



Brunei-Türkiye strenghten bilateral relations

ANKARA, REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE, March 7 - 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 arrived at Esenboga Airport yesterday for a State Visit from March 6 to 9.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was welcomed by His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye at a Welcoming Ceremony held at the Presidential Palace.

Upon arrival, both leaders proceeded to the Special Dais to receive the Salute of Honour accompanied by the national anthems of both countries, and a 21-gun salute.



His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye welcoming 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 Presidential Palace.

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KDB AS-SIDDIQ strengthens Brunei - Singapore defence cooperation

MUARA, March 21 - 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 Commissioning Ceremony of Patrol Vessel (KDB) AS-SIDDIQ held at Jetty Bravo of Muara Naval Base.

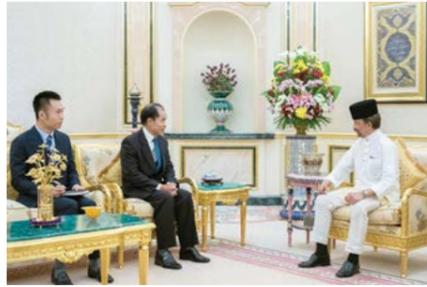
Shortly after arrival, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received the Royal Salute and inspected of the Guard of Honour comprising 110 Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) personnel led by Lieutenant Commander Ahmad Affi bin Antin, RBN.

The ceremony continued with the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah led by Commander Haji Ainolnizam bin Haji Ibrahim, Director of RBAF Religious Directorate (JAMA'AT), RBN.



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 the commissioning titah (royal speech).

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18. Distribution of Safawy dates



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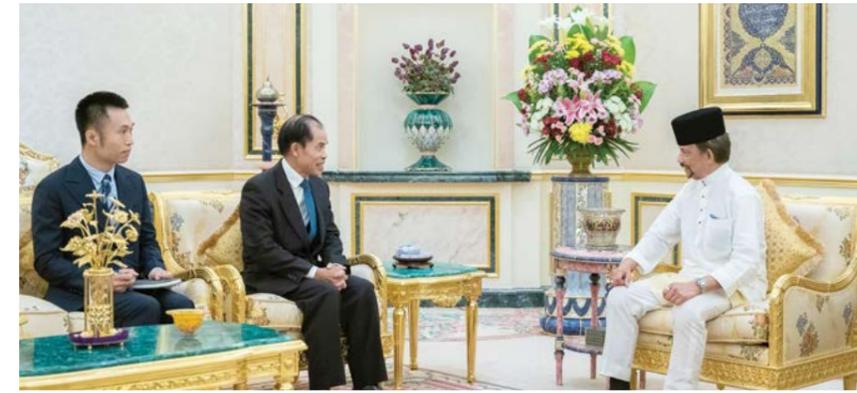
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His Majesty receives audience



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 Tran Van Khoa, outgoing Ambassador of Republic Socialist of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam on March 22.

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:



Her Excellency Erma Said Mohamed Al Kathiry, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam on March 2.



Her Excellency Boosara Kanchanalai, Ambassador of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam on March 2.



Her Excellency Noralizan binti Abdul Momin, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Sultanate of Oman; Her Excellency Megawati binti Dato Paduka Haji Manan, newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Philippines and Her Excellency Latifah binti Zaini, newly-appointed Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to ASEAN in Jakarta, Indonesia on March 2.

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-Meezaan:



His Excellency Lim Hokseng, newly-appointed Ambassador of Cambodia to Brunei Darussalam on March 22.



His Excellency Tran Van Khoa, outgoing Ambassador of Republic Socialist of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam on March 22.



Her Excellency Erma Said Mohamed Al Kathiry, Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to Brunei Darussalam on March 4.



His Excellency Mikhail Vladimirovich Baranov, Ambassador Republic of Russia to Brunei Darussalam on March 4.



Her Excellency Noralizan binti Abdul Momin, Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Sultanate of Oman; Her Excellency Megawati binti Dato Paduka Haji Manan, newly-appointed Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Philippines and Her Excellency Latifah binti Zaini, newly-appointed Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to ASEAN in Jakarta, Indonesia on March 4.



The Right Honourable Mark Garnier MP, United Kingdom's Trade Envoy to Brunei Darussalam on March 2.

His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

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 send congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Vo Van Thuong on the occasion of his appointment as the President of Republic Socialist of Viet Nam on March 4.
- His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Qatar Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs on the occasion of his appointment as the new Prime Minister of Qatar on March 9.
- His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of China on the occasion of his re-appointment as the President of China on March 10.
- His Excellency Li Qiang on the occasion of his appointment as Premier of the State Council of China on March 11.
- His Excellency Dr. Arif Alvi, President Republic of Pakistan; His Excellency Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister Republic of Pakistan and the government as well as the people of Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan Day on March 23.
- His Excellency Md. Abdul Hamid, President of Bangladesh and Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the government as well as the people of Bangladesh on the occasion of its Independence Day on March 26.

News

His Majesty graces 19th LegCo opening ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 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 called on the Legislative Council (LegCo) Members to be open-minded while being free from external influences.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted the matter at the Opening Ceremony of the First Meeting of the 19th LegCo Session held at the Dewan Majlis Building.

His Majesty also touched on unemployment, stating it as an important issue that requires attention

His Majesty said the Manpower Planning and Employment Council (MPEC) Secretariat is planning and implementing strategies through the Whole of Government and the Whole of Nation approaches to ensure the interests of local jobseekers, particularly through reskilling and upskilling of knowledge by highlighting the Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Competency Apprentice Programme and Skills Plus Programme to improve skills and marketability of local.



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 delivers a *titah* (royal speech) at the Opening Ceremony of the First Meeting of the 19th Legislative Council (LegCo) session held at the LegCo Chamber Hall, Dewan Majlis Building.

His Majesty also touched on the new National Retirement Scheme (SPK), to be launched in July, will provide better retirement income than the current Employees Trust Fund (TAP) scheme while also encouraging members to continue to find employment in the public or private sector.

Meanwhile, on the country's commitment to climate change, Brunei Darussalam is hosting the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change which allows local and international experts to conduct research on climate change. As part of the country's

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His Majesty grace 19th LegCo opening ceremony (continued)

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efforts to monitor and verify data accurately, the information will be included in the national climate change adaptation plan.

Touching on the economy, His Majesty noted that the Annual Census of Enterprises Report in 2021 shows that Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) made up 97.2 per cent of the total active businesses in 2020.

Accompanying His Majesty at the session were His Majesty's son 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 Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Prior to the opening ceremony, the LegCo convened to review and confirm the minute from the First Meeting from the 18th LegCo session, which ran from February 24 to March 3, 2022.

The First Meeting of the 19th LegCo session will be chaired by Yang Di-Pertua of LegCo; with the assistance of Yang Dimulikan Pehin Orang Kaya Pekerma Jaya Dato Paduka Awang Haji Judin bin Haji Asar, Clerk to LegCo; and Rose Aminah binti Haji Ismail, Deputy Clerk to LegCo.

The 34 LegCo members comprise Ex-Officio members, titled persons, persons who have achieved distinction and



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 other members of royal family at the Opening Ceremony of the 19th Legislative Council.

district representatives. This year's session features new and re-appointed members who hope to bring positive impacts.

This year's session will deliberate the Supply Bill 2023-2024 to be adopted starting April 1.



Also present at the opening ceremony were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's son and brother: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.



Among the members of the Legislative Council (LegCo) at the opening ceremony.



Yang Berhormat Chief Syar'ie Judge reciting the *doa selamat*.



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His Majesty and other members of the royal family in a group photo session with the members of Legislative Council (LegCo) at the ceremony.



Yang Berhormat Speaker of LegCo at the Opening Ceremony of the First Meeting of the 19th LegCo session.



Among the members of LegCo at the opening ceremony.



A procession carrying the Cokmar (ceremonial mace) (above); and among permanent secretaries attending the ceremony (left).

Brunei-Türkiye strengthen bilateral relations (continued)

From front page

The ceremony continued with the inspection of the Royal Guard of Honour mounted by members of the Turkish Armed Forces.

His Majesty was then introduced to dignitaries from the Republic of Türkiye, followed with the introduction of Brunei Darussalam's delegation to the President of the Republic of Türkiye.

Both leaders then proceeded to a Four-Eye Meeting, followed by a Bilateral Meeting where His Majesty and the President, among other things, discussed

matters of mutual interest towards further strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries, including cooperation in the fields of trade and investment, education, culture, and defence.

Following the meeting, His Majesty with the President witnessed the Signing Ceremony of Five Agreements between the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Republic of Türkiye, namely, the Protocol on Cooperation between the National Archives of Brunei Darussalam

and the Directorate of State Archives of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye; Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Cooperation in the Field of Higher Education between the Council of Higher Education of the Republic of Türkiye and the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam; Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Defence of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Türkiye on Defence Cooperation; MoU between the

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Brunei-Türkiye strengthen bilateral relations (continued)



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolqiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inspects the Royal Guard of Honour mounted by members of the Turkish Armed Forces.



His Majesty and the President at the Four-Eye Meeting.



His Majesty and the President witnessing the signing of Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the Field of Higher Education between the Council of Higher Education of the Republic of Türkiye and the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam.

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Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Republic of Türkiye on Cultural Cooperation; MoU between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye on Bilateral Consultations.

After the signing ceremony, His Majesty and the President attended a press conference.

His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) stating that His Majesty and the people of Brunei Darussalam expressed their deepest condolences to the people of the Republic of Türkiye following the recent devastating earthquakes, and Brunei Darussalam is ready to offer assistance in whatever way it can.

His Majesty, in his *titah*, was pleased with the progress made between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Türkiye since His Majesty's last State Visit in 2012, namely in the field of education,

defence as well as trade and economic cooperation. Both countries intend to further strengthen these areas through more people-to-people exchanges and welcome the signing of five agreements. In addition, His Majesty also extended an offer for Turkish students to pursue their postgraduate studies in Brunei under the Brunei Darussalam Government Scholarship.

In acknowledgment of Türkiye's vast experience and expertise, His Majesty also welcomed collaboration in new areas such as arts and culture as well as in the agri-food industry. Furthermore, Brunei Darussalam's strategic location in South East Asia and the rapid development on Borneo Island provides plenty of investment opportunities for both sides to pursue together.

His Majesty stated that the meetings with the President, among other things, covered a range of bilateral issues, as well as regional and international matters of mutual concern such as developments in ASEAN, Türkiye's role in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (O.I.C.) as well as their active mediation efforts in the

Russia-Ukraine Conflict.

His Majesty believed that bilateral relations

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye at the Welcoming Ceremony.



The President being introduced to Brunei Darussalam's delegation.



His Majesty being introduced to dignitaries from the Republic of Türkiye.



His Majesty and the President witnessing the signing of Declaration of Intent between the Ministry of Defence of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Türkiye on Defence Cooperation.



His Majesty and the President witnessing the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei Darussalam and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye on Bilateral Consultations.



His Majesty and the President witnessing the signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Republic of Türkiye on Cultural Cooperation.



His Majesty and the President witnessing the signing of agreement Protocol on Cooperation between the National Archives of Brunei Darussalam and the Directorate of State Archives of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye.

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between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Türkiye is in a good position to continue to grow stronger and thanked the President for the valuable conversations and exchange of views and for the deep personal friendship shared.

The President in his statement shared that the comprehensive discussion on bilateral relations will further advance cooperation as well as strengthen people-to-people relations. Both leaders also discussed global issues and highlighted the importance of enhancing cooperation at regional and international levels.

Lastly, the President expressed appreciation on the solidarity shown by Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of Türkiye in these challenging times.

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Brunei-Türkiye bilateral relations strengthen (continued)

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In honour of the State Visit, His Majesty also attended the State Banquet hosted by the President at the Presidential Palace.

In a separate event held earlier, His Majesty attended a Wreath-Laying Ceremony at Anıtkabir.

The Anıtkabir which was officially opened on September 1, 1953 is a mausoleum dedicated to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the leader of the Turkish War of Independence, as well as the founder and first president of the Republic of Türkiye.



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 State Banquet hosted by His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye at the Presidential Palace (above).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency President of the Republic of Türkiye at the Bilateral Meeting discussing matters of mutual interest towards further strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries (left).



His Majesty attending a Wreath-Laying Ceremony at Anıtkabir, Ankara (below).



His Majesty visits Turkish Aerospace Industries

ANKARA, REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE, March 8 - 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 Turkish Aerospace Industries.

The arrival of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by His Excellency Mustafa Varank, Minister of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye and Prof. Temel Kotil, President and Chief Executive Officer of Turkish Aerospace Industries.

During the visit, His Majesty, among other things, was briefed on the function and role of Turkish Aerospace Industries, representing among one of the major contributors to the world's aerospace industries through the design and production of defence and commercial aircraft.

His Majesty also viewed an air show and a static aerospace exhibition showcasing



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 visiting Turkish Aerospace Industries.

Turkish Aerospace Industries products such as fighter jets, helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) drones.

Following the visit, His Majesty then arrived in Istanbul to continue the State Visit.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam visiting Turkish Aerospace Industries (above and below); His Majesty listening to a briefing during the visit (left).



His Majesty visits historical site at Istanbul

ISTANBUL, REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE, March 9 - 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 several historical sites in Istanbul.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam first visited the Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque where His Majesty was greeted on arrival by Mr. Osman Nak, Director of Culture, Registry and Museums.

His Majesty was then briefed on the history and background of the mosque and toured its areas and performed a *Sunnat Tahyatul Masjid* prayer.

The Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque is an important Byzantine structure in Istanbul and one of the world's most renowned monuments. It was built as a church in the sixth century.

Following the arrival of Islam, the building was added with minarets and Islamic inscriptions and then turned into a mosque. During the reign of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Hagia Sophia was turned into a museum and later announced as a mosque again in 2020 by His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye.

At the Topkapı Palace Museum, His Majesty toured several exhibitions including Islamic relics, armoury of Islamic warfare as well as former main residences and administrative headquarters for the sultans of the Ottoman Empire. The Topkapı Palace Museum opened as a museum in 1924.

At the end of the visit, His Majesty proceeded to the Dolmabahçe Palace, where His Majesty was greeted on arrival by Mr. Yasin Yıldız, Director of National Palaces.

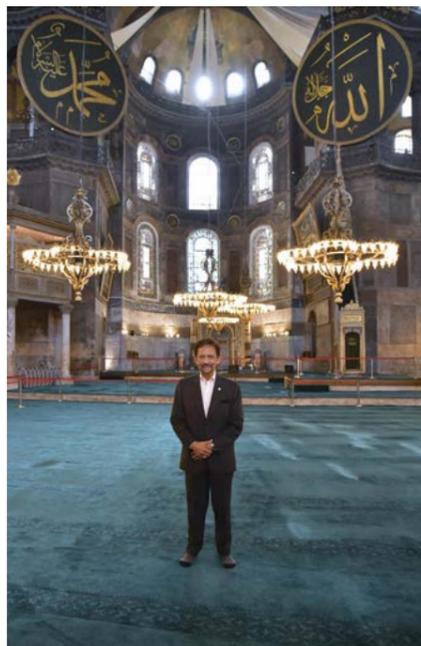
At the Dolmabahçe Palace, His Majesty was introduced to the history of the building as the first European-style palace in Istanbul that was built by Sultan Abdülmecid I in the 19th Century.

The palace was previously the residence of the last six sultans of the Ottoman Empire, and is also known as the building where the founder of Türkiye Mustafa Kemal Atatürk passed away in 1938.

His Majesty's visit to these historical sites provided the opportunity to strengthen people-to-people ties between both countries through deeper understanding of the social, political and economic growth of the Republic of Türkiye that is rich in culture, civilisation and history.

Following the visits, His Majesty boarded a yacht to cruise along the Bosphorus Strait. In the evening, His Majesty left Istanbul after concluding a State Visit. Diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and

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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 Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo at Dolmabahçe Palace.



His Majesty listening to a briefing at the Topkapı Palace Museum.



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the Republic of Türkiye were established on June 27, 1984 and since then, both countries have extensive cooperation in the fields of trade and investment, education, culture and defence.



His Majesty visiting Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque (left); and His Majesty cruising the Bosphorus Strait (above).

His Majesty's State Visit reaffirms the close bilateral relations of both countries, and further promotes greater cooperation between both countries.

Strengthen self-identity and leadership skills



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).

TEMBURONG, March 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 in a *titah* (royal speech) at the Passing Out Parade for the 11th National Service Programme (PKBN) Intake, expressed confidence that with the improved PKBN training curriculum, PKBN alumni are now more than ready to render services when called upon.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed gratitude to Allah the Almighty that the passing out parade could take place after a year's postponement due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

His Majesty noted that the 539 trainees completed the three-month programme was the largest batch in the PKBN's history.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving the Royal Salute.



His Majesty inspecting the Guard of Honour.

Strengthen self-identity and leadership skills (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 presenting awards to the best male and female in drill category.

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His Majesty was delighted that the National Service Division, in collaboration with the Manpower Planning and Employment Council (MPEC) and Institute of Brunei Technical Education (IBTE), has introduced the iSkill programme for IBTE students.

The 90-day programme aimed at improving the discipline and resilience of IBTE students that began on August 20, 2022 that enhances physical and spiritual training during the national service.

His Majesty believes such programmes can be extended to young officials in the public and private sectors to strengthen self-identity as well as leadership skills.

Shortly after arriving at the PKBN Training Camp Batu Apoi, His Majesty received the Royal Salute and inspected the Guard of Honour.

At the ceremony, His Majesty presented awards to six trainees; 13476 Muhammad Sukhairol Suharae bin Abdullah Suhardi and 13590 Nur Insyirah Batrisya binti Haji



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with six trainees that received awards.

Zainuddin were best male and female in the drill category; 13693 Mohammad Addey bin Samion and 13560 Rabiatal Adawiyah binti Shahminan were best male and female in the physical training category; and 13292 Muhammad Nur Iffat Fadlullah bin Fandi was overall best

male and 13370 Hazirah Maisarah binti Hamdillah was overall best female.

His Majesty then toured an exhibition by

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His Majesty receiving a pesambah (souvenir).



His Majesty listening to an explanation of an exhibition.



His Majesty visiting Kampung Tanjung Bungar Longhouse.



His Majesty touring one of the science laboratories of Sultan Hassan Secondary School in Kampung Batu Apoi.



His Majesty mingling with the students of Sultan Hassan Secondary School.

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the Community Isolation Centre at PKBN and National Disaster Management Centre.

After the ceremony, His Majesty visited Kampung Tanjung Bungar Longhouse and the new Sultan Hassan Secondary School in Kampung Batu Apoi.



His Majesty during the visit to the Sultan Hassan Secondary School in Kampung Batu Apoi.



His Majesty touring the Sultan Hassan Secondary School.



KDB AS-SIDDIQ strengthens Brunei - Singapore defence cooperation (continued)



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah 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 Commissioning Ceremony of Patrol Vessel KDB AS-SIDDIQ held at Jetty Bravo of Muara Naval Base (above), and His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving the Royal Salute.

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His Majesty then proceeded to deliver the commissioning *titah* (royal speech) and awarded KDB AS-SIDDIQ with its

Commissioning Pennant presented to Lieutenant Commander Haji Mohammad Arnold bin Haji Osman, Commanding Officer of KDB AS-SIDDIQ, RBN.

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His Majesty listening to a briefing during the inspection of facilities.



His Majesty awarding KDB AS-SIDDIQ with its Commissioning Pennant, presented to the Commanding Officer of KDB AS-SIDDIQ, Royal Brunei Navy (RBN).



His Majesty in a group photo.



His Majesty signing a plaque.



His Majesty taking a closer look at KDB AS-SIDDIQ

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This was followed by the inaugural hoisting of the Commissioning Pennant and RBN Ensign, accompanied by the national anthem.

The commissioning was further blessed with the calling of the Azan and recitation of *doa* by the JAMA'AT Director, after which His Majesty was then invited for a ship's tour on-board KDB AS-SIDDIQ.

His Majesty then proceeded to the RBN Officer's Mess for an executive session with leaders from the Ministry of Defence, the Armed Forces and the Navy from Brunei Darussalam and Republic of Singapore, and continued with the luncheon.

The handing over of the TLRS patrol vessel previously known as RSS BRAVE is a sign of appreciation and friendship as a result of the close cooperation between the Armed Forces and the Navy of both sides.



His Majesty inspecting the Guard of Honour comprising 110 RBN personnel.



His Majesty during an executive session with His Excellency Minister for Defence Republic of Singapore.



His Majesty receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir) from Minister for Defence Republic of Singapore.



The commissioning was blessed with the calling of the Azan.



A parade comprising 110 RBN officers.

Reward, great sustenance for the hereafter

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 22 - Ramadan is a special month that tests our patience to perform fasting for one month. The rewards to perform pious acts during this month exceeds those in other months.

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) to mark the first day of Ramadan for the year 1444 Hijrah/2023 Masihi at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also called for Muslims in the country to express gratefulness for all the blessings in that we once again welcome the holy month of Ramadan in which therein lies one night better than 1,000 months.

Brunei Darussalam is grateful that the threat of COVID-19 has slowly diminished with the lifting of restrictions to reap more blessings.

Therefore, His Majesty invites us to hope that the blessing of Allah the Almighty is everlasting to allow us to perform the obligatory fasting for a whole month in good health and peace.

We also hope to get Lailatul Qadar which is full of blessings and only occurs in the holy month of Ramadan.

In conclusion, His Majesty and members of the royal family wish Muslims citizens and residents a blessed Ramadan and hope that we can fulfil the obligation of performing fast without any hindrance or obstacles.



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) welcoming the first day of Ramadan for the 1444 Hijrah/2023 Masihi at Istana Nurul Iman.

New appointment

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 22 – The Public Service Department, Prime Minister's Office announced that 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 has consented for Pengiran Muhammad Ameer Mubarak bin Pengiran Haji Hashim, Assistant Temburong District Officer to be promoted as the new Temburong District Officer at the Temburong District Office, Ministry of Home Affairs effective October 31, 2022.

Distribution of Safawy dates

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 18 - Ramadan is a month full of lessons and examples based on Islamic teachings for the betterment of life. Among the things that are demanded to be avoided is the practice of waste. Indeed, those who waste are the devil and the devil is very disobedient to Allah the Almighty.

Muslim citizen and resident can enjoy His Majesty's personal gift of dates.

His Royal Highness urged the management of YSHHB to constantly monitor the distribution to ensure it is

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His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Chairman of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) Board of Governors stated the matter in a *sabda* (royal speech) at the Launching Ceremony for the Distribution of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Personal Gift of Dates in conjunction with Ramadan 1444 Hijrah/2023 Masihi at the An-Naura Hall of the YSHHB Complex.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik invited Muslims to increase the resolution to make Ramadan more meaningful.

Even though we are still facing the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, efforts implemented by stakeholders have revived our confidence to continue these noble efforts to ensure every



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik in a group photo.

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carried out properly and efficiently.

Some 157.5 metric tonnes of Safawy dates *kurnia peribadi* (personal gift) from His Majesty will be distributed to all Muslims in the country.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik presenting dates to representatives of uniformed services.

His Royal Highness visits US Naval Special Warfare



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah during the visit to the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) West Coast-based Commands. (photo: United States Navy).



CORONADO, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES, March 21 - His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah visited the Naval Special Warfare (NSW) West Coast-based Commands in Coronado, California, the United States (US) for an immersive tour on March 13 to 14.

a holistic approach to align resources for optimal performance and recovery.

During the visit, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen also received an overview of NSW Group 1's (NSWG-1) human performance programme. Comprising strength and conditioning training, sports medicine, performance psychology, performance nutrition and research and technology as it relates to human performance, the programme uses

The tour also included a visit to the NSWG-1 combat training tank where naval commandos train to conduct high-risk aquatic evolutions.

The force is placing a renewed emphasis on missions that only NSW can carry out and high-risk aquatic evolutions equips and prepares NSW sailors to carry out highly complex undersea missions.

On the second day of the tour, His Royal Highness toured the NSW Center, where he observed the training of NSW candidates. His Royal Highness' next stop was an underway aboard a combatant craft in San Diego Harbor.

Later that day, His Royal Highness toured the West Coast-based NSW unit headquarters.

The visit also builds upon 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' visit to Washington DC to meet His Excellency Joseph R. Biden Jr., US President last year during the US-ASEAN Special Summit and continues a long tradition of security cooperation and people-to-people exchanges between the US and Brunei.

Since signing the Treaty of Peace, Friendship, Commerce and Navigation over 170 years ago, the US Navy has focussed on strengthening and maintaining relationships with Brunei and throughout South and South East Asia and invigorating the navy's commitment to key ASEAN partners.

The Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) also engages in joint exercises, training programmes, and other military cooperation with the US, with the annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise at the core of the bilateral defence relationship.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen during the visit to NSW. (Photos: United States Navy).



More than 1,000 participate in 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Fun Run

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 12 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) flagged off 1,300 participants of the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Fun Run at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.

A total of five categories were competed, namely the Open Categories for Men and Women; Men's and Women's 12 Years and Under Category; and Disabled Persons (OKU) Category.

The top 10 finishers received prizes presented by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) during the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 Fun Run.

IMC gold award for Princess Ameerah

JERUDONG, March 11 - Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah, together with 18 Jerudong International School (JIS) students received a gold award, the highest award level in the United Kingdom's (UK) Intermediate Maths Challenge (IMC), run by the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) recently.

One hundred twenty-six students from Years 9 to 11 took part in the challenge, which involved answering 25 multiple-choice questions in 60 minutes without a calculator.

It was designed to stimulate students' interest in Maths. The questions aimed at testing students' mathematical dexterity - the ability to apply the mathematics they have learnt in class in unusual and creative ways.

The top 50 per cent of students



Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah in a group photo with gold award recipients of the Intermediate Maths Challenge (IMC) with Jerudong International School Principal and IMC coordinator.

internationally would receive a gold, silver or bronze award in a ratio of 1:2:3. Maths at JIS is a core subject until the end of Year 11 (IGCSE programme).

Fasting begins March 23

BERAKAS, March 22 - By the consent 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 was hereby announced that the 1st day of Ramadan 1444 Hijrah for Brunei Darussalam falls on March 23.

The matter was informed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs, as the President of Islamic



Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs at the meeting.

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Religious Council after holding a conference on the results of *rukyah* of the month of Ramadan 1444 Hijrah this year and the resolution of the conference was submitted to His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

The conference held in the Meeting Room of the office of the Minister of Religious Affairs (MoRA) was also attended by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, Chief Syar'ie Justice; Members of the Legislative Council; MoRA Permanent Secretary and MoRA Deputy Permanent Secretary.

This year, five locations have been designated to sight the new moon of Ramadan 1444 Hijrah, namely, DST Tower, DST Headquarters Building; Bukit Agok, Jerudong; Tanjung Batu, Pekan Muara; Bukit Lumut; and Bukit Amboq.

Earlier, the religious event started with the recitation of Al-Quran verses by Awang Abdur Rahman bin Haji Mohammed Azmi



A religious event held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs while waiting for the outcome of the moon sighting.

from Institut Tahfiz Al-Qur'an Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Development conducting the moon sighting.

Exhibition and charity art bazaar for Earthquake Humanitarian Fund



Among the artists present at the event.



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

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 19 - The Yayasan Seni Zakaria Omar in collaboration with Impian 7 Art Group organised an exhibition and charity bazaar themed "*Seniman Peduli*" brought together the country's artists to exhibit while collecting donations at the Visual Art Exhibition and Charity Bazaar for the Earthquake Humanitarian Fund of the Republic of Turkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic held at the Mabohai Shopping Complex.

Present as Guest of Honour at the opening 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.

Also present at the event, His Excellency Professor Dr. Hamit Ersoy, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkiye to Brunei Darussalam.

The exhibition's objective is also in line with the government's call for the Earthquake Humanitarian Fund of the Republic of Turkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Towards the prevention of hearing loss

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 2 – In Brunei Darussalam, more than 60 per cent of ear and hearing problems were addressed at the primary care level.

Statistics obtained between 2021 and 2022 from the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at Raja Isteri

Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital showed that 1,980 patients with ear problems were referred to otorhinolaryngology clinics.

Four common problems were earwax, foreign object inside ears, ear infections and hearing loss.

This was said by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health in a message in conjunction with the World Hearing Day Celebration 2023.

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Towards the prevention of hearing loss (continued)

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With the theme “Ear and hearing care for all! Let’s make it a reality”, it emphasises the importance of integrated ear into primary care.

One of the important component in strengthening primary healthcare facilities to integrate ear and hearing care is to provide relevant skills through training organised by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Therefore, the Ministry of Health, through the cooperation between the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, the Primary Healthcare Services and the Department

of Nursing Services, is drafting a training programme curriculum ‘Aural care for nurses in the community’ and it is hoped that this programme will become a reality to achieve the mission under the WHO.

Hearing loss prevention is very important throughout life, starting from the development of children inside the womb to senior age.

A majority of hearing loss problems can be prevented through implementing effective strategies, such as immunisation programmes, maternal healthcare programme, and early detection and treatment of hearing problem.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health.

Let’s talk about obesity

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 4 – In Brunei Darussalam, the rate of obesity in adults is among the highest in the region whereby nearly three from 10 adults were found to be obese according to the Non-Communicable Disease Survey 2016.

This was shared by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health in a message in conjunction with the World Obesity Day.

Health screening by school health services, Ministry of Health (MoH) also found out that the rate of obesity among students for Year One, Year Four and Year Seven has jumped from 17 per cent to 19 per cent within 10 years.

According to the Minister of Health, “If

obesity problem is not tackled early, this trend will continue to increase and obese children will grow with health problems.

“There are several factors causing obesity throughout life. Obesity can be caused by mental health problems, such as depression, the use of certain drugs like steroid.

“Apart from the actions of individuals and families, an integrated approach is needed by all levels of community and various sectors addressing and preventing the increase of obesity in the country.

“The policy known as Brunei Darussalam’s Child Friendly Food and Beverage Marketing Code, is one of the efforts of MoH in addressing and preventing the obesity problem in the country, especially

among children.

“Therefore, the food and beverage industry has an important role to play in influencing consumer behaviour and choice by providing more alternative healthy choices and affordable for all.

“To all who want to make changes to reduce weight or want to be healthier, seek advice from nearby health centres.”

The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam through MoH provides obesity clinic service for adults at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital through reference from health centres.

The theme for this year celebration is “Changing Perspectives: Let’s Talk About Obesity”.

We can end TB

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 24 - According to the World Health Organization (WHO) shows that Tuberculosis (TB) causes 1.5 million deaths every year with a majority in developing countries.

For this year, WHO and Stop TB Partnership chose “Yes! We can end TB” as the theme of the celebration to draw attention to TB and aims to ensure access to the latest diagnostics, new treatment regimens, digital technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in dealing with TB.

The matter was shared by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health in a message to mark World TB Day that falls on March 24 every year.

“Brunei Darussalam,” said the Minister of Health “has seen a decrease in tuberculosis (TB) infections from 55 cases per year for every 100,000 population in 2021 to 51 in 2022. This can be attributed to increased surveillance as well as accurate and fast detection of a patient’s close contacts.”

“Brunei Darussalam is very fortunate because the rate of cases of TB immunity to anti-TB drugs (Multi-drug resistant TB and extensively drug-resistant TB) as well as cases of TB infection among HIV patients (TB-HIV) in this country is very low,” said the Minister.

The Minister went on to explain that these two matters are two major challenges that

the world is currently facing.

“The Ministry of Health (MoH) is very committed and will continue to be proactive in ensuring that the various challenges are always under control in this country,” said the Minister.

MoH is also focusing on TB disease control strategies and actions, which is the improvement of the TB ‘surveillance’ system; increased awareness of all parties including health professionals and the public about TB; strengthening the TB Screening Programme with specific target groups; and ensure that treatment is given and followed until cured so that the TB infection is not transmitted to others and avoids drug-resistant TB.

Brunei MSME Festival 2023 platform to develop local products, services

JERUDONG, March 16 - The four-day Brunei Darussalam Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Festival at Bridex Hall 1 and 2, Jerudong kicked off with around 200 MSMEs offering a wide range of products and services.

The Brunei MSME Festival hopes to increase public awareness of MSMEs by providing them with more opportunities to showcase their products and services at a national level. It is also a platform to identify local products and services that have the potential to be developed for export or import substitution, while promoting entrepreneurial culture among the people.

The festival also saw a conference hosting experts from the public and private sectors as well as academia to discuss

how MSMEs could leverage on new innovations to scale and build resilience.

The event also hosted exhibitions, seminars, and business matching sessions.

According to the Annual Census of Enterprises (ACE) 2021, MSMEs make up 97.2 per cent of the active enterprises in Brunei Darussalam, which makes the sector an important part of the country’s economic landscape.

In addition to providing employment opportunities, the sector also plays an important role in shaping the country’s economic development which, in addition to supplying goods and services, also promotes competition and stability in the market.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy officiating the event.

The matter was outlined by 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 as Chairman of the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) and DARE during the Launching Ceremony of the Brunei Darussalam MSMEs Festival 2023 held at Bridex Hall 1.

In line with the theme of the event, which is “Dare to Innovate: Growth and Resilience through Innovation”, the Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy further emphasised that it is time for MSMEs to come out of the pandemic situation faced before, stronger and more resilient by applying a more innovative culture in their business operations.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy viewing products of one of the MSMEs at the event.

AWE graduates celebrated

JERUDONG, March 17 - The Graduation Ceremony for the second cohort of Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) Brunei participants, marks the end of the six-month programme that has been funded by the United States Embassy in Brunei Darussalam and facilitated by Darussalam Enterprise (DARE).

The Graduation Ceremony which took place in Bridex Hall was one of the events of the four-day Brunei Darussalam Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Festival 2023.

At the ceremony, the three graduates who obtained the top three positions each received seed funding amounting to USD3,000.

Present as the Guest of Honour and to present the AWE Best Award was 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, as the Chairman of Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) and DARE.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy as Chairman of BEDB and DARE presenting a replica of the cheque to the Top 3 participants during the graduation ceremony.

Nearly 80,000 trees successfully planted

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 19 - The Brunei Darussalam National Climate Change Policy (BNCCP) launched in 2020, outlines the main strategies in dealing with climate change issues in which Strategy Two of the policy focuses on Forest Cover and aims to increase Brunei Darussalam's carbon sequestration through reforestation and reforestation programmes with the target of planting 500,000 new trees by 2035.

The matter was stated by 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 during a Tree Planting Ceremony held at Taman Riadah, Jalan Pusat Persidangan.

Since the launch of the BNCCP, the Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy added that nearly 80,000 trees have been successfully planted which demonstrates the government's efforts to preserve and expand forest cover to reduce carbon emissions, maintain biodiversity, and promote



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy delivering a speech at the Tree Planting Ceremony held at Taman Riadah, Jalan Pusat Persidangan.



sustainable development.

The Minister also urged that we all continue to accept this initiative and join hands in efforts to address the issue of climate change and promote sustainability for Brunei Darussalam which is low carbon and climate resilient.

Yang Berhormat Minister during the Tree Planting Ceremony.

Appreciate beauty, diversity of nature

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 29 - The theme chosen for this year's International Day of Forests is "Forests and Health", which highlights the link between forests and their importance to human health.

This was highlighted by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism in his message in conjunction with International Forest Day 2023.

In addition, scientific studies have found that exposure to the forest environment can provide benefits to physical and mental health, including reducing stress levels.

Therefore, the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism through the Forestry Department has taken the initiative in preserving forest recreation parks in this country to encourage leisure activities for the community.

"This effort involves the provision of basic facilities in the forest recreation park area such as rest huts, walkways, information boards, parking lots and public toilets," explained the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

"The purpose of this effort is to encourage the community to cultivate a healthy lifestyle through leisure activities in this forest recreation park, in addition to being able to appreciate the beauty and diversity of nature.

"This is very relevant to the Brunei Vision 2035 which, among other things, focuses on a clean and green environment, and

towards making citizens healthy, which is as stated under Goal 2, which is 'High Quality of Life'.

"Apart from that, healthy forests also provide various economic benefits, such as wood and forest products that can be used sustainably, as well as the potential to develop ecotourism," added the Minister.



Bangladesh High Commission celebrates 52nd National and Independence Day

GADONG, March 21 - The High Commission of Bangladesh in Brunei Darussalam held a Reception in conjunction with the 52nd Bangladesh National and Independence Day Celebration held at the Songket Ballroom, Rizqun International Hotel.

Present as Guests of Honour at the ceremony were Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Muhammad Juanda bin Haji Abdul Rashid, Minister of Development and spouse, Datin Fadzlin binti Hashim.

The highlight of the ceremony was the cake-cutting to celebrate the 52nd Bangladesh National Day and Independence Day and also the presentation of souvenirs to the Guests of Honour presented by Her Excellency Nahida Rahman Shumona, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam.

The ceremony also continued with



Yang Berhormat Minister of Development and his spouse at the reception in conjunction with the 52nd Bangladesh National and Independence Day.

the display of collaborative artworks between local artists, namely Pengiran Wahab Hasan; Awangku Muhammad Hazim; and Siti Kaprawi who focuses on the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent country led by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman.

A book titled "Bangladesh Melalui Kaca Mata Anak Brunei", a collaboration between the Bangladesh High Commission, LaVida and the Brunei Reading and Literacy Association was also launched.

More recovered cases in COVID-19

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 31 - As of today, there are no cases in Category 5, while one case is in Category 4, requiring oxygen assistance and close monitoring.

The Ministry of Health in its press release stated that 255 cases have recovered, and on March 25, one case has passed away.

A total of 88.1 per cent of children aged 5 to 11 have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, and 62.8 per cent of adolescents aged 12 to 17 have received three doses. Meanwhile, 79.1 per cent of the country's population have received three doses and 12.1 per cent have received four doses.



CPI increases 1.4 per cent in January 2023 compared to last year

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 20 - In January, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) month-on-month decreased by 0.7 per cent as compared to December 2022, contributed by the decrease in non-food group.

The month-on-month decrease in the non-food group was contributed by transport; recreation and culture; and communication. The decline for transport was primarily due to the decrease in air fares.

Meanwhile, the increase in food and non-alcoholic beverages group was caused by the increase in prices of vegetables, fish and seafood, and rice and cereals.

For year-on-year changes, the CPI increased by 1.4 per cent compared to January 2022.

The rise was driven by the increase in prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages, and non-food prices groups.



The year-on-year increase in food and non-alcoholic beverages group was due to the rise in meat; rice and cereals; and fish and seafood.

The price increase in non-food group was driven by the rise in

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CPI increases 1.4 per cent in January 2023 compared to last year (continued)

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prices of miscellaneous goods and services; restaurants and hotels; and housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels.

The CPI is a measure of price changes of goods and services

paid by the consumer in a specified period and compiled on a monthly basis.

The list of goods and services in the CPI is based on the average expenditure per household from the Household Expenditure Survey (HES).

Total trade in 2022 increases by 35 per cent

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, March 21 - The total trade year-on-year recorded a decrease of 1.8 per cent from \$2,513.8 million in December 2021 to \$2,468.6 million in December 2022.

The decrease was due to a decline in import value by 11 per cent, mainly due to a decrease in imports of mineral fuels particularly crude oil as a production input for the downstream petrochemical industry.

Meanwhile, total exports increased by 4.5 per cent year-on-year from \$1,497.2 million in December 2021 to \$1,564.0 million in December 2022. This was mainly due to the increase in mineral fuels exports from \$1,226.1 million to \$1,308.0 million in the same period. The increase in mineral fuels exports was mainly due to the higher export value of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Petroleum Products.

In terms of commodity, mineral fuels represented the major contributor to Brunei Darussalam's exports, followed by chemicals, and machinery and transport equipment. The five main imports by commodity for December 2022 were mineral fuels, followed by machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, food, and manufactured goods.

The main exports market in December 2022 was Japan followed by Australia and Singapore. The largest export commodity to Japan, Australia and Singapore was mineral fuels.

The biggest import partner were Malaysia (22.7 per cent), followed by People's Republic of China (17.3 per cent) and United Arab Emirates (14.5 per cent), with Mineral Fuels as the largest import commodity.

Most of the country's imports at 61.2 per cent were used as Intermediate Goods for processing, followed by Capital Goods (35.2 per cent) for business operations and Consumption Goods (3.6 per cent) for household use.

In terms of month-on-month changes, compared to November 2022, total trade fell by 13.6 per cent due to a decrease in both exports and imports value.

The month-to-month decrease in export value is mainly due to a decrease in Chemicals exports from the downstream

petrochemical industry. Meanwhile, the decline in Mineral Fuels imports mainly contributed to the decreased value of imports.

Transport by sea accounted for the highest share for both exports and imports, which amounted to BND2,357.5 million or 95.5 per cent. This was followed by air transport BND81.1 million or 3.3 per cent) and via land (BND30.0 million or 1.2 per cent).

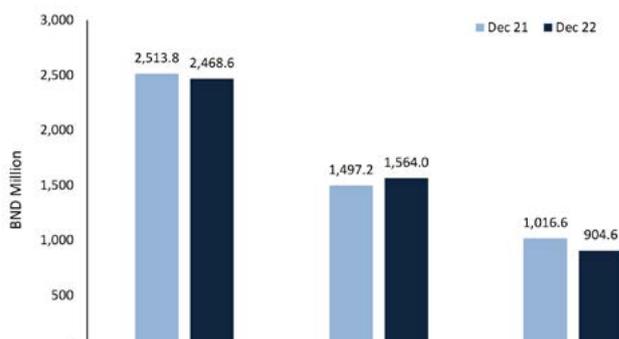
For the whole year 2022, the total trade was valued at BND32,198.5 million, an increase by 35.0 per cent compared to BND23,855.5 million in 2021.

Trade balance increased to BND6,432.9 million compared to BND4,412.1 million in 2021, which is an increase of 45.8 percent year-on-year.

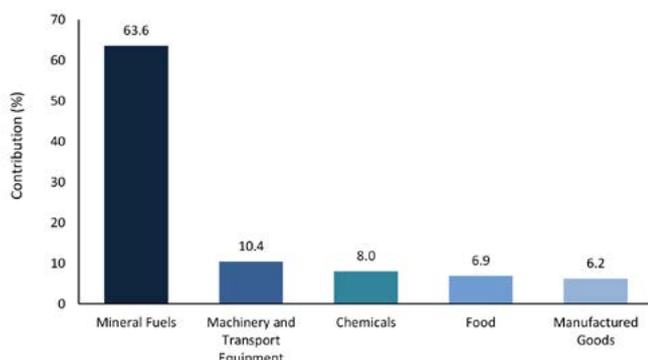
The increase in trade balance is due to a higher increase in total exports by 36.7 per cent to BND19,315.7 million compared to BND14,133.8 million in 2021, although the total imports also increased by 32.5 per cent from BND9,721.7 million (2021) to BND12,882.8 million in 2022. The increases in both total exports and imports were mainly due to an increase in Mineral Fuels.

The International Merchandise Trade Statistics report for December 2022 can be accessed through the DEPS's website at <https://deps.mofe.gov.bn>.

Brunei Darussalam's Year-on-Year Trade Performance



Five Main Imports by Commodity



Share of Exports by Trading Partner

