



Brunei-Thailand longstanding relations ensure resilience

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 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 received in audience His Excellency Srettha Thavisin, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand at Cheradi Laila Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman, who was in Brunei Darussalam for a two-day official visit.

Upon arrival at the Brunei International Airport, His Excellency Prime Minister of Thailand and delegation were welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office as personal representative of His Majesty



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

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His Majesty attends Swearing-in Ceremony



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 conferring the Letter of Appointment to the newly-appointed Deputy Minister (Energy) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 30 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Swearing-in Ceremony for Yang Mulia Awang Haji Mohamad Azmi bin Haji Mohd Hanifah, newly-appointed Deputy Minister (Energy) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

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New Court of Appeal Judicial Commissioner sworn in

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 28 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Swearing-in Ceremony of newly-appointed Judicial Commissioner of the Court of Appeal of Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman.

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His Majesty receives audiences

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman on October 9:



Her Excellency Kamikawa Yoko, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan.



His Excellency Jassim Ali Abdullah Al-Obaidli, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam.

Her Majesty receives audience

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience at the Istana Nurul Iman, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and spouses of foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam on the occasion of Her Majesty's 77th birthday on October 7.



His Royal Highness receives audience

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 His Excellency Jassim Ali Abdullah Al-Obaidli outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar to Brunei Darussalam at the Qashr Al-Meezaan on October 9.



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:

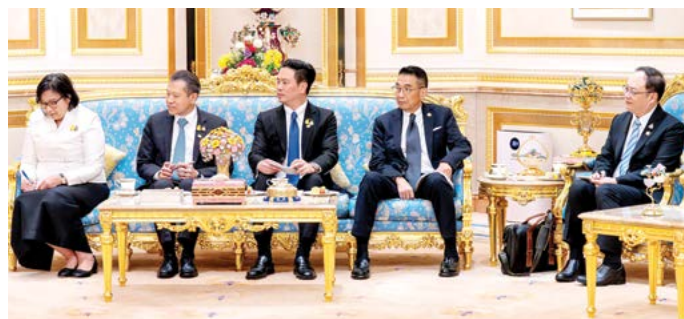
- His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China; His Excellency Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of China; the government and people of China on the occasion of the 74th Anniversary of the Founding of China on October 1;
- His Excellency Yoon Suk-yeol, President of the Republic of Korea (ROK), the Government and people of ROK on the occasion of its National Foundation Day on October 3;
- His Excellency Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Federal President of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Government and the people of Germany on the occasion of the Day of German Unity on October 3; and
- His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Türkiye, the Government and people of Türkiye on the occasion of its Centennial Republic Day on October 29.

His Majesty sends message of condolences

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 a message of condolences to His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China; and His Excellency Li Qiang, Premier of the State Council of China, following the passing of His Excellency Li Keqiang, the former Premier of China on October 28.

News

Brunei-Thailand longstanding relations ensure resilience (continued)



Also present at the Audience Ceremony were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam'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 Mohamed Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

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the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

His Excellency was also welcomed by His Majesty, and was introduced to other members of the royal family prior to the Audience Ceremony.

Also present at the ceremony were His Majesty's sons and brothers: His Royal Highness the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah.

Also in attendance was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health as Minister-in-Attendance.

After the ceremony, His Majesty proceeded to Baitul Mesyuarah, Istana Nurul Iman for a bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister. His Royal Highness the Crown Prince was present at the meeting.

During the bilateral meeting, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal

speech) extending a warm welcome to His Excellency as well as delegation on his first official visit to Brunei Darussalam and congratulated him on his recent appointment as Prime Minister.

The Monarch stated that the visit reflects the continued close and longstanding relations between both countries, and expressed happiness that the two countries will celebrate their 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations next year. His Majesty looked forward to working closely with the Prime Minister of Thailand in further enhancing the goodwill and friendship between the two countries and their people.

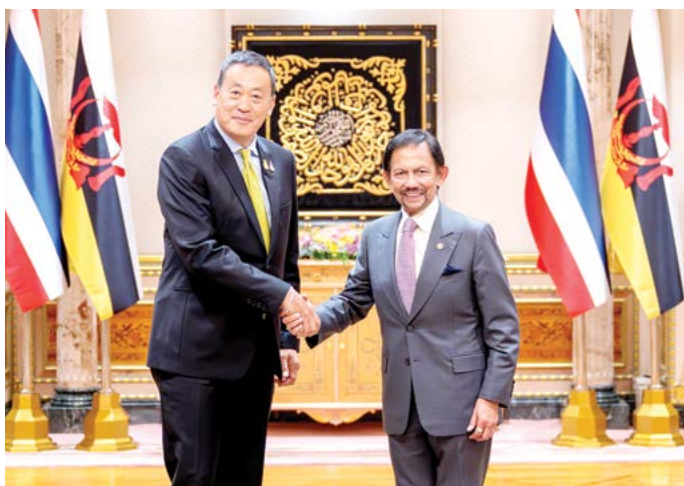
The discussions at the meeting also touched on bilateral cooperation in various sectors, including energy, food security, agriculture, fisheries, education, tourism, health and people-to-people exchanges, as well as the exploration of opportunities for future investments in areas of mutual interests.

In the evening, His Majesty hosted a dinner at Baitur Rahmah, Istana Nurul Iman in honour of the official visit, where His Majesty

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His Majesty during the bilateral meeting with His Excellency.



His Majesty shaking hands with His Excellency at the bilateral meeting.



His Majesty delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the meeting.

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delivered a *titah*, highlighting that the longstanding relations shared by Brunei and Thailand, through excellent friendship and cooperation, will ensure resilience in an era of disruptions and uncertainty.

His Majesty further expressed appreciation for Thailand's continued willingness to supply the country's food needs, especially rice. At the same time, the strengthening of trade relations in other fields, including energy, will also ensure mutual benefits.

His Majesty added that the resumption of direct flights between



His Majesty delivering a *titah* at the dinner (above). Also in attendance were members of royal family and delegation (below).

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the two countries has been made to facilitate the people's travel, as well as the movement of goods and services. The Monarch stated his appreciation for the contribution of Thai nationals to the development of the country.

The Monarch also looked forward to working closely with Thailand in building the community towards achieving Vision 2024, and formulating the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

His Majesty with His Excellency at the dinner reception.

His Majesty attends Swearing-in Ceremony (continued)

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The Ceremony was held at Istana Nurul Iman.

Also present was His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's son: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at PMO.

The Letter of Appointment was recited by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Penggawa Laila Bentara Istiadat Diraja Dalam Istana Pengiran Haji Alauddin bin Pengiran Paduka Tuan Pengiran Haji

Abu Bakar, Grand Chamberlain.

Also in attendance were the Special Adviser to His Majesty and Minister at PMO; Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence; Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; Deputy Minister at PMO; as well as Permanent Secretaries at the PMO.

Yang Mulia Awang Haji Mohamad Azmi was appointed as Deputy Minister (Energy) at PMO on October 24.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam witnessing the Swearing-in Ceremony for the newly-appointed Deputy Minister (Energy) at PMO.

New Court of Appeal Judicial Commissioner sworn in (continued)

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Also present were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam'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 Mohamed Bolkiah and

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The event began with the reading of the Letter of Appointment by Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Penggawa Laila Bentara Istiadat Diraja Dalam Istana Pengiran Haji Alauddin bin Pengiran Paduka Tuan Pengiran Haji Abu Bakar, Grand

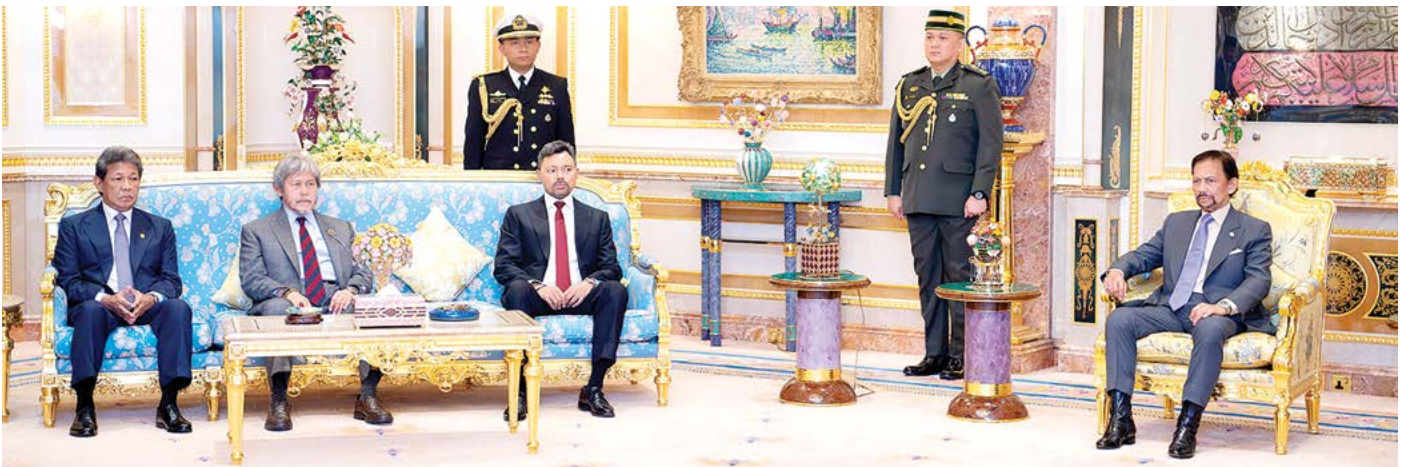
Chamberlain.

This was followed by the Swearing-in Ceremony in the presence of His Majesty by The Right Honourable Sir Peter Henry Gross, newly-appointed Judicial Commissioner of the Court of Appeal of Brunei Darussalam.

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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 conferring the Letter of Appointment to The Right Honourable Judicial Commissioner of the Court of Appeal of Brunei Darussalam.



Also present were His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam'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 Mohamed Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Strategic Partnership to chart Brunei-Lao PDR's future direction

VIENTIANE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, October 4 – 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 concluded his stay in the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) with a visit to the Vangvieng District.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam throughout the state visit was His Majesty's son: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

His Majesty first boarded a special high-speed train from the Vientiane Railway Station to the Vangvieng District with His Excellency Thongloun Sisoulith, President of Lao PDR. At the district, His Majesty viewed an exhibition showcasing agricultural products and

rice.

Both leaders then attended a luncheon, before His Majesty and His Royal Highness departed from the Wattay International Airport in Vientiane.

Previously, on October 3, His Majesty began his state visit with a Wreath-Laying Ceremony, which took place at the Unknown Soldier Monument in Vientiane.

After that, the Monarch and His Royal Highness were well received by His Excellency President of Lao PDR during the Official State Welcoming Ceremony at the Presidential Palace "Hor Kham" – where His Majesty was introduced to the Cabinet Ministers of Lao PDR, followed by the introduction of Brunei Darussalam's delegation to the President.

The two leaders then attended a bilateral meeting, which touched on

socio-economic developments; bilateral relations; as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern.

At the start of meeting, His Majesty expressed appreciation to Lao PDR for the warm welcome; and mentioned the signing of the Strategic Partnership, which will chart the future direction of relations between both countries. His Majesty looked forward to working together to further enhance the goodwill and friendship between Brunei and Lao PDR.

Afterwards, both leaders officiated the Signing Ceremony of the Joint Declaration of a Strategic Partnership between Brunei Darussalam and Lao PDR. The Joint Declaration marks a new chapter in the relations between both countries in political and security cooperation, economic cooperation,

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socio-cultural, and regional and international issues.

His Excellency President then presented His Majesty with the National Gold Medal – the highest conferment bestowed to leaders – in recognition of the Monarch's contributions and dedication towards the strengthening of bilateral relations between Brunei and Lao PDR over the past 30 years. Following the conferment, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech), expressing appreciation for the prestigious award, as well as the warm and friendly ties with Lao PDR.

His Majesty also received separate courtesy calls from His Excellency Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of Lao PDR; followed by His Excellency Dr. Xaysomphone Phommvihane, President of the National Assembly of Lao PDR at the Muong Thanh Hotel in Vientiane.

A State Banquet also took place on the same day, hosted by His Excellency President of Lao PDR.

At the State Banquet, His Majesty delivered another *titah*, lauding Lao



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 Excellency President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) during the Official State Welcoming Ceremony, which was held as part of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's State Visit to Lao PDR.

PDR's rapid developments and acknowledging that Lao PDR has emerged as one of Southeast Asia's fastest-growing economies.

elevation of ties to a Strategic Partnership is very timely, in deepening the trade linkages between the two countries, towards enhancing the capacity

The Monarch also stated that the

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam viewing the exhibition (left); and boarding a Special High-Speed Train from Vientiane to Vangvieng District with His Excellency President of Lao PDR (right).



His Majesty during the Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Unknown Soldier Monument in Vientiane.



His Majesty inspecting the Guard of Honour with His Excellency President of Lao PDR during the Official State Welcoming Ceremony.

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of Brunei's local industries, as well as ensuring food and energy security.

His Majesty then announced that Brunei Darussalam will award two annual scholarships for Laotian students to pursue higher education starting

2024.

His Majesty also expressed Brunei Darussalam's support for Lao PDR's Chairmanship of ASEAN, and added that the 'Visit Laos 2024' will give an opportunity for visitors to experience the country.

To this end, His Majesty looked forward to working closely with Lao PDR in ASEAN's community building efforts towards the 2025 vision and formulating the ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

His Majesty's State Visit was made upon the invitation of His Excellency President of Lao PDR to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between both countries.



His Majesty during the bilateral meeting (above); and during the Signing Ceremony of the Joint Declaration of a Strategic Partnership between Brunei Darussalam and Lao PDR (below).

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His Majesty receiving the National Gold Medal.



His Majesty receiving separate courtesy calls from His Excellency Prime Minister of Lao PDR (left); and His Excellency President of the National Assembly of Lao PDR (right).



His Majesty delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the State Banquet hosted by His Excellency President of Lao PDR.

Enhancing ASEAN-France Development Partnership

PARIS, October 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 left the French Republic after concluding a two-day official visit to the country from 13 to 14 October. The visit was made upon the invitation of His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, President of France.

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

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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 Excellency President of the French Republic during His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's visit to France.





His Majesty and son, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen upon arrival in France.

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His Majesty began his official visit on October 13, with a visit to Matra, BAE Dynamics and Alena (MBDA) Missile Systems; and a meeting with Patrick Pouyanné, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of TotalEnergies.

During the visit to MBDA in Le Plessis-Robinson, His Majesty

viewed a video demonstration on the air defence systems and was briefed on the products and services of MBDA by Eric Beranger, CEO of MBDA.

His Majesty then viewed a Kit Mistral virtual reality simulator demonstration before proceeding to a launch area to view a static exhibition.

In the afternoon, His Majesty consented to meet with the Chairman and CEO of TotalEnergies at Plaza Athénée Hotel, where they both discussed issues of mutual interest, such as energy and trade.

His Majesty also attended a working dinner hosted by His Excellency President of France and held a *tête-à-tête* with the President at the Élysée Palace. His Majesty and the president discussed matters of mutual interest to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the Brunei and France, including in the fields of energy, defence, security, climate change, economy and trade, as well as efforts to enhance the ASEAN-France Development Partnership.



His Majesty during the visit to Matra, BAE Dynamics and Alena Missile Systems (above and below).



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His Majesty during the meeting with the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of TotalEnergies (above).

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His Majesty additionally visited the Airbus headquarters in Toulouse-Blagnac. There, the Monarch was introduced to the senior management and boarded an A330-900 for a test flight around Toulouse.

His Majesty also went to the Airbus Campus for a briefing and viewed the mockup of an A320 aircraft.

His Majesty attending a working dinner and a tête-à-tête with His Excellency President of France (left); and posing for a group photo along with His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen during the visit to the Airbus headquarters in Toulouse-Blagnac (below).



His Majesty boarding an A330-900 for a test flight around Toulouse (above).



Call to cease violence, uphold international humanitarian law

RIYADH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, October 20 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, left Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after attending the ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit.

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

The summit, held at Ritz Carlton, was co-chaired by Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Indonesia, as the Chair of ASEAN for 2023.

At the summit, ASEAN and GCC Heads of State and Government gathered for the first time since ASEAN-GCC relations were formally established in 1990, and discussed ways to further strengthen relations, as well as advance collaboration on issues of mutual interests.

His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) expressing deep concern over



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Summit.

the recent escalation of violence in the State of Palestine, and urged all parties to cease violence, exercise maximum restraint and uphold international humanitarian law to prevent its potential spread across the region.

His Majesty also called on the international community and the United Nations

Security Council to facilitate efforts in achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East, including resolving the decades-long plight of the Palestinian people.

Earlier, the Monarch highlighted the

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with the Heads of State and Government at the the ASEAN-GCC Summit.

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long-standing cultural and historical ties between ASEAN and the GCC, which serves as a strong foundation for close partnership between the two regions.

His Majesty emphasised the importance of jointly addressing challenges and looked forward to working together, through the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change, to find innovative solutions and long-term strategies for the region.

In this regard, His Majesty expressed appreciation for Saudi Arabia's interest in signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the centre; and congratulated the United Arab Emirates on its leadership role at the upcoming 28th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and in issuing the first Global Stocktake report.

Prior to the summit, His Majesty joined other Heads of State and Government of ASEAN and GCC for a group photo session.

The event began with welcoming remarks by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia; and His

Excellency Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia and ASEAN Chair for 2023 as Co-Chairs of the ASEAN-GCC Summit.

At the end of the summit, the Joint Statement of the Summit of ASEAN and the GCC, and the ASEAN-GCC Statement on the Developments in Gaza were issued. His Majesty also attended an official luncheon following the summit.

His Majesty also attended a bilateral meeting with His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia at the same venue. The two leaders discussed matters of mutual interests to strengthen bilateral relations between both countries, including economy, investment, and trade.



His Majesty during the bilateral 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.

Students urged to practise knowledge, experiences gained



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 10 – The knowledge and experiences gained by the graduates are entrusted to be practised and poured out to the community. Education is a lifelong process that does not only happen at school, but continues at home or anywhere.

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 as Chancellor of the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB) stated the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) during the 13th KUPU SB Convocation Ceremony,

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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 as Chancellor of the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB) delivering a *titah* (royal speech) during the 13th KUPU SB Convocation Ceremony.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting certificates to the graduates at the ceremony.



His Majesty in a group photo with the staff and members of KUPU SB.

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which took place at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam lauded KUPU SB for enhancing their co-curriculum, without neglecting its primary goal of producing pious graduates.

The Monarch also expressed delight

in seeing KUPU SB's commitment towards strengthening its co-curricular programmes. His Majesty noted KUPU SB's potential in producing teachers that are not only educated in Islamic studies, but also general subjects.

After the *titah*, His Majesty presented certificates to 234 graduates, out of which, three completed the Doctor of Philosophy in Religious Teaching in Arabic Language and Education;

11 graduated with Masters Degree in Religious Teaching of Islamic Education, Syariah and Usuluddin; 53 graduated in Postgraduate Diploma with Religious Teaching; and eight graduated with Diploma in Religious Teaching.

Another 71 graduates received their Bachelor's Degree in Islamic Studies; 76 with Higher Diploma in Religious Teaching of Islamic Education; and 12 received diplomas in specific fields.



His Majesty interacting with the people at the ceremony.

Civil servants must be responsive to changes



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 the 30th Civil Service Day.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attending the 30th Civil Service Day. Also present were members of the royal family.

BERAKAS, October 31 – 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 said that over the past three decades, various challenges

have tested the resilience of the civil service.

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His Majesty and members of the royal family at the 30th Civil Service Day.



His Majesty presenting awards and certificates of appreciation to the recipients.



His Majesty signing a plaque proclaiming Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam as the 'Tokoh Jasawan Negara' (left); and receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir) (right).

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"Every civil servant must always be responsive to the changes of the times, without forgetting to seek guidance from Allah the Almighty in carrying out their duties and responsibilities," His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam added in a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with the 30th Civil Service Day at the International Convention Centre.

Civil servants must have new ideas to improve work processes, regulations, delivery systems and production, while leaders must be wise in pioneering work potentials, specifically in digital technology as the basis for a major transformation in services.

Regarding service transformation, His Majesty has consented for the transition of a major part of the labour recruitment process from the Public Service Commission to the ministries, especially for division two and below. Aside from enhancing accountability, it

can also speed up the filling of vacancies by making full use of the existing Public Service Recruitment System.

The Monarch also emphasised that the civil service integrity must resist collapse through strength. In this direction, an amendment to the General Order has already been implemented and will be enforced shortly.

"This amendment is made in accordance with the current needs while continuing to emphasise the aspect of equality and transparency in all actions," said His Majesty.

His Majesty also highlighted the importance of ministries detailing their preparations to jointly support the Manpower Optimisation Plan spearheaded by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Ministry of Finance and Economy.

His Majesty also emphasised the need to improve the competency of every worker through skills training and equipping them with knowledge and core values.

The Monarch further announced a new award in conjunction with the celebration, as well as Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam as the 'Tokoh Jasawan Negara' or the National Meritorious Figure.

His Majesty was pleased by the support of the Special Service Award Evaluation Committee for highlighting Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien as the Architect of Modern Brunei, underscoring an important event during the late Monarch's reign – the promulgation of the 1959 Brunei Constitution, which gave Brunei Darussalam self-government.

Prior to the *titah*, a welcoming speech was presented by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defense.

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His Majesty touring the 30th Civil Service Day Special Exhibition.



His Majesty taking a group photo with the participants at the exhibition.

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Also present at the ceremony were His Majesty's sons and brothers: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah,

the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at PMO; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness

Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The ceremony began with the recitation of Surah Al-Fatihah, followed by the recitation of the holy verses of the Al-Quran.

Video presentations also highlighted the theme of the Civil Service Day as well as Civil Service Awards, namely the Premier Innovation Award; Public Sector Performance Grading Programme; Excellent Civil Service Employee Award; and the Civil Service Personnel Meritorious and Dedication Awards for 2023.

His Majesty then presented the awards and certificates of appreciation to the recipients.

His Majesty also toured the 30th Civil Service Day Special Exhibition, which highlighted the history, evolution and modernisation of the country's civil service.



His Majesty signing a commemorative parchment.



His Majesty and members of the royal family in a group photo.

Appointment of new Deputy Minister

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 23 – By command of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, it is hereby announced that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has commanded for the appointment of Yang Mulia Dato Seri Paduka Haji Matsatejo bin Sokiaw as Deputy Minister (Energy) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to be terminated with immediate effect.

Following the termination, His Majesty has consented to appoint Awang Haji Mohammad Azmi bin Haji Mohd. Hanifah, Deputy Managing Director of Brunei Shell Petroleum Co. Sdn. Bhd. as the new Deputy Minister (Energy) at PMO. Meanwhile, Dayang Hajah Farida binti Dato Seri Paduka Haji Talib, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Brunei LNG Sdn. Bhd. has been appointed as Permanent Secretary (Energy) at PMO. The termination and appointment will take effect starting Tuesday, October 24.

Her Majesty graces 77th birthday celebration



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam attending a reception hosted by the Group of Wives of Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries and Affiliated Members to mark Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri's 77th birthday.

JERUDONG, October 15 – Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced a reception hosted by the Group of Wives of Cabinet

Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries and Affiliated Members to mark Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri's 77th birthday at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

Her Majesty was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir.

Also in attendance were the daughters and sister of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien: Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

At the event, Her Majesty consented to cut a birthday cake and received a *pesambah*. The ceremony also featured singing performances.

Before leaving the ceremony, Her Majesty received *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from the members of the group.

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Her Majesty and members of the royal family in a group photo with members of the association.

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Her Majesty during the cake cutting session (left); and receiving *pesambah* (souvenir) (middle and right).

PPPBD hosts Khatam Al-Quran Ceremony, birthday celebration



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam as Royal Patron of the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam during the Khatam Al-Quran Ceremony in conjunction with Girl Guides Day and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri's birthday celebration.

JERUDONG, October 8 – Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam as Royal Patron of the Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam (PPPBD) graced a Khatam Al-Quran Ceremony in conjunction with the Girl Guides Day celebration organised by PPPBD at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

The ceremony also coincided with the

celebration of Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri's birthday.

Accompanying Her Majesty were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahman; and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah.

Also present were the daughters of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah

Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien: Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah as President of PPPBD; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah.

The ceremony began with opening remarks by Hajah Viviyanti binti Haji Md. Ali, Deputy Chief Commissioner of PPPBD. The event also saw the recitation of Al-Quran verses, preceded by Sayyidul Istighfar and Surah Al-Fatihah, led by Hajah Fatimah binti Haji Abdul Ghani, Spiritual Commissioner of PPPBD.

The ceremony continued with a *doa* to commence the Al-Quran recitation and *takhtim*, led by participants from the Youth Leaders of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) and the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College.

Meanwhile, the *doa* khatam was led by Dr. Mariam binti Haji Abdul Rahman, Unit Head of the Youth Leaders of UNISSA; and the recitation of *doa kesyukuran* and *Doa Peliharakan Sultan dan Negara Brunei Darussalam* was led by the Spiritual Commissioner of PPPBD.

A cake cutting session also took place in celebration of Her Majesty's birthday.

Datin Paduka Hajah Zaharah binti Haji Idris and Datin Hajah Masni binti Haji Mohd. Ali, Honorary Lifetime Deputy Presidents of the PPPBD were also present.



Her Majesty and members of the royal family during the recitation of *doa* at the ceremony.



Her Majesty cutting the birthday cake.

Women's Special Assembly hosts Maulidur Rasul Celebration

JERUDONG, October 12 – Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced a Women's Special Assembly in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul Celebration for 1445 Hijrah at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

Accompanying Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir.

Also present were the daughters and sister of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien: Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

The event began with the recitation of Al-Quran by Dr. Siti Wardah binti Major (Rtd) Haji Abd. Rahman, the winner of the National Al-Quran Reading Competition for Adults for 1444 Hijrah; followed by a speech from Dr. Hajah Norwati binti



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam attending the Women's Special Assembly in conjunction with the Maulidur Rasul Celebration for 1445 Hijrah.

Haji Abu Bakar, Acting Assistant Ra'ees of the Seri Begawan Religious Teachers University College (KUPU SB).

The event saw a *dikir* performance by officers and staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), and the Women's Council. There was also a religious talk by Dr. Umi Faizah binti Haji Abdul Rahman, Assistant Professor at the Centre for the Promotion of Knowledge and Language, Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali.

The event continued with the recitation of *selawat* by students from the Institut Tahfiz Al-Quran Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, before concluding with a *doa selamat*, recited by Dayang Noraini Yanti binti Haji Hussin, Senior Religious Officer at the Mosque Affairs Department, Ministry of Religious Affairs (MORA).

The religious gathering was organised by MORA; MFA; MOHA; the Women's Council; and KUPU SB.



Accompanying Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were members of the royal family.

Joining hands in advancing science and technology

BERAKAS, October 24 – Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) launched its first UTB Science, Technology and Engineering (UTB-STE) Connect 2023, which was officiated by His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) 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 as Pro-Chancellor of UTB.

The ceremony began with the recitation of verses 57 and 58 of Surah Al-A'raf by Dr. Siti Wardah binti Major (Rtd) Haji Abdul Rahman, Lecturer at the UTB School of Business and

first runner-up at the National Al-Quran Reading Competition for Adults for 1444 Hijrah.

This was followed by a welcoming speech from Datin Paduka Professor Dr. Hajah Zohrah binti Haji Sulaiman, Vice-Chancellor of UTB and a *sabda* (royal speech) from His Royal Highness the Crown Prince.

In the *sabda*, His Royal Highness highlighted that UTB has achieved significant milestones since its establishment as a

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His Royal Highness Prince (Dr.) 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 as Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) during the launching of the first UTB Science, Technology and Engineering (UTB-STE) Connect 2023 at the International Convention Centre in Berakas.

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full-fledged university 15 years ago, including expanding beyond engineering, business and computing, to applied sciences and mathematics, design and communication.

As UTB continues to mature, the university prepares to make its way to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

His Royal Highness was also pleased that the congress

brought together several conferences in one platform, and received very encouraging support from representatives inside and outside Brunei Darussalam.

His Royal Highness further touched on His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's *titah* (royal speech) during the 11th UTB Convocation Ceremony, which encouraged the use of best practices, including increasing research publications. The *titah* outlined the importance of filing for intellectual property rights towards commercialisation, which can support and nurture an innovation ecosystem and foster economic growth.

As an engineering and technology university, UTB plays a role in realising the Brunei Vision 2035 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. His Royal Highness was pleased that UTB has made strides in advancing research and promoting innovation through collaboration with renowned universities and key industry players.

His Royal Highness hopes that UTB continues to build on its achievements and efforts, particularly in supporting the country's priority areas, including the needs of the local labour market.

According to His Royal Highness, UTB-STE Connect 2023 provides an important platform for intellectual discourse, shared ideas and generating solutions to contemporary challenges. The breadth and complexity of these challenges require a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach, where rapid advances in technology and innovation continue to provide unique opportunities. Hence, the event's theme, 'Research and Applications for a Better World', is timely and relevant.

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His Royal Highness the Crown Prince presenting a token of appreciation to the Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, who delivered the event's plenary session (left); and receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir) designed by a student from the UTB School of Design (right).



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince in a group photo.

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"The biennial congress provides that platform," said His Royal Highness, hoping to see the development of local expertise and innovation.

In this regard, His Royal Highness encourages researchers and scientists, as well as government and industry partners, to leverage on their strengths and resources to join hands in supporting the advancement of their respective fields of science and technology.

The *sabda* was followed by the inauguration of the UTB-STE Connect 2023 and a multimedia presentation.

Before leaving the ceremony, His Royal Highness presented a token of appreciation to Professor Datuk Ir. Ts. Dr. Ahmad Fauzi bin Ismail, Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, who delivered the event's plenary session; and received a *pesambah* (souvenir) designed by Awang Aiman bin Roslan, a student from the UTB School of Design, followed by a photo session.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince receiving a *junjung ziarah* at the event.



Crown Prince witnesses Exercise Sunda Patrol 2023

BELAIT DISTRICT, October 5 – 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 witnessed the Exercise Sunda Patrol 2023, which took place at Training Area B, Andulau Forest Reserve in Sungai Liang, Belait District.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince was greeted on arrival at the Air Movement Centre, Rimba Air Force Base by Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF); Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Alirupendi bin Haji Perudin, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF); Brigadier General Haji Mohammad Shanonnizam bin Sulaiman, Commander of the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF); Colonel (U) Haji Mohammad Muluddin bin Awang Haji Latif, Director of Intelligence of MINDEF; and Captain Jonathan Caple, Royal Navy, United Kingdom (UK) Defence Advisor to Brunei Darussalam before departing to

the training area on board a Puma helicopter from the 230 Squadron of the UK Royal Air Force.

The delegation landed at Kargu Dam Landing Point and were welcomed by His Excellency John Virgoe, British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam; and Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Stanford-Tuck, Commander of the British Forces Brunei (BFB).

His Royal Highness attended a briefing on the exercise and witnessed a live river crossing drill presented by Major Som Thulung, Commanding Officer of Support Company, First Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles (Support Company 1RGR); followed by a photo session.

His Royal Highness proceeded to the Jungle Base Camp using 4X4 off-road vehicles, where His Royal Highness was



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office at Kargu Dam Landing Point (above).

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince listening to a briefing on the Exercise Sunda Patrol 2023 (left).



His Royal Highness presenting certificates of appreciation (left); and attending a briefing at the Jungle Base Camp (right).

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welcomed with a Maala garland and attended a briefing on BFB by Lieutenant Colonel Stanford-Tuck.

His Royal Highness then visited the Jungle Survival Stand where His Royal Highness presented certificates of appreciation to members of the organising committee and joined a group photo session.

His Royal Highness then attended a luncheon, joined by Brigadier Rob Singleton, Commander 4 Brigade of British Armed Forces, resident defence advisors and attachés to Brunei. His Royal Highness signed a guest book, received a *pesambah* (souvenir) and joined a group photo session before leaving the training ground.

The inaugural Exercise Sunda Patrol is a patrol competition hosted by BFB from October 2 to 6 for British forces units from the 1st (UK) Division to challenge their abilities such as survival skills, routine patrolling, riverine operations and Close Target Reconnaissance in the jungle, or Close Country Tropical Environment.



His Royal Highness receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir).



His Royal Highness in a group photo.

His Royal Highness boards P-8A Aircraft

RIMBA, October 24 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), boarded the Royal Australian Air Force P-8A aircraft flight.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince boarded the flight at the Air Movement Centre, Rimba Air Force Base, and was accompanied on board by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence; His Excellency Luke Arnold, Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam; and Brigadier General (U) Dato Seri Pahlawan Mohammad Sharif and Colonel (U) Hismawadi, Acting Joint Force Commander of the Royal Brunei Air Force.

During the flight, His Royal Highness consented to witness the view within the Brunei Darussalam's Exclusive Economic Zone.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) at the Air Movement Centre, Rimba Air Force Base.



His Royal Highness signing a commemorative parchment (left); and in a group photo (below).



Speaker of LegCo receives courtesy calls

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 19 – Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the State Legislative Council (LegCo) received separate courtesy calls from three foreign envoys to the country at the Legislative Council Building, Department of Councils of State.

Yang Berhormat Speaker of LegCo received courtesy calls from His Excellency Dr. Achmad Ubaedillah, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Tran Anh Vu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of

Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam; and His Excellency Dr. Xiao Jianguo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic China to Brunei Darussalam.

During the meeting with His Excellency Ambassador of Indonesia, both sides expressed appreciation and hope for the continuation of their bilateral relations. They also highlighted close cooperation in overcoming challenges and achieving desired goals. On trade, especially on the transition of the new capital of Indonesia to Kalimantan, His Excellency said that Indonesia

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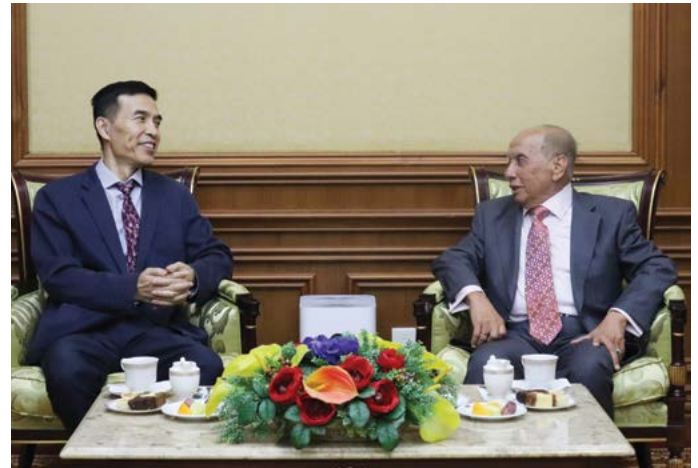
Yang Berhormat Speaker of the Legislative Council with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia to Brunei Darussalam (above, left); Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam; and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic China to Brunei Darussalam (below).

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welcomes investors to cooperate and invest in the city.

During the meeting with His Excellency Ambassador of Viet Nam, the two sides touched on the cooperation between LegCo and the National Assembly of Viet Nam, as evident through meetings on mutual interests. His Excellency also touched on and hoped for the continuation of cooperation in higher education.

Yang Berhormat Speaker also expressed gratitude for China's contribution to the country, as well as the Asian region. The two sides touched on China's initiative, 'One Belt One Road', which is hoped to align with the Brunei Vision 2035. In terms of future opportunities, Yang Berhormat looked forward to providing assistance and facilitating opportunities to improve mutual relations.



Exploring collaborations in medicine



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health and His Excellency Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 4 – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health made a working visit to Osaka University recently on October 3. The visit is a follow up to a discussion between the Ministry of Health (MOH), Brunei Darussalam and the Embassy of Japan in Brunei with Osaka University.

Yang Berhormat Minister of Health first paid a courtesy call to His Excellency Takemi Keizo, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan; and then visited the ministry as well as the relevant health facilities.

Both sides discussed health development issues, implementation of national and global health programme and best

practices, particularly in healthy ageing. The session also touched on sustainable healthcare financing model in Japan.

During a visit to Osaka University the following day, Yang Berhormat Minister also met Shojiro Nishio, President of the university, and other stakeholders, including the Dean of the Graduate School of Medicine and the Director of Osaka University Hospital, to discuss best practices in healthcare and effective treatment.

A proposal to produce a Memorandum of Understanding between MOH, Brunei Darussalam and Osaka University for the training of health professionals was also discussed, which includes short-term training for gastroenterology and general surgery.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health in a group photo during the working visit to Osaka University.

Strengthening cooperation towards achieving BEV 2025



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy as the Chairman of the 26th BIMP-EAGA Ministerial Meeting and Related Meetings in a group photo.

JERUDONG, October 26 – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy as Chairman of the 26th BIMP-EAGA Ministerial Meeting and Related Meetings, in his opening remarks, highlighted several achievements at the ASEAN level and emphasised the need for BIMP-EAGA to take advantage of these initiatives towards achieving the BIMP-EAGA Vision (BEV) 2025.

Yang Berhormat also emphasised the need to adjust BIMP-EAGA strategic plans and policies to take into consideration regional and international trends by strengthening cooperation and commitment to achieve BEV 2025 and beyond.

Present at the meeting held at The Empire Brunei were BIMP-EAGA Ministers, Chief Ministers and Governors, Senior Officials, the Asian Development Bank and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The ministerial meeting took note of the outcome of the 31st Senior Official Meeting on the implementation of rolling pipelines of projects; and reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding on land and sea in ensuring its alignment with the latest development and strengthening cooperation with development partners.

The ministers welcomed the initial findings of the study on the review and assessment of the BIMP-EAGA Economic Corridors and the joint BIMP-EAGA and Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle Blue Economy Strategy 2030. The event also included the signing of the Letter of Intent on One Borneo Quarantine Initiative.

The meeting additionally took note of the recommendations from the 5th Chief Ministers, Governors, and Local Government Forum.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance witnessing the signing of the Letter of Intent on One Borneo Quarantine Initiative.

BETCON23: A regional business platform



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy launching the BIMP-EAGA Trade Convention 2023 in conjunction with the 26th BIMP-EAGA Ministerial Meeting and Related Meetings.

JERUDONG, October 26 – BIMP-EAGA recorded an increase from US\$70.2 billion to US\$84.8 billion in its trade balance. Tourism is showing full recovery, with arrivals increasing by 137.3 per cent to 114.8 million in 2022, from 48.4 million in 2021.

The sub-region saw foreign direct investments in 2022 rose to US\$19.9 billion, a 46.7 per cent increase from 2021. Meanwhile, domestic investments grew to US\$8.7 billion in 2022, an increase of 19.3 per cent compared to 2021.

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 delivered the speech during the launching of BIMP-EAGA Trade Convention 2023

(BETCON23) in conjunction with the 26th BIMP-EAGA Ministerial Meeting and Related Meetings at Bridex Hall.

Yang Berhormat Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy said there is an increase in priority infrastructure projects, from 57 in 2017 to 129 in 2023, amounting to US\$38.87 billion. These projects include road, sea and airports, infocommunications and technology infrastructure and power interconnections.

With all the positive developments, Yang Berhormat Minister expressed his belief that BETCON23 is the right platform for businesses in the region to network, promote their products and services, and explore potential business opportunities that will

further enhance collaboration towards achieving the BIMP-EAGA Vision 2025.

The implementation of BETCON23 is BIMP-EAGA Business Council's (BEBC) first initiative under Brunei Darussalam's chairmanship.

Yang Berhormat also launched the event alongside His Excellency Dr. Rizal Edwin, Senior Advisor to the Coordinating Minister of Economic Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia; Yang Berhormat Dato Hajjah Hanifah Hajar Taib, Deputy Minister of Economy of Malaysia; Secretary Maria Belen S. Acosta, Chairperson of the Mindanao Development Authority; and Pengiran Dr. Haji Haris bin Pengiran Duraman, Chairman of BEBC Brunei, who is also the BEBC Chair for this year.

Submission of ABAC Report for 2023

BERAKAS, October 2 – 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 presented the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Report for 2023 from Dayang Nik Hafimi binti Abdul Haadii, Member of ABAC Brunei, who is also the Executive Director of LVK Group of Companies, at the Ministry of Finance and Economy Building, Commonwealth Drive in Jalan Kebangsaan.

The report contains ABAC's recommendations to APEC Leaders developed through ABAC's 2023 workplan theme, 'Equity. Sustainability. Opportunity'.

ABAC identified concrete actions that would advance equity by making it easier for groups with untapped economic potential. The recommendations



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy receiving the APEC Business Advisory Council Report for 2023.

will be presented formally to the APEC Leaders ABAC annual dialogue on November 16 in San Francisco, the United States of America.

Brunei Darussalam-UAE sign MOU in cyber security cooperation



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications with His Excellency Head of Cyber Security of the United Arab Emirates during the signing ceremony.

ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, October 14 – The Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC) of Brunei Darussalam and the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) Cyber Security Council solidified their commitment to cooperation and advancement in cybersecurity following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

The ceremony was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International

Cooperations in Abu Dhabi, as a sideline event to the Regional Cyber Security Week held from October 8 to 13.

Representing the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the signing was Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications as Minister-in-Charge of Cybersecurity.

Meanwhile, His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Hamad Al Kuwaiti, Head of Cyber Security of UAE represented the Government of UAE.

The signing will foster collaboration on matters relating to the latest trends and developments in cybersecurity, challenges and threats facing cybersecurity, strategies and best practices for cybersecurity incident response and recovery, as well as cybersecurity education and awareness.

Yang Berhormat will further contribute to the cybersecurity discourse as a panellist at the GITEX Global Cybersecurity Conference at the Dubai World Trade Centre.

Themed "The Year to Imagine AI in Everything", the conference serves as a vital platform for global leaders, industry experts, and policymakers to deliberate on the latest advancements and strategies in cybersecurity.

Also present during the signing were His Excellency Haji Harun bin Haji Junid, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to UAE in Abu Dhabi; Awang Haji Hairul Mohd. Daud bin Haji Abdul Karim, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Infocommunications) at MTIC; Awang Shamsul Bahri bin Haji Kamis, Interim Commissioner of Cyber Security Brunei (CSB); as well as senior officers from the ministry and CSB.

CPI July 2023 records 0.2% decrease

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, October 14 – In July 2023, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) recorded a month-on-month decrease of 0.2 per cent, attributed to a 0.4 per cent decrease in Non-Food prices.

Meanwhile, the prices of Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages registered an increase of 0.6 per cent.

The month-on-month decrease in Non-Food prices was contributed by the prices of Clothing and Footwear (7.4 per cent); Recreation and Culture (0.5 per cent); and Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance (0.4 per cent).

Meanwhile, the increase in the prices of Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages was mainly contributed by the rise in the prices of soft drinks and juices (5.9 per cent); Fish and Seafood (0.8 per cent); and Milk, Dairy Products and Eggs (0.5 per cent).

For year-on-year changes, the CPI showed a moderate increase of 0.1

per cent compared to July 2022.

The rise was driven by a 1.9 per cent increase in Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages prices.

Meanwhile, Non-Food prices recorded a decrease of 0.4 per cent. The year-on-year increase in Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages prices was due to price increases for soft drinks and juices (8.1 per cent); Milk, Dairy Products and Eggs (4.7 per cent); and Rice and Cereals (4.0 per cent).

The increase in prices of soft drinks and juices was in line with the amendments to the Customs Import and Excise Duties for sweetened or flavoured beverages (ready to drink) items in May 2023. Meanwhile, the increase in the prices of eggs and bakery products was due to shortage of supply and an increase in raw materials prices, respectively.

However, the year-on-year increase was moderated by a decrease in Non-Food prices mainly on Communication (3.1 per

cent), particularly telephone and telefax services; Transport (2.4 per cent) due to a decrease in the prices of air fares and motor cars; and Clothing and Footwear (2.3 per cent) contributed by a fall in the prices of garments.

