June 9.

QR codes, which was previously required prior to entering any premises to assist the Ministry of Health in contact tracing for COVID-19 positive cases, will no longer be required. However, the management of premises or event organisers may ask members of the public or event attendees to scan the BruHealth QR code before entering premises.

Scheduled Antigen Rapid Test (ART)

in offices and workplaces will be discontinued, however ART testing is still required for symptomatic individuals, close contacts to a positive case and other circumstances where required such as before attending an event. However, the public are advised to do their own ART from time to time.

Meanwhile, scheduled ART screening at schools will continue and be reviewed from time to time.

The cross-border travel restrictions via air will also be eased commencing June 15, including the removal of pre-departure RT-PCR and ART requirement, regardless of vaccination status.

"Fully vaccinated travellers," the Minister added, "are no longer required to undergo ART testing and self-isolation upon arrival in the sultanate but travelers who have not completed the vaccination are still required to undergo ART testing upon arrival, three days of self-isolation and will only be allowed to end their self-isolation if tested negative RT-PCR on day three.

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COVID-19: The new normal (continued)

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"For intending travellers leaving or entering Brunei Darussalam, the COVID-19 travel insurance treatment coverage has been updated to a \$20,000 minimum for air, land or sea travel.

"However, officers of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam travelling abroad for official reasons or on duty are exempted from this requirement, and are also subject to entry requirements of their intended travel destination.

"Transport operators are no longer required to undergo scheduled ART testing. However, they are advised to do their ART tests from time to time, should they show symptoms or signs of infection or become a close contact to a positive case," the Minister added.

Cross-border travel through land and sea borders will be permitted for essential travel for the purpose of work or school as well as commuting purposes; transit travel only; and local and foreign-registered transport operators for the purpose

of essential import and export supply deliveries.

Approval application for essential travel needs to be submitted to the Prime Minister's Office via website www.pmo.gov.bn/travelportal.

It was also stated that COVID-19 vaccination status is not required for categorised essential travels. Cross-border travel via land and sea is planned to fully open beginning Monday, August 1, subject to the current COVID-19 situation in the country and regionally, as well as the operational readiness of control posts. Therefore, non-essential travel via land and sea is still not permitted until Sunday, July 31.

With the cessation of the Early Endemic Phase in the country on May 31 and the situation of COVID-19 infections in this country which has become stable, the Minister has also announced that the COVID-19 Relief Fund will be closed on Wednesday, June 15 and the COVID-19 allowance to frontliners is hereby discontinued starting June 1. However, the allowance is still provided

for volunteers.

The daily Ministry of Health's Press Conferences will be conducted weekly, which every Monday beginning on June 13.

Meanwhile, an information dashboard on the COVID-19 situation will be publicised daily on the Ministry of Health's website or any other platforms to continue to provide up-to-date information to the public.

The COVID-19 Steering Committee will continue to monitor the readiness of agencies to provide an accurate and prompt response to the current situation of COVID-19 in the country while ensuring that any control measures imposed are appropriate, to maintain safety, security and well-being of the citizens and residents of Brunei Darussalam. Any changes and updates will be announced immediately to the public.

For more information and the latest developments, the public can visit the Ministry of Health's website: www.moh.gov.bn, social media platforms: @mohbrunei or the BruHealth App.

Keep the environment clean, pollution-free

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 5 - The Ministry of Development through the Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation joined the global community to commemorate World Environment Day 2022, which is celebrated globally every 5 June. It acts as a platform for a collective environmental outreach across the world to protect the environment.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Ir. Awang Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gafar, Minister of Development in a statement touched on this year's theme: "Only One Earth", in line with the Stockholm Conference's slogan, which among others highlights the earth is the only livable planet the humans can inhabit.

The Minister of Development also highlighted that the existing balance needed by the creatures of this Earth has begun to be threatened as a consequence of human pursuits for development and economic growth. Uncontrolled activities can also lead inevitably result in the growth of environmental issues such as global warming, nature and biodiversity loss, air and water pollution as well as marine debris.

The Minister also shared the total annual data of plastic wastes according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). If the business-as-usual scenario were to continue, the annual plastic wastes



Yang Berhormat Minister of Development.

entering aquatic ecosystems could nearly triple from 9-14 million tonnes in 2016 to 23-37 million tonnes by 2040.

While in Brunei Darussalam, it is estimated that about 229,496 tonnes of waste were disposed to the landfills in 2021, and plastic wastes are found to be the second top waste composition accounting to 29 per cent of the total wastes disposed of in the landfill. Whereas, the findings from the Coastal Marvel Nationwide Marine Debris Cleaning Campaign conducted last year showed that more than 80 per cent of the waste that was successfully collected from the beach coastline was plastic waste, where the majority of the wastes

were plastic bottles.

For this year's World Environment Day celebration, the Minister further shared that the Ministry of Development will be joining the Eco Festival in conjunction with Brunei Mid-Year Conference and Exhibition (MYCE) 2022 which will be held at Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah. The Department of Environment, Parks and Recreation has also organised a Trash-To-Treasure Competition, which opens to the public. The competition aims to raise public awareness of the potential to repurpose waste materials creatively or upcycle them into functional arts or sculptures. It also addresses the importance of reuse and encourages the public to consider alternative ways to reuse the items other than disposing the waste materials directly into the landfill as a measure to reduce the amount of waste that needs to be disposed of.

More information on the Trash-To-Treasure Competition will be made available at the official website www.env.gov.bn or the official Instagram account @jastre.bn.

To conclude his statement in conjunction with the World Environment Day celebration, the Minister called on the public that every action and commitment is significant in keeping the nation's environment clean and free from pollution.

ATxSG Summit 2022 discusses digital sector, emerging technologies



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications in a group photo with Brunei delegates.



Yang Berhormat Minister delivering his speech at the Asia Tech x Singapore 2022 (ATxSG 2022).

SINGAPORE, June 2 - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Abdul Mutalib bin Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Setia Dato Paduka Haji Mohammad Yusof, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications, attended the Asia Tech x Singapore 2022 (ATxSG 2022) which was held from May 31 to June 3.

With the theme "Redefining Tech for a Better Future", the ATxSG2022 commenced with the ATxSG Summit 2022, which was officiated by His Excellency Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister

and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies of Singapore.

In his opening remarks, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies of Singapore among others emphasised the need to keep an open mind on emerging technologies, remain vigilant and invest in cybersecurity, as well as unlock new opportunities through collaboration.

Panel sessions were held following the opening session of ATxSG Summit 2022 including sessions on trust and the digital economy, as well as sessions focusing on technology, society, and the role of policy.

The summit has gathered regional and international key policymakers from the government sectors as well as leading industry players to discuss areas related to the digital economy, emerging technologies, and digital innovation across borders.

The ATxSG 2022 continued with a Ministerial Roundtable Session on Building a Safe and Inclusive Digital Economy. The session was chaired by Her Excellency Josephine Teo, the Minister for Communications and Information Singapore.

During this session, the Minister of Transport and Infocommunications

participated in the roundtable by sharing the key approaches in realising the potential and opportunities of an inclusive digital economy. Amongst others, the Minister emphasised the importance of internal coordination in implementing the Digital Economy Masterplan 2025 through the Digital Transformation Plans of each ministries. These plans will further translate into the digitalisation of industry sectors under the purview of respective ministries.

Along the sidelines of the ATxSG 2022, the Minister also held courtesy meetings with his counterparts from Singapore and Malaysia.

The courtesy meeting with Her Excellency Minister for Communications and Information Singapore was held on May 30, which was followed by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Digital Cooperation to enhance digital cooperation between the two countries.

The courtesy meeting with Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Panglima Haji Annuar bin Musa, Minister of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia was held on May 31.

Both ministers exchanged views on current developments and discussed areas of

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ATxSG Summit 2022 discusses digital sector, emerging technologies (continued)

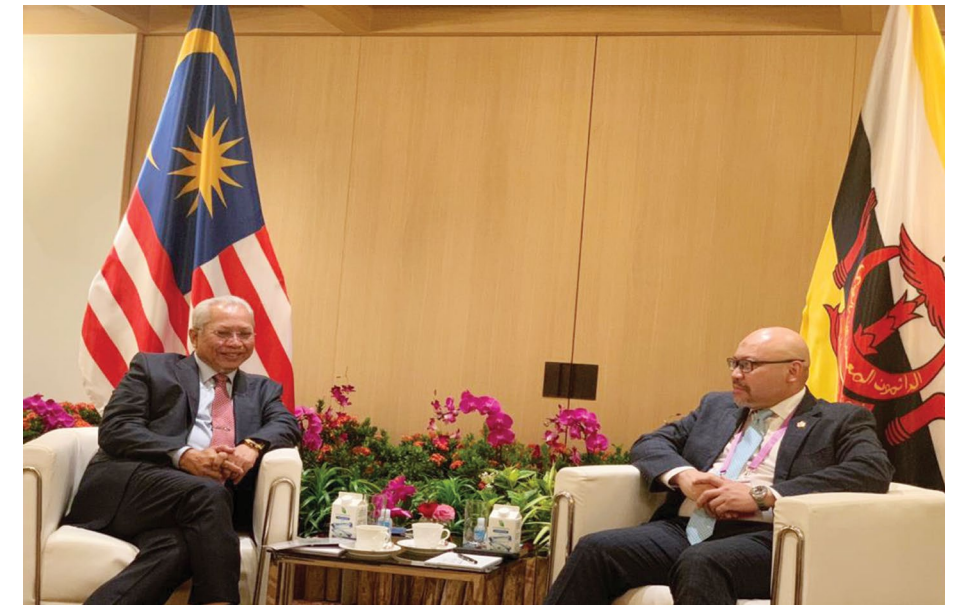
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mutual interest in digital cooperation to further strengthen the bilateral relations in digital cooperation.

The Minister and delegation also conducted working visits to several agencies related to the digital sector in Singapore.

The main objectives of the visits were to share and exchange information, and to learn best practices in the development of the digital sector.

ATxSG is a technology event featuring conferences for governments, global enterprises, and communities discussing the role of technology in interacting with society and the digital economy.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications during the courtesy meetings with Yang Berhormat Minister of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia (above) and Her Excellency Minister for Communications and Information Singapore (left).

Lifelong learning through Whole-of-Nation Approach

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 16 - Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Paduka Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md. Salleh, Minister of Education (MoE) delivered a statement on National Policies on Lifelong Learning: Achievement, Challenges and Recommendation via a pre-recorded video at a workshop on National Policies on Lifelong Learning toward Sustainability in South East Asia as part of the Seventh International Conference on Adult Education (CONFITEA VII) organised by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL).

The Minister of Education shared various developments and efforts in ensuring lifelong learning in Brunei Darussalam particularly through the Whole-of-Nation Approach in promoting accessibilities and opportunities of lifelong learning where all stakeholders are being actively engaged. This includes inter-ministerial collaborations as well as partnership between the public and private

sectors.

The Minister highlighted that as a result of a collaborative efforts between the ministries, public and private sector, 'SkillsPlus', an initiative under the Learn and Grow Programme supported by the Lifelong Learning Centre (L3 Centre), MoE was launched. It provides funding assistance to local jobseekers and local employees in the private sector for upskilling and reskilling. It also offers funding assistance for them to continue learning and training in which this initiative has helped more than 490 individuals in upskilling and reskilling to meet the needs of industry and service sectors of the economy.

The Minister concluded the statement by emphasising her belief in how good governance and regional collaborations can ensure that no lifelong learner is left behind and the region can be developed in a sustainable manner.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Education delivering a statement on National policies on Lifelong Learning: Achievement, Challenges and Recommendation via a pre-recorded video at the workshop.

Brunei commitment towards achieving SDGs



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications at the 19th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation .

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 16 - The 19th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (AMMSTI-19) has the potential to become a platform to help build a resilient infrastructure, which promotes inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development by taking the opportunity of the close ties shared among the ASEAN Member States to enhance cooperation in research and development, including the deployment and adoption of technologies.

This was said by Yang Berhormat Pengiran Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC), Brunei Darussalam at the AMMSTI-19, which was held via video conference.

The Minister of Transport and Infocommunications also shared the development and commitment of Brunei Darussalam towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through several initiatives including the establishment of the Electric Vehicles Joint Task Force (EJTTF) and the launch of the Green Protocol in support of Brunei Darussalam's National Climate Change Policy (BNCCP).

This year, the AMMSTI-19 Meeting was chaired by His Excellency Huynh Thanh Dat, Minister of Science and Technology, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The meeting also discussed the report of the 81st Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI-81) which covered the implementation of activities under the ASEAN COSTI Annual Priorities 2022; the proposed ASEAN COSTI Annual Priorities 2023; the proposal to facilitate and improve access to available funding sources, including the ASEAN Dialogue Partner Fund and to further increase the involvement of the private sector through the Public-Private-Partnership.

The meeting also exchanged views on leveraging science, technology and innovation toward achieving the SDGs and driving the transition to a low-carbon economy through the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technology.

Also convened before the AMMSTI-19 Meeting was the 81st ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (ASEAN COSTI-81) Meeting on June 13-14, which was attended by Haji Mohammad Nazri bin Haji Mohammad Yusof, Permanent Secretary of MTIC as the National Chairman of Brunei Darussalam for ASEAN COSTI.

National athletes, coaches receive rewards



Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports in a group photo with recipients of the Sport Excellence Incentive Scheme and officials.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 28 - The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) held the Sports Excellence Incentive Scheme Presentation Ceremony for the outstanding athletes and coaches at the recent 31st South East Asian Games (SEA Games), Socialist Republic of Viet Nam 2021.

Present as Guest of Honour at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium was Yang Berhormat Awang Haji Nazmi bin Haji Mohamad, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, who also presented the rewards to the recipients.

The ceremony began with the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah followed by a welcoming speech from Pengiran Mohammad Amirrizal bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, the Permanent Secretary (Administration, Finance and Estate) at MCYS, as the Chairman

of the ceremony.

In his speech, he stressed the importance of high spirit and ambition among the athletes to achieve success, believe in their abilities, undergo consistent training programmes, and be well disciplined with high commitment in their respective sports.

The rewards amounting to \$33,200 were presented to the winning athletes, coaches and the National Sports Association. Athletes who received rewards were Awang Mohammad Adi Salihin bin Roslan, Wushu Athlete; Pencak Silat athletes, namely Awang Md. Ali Saifullah Abdullah bin Haji Md Suhaimi; Dayang Anisah Najihah binti Abdullah; Norleyermah binti Haji Raya and Dayang Nur Wasiqah Aziemah binti Rosihan.

Issues on religious matters discussed

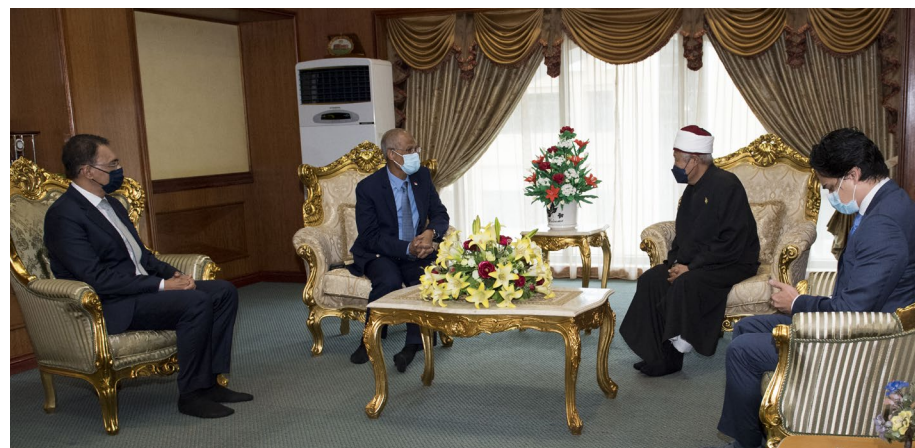


BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, June 11 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti received a courtesy call from His Excellency Masagos Zulkifli bin Masagos Mohamad, the Singaporean Minister for Social and Family Development, Second Minister for Health and Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs and delegation.

During the meeting, the State Mufti and Singaporean Minister exchange views and discuss current issues of mutual interest on religious matters.

Accompanying His Excellency were Mr. Shaun Philip Grosse, Chargé d'Affaires, High Commission of the Republic of Singapore in Brunei Darussalam; Mr. Kadir Maideen, Chief Executive, Islamic Religious Council of Singapore; Mr. Izzarin bin Swandi, Assistant Manager/ Strategic Communications of Singapore Islamic Religious Council and Jonathan Tan, Specialist Assistant to the minister.

The Singaporean Minister and delegation are in the country for a three-day working visit from June 10 to 12.



Yang Berhormat the State Mufti and His Excellency the Singaporean Minister and delegation during the courtesy call.

ASEAN Trade Fair 2022 showcases local products



Volco Venture Founder shares samples of their product of Lanun Hotsauce with visitors at ASEAN Trade Fair 2022 in South Korea.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA, June 22 - Five Brunei food and beverage (F&B) businesses recently showcased their locally developed products at the ASEAN Trade Fair 2022 to explore new market opportunities and potential partnerships which was held on June 7-10 at the Korea International Exhibition Centre (KINTEX) in Ilsan.

Taurean Bakeshop & Cafe, Sabli Food Industries (B) Sdn. Bhd., Volco Venture, Bruhouse Sdn. Bhd., and Mori Enterprise were selected to represent Brunei, facilitated by Darussalam Enterprise (DARE) in collaboration with the Brunei Embassy in the Republic of Korea (RoK) and the fair organiser, the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC).

This year's ASEAN Trade Fair was held as part of the Seoul Food & Hotel (SFH) 2022 – the fourth largest F&B industry trade show in Asia, featuring well over a thousand exhibitors annually.

In addition to interacting with prospective business partners throughout the fair from their booths, the Brunei businesses also had one-on-one meetings with potential clients to explore linkages for exportation.

Her Excellency Pengiran Hajah Noorayah binti Pengiran Lela Wijaya Pengiran Haji Yussof, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the RoK, said Brunei's participation is timely as activity picks up in the post-COVID-19 pandemic economic landscape.

"The ASEAN Trade Fair this year is significant as it is the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic that our Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are able to participate in person and gain first hand insight on the South Korean market.

"Looking ahead, the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Seoul will continue to work closely with the AKC and other stakeholders in the RoK, as well as the government and agencies of Brunei – including DARE – to provide more initiatives to strengthen the capacity of our MSMEs, towards their successful penetration into the market," said Her Excellency Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the RoK.