



Royal family perform umrah in Makkah Al-Mukarramah

MAKKAH AL-MUKARRAMAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, April 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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam arrived in Makkah Al-Mukarramah today.

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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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam performing umrah.

Brunei-Saudi Arabia relations continue to strengthen

JEDDAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, April 15 – 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 a meeting with His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at Al-Salam Palace.

Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia. Afterwards, His Majesty was introduced to

State Dignitaries of Saudi Arabia, followed by the

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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 during the meeting with His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at Al-Salam Palace, Jeddah.

Present to accompany His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were members of the royal family.

His Majesty's arrival was welcomed by His Royal

Royalty grace Junjung Ziarah Ceremony, Aidilfitri prayer

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 22 – 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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the Junjung Ziarah Ceremony with State Dignitaries and their respective spouses held in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri at Istana Nurul Iman.

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His Majesty receives Singapore's Second Minister for Education and Foreign Affairs

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 His Excellency Dr. Mohamad Maliki bin Osman, Second Minister for Education and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore at Istana Nurul Iman on April 26.



News

His Majesty visits Islamic Arts Biennale

JEDDAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, April 10 – 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 visited the Islamic Arts Biennale at the Hajj Terminal of the King Abdulaziz International Airport.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were members of the royal family.



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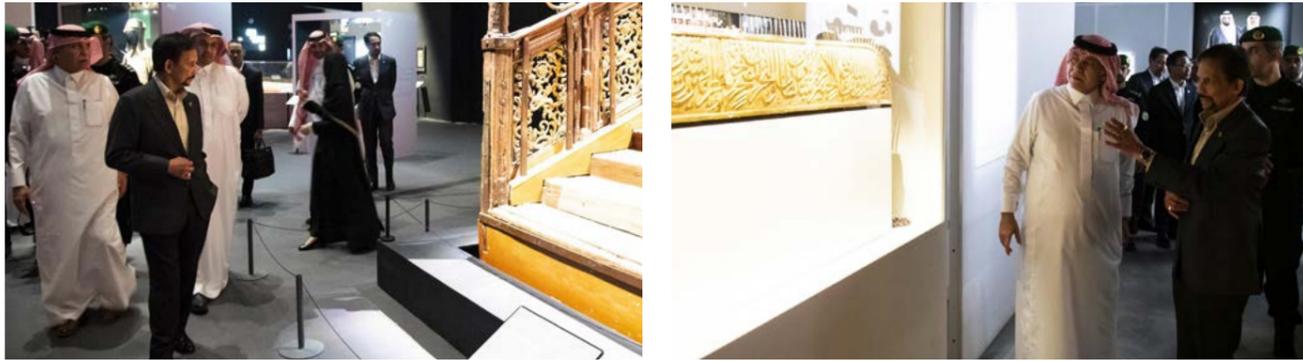
His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Islamic Arts Biennale.



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



His Majesty visits Islamic Arts Biennale (continued)



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 touring several galleries at the Islamic Arts Biennale.

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Also present was His Excellency Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Alkassabi, Minister of Commerce of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the General Authority of Foreign Trade as Minister-in-Attendance.

During the visit, His Majesty toured several galleries including the Bait: House of God Gallery, Almadar Gallery, Makkah Al-Mukarramah Pavilion and Madinah Al-Munawwarah Pavilion.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family being briefed during the visit (above and below).



Their Majesties arrive in Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah

AL-MADINAH AL-MUNAWWARAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, April 11 - 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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, arrived in Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan

of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were members of the royal family.

Upon arrival, Their Majesties were welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Saud Khalid Al-Faisal, Deputy Governor of Madinah.

While in Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah, Their Majesties visited the Maqam of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and performed Subuh Prayer as well as *ibadah* (acts of worship) at Raudhah of An-Nabawi Mosque.

Their Majesties arrive in Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah (continued)

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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 with His Royal Highness Prince Saud Khalid Al-Faisal, Deputy Governor of Madinah.



His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri, as well as members of the royal family visiting the Maqam of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) (above and below).



Their Majesties and members of the royal family performing the Subuh Prayer and *ibadah* (acts of worship) at Raudhah of An-Nabawi Mosque (above and below).



Visit to museum, audience with Governor of Madinah

AL-MADINAH AL-MUNAWWARAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, April 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 paid a visit to the International Fair and

Museum of the Prophet's Biography and Islamic Civilization, along with members of the royal family.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam toured several galleries that showcased visual information on the divinity of Allah the

Almighty and As-Sirah An-Nabawiyah (the journey of Prophet Muhammad pbuh).

His Majesty also received in audience His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Salman, Governor of Madinah, at the Oberoi Madinah.



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 visit to the International Fair and Museum of the Prophet's Biography and Islamic Civilization. Accompanying His Majesty were members of the royal family.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family touring several galleries that showcased visual information on the divinity of Allah the Almighty and As-Sirah An-Nabawiyah (the journey of Prophet Muhammad pbuh).



His Majesty receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir).



His Majesty during the audience with His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Salman, Governor of Madinah, at the Oberoi Madinah.

Royal family perform umrah in Makkah Al-Mukarramah (continued)



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 leaving Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah (left); and upon arrival in Makkah Al-Mukarramah (right).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam performing Ziarah Wida' to the Maqam of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).



From front page

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were members of the royal family.

Prior to leaving Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah, Their Majesties performed Ziarah Wida' to the Maqam of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

While in Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Their Majesties performed umrah.



His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam performing umrah.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri performing Ziarah Wida' to the Maqam of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).



Brunei-Saudi Arabia relations continue to strengthen (continued)

From front page

introduction of Brunei Darussalam's delegation to His Royal Highness.

Also present was His Excellency Dr. Majid bin Abdullah Alkassabi, Minister of Commerce and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the General Authority of Foreign Trade as Minister-in-Attendance.

During the meeting, His Majesty expressed his delight and appreciation for Saudi Arabia's warm welcome and hospitality. The Monarch believes the close relationship between Brunei and Saudi Arabia will continue to be strengthened through the official visit.

His Majesty and His Royal Highness also touched on bilateral cooperation matters and efforts towards enhancing the relations for the benefit of the people of both countries.

After the meeting, His Majesty attended a dinner hosted by His Royal Highness.



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 introduced to State Dignitaries of Saudi Arabia.



Members of the royal family being introduced to His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Royals perform Tawaf Wida'

JEDDAH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, April 16 – 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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam departed from Jeddah after concluding their official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were members of the royal family.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam kissing the Hajarul Aswad at Masjidil Haram.

Earlier, Their Majesties kissed the Hajarul Aswad and performed the Fardu Asar Prayer at Masjidil Haram.

Prior to leaving Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Their Majesties performed the Tawaf Wida'. Afterwards, the *doa selamat* was recited by

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Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam kissing the Hajarul Aswad at Masjidil Haram.

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Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar.

His Royal Highness Prince Badr bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Governor of Makkah was present to bid farewell to Their Majesties at the Royal Pavillion of the King Abdulaziz International Airport, Jeddah.

Also present were 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 Setia Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs; and His Excellency Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Yusoff bin Haji Awang Ismail, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Saudi Arabia; as well as their spouses.



Their Majesties performing the Tawaf Wida' prior to leaving Makkah Al-Mukarramah.



Their Majesties during the *doa selamat* recitation led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar.



His Royal Highness Prince Badr bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Governor of Makkah bidding farewell to His Majesty at the Royal Pavillion of the King Abdulaziz International Airport, Jeddah.



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 members of the royal family performing the Fardu Asar Prayer at Masjidil Haram.

Royalty grace Junjung Ziarah Ceremony, Aidilfitri prayer (continued)



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 Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam at the Junjung Ziarah Ceremony held in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri.



Present alongside His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati binti Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatol Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam; and other members of the royal family.

From front page Present alongside His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati binti Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatol Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam; and other members of the royal family.

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The grandchildren of His Majesty and other members of the royal family.



His Majesty; His Royal Highness the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen joining the mass Sunat Hari Raya Aidilfitri Prayer at Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque in Bandar Seri Begawan.

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Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel; as well as His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Norhayati binti Pengiran Jaya Negara Pengiran Haji Abdul Rahman.

Also in attendance were Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatol Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam; as well as the grandchildren of His Majesty and other members of the royal family.

At the event, Their Majesties and other members of the royal family consented to receive Hari Raya Aidilfitri greetings.

Earlier, His Majesty joined a mass Sunat Hari Raya Aidilfitri Prayer at Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque in Bandar Seri Begawan.



Congregants listening to the Hari Raya Sermon delivered by the Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs.

Accompanying the Monarch were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The prayer was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, Chief Syar'ie Judge. Meanwhile, the Hari Raya Aidilfitri sermon was delivered by Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohammad Tashim bin Pengiran Haji Hassan, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs.

Al-Quran as guidance for the *ukhrawi* and *duniawi*

BERAKAS, April 7 – Muslims should refer to the Al-Quran on any matters of the *duniawi* (worldly) and the *ukhrawi* (hereafter), by reciting and practising its teachings. It is only through such approach that we will be guided towards a safe pathway in this world and in the afterlife.

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 highlighted the matter at the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for the Year 1444 Hijrah/2023 Masihi at the Plenary Hall, International Convention Centre.

Prior to that, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed his gratitude to Allah the Almighty for the opportunity to enliven the month of Ramadan

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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 delivering a *titah* (royal speech) during the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for the Year 1444 Hijrah/2023 Masihi at the Plenary Hall, International Convention Centre.

Al-Quran as guidance for the *ukhrawi* and *duniawi* (continued)



Accompanying 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 were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

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and celebrate Nuzul Al-Quran. Without a doubt, Nuzul Al-Quran is a historic event for all Muslims, as the Al-Quran will forever remain protected by Allah the Almighty from any flaws and bad elements.

"The Al-Quran gives strength to mankind and invites us to be patient, as patience is a cure. The Al-Quran urges us to make efforts, as it serves to enlighten us. The Al-Quran guides us to the right path when we place our trust. The Al-Quran possesses miracles and endlessly calls on us to supplicate and seek assistance from Allah," His Majesty emphasised.

"Hence, when we are facing difficulties and obstacles, patience is a strength for survival – as Allah the Almighty will always be with those who are patient. Trial and tribulations are signs of Allah's love to His servant," said His Majesty.

The Monarch then added that to endeavour is a pious act. The Al-Quran advises us to make efforts to attain our goals to improve our lives.

His Majesty lastly touched on supplicating after putting trust in Allah, as prayers

serve to show servitude and humility before Allah. Allah is very close and is always ready to bestow mercy upon those who ask.

"Therefore," the Monarch asserted, "in this high technology era, we should get closer to the Al-Quran, and there is no reason to delay oneself from getting acquainted with it."

His Majesty also urged to make use of the month of Ramadan, by aiming to familiarise ourselves with the Al-Quran, so that the country and we will always be enlightened by the Al-Quran.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Majesty's sons and brothers, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The ceremony saw His Majesty present prizes and souvenirs to the winners of

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family during the *doa selamat* recitation by Yang Berhormat Chief Syar'ie Judge.



Presentations of Al-Quran readings from the best readers of the National Level Al-Quran Memorisation and its Understanding Competition for the Year 1444 Hijrah and the Al-Quran Memorisation and its Understanding Competition for MABIMS Member Countries for the Year 1444 Hijrah.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs delivering his welcoming remarks at the event.



His Majesty presenting a prize to the winner of Category 'A', Amal 'Aziyah binti Muhamad Saiful Ashren (left); and to the winner of Category 'B', 'Alya Fathiyyah binti Haji Abdul Rajid (right).



His Majesty presenting a prize to the winner of Category 'C', Ahmad Muhammad @ Munir Haji Ibrahim (left); and to the winner of Category 'D', Ahmad Huzaifah bin Haji Awang Hasbi (right).



His Majesty presenting a prize to the winner of Category 'E', Awang Abdul Aziz bin Noor Nasran (left); and to the winner of the Al-Quran Memorisation and its Understanding Competition for MABIMS Member Countries for the Year 1444 Hijrah, Muhammad Asyraf bin Amir from Malaysia (right).



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the National Level Al-Quran Memorisation and its Understanding Competition for the Year 1444 Hijrah.

The first prize winner of Category 'A' – Memorisation of Juz 30 and its Understanding (age 13 and below) was Amal 'Aziyah binti Muhamad Saiful Ashren; followed by Nur Soffiyah Solehah binti Mohammad Fikri in second place; and Nur Syifa Hasanah binti Mohammad Fikri in third place.

For Category 'B' – Memorisation of Selected Surah (age 14 and above), first place was won by 'Alya Fathiyyah binti Haji Abdul Rajid; followed by Mohammad Firdaus bin Mohammed Salleh



His Majesty presenting a prize to the winner of the AI-Quran Memorisation and its Understanding Competition for MABIMS Member Countries for the Year 1444 Hijrah, Rahmiyatul Khairat from the Republic of Indonesia (above).

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Al-Quran as guidance for the *ukhrawi, duniawi* (continued)



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 having a get-together with the winners of the competitions as well as their family members.

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in second place; and Nuramal Shofiyah binti Irma Shukrin in third place.

Meanwhile, under Category 'C' – Memorisation of Surah Al-Baqarah and Surah Al-Imran, as well as the Understanding of Surah An-Nisa' and Surah Al-Maa'idah (open to all age levels), Ahmad Muhammad @ Munir bin Haji Ibrahim came in first place; followed by Ahmad Darwish bin Hamdan in second place; and Muhammad Faiz Najwan bin Muhammad Saleh in third place.

The first place for Category 'D' – Memorisation of 15 Juz of Al-Quran, from Juz 1 to Juz 15, as well as the Understanding of Surah Maryam, Surah Thaha, Surah Al-Anbiya' and Surah Al-Hajj was won by Ahmad Huzaifah bin Haji Awang Hasbi. Meanwhile, Ahmad Hamizan @ Ahmad Aliridha bin Haji Laidin emerged in second place; followed by Haji Muhammad Bazli Ra'if bin Haji Zulkifli in

third place.

As for Category 'E' – Memorisation of 30 Juz of the Al-Qur'an, as well as the Understanding of Surah Al-Hashr, Surah Al-Mujadilah, Surah Al-Mumtahanah, Surah As-Saff, Surah Al-Munafiqun, Surah At-Taghaabun, Surah At-Thalaq and Surah At-Tahrim, first place went to Abdul Aziz bin Noor Nasran. The second place was won by Muhammad Adi Syazani bin Shahri; with Mohamed Shalmie bin Mohamed Shalahudeen coming in third place.

On the other hand, under the Al-Quran Memorisation and its Understanding Competition for MABIMS Member Countries for the Year 1444 Hijrah, the first place for the Memorisation of 10 Juz of the Al-Quran, as well as the Understanding of Juz 10 Category was won by Muhammad Asyraf bin Amir from Malaysia; followed by Haji Muhammad Bazli Ra'if bin Haji Zulkifli from Brunei Darussalam in second place; and Rahmiyatul Khairat from the Republic



of Indonesia in third place.

As for the Memorisation of 30 Juz of the Al-Quran, as well as the Understanding of Juz 24 Category, the first place was given to Muhammad Bagus Mashum from Indonesia; followed by Awangku Muhammad Abdul Qadir bin Pengiran Haji Ibrahim from Brunei Darussalam in second place; and Afifa Syakirah binti Mohd. Radzi from Malaysia in third place.

Prior to departure, His Majesty and other members of the royal family consented to have a get-together with the winners of the competitions as well as their family members.

The theme for this year's celebration was "*Bersabar, Berikhtiar, Bertawakkal dan Berdoa Menghadapi Ujian Dengan Petunjuk Al-Quran*". The event was co-organised by the Ministry of Finance and Economy and the MABIMS Centre of Studies and Dissemination of Al-Quran, Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Embrace Hari Raya's uniqueness, sacredness

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 21 – The way we celebrate Hari Raya is unlike the rest. We celebrate the occasion while being bound to religion. When we celebrate Hari Raya, we cannot run away from prayer obligations, nor can we be negligent to the point of committing sins.

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 stated the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri for the Year 1444 Hijrah/2023 Masihi at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated that this is what makes Hari Raya unique and sacred.

Earlier in the *titah*, His Majesty expressed gratitude to Allah the Almighty for the blessing of celebrating Hari Raya, which is a much-anticipated occasion after successfully fulfilling the obligation of fasting.

According to His Majesty, this is the highest point of success – that is, success in overcoming desire. The struggle should not be limited to Ramadan and it should continue for all time.

This is the real 'test' for the Muslim ummah, as well as when we celebrate Hari Raya. The struggle against our desires should continue, including the desire towards wastage and the desire to stray from religion while enjoying the festivity.

His Majesty ended the *titah* by extending Hari Raya Aidilfitri wishes to all citizens and residents, and prayed for everyone's peace and prosperity.



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 delivering a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri for the Year 1444 Hijrah/2023 Masihi.

Tahlil Ceremony at the Royal Mausoleum

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 27 – 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 a Tahlil Ceremony for Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman, the late parents of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; as well as for His Majesty's late son, Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim at the Royal Mausoleum in Jalan Tutong.

Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri

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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 pouring *Aying Asah-Asahan* (scented water) onto the grave of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam at the Tahlil Ceremony held at the Royal Mausoleum in Jalan Tutong.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam pouring *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the graves of Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman (left); and Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim (right).



His Majesty pouring *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the graves of Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam ibni Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman (left); Al-Marhumah Pengiran Babu Raja Pengiran Anak Hajah Besar binti Pengiran Anak Haji Metassan (centre); and Allahyarham Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr.) Haji Ismail bin Omar Abdul Aziz (right).

Tahlil Ceremony at the Royal Mausoleum (continued)



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office pouring *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the graves of the late members of the royal family.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik pouring *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the graves of the late members of the royal family.

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Bolkiah; as well as other members of the royal family.

The recitation of *tahlil* was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, Chief Syar'ie Judge, who also recited the

doa tahlil and *Doa Allah Peliharakan Sultan*.

At the event, His Majesty poured *Aying Asah-Asahan* (scented water) onto the graves of His Majesty's late parents and son; followed by other members of the royal family.

His Majesty, afterwards, poured *Aying*

Asah-Asahan onto the graves of Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam ibni Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman; Al-Marhumah Pengiran Babu Raja Pengiran Anak Hajah Besar binti Pengiran Anak Haji Metassan; and Allahyarham Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr.) Haji Ismail bin Omar Abdul Aziz.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen pouring *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the graves of the late members of the royal family.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah pouring *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the graves of the late members of the royal family.

Appointment of new members Brunei Islamic Religious Council

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 18 – 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 the appointment

of Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Setia Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Ibrahim; Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Haji Mohd. Yusof; and

Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Suyoi bin Haji Osman, members of the State Legislative Council as new members of the Brunei Islamic Religious Council. The three-year appointment took effect on April 17.

Kurnia peribadi reflects His Majesty's concern



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office presenting the *kurnia peribadi* to a recipient from the Brunei-Muara District.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik presenting the *kurnia peribadi* to a recipient from the Belait District.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 5 – This year, 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 bestow *kurnia peribadi* to 20,097 individuals in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1444 Hijrah/2023 Masihi.

representatives.

Present to deliver the *kurnia peribadi* to 1,000 recipients of the Brunei-Muara District at Istana Nurul Iman was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

The presentation ceremonies, which simultaneously took place across the country earlier this morning, were initiated in each country by the sons of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam as the Monarch's personal

In Belait District, the *kurnia peribadi* were presented to another 1,000 recipients by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik at Pusat Insani Community Hall, Seria. Meanwhile, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen presented the *kurnia peribadi* to 1,000 recipients at the

Main Hall of the Civic Centre Complex, Tutong District; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel presented the *kurnia peribadi* to 950 recipients at the Belalong Hall of the Civic Centre Complex in Bangar Town, Temburong District.

Afterwards, the distribution of *kurnia peribadi* from His Majesty resumed at the International Convention Centre in Berakas and Bridex Hall in Jerudong for the Brunei-Muara District recipients. The events also continued at the same venues for the recipients in other districts.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen presenting the *kurnia peribadi* to a recipient of the Tutong District.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Wakeel presenting the *kurnia peribadi* to the recipients of the Temburong District.

World #QuranHour: Encouraging communities to interact with Al-Quran

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 13 – This year's World #QuranHour carried the theme "Humanising the Ummah", through the agendas 'Humanising the Home', 'Humanising the Workplace', 'Humanising the Nation' and 'Humanising the World'.

World #QuranHour is a high impact campaign initiated by Warisan Ummah Ikhlas Foundation in 2015. It is a movement implemented starting from Malaysia to the rest of the world to build a value system through the Al-Quran and Hadis (Thematic and Reconstruct), with the main aim to encourage communities to engage with the Al-Quran.

Present to join the event held at the Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Mosque, Kampung Sungai Akar 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 and Second Minister of Defence.

Also present were Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong and Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin as Patrons of the Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Mosque Takmir Committee.

The ceremony commenced with the recital of Surah Al-Fatihah, followed by the presentation of synopsis of Surah Al-Insan.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence during the event.

Commemoration of Brunei-Australia Memorial



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence placing a flower wreath on the memorial at the Brunei-Australia Memorial, Muara Beach.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Anzac Day Dawn Service held by the Australian High Commission in Brunei Darussalam at the event.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 25 – To honour the service of the Australian and New Zealand defence forces, the Australian High Commission in Brunei Darussalam held an Anzac Day Dawn Service at the Brunei-Australia Memorial, Muara Beach.

Present at the ceremony 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 and Second Minister of Defence.

The event saw the commemorative placement of a flower wreath on the memorial, which was conducted by the

Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence, His Excellency Luke Arnold, Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, as well as other special guests. The flags of Australia and New Zealand were also hoisted by the children of the officials of the Australian High Commission in Brunei Darussalam.

Changing autistic lives for the better

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 2 – World Autism Awareness Day is celebrated every 2nd of April with the aim of increasing awareness and commitment towards efforts to improve the quality of life of autistic individuals, to know the importance of taking into account the basic rights of all individuals with disabilities, and to give them a fair chance of achieving the main goal of improving their quality of life in all aspects.

For 2023, the United Nations (UN) chose the theme "Transformation: Toward a Neuro-Inclusive World for All", which aims to raise awareness on the contributions that individuals with autism have made and can make to society and towards the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar,

Minister of Health stated the matter in his message in conjunction with World Autism Awareness Day 2023.

On average in the last 10 years, at the Kiarong Child Development Centre, some 148 children were diagnosed with autism each year and the trend is increasing.

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Yang Berhormat Minister of Health.

In such situations, awareness, acceptance and support are important and can change the life of an autistic individual for the better, in addition to the special attention given to the development of autistic children.

Towards this goal, the Minister of Health stated that the Child Development Centre, Ministry of Health, not only provides regular health monitoring services,

but also services to support the early development of autistic children.

The Minister emphasised that the support of family members, colleagues, employers, as well as other stakeholders and all levels of society is important to raise awareness on autism and ensure that individuals with disabilities are given fair opportunities to improve their quality of life.

Brunei committed towards strengthening healthcare system

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 6 – The World Health Organization (WHO) has chosen the theme "Health for All" for this year World Health Day, in moving towards the vision of every individual having good health in a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. The availability of skilled healthcare workers and people-centred health services is important to realise the theme's vision.

According to Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad

Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health, Brunei Darussalam is committed towards strengthening the healthcare system through the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) principle, by ensuring the provision of accessible and fair services for all.

Investing for a strong health system is critical for the well-being of a community. Increasing the public funding for health and lowering out-of-pocket costs can save lives and, at the same time, help achieve sustainable development

goals.

Brunei Darussalam is very fortunate to receive quality and easily accessible healthcare in all districts, provided by the government through Ministry of Health (MoH). This includes the provision of four hospitals; 14 comprehensive health centres; six health clinics; and two air medical clinic services. MoH is also looking into the construction of new health centres under the National Development Plan.

Increasing awareness on the importance of vaccines

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 27 – Brunei Darussalam is not missing out on joining other members of the World Health Organization (WHO) to celebrate the World Immunisation Week from April 24 to 30. The event is celebrated every year to increase awareness on the importance of vaccines, which can protect all ages from diseases and provide opportunities to continue living healthy and beautiful lives.

The matter was stated by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health in a message in conjunction with this year's event – with the theme, "The Big Catch-up", marks the critical changes for the immunisation programme.

"After more than two years of disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the celebration aims to catch up, restore and strengthen immunisation services to

cover millions of unvaccinated people and stop outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases," said the Minister of Health.

"The pandemic has caused interruptions globally, including the immunisation routine. The rate of global immunisation coverage has fallen from 86 per cent in 2019 to 81 per cent in 2021," added the Minister.

The Minister explained that routine immunisation is an important basic healthcare, as it is the starting point of healthcare in early childhood. The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam is committed in providing comprehensive immunisation.

Despite being impacted by the pandemic, routine immunisation for children, pregnant women and high-risk groups continues to be carried out. The National COVID-19 Vaccination

Programme, which was implemented on April 3, 2021, has given additional protection against the virus for all citizens and residents of the country. Up until March 31, a total of 1,291,217 COVID-19 vaccines had been administered nationwide. The rate of COVID-19 vaccination coverage remains at a high level, with 79.2 per cent of the population having received third doses of the vaccine.

In support of this year's theme and the Immunisation Agenda 2030, the Minister assured that the government will continue to play its role in ensuring that the people of the country will receive full benefit from the vaccines to improve their health and well-being. The Ministry of Health is also committed and will continue its efforts to strengthen its services for children, and strive to improve immunisation coverage or those with high risks in every age group.

COVID-19: Over 280,000 cases recovered

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 30 – The overall number of recovered COVID-19 cases in Brunei Darussalam up-to-date has increased to 287,871.

On April 4, it was reported that the average daily rate of new cases in the past week was 186 – a notable decline compared to the previous week, which was 201. On April 11, the average was recorded at 162; on April 18, at 171; and on April 25, at 175.

The numbers were reported by

the Ministry of Health in a series of press releases issued throughout the month.

Among those currently being treated at the National Isolation Centres, three cases are currently identified under Category 4 – whereby the patients would require assistance from oxygen respirators and are placed under close observation; and there are no cases reported under Category 5 – whereby the patients require assistance from oxygen respirators and heart/lung machines (Extracorporeal

Membrane Oxygenation) under the Intensive Care Unit.

Under the National Vaccination Programme, it was reported that as of today, 88.2 per cent of children between 5 to 11 years old have received their second doses; whereas 62.8 per cent of teenagers between 12 to 17 years old have completed three doses. On the other hand, 79.2 per cent of the country's people and residents have completed three doses; while 12.1 per cent have received their fourth doses.

Sustaining ASEAN's digital transformation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 3 – The 9th ASEAN Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM) and Related Meetings were held recently in Bali, Republic of Indonesia.

Attending the meeting 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.

Also present was Dayang Hajah Rokiah binti Haji Badar, Managing Director of Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (BDCB).

The series of ministerial meetings started with dialogues between finance ministers, central bank governors, with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, EU-ASEAN Business Council and US-ASEAN Business Council to discuss opportunities for public and private sector collaboration to sustain ASEAN's digital transformation, and sustainable recovery in areas such as climate finance, digital economy and green technologies.

The AFMGM commenced with a session with the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Financial Stability Board, Bank for International Settlements, Asian Development Bank and the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office, to exchange views on the regional and global economic outlooks, as well as the risks and development agendas.

During the plenary session, the meeting discussed Indonesia's 2023 ASEAN Chairmanship priorities under the theme "ASEAN



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy attending the 9th ASEAN Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM) and Related Meetings.

Matters: Epicentrum of Growth".

During the meeting, the Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy voiced Brunei Darussalam's support towards fostering ASEAN's resilience, and looked forward to concrete initiatives and projects to realise the proposed food security as well as finance and health sector collaborations.

The Minister also shared the country's efforts to prepare for future pandemics, including the establishment of the Epidemic Intelligence and Response Unit Surveillance Centre, and the hosting of the ASEAN Digital Public Health Conference for the past two years.

Brunei Business Conference: Exploring growth and transition

JERUDONG, April 27 – Over 450 local and foreign participants attended the Brunei Business Conference 2023 themed "Equity, Sustainability, Opportunity", held at The Empire Brunei.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy present at the event.

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 was present at the launching of the Brunei Economy Programme, a year long programme hosted by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and APEC Business Advisory Council Brunei, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Economy as well as public and private sector organisations towards achieving the Brunei Vision 2035.

The conference also saw three panel discussions exploring ASEAN and APEC in 2023; digital and inclusive growth; and sustainable growth and energy transition.

The Brunei Business Conference is part of the Brunei Economy Programme, held in partnership with Darussalam Assets Sdn. Bhd., Brunei LNG Sdn. Bhd., Baiduri Bank, Hengyi Industries Sdn. Bhd., Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Gas Carriers Sdn. Bhd., Brunei Shell Petroleum Company, Huawei,

Mitsubishi Motors, TotalEnergies, Imagine Sdn. Bhd., Brunei Fertilizer Industries Sdn. Bhd., Brunei Methanol Company Sdn. Bhd., Darussalam Enterprise, Brunei Economic Development Board, Royal Brunei Airlines, Radio Television Brunei, Borneo Bulletin and Media Permata.

Minister highlights importance of collaboration, regional participation

JERUDONG, April 28 – Brunei Darussalam's economy is forecast to grow 2.6 per cent this year due to a 2 per cent growth in the oil and gas industry and a 2.8 per cent rise in the non-oil and gas sector. The trade in January saw an increase of 7.9 per cent year-on-year, alongside a decrease in unemployment rate to 4.9 per

cent, with the creation of new jobs even during the pandemic.

Credit to a steady flow of foreign direct investment, with more anticipated in the future, the country is witnessing promising growth in the downstream and non-oil and gas sectors. This development can bring

about a transformative shift.

The matter was stated by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second

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Minister of Finance and Economy in his keynote address at the Opening of the Plenary Session for the 2nd APEC Business Advisory Council Meeting, held at The Empire Brunei.

The Minister at the PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy also highlighted the importance of collaborating with like-minded partners for economic opportunities and participating in regional initiatives.

Brunei Darussalam sees value in ABAC, being APEC's closest ally, to signal to the domestic, regional and international business communities the importance and benefits of APEC's cooperation.

Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy at the Opening of the Plenary Session for the 2nd APEC Business Advisory Council Meeting, held at The Empire Brunei.



Exploring Borneo's business, economic potential

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 28 – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, during the Business Roundtable on Borneo at The Empire Brunei, highlighted Borneo's potential as an epicentre for a vibrant and sustainable business and economy due to its abundance in natural resources, diverse cultures and strategic location.

The Republic of Indonesia's relocation of its capital city to East Kalimantan is expected to further enhance Borneo's vitality. The Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism also touched on business activities and investment potentials



Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism at the Business Roundtable on Borneo at The Empire Brunei.

among the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area.

The Minister further stressed on the importance of strengthening people-to-people connectivity by promoting and increasing mobility within Borneo, and connecting the island with the rest of the world.

The session was then proceeded with a presentation by Arsjad Rasjid, Chairman of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry as Chairman of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council on Nusantara, Indonesia's new capital; followed by another presentation by Daniel Leong, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Brunei Economic Development Board on DagangBorneo.

New weather radar to enhance monitoring capacity



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications officiating the launching of the Weather Radar Building and the Brunei Darussalam Doppler Weather Surveillance Radar System.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 4 – The Brunei Darussalam Meteorological Department at the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC) held an Opening Ceremony for its Weather Radar Building, which houses the new Brunei Darussalam Doppler Weather Surveillance Radar System.

The event was held at the newly launched building in Kampung Melabau, in conjunction with World Meteorological Day 2023.

The installation of the Doppler Weather Surveillance Radar System will enhance the capacity to monitor and analyse weather developments in real time,

improving the accuracy of forecasts and allowing advisories and warnings for the country to be issued earlier.

The new radar uses state-of-the-art system – dual polarisation weather radar system operates using S-band, which is capable of scanning a distance of 250-kilometre radius, with exceptional sensitivity and enabling the monitoring of a wide range of weather phenomena with high data quality and high resolution (15 metres x 15 metres).

Present to officiate the launching as the Guest of Honour was Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka

Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications.

After the launching, the Minister of Transport and Infocommunications and other guests toured a mini exhibition showcasing information on the weather radar system and the Brunei WX mobile application, which has been upgraded with the addition of new features.

The project was under the 11th National Development Plan to improve the weather observation systems in Brunei Darussalam. It was also part of the MTIC Strategic Plan 2025 (MTIC 2025), which aims to achieve 90 per cent accuracy in aviation weather warnings by 2025.



National qari safely returns home

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 6 – Abdul Aziz bin Noor Nasran, who represented Brunei Darussalam and placed top 10 in the 26th International Al-Quran Memorisation Competition in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, safely returned to the country.

He was welcomed at the Brunei International Airport by Haji Mohammad Rosli bin Haji Ibrahim, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA). Also present was Haji Mohd. Serudin bin Haji Timbang, Deputy Permanent Secretary at MoRA.



Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Awang Abdul Aziz bin Noor Nasran in a group photo upon arrival at the Brunei International Airport.

260 from Pusat Ehsan receive donations

BENKURONG, April 1 – Some 260 orphans and underprivileged individuals under Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam in Kampung Bengkurong received donations from YMRM Group. The event was held at the centre.

Presenting the donations was Pengiran Mohammad Amirrizal bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Permanent Secretary (Sports) at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Also present to deliver the donations were His Excellency Alok Amitabh Dimri, Indian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam; Ramesh Jiwatram Bhawnani, Chairman of YMRM Group of Companies and spouse; as well as Hitesh Ramesh Bhawnani, Managing Director of YMRM Group of Companies.

The donations were cloths and food, made in collaboration with McDonald's Brunei. The ceremony was an annual activity held by the company to enliven Ramadan.



The donation ceremony organised by YMRM Group at Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam.

Donation ceremony for orphans, less fortunate

JERUDONG, April 9 – Some 58 orphans and 61 less fortunate individuals from Kampung Jerudong 'A' and 'B' received donations in a ceremony organised by the Kampung Jerudong A Consultative Council (MPK Jerudong 'A'), the Kampung Jerudong 'B' Consultative Council (MPK Jerudong 'B') and YMRM Group of Companies at the Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam Mosque.

The donations were presented by Yang Dimulikan Pehin Orang Kaya Lela Pahlawan Major General (Rtd) Dato

Paduka Seri Awang Haji Mohd. Jaafar bin Haji Abdul Aziz, Advisor of MPK Jerudong 'A'.

Also delivering the donations were His Excellency Alok Amitabh Dimri, Indian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam; Ramesh Jiwatram Bhawnani, Chairman of YMRM Group of Companies and spouse; Hitesh Ramesh Bhawnani, Managing Director of YMRM Group of Companies; and Awang Abdul Hamid bin Abas, Director of Public Relations of YMRM Group.



The donation ceremony held for orphans and less fortunate individuals at the Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam Mosque.

2,000 tubs of Bubur Lambuk distributed

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 9 – The Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Mosque Takmir Committee and Persatuan Kebajikan Melayu Se-Malaysia (PKMS) held an event to distribute some 2,000 tubs of Bubur Lambuk to the residents of Kampung Sungai Akar and its surrounding. The event was held at the mosque.

The Guests of Honour at the event were His Excellency Raja Dato' Reza bin Raja Zaib Shah, Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam; Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong and Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin as Patrons of the Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah Mosque Takmir Committee.



His Excellency Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam during the event.

Media gathering highlights Brunei-China relations

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 20 – This year marks the 32nd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the People's Republic of China and Brunei Darussalam.

His Excellency Xiao Jianguo, Ambassador-designate of China Brunei Darussalam highlighted the matter at the Gathering with Media Think Tanks held recently at The Rizqun International Hotel.

During the event, His Excellency Ambassador-designate of China Brunei Darussalam touched on several topics concerning the bilateral relationship between the two countries along with its development, and had a get-together with media representatives.



His Excellency Ambassador-designate of China Brunei Darussalam with media representatives and guests at the Gathering with Media Think Tanks.

Jalanan Muhibbah Programme: Fostering ties

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 10 – The Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB) received a visit from 11 diploma in teaching students and a lecturer from Universiti Malaya (UM).

The visit was part of the Jalanan Muhibbah Programme between Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam, which ran for a week, from April 2 to 8 in collaboration between the Faculty of Education, UM; and the Faculty of Education and Student Affairs Division, KUPU SB.

Present to welcome the delegates was Dr. Haji Adanan bin Haji Basar, Ra'ees of KUPU SB.

The programme aimed to foster ties as well as exchange knowledge between the two institutions, particularly in the fields of



The students and lecturer from Universiti Malaya, who visited the country as part of the Jalanan Muhibbah Programme between Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam.

contemporary and Islamic teaching.

The activities held included postgraduate-strengthening lectures, as well as visits to several places. A dialogue with the Secretariat of the Melayu Islam

Beraja Supreme Council (MTMIB) was also held at meeting room of The Rizqun International Hotel in Gadong, with a briefing delivered by Awang Rusdhi bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Special Duties Officer at the MTMIB Office.

PKWE Tutong receives recognition from WHO

TUTONG, April 10 – The Tutong District Senior Citizens Activity Centre (PKWE Tutong) is listed under the Global Database of Age-Friendly Practices and received recognition from the World Health Organisation as an age-friendly nation.

Awang Haji Hamaffi bin Md. Yassin, Manager of PKWE Tutong shared the centre's development at PKWE Tutong's 1444 Hijrah Iftar Ramadan Ceremony, held at the centre in collaboration with

the teachers of Muda Hashim Secondary School.

The event saw the launching of the PKWE Tutong Senada Kasih Project by Awang Mohammad Sofian bin Haji Basri, Acting Tutong District Officer as the Guest of Honour. The project, which is carried out with the cooperation of the teachers of Muda Hashim Secondary School for the first time, aims to foster the practice of teamwork among the community.



The Acting Tutong District officer at the Tutong District Senior Citizens Activity Centre's 1444 Hijrah Iftar Ramadan Ceremony.

Promoting scouts development in ASEAN

TUTONG, April 29 – Scouts representatives from six countries – namely Brunei Darussalam as the host country; Kingdom of Cambodia; Malaysia; the Republic of the Philippines; the Republic of Singapore; and the Kingdom of Thailand are currently in Brunei Darussalam for the 17th ASEAN Scout Association for Regional Cooperation (ASARC) Meeting, held at the Ar-Rasyid Meeting Room of the AMAS Building in

Lamunin.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Somboon Bunyasri from the National Scout Organization of Thailand as Chairman of ASARC; Dr. Wanyada Budhtranon from the National Scout Organization of Thailand as Secretary-General of ASARC; Rajalingam Ramasamy from the Malaysia Scout Association as ASARC Taskforce Committee member; Settanun

Ungkulpasvich from the National Scout Organization of Thailand as ASARC Taskforce Committee member; and Wendel E. Avisado, Chairman of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines Davao City Council as Consultant to ASARC.

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Promoting scouts development in ASEAN (continued)

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Also present was JR Pangilinan, Regional Director at the Asia-Pacific Support Centre at World Organization of the Scout Movement as an Advisor ASARC. Other ASEAN Member States also joined the meeting online.



The 17th ASEAN Scout Association for Regional Cooperation Meeting.

UBD presents three short films for Asia Rising 2023



TUNGKU LINK, April 5 – Three short films from Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) – ‘Spark’, ‘Granted’ and ‘Menanti (Waiting)’ – screened during the Fifth Edition of the PRISM UBD Short Film Festival last year, have been selected as part of the Asia Rising 2023 online screening, organised by the National University of Singapore.

the Design and Creative Industries (DCI) programme.

This is the university's third consecutive year of having a maximum of three works being screened across ASEAN for the annual online event. This is also the first time for a UBD smartphone-made short film, Menanti, by DCI students to be screened in the regional film festival.

The online screening features 12 short films produced by students enrolled in six universities among four ASEAN member countries.

The theme for Asia Rising 2023 is “Portals and Passageway”, which invites creators to explore the invisible links hidden in ordinary lives and view the world from a different angle.

The films were made by students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences under

Progresif recognised at 2023 Asian Telecom Awards

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 7 – Progresif Sdn. Bhd. has been named the ‘Mobile Operator of the Year’ – Brunei Darussalam Award and the ‘Marketing and Brand Initiative of the Year’ – Brunei Darussalam Award at the 2023 Asian Telecom Awards.

The awards programme recognises telecommunications companies that have made significant contributions to their operations.

The recognition for Mobile Operator of the Year was through the brand’s innovative and forward-thinking approach to technology by offering its customers a complete suite of solutions that cater to their evolving needs, placing it as a leading provider of digital services in the region.

Progresif was also named Marketing and Brand Initiative of the Year through its introduction of ‘Progresif Prepaid’s YO!’. The plan provides much-needed flexibility in the prepaid sector as customers can build plans that suit their needs and budget.



Progresif Sdn. Bhd. has been named the ‘Mobile Operator of the Year’ – Brunei Darussalam Award and the ‘Marketing and Brand Initiative of the Year’ – Brunei Darussalam Award at the 2023 Asian Telecom Awards.

Citizen scientists discover new species of ‘Semislug’



The newly discovered species named *Microparmarion sallehi*

TEMBURONG, April 11 – A team of citizen scientists on expeditions in the tropical rainforest of Ulu Temburong National Park, Brunei Darussalam have discovered a new species of ‘Semislug’.

Working with Taxon Expeditions, they managed to study the specimen and analysed their DNA in the forest’s field camp. The new species has been named *Microparmarion sallehi*.

For the past years, Taxon Expeditions, in collaboration with Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), has been organising biodiversity discovery trips to the forest.



Citizen scientists during one of the expeditions in the tropical rainforest of Ulu Temburong National Park, Brunei Darussalam.

On the first trip to Kuala Belalong Field Studies Centre in 2018, a participant named Simon Berenyi, along with other team members discovered the semislug. Successive expeditions to the same area over the years confirmed that it was a species never seen before.

In 2022, a team comprising UBD students and Harrison Wu, a citizen scientist from Virginia, the United States of America, completed its description and prepared a paper for the Biodiversity Data Journal, which was published this week.

CPI for February shows 0.5 per cent increase

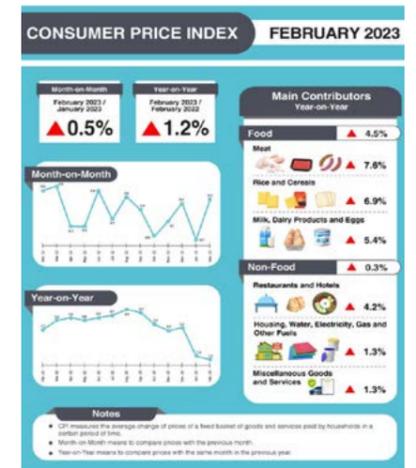
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 4 – The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in February increased by 0.5 per cent month-on-month as compared to January.

This was contributed by the increases in both the prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages and non-food prices by 0.5 per cent.

For year-on-year changes, the CPI increased by 1.2 per cent as compared to February 2022.

The rise was driven by the increase in prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages; and non-food prices by 4.5 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively.

The increase in non-food prices was driven by the rise in prices of restaurants and hotels (4.2 per cent); housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (1.3 per cent); and miscellaneous goods and services (1.3 per cent).



RPPI increases 0.69 per cent

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 6 – The Brunei Darussalam Central Bank published Brunei Darussalam’s Residential Property Price Index (RPPI) for the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2022.

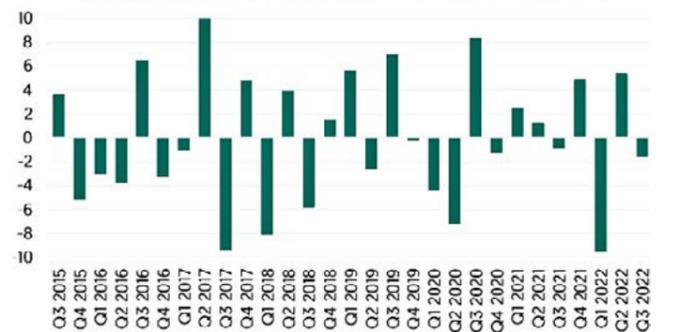
The index is compiled using data sourced from the banks in Brunei Darussalam, and is published in collaboration with the Ministry of Development, in particular, the Authority for Building Control and Construction Industry.

In Q4 2022, the RPPI was at 98.3, showing an increase of 0.69 per cent year-on-year compared to Q4 2021, and an increase of 7.31 per cent quarter-on-quarter compared to Q3 2022.

Based on the mortgage data obtained from banks, there were 135 transactions for private residential properties in Q4 2022. This showed that there was no change in the number of transactions compared to Q3 2022, but there was a 4.7 per cent increase compared to a year ago.

For Q4 2022, majority of the transactions were for detached houses (63.7 per cent); followed by terrace houses (17.8 per cent); semi-detached houses (12.6 per cent); apartments (5.2 per cent); and land (0.7 per cent).

RPPI (QUARTER-ON-QUARTER PERCENTAGE CHANGE)



The overall median purchase price for all types of private residential properties was \$260,000 in Q4 2022, reflecting a three per cent decrease compared to Q4 2021, but an increase of two per cent compared to Q3 2022.

The median purchase price for specific types of properties was \$289,000 for detached houses; \$280,000 for semi-detached houses; \$191,000 for terrace houses; \$230,000 for apartments; and \$470,000 for land.

Retail sales up 2.7 per cent in Q4 2022



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 15 – Retail sales in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2022 is up 2.7 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), increasing from \$429.4 million to \$440.9 million. Sales volume has also recorded a 2.1 y-o-y increase.

The press release issued by the Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Ministry of Finance and Economy also reported that the increase in retail sales was mainly driven by the increase in the sales of books, newspapers and stationery in specialised stores by 46.2 per cent; followed by textiles, apparel and footwear by 39.8 per cent; as well as sales at petrol stations by 33.7 per cent; supermarkets by 3.6 per cent; and department stores by 3.5 per cent.

The increases were due to the rise in

domestic, in line with the reduction in control measures following the cessation of COVID-19 restrictions.

Food and beverages services have increased by 39.1 per cent compared to Q4 2021, with an estimated sales revenue increase from \$78.2 million to \$108.8 million. In terms of volume, food and beverages activities showed a positive growth of 33.3 per cent y-o-y.

The increase in sales revenue of food and beverages was mainly attributed by the increase in catering service activities by 71.6 per cent; followed by restaurants by 45.8 per cent; fast-food outlets by 37.9 per cent; other food service activities by 6.6 per cent; and beverage serving activities by 1.4 per cent.

Non-oil and gas sector records increase

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 20 – The non-oil and gas sector recorded an increase of 3.1 per cent, which contributed 47.3 per cent to the total economy in 2022.

Meanwhile, the oil and gas sector decreased by 6.2 per cent, contributing 52.7 per cent to the economy. The decline has caused the country's economy to grow at a negative rate by 1.6 per cent.

The growth in the non-oil and gas sector was driven by the rise in subsectors such as the manufacturing of petroleum and chemical products, wholesale and retail trade, as well as air transport.

Meanwhile, the decline in the oil and

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Compared to the third quarter (Q3) 2022, the retail sales value and volume in Q4 2022 recorded an increase. The retail sales value has increased by 2.6 per cent, mainly driven by the increase in the sales of computer and telecommunications equipment by 36.7 per cent; sales of textiles, wearing apparel and footwear by 12.4 per cent; sales of electrical household appliances and lighting equipment in specialised stores by 8.7 per cent; sales at supermarkets by 3.8 per cent; and sales at department stores by 3.1 per cent.

As for food and beverage services, it has recorded an increase of 1.3 per cent in Q4 2022 compared to Q3 2022, mainly boosted by the increase in sales revenue of other food service activities by 3.2 per cent; and restaurants by 2.5 per cent.

Brunei Darussalam's GDP Performance Q1 2021-Q4 2022



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gas sector was attributed to the oil and gas mining, and the manufacturing of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) subsectors.

In the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2022, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by economic activity was mainly contributed by the industry sector, which was about 64.2 per cent; followed by the services sector at 34.7 per cent; and agriculture, forestry, and fishery sector at 1.1 per cent.

At the current price, the country's GDP was valued at \$5.7 billion, compared to \$5.2 billion in Q4 of 2021. The oil and gas sector accounted for 50.7 per cent. Meanwhile, the non-oil and gas sector, which includes downstream activities such as the manufacture of petroleum and chemical products, contributed 49.3 per cent.

On the other hand, GDP growth in Q4 of 2022, at constant prices, recorded a decline of 1.6 per cent year-on-year. This was due to a decrease in the oil and gas sector by 7.5 per cent; while the non-oil and gas sector increased by 4.3 per cent.

The decline in the oil and gas sector was due to a decrease in the production

GDP by Expenditure at Constant Prices

	Q4 2021	Q4 2022	% Growth
Government Final Consumption Expenditure	1,215.0	1,202.6	(1.0)
Household Final Consumption Expenditure	1,220.6	1,441.4	18.1
Gross Capital Formation	1,401.9	1,398.4	(0.2)
Exports of Goods and Services	4,047.7	4,386.7	8.4
GDP	4,979.7	4,901.7	(1.6)

of crude oil, natural gas and LNG, as a result of maintenance and rejuvenation activities.

The non-oil and gas sector remained positive with an increase in the subsectors, such as the manufacturing of petroleum and chemical products, wholesale and retail trade, and finance.

The increase in the manufacturing of petroleum and chemical products subsector by 14.2 per cent was due to the petroleum production increase, particularly the RON 90; and also the production of new chemical products, specifically urea fertiliser.

The increase in the wholesale and retail trade subsector by 9.0 per cent was due to the rise in domestic

demand, particularly the improvement in retail sales performance following the lifting of pandemic restrictions. Meanwhile, the increase in the finance subsector was in line with an increase in the income from financial and banking activities.

By expenditure approach, a decrease in GDP growth in Q4 of 2022 was due to a decrease in the gross capital formation, particularly private investment by 0.9 per cent; and government final consumption expenditure by 1 per cent.

However, the decrease was moderated by an increase in the exports of goods and services by 8.4 per cent, mainly the export of mineral fuel goods and household final consumption expenditure by 18.1 per cent.

Total trade sees increase in January

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 26 – Brunei Darussalam saw an increase of 7.9 per cent year-on-year in total trade, from \$2,287.5 million in January 2022 to \$2,469 million in January this year.

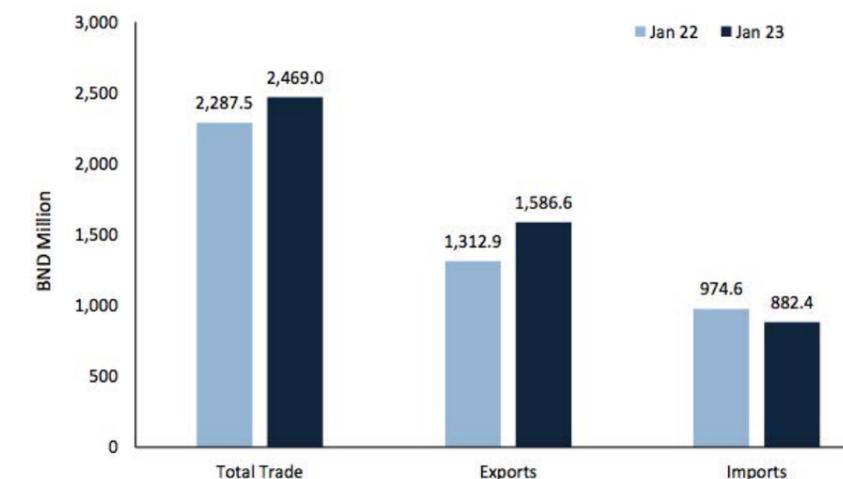
The rise was primarily contributed by a 20.8 per cent increase in export value, from \$1,312.9 million to \$1,586.6 million, mainly due to the increase in mineral fuels exports, from \$1,040 million to \$1,181.7 million in the same period.

The increase in mineral fuels exports was mainly due to the higher export value of liquefied natural gas, with a rise in exports price by 17.4 per cent and volume exported by 15.3 per cent, as well as higher export value of other petroleum products, particularly automotive diesel fuels, from \$221.2 million to \$227.8 million.

Total value of imports decreased from \$974.6 million in January 2022 to \$882.4 million in January this year, mainly due to a decrease in imports of mineral fuels.

In terms of commodities, mineral fuels represented the major contributor to the country's exports at 74.5 per cent, followed by chemicals (21.7 per cent), and

Brunei Darussalam's Year-on-Year Trade Performance



miscellaneous manufactured articles (1.5 per cent).

The five main imports by commodity for January were mineral fuels (66 per cent),

machinery and transport equipment (12.3 per cent), food (9.0 per cent), chemicals (4.4 per cent), and manufactured goods

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Total trade sees increase in January (continued)

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(4.0 per cent).

The main export markets in January was Japan (26.0 per cent), followed by Australia (16.9 per cent), and the Republic of Singapore (14.9 per cent). The largest export commodity to Japan, Australia and Singapore was mineral fuels.

The biggest import partners were Malaysia (25.2 per cent), followed by the United Arab Emirates (16.9 per cent) and the People's Republic of China (14.2 per cent), with mineral fuels as the largest import commodity.

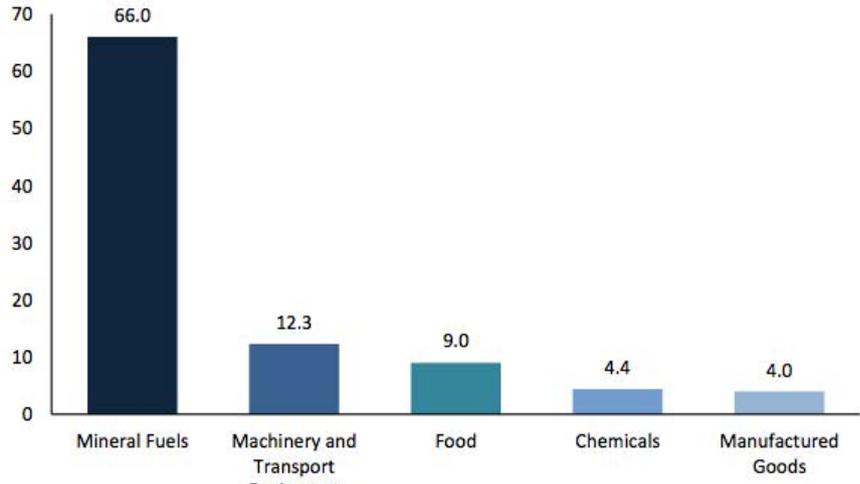
Some 63.2 per cent of imports were used as intermediate goods for processing; followed by capital goods (33.0 per cent) for business operations; and consumption goods (3.8 per cent) for household use.

In terms of month-on-month changes, compared to December 2022, total trade rose at a minimal rate of 0.02 per cent due to an increase in export by 1.4 per cent. However, it was offset by a decline in import by 2.5 per cent.

The month-to-month increase in export value was mainly due to an increase in chemicals exports from the downstream petrochemical industry. Meanwhile, the decline in chemical was the main contributor to the decreased value of imports.

Some 95.1 per cent of trade by value was delivered through sea transport. This was followed by air (3.8 per cent) and via land (1.1 per cent).

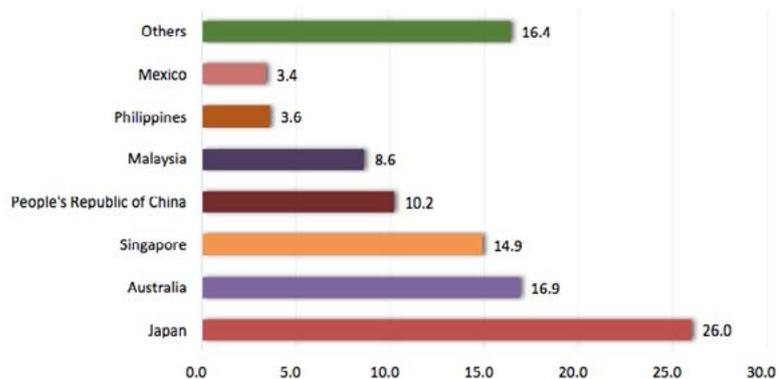
Five Main Imports by Commodity



	Price (USD)		Changes January 2023 / January 2022 %
	January 2022	January 2023	
Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) per MMBtu	11.8	13.8	17.4

	Volume		Changes January 2023 / January 2022 %
	January 2022	January 2023	
Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) MMBtu Per Day	740,857	853,985	15.3

Share of Exports by Trading Partner



Total exports value increases 10.1 per cent

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 29 – Total exports value increased by 10.1 per cent in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2022, due to a rise in the exports unit value index by 23.1 per cent. This was mainly contributed by the increase in the index of beverages (31.0 per cent), mineral fuels (24.1 per cent) and manufactured goods (20.4 per cent).

The rising prices of these commodities in the world market was a key driving force towards the increase in exports unit value index. In terms of exports volume index, a decrease of 33.2 per cent was recorded in Q4 2022, contributed by the index of beverages (36.1 per cent), mineral fuels (34.2 per cent), and miscellaneous manufactured articles (27.5 per cent). The total imports value in Q4 2022 increased by 18.7 per cent, mainly due to the rise in the

import unit value index by 4.0 per cent.

The rise in the imports unit value index was primarily contributed by crude materials inedible (23.8 per cent), mineral fuels (16.9 per cent), and manufactured goods (15.9 per cent).

Meanwhile, the increase in the imports volume index by 7.9 per cent was attributed by an increase in index of manufactured goods (43.2 per cent), food (22.8 per cent) and beverages (16.7 per cent). The terms of trade registered an increase of 18.4 per cent in Q4 2022. This was mainly contributed by the increase in the index of beverages at 26.6 per cent, followed by chemicals (9.9 per cent), and mineral fuels (6.2 per cent).