



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Information Department
Prime Minister's Office

APRIL 2024
VOLUME 39 ISSUE 4

Hari Raya Aidilfitri Audience and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 11 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1445H/2024M Audience and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony from state dignitaries and diplomats from friendly nations.

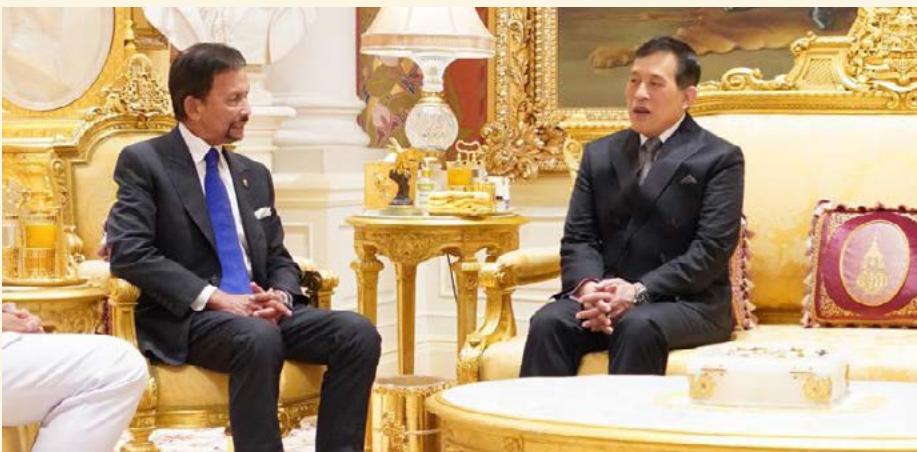
Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Anisha Rosnah; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah

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; Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Anisha Rosnah binti Adam; and members of the royal family upon arrival at the Banquet Hall of Istana Nurul Iman.

Continue on page 4

Brunei-Thailand strengthen close relations



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 Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, King of the Kingdom of Thailand during the Royal Audience which took place at Dusit Palace.

BANGKOK, THAILAND, April 29 – 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 Suvarnabhumi International Airport yesterday for two-day Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam began the Official Visit with a Welcoming Ceremony which took place at the Thai Koo Fah Building, Government House.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was welcomed by His Excellency Srettha Thavisin, the

Continue on page 12



3. His Majesty receives audiences



6. Foster spiritual and physical intelligence



9. His Majesty graces Tahlil Ceremony



11. His Majesty graces monthly Polo Tournament 2024



16. Close ties - a catalyst to achieving shared well-being and prosperity



17. BSJV hosts Muhibah Raya



19. International friendly match



20. Expand cooperation in law



22. Launching of AI Databetic Retinopathy Screening Services



23. Roadmap, economic diversification strategy



APRIL 2024 - VOLUME 39 ISSUE 4

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER
is published monthly by the Information Department. It reports on government, social and business events in the country. All money values are expressed in Brunei dollars \$, unless otherwise stated. Any information in this newsletter may be reproduced; a clipping of the publication would be appreciated.

EDITORIAL Advisory Board:

Siti Bismi Nuruliman Awang Emzah
(bismi.emzah@jpm.gov.bn)

Sastra Sarini Haji Julaini
(sastra.julaini@information.gov.bn)

Chief Editor:

Mufidah Abdul Hakim
(mufidah.hakim@information.gov.bn)

Editor:

Saadiatul Nur Aqilah Haji Jaman
(aqilah.jaman@information.gov.bn)

Text and translation:

Nor Hanizah Haji Abd Halim
(hanizah.halim@information.gov.bn)

Layouter:

Haji Abdul Azim Haji Tujoh
(azim.tujoh@information.gov.bn)

Proofreader:

Nor Zuriana Haji Azman/Malai
(norzuriana.azman@information.gov.bn)

Photographs

Photography Unit of Department of Information

General inquiries

Tel: (673) 2383 400
Fax: (673) 2382 012

Information Department

www.information.gov.bn

Information Gallery

www.infofoto.gov.bn



Follow us

Download **InfoDeptBN**



Instagram - @infodept.bn



Twitter - @Infodept_bn



Facebook - Jabatan Penerangan
Jabatan Perdana Menteri
Brunei Darussalam

His Majesty receives audience



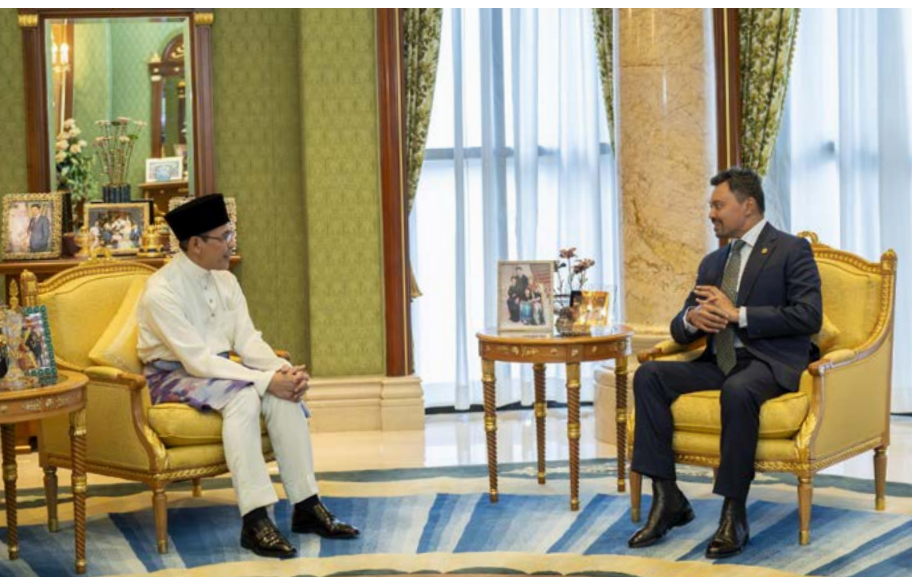
His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman His Excellency Dr. Mohamad Maliki bin Osman, Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Education and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore on April 13.

Farewell audience for spouse of outgoing envoy



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received a farewell audience from Datin Roslina binti Ismail, spouse of the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam at Istana Nurul Iman on April 17.

His Royal Highness Audience Ceremony



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 Dr. Mohamad Maliki bin Osman, Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Education and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore at the Qashr Al-Meezaan on April 13.

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 messages of condolences to:

- His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, Yang Di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia, and Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, as well as the government and people of Malaysia following the recent incident of the helicopter crash in Lumut, Perak, Malaysia on April 24.
- His Excellency Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, the Prime Minister of Kingdom of Cambodia, following the bomb explosion incident at a military base in Kampong Speu, Kingdom of Cambodia on April 29.

News

Hari Raya Aidilfitri Audience and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony (continued)



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam with other members of the royal family at the ceremony.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri at the ceremony (above). Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah.



From front page

Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador At-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam and other members of the royal family also graced the event.

His Majesty's guests included Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran-Pengiran Cheteria; cabinet ministers; members of Council; deputy ministers; diplomats from friendly nations; permanent secretaries; senior government officers and their spouse.

Earlier, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam joined citizens and residents in performing the Sunat Aidilfitri Prayer at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah, Kampung Kiarong.

Also present were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince

Continue on page 5



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office greeting guests.



Also present were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyyah; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Anisha Rosnah (above); Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam (below).

From page 4

'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The Sunat Hari Raya Aidilfitri Prayer was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, Chief Syar'ie Judge.

In the first *Khutbah* (Sermon), Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohammad Tashim bin Pengiran Haji Hassan,

Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs touched on forgiveness.

Meanwhile, the second *Khutbah* reminded Muslims to celebrate Hari Raya Aidilfitri in moderation.

Prior to leaving Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah, His Majesty and members of the royal family received *junjung ziarah* from the congregants.

Continue on page 6



Hari Raya Aidilfitri Audience and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony (continued)

From page 5



His Majesty and members of the royal family performing the Sunat Aidilfitri Prayer led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, Chief Syar'ie Judge at Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah, Kampung Kiarong.

Foster spiritual and physical intelligence

BERAKAS, April 22 – Many higher education institutions have integrated *insaniah* (humanitarian) and community programmes into their students' co-curricular activities with the aim of fostering spiritual and physical intelligence.

Emphasising on the importance of expanding such initiatives, 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 called on the need to promote a compassionate and caring society.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered the *titah* (royal speech) during the Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration organised by Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB), which took place at the International Convention Centre.

"The implementation of the *insaniah* and community programme," said His Majesty, "is not limited to one field only, such as assisting the needy. Instead, it should be expanded to religious, entrepreneurial, technological, cultural, sports and environmental endeavours."



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah binti Pengiran Haji Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Anisha Rosnah binti Adam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam in a group photo at the Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration organised by Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB).

Continue on page 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 delivering a *titah* (royal speech).

From page 6

His Majesty in the *titah* said that year-by-year the country has watched thousands of local graduates produced through local education institutions as well as abroad. The country is immensely proud of having a generation equipped with knowledge and skills.

It is among the aspirations of Brunei Vision 2035, to produce an educated and highly-skilled populace. Realising the goal would lead to a more progressive nation, if it is truly achieved hence that is the answer to refer to for a developed country and society.

Earlier, His Majesty attributed the Sultanate's Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration in peace and prosperity to the blessings of Allah the Almighty. However, the Monarch also reminded the celebrants to not forget the plight of *ummah* who are besieged by disasters and misery such as those in Palestine.

The Monarch also welcomes the presence of students from local higher education institutions, who are regarded as representatives of community work.

Accompanying His Majesty at the celebration was Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam.

Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Raabi'atul 'Adawiyah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Anisha Rosnah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador At-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.

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 as the Chairman of the YSHHB Board of Directors delivered his welcoming address.

The ceremony included a video presentation on '*Membangun Generasi Pemimpin: Membudayakan Belia Pemeduliaan dan Prihatin*', which among others highlighted the active involvement

Continue on page 8



Performers during the event (above).

From page 7

of students in volunteering and community activities to address social development issues in line to support the Brunei Vision 2035. The video featured a special segment containing a collection of *sabda* (royal speech) by His Majesty's sons that bring inspirational messages to the youth, in volunteering and community programmes.

A stage performance by students of YSHHB further enlivened the ceremony.

Their Majesties and other members of royal family then took a closer look at the exhibition highlighted the volunteering and community programmes conducted by students of local higher education institutions.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince during the exhibition (above and below).



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; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik mingling with attendees and performers.



Be grateful, praise with Alhamdulillah



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1445H/ 2024M.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 10 – Gratitude is an honoured and noble matter required by Allah the Almighty who promised that those in gratitude are rewarded with multiple blessings.

The meaning of being grateful is to be thankful to Allah the Almighty for the blessings, by way of praising Him with the phrase Alhamdulillah.

“As we succeed in fasting in the month of Ramadan, we should say Alhamdulillah, likewise as we are blessed with good health and sustenance to celebrate Hari Raya Aidilfitri in comfort.”

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 emphasises the matter in the *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1445H/ 2024M at Istana Nurul Iman.

“The phrase Alhamdulillah has a very high value. Apart from uttering words, our actions can also portray our feelings of gratitude by performing the act of *zakat*.

“The purpose of paying *zakat* is to cleanse property or assets. If *zakat* is paid on such wealth, it will be blessed and such wealth will not be reduced but multiplied. It will not also be destroyed but secured,” underlined His Majesty.

His Majesty graces Tahlil 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 pouring *Aying Asah-Asahan* (scented water) onto the grave of Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam, and Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 16 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended a Tahlil Ceremony, at the Royal Mausoleum in Jalan Tutong.

The ceremony was for the late parents and son of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam: Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam; Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman; and Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.

Also present were His Majesty's sons and brothers: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; and His



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam pouring *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the grave of Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.

Continue on page 10



His Majesty; 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 Jefri Bolkiah at the ceremony.

From page 9

Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

The reading of *Tahlil* was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, followed by *Doa Tahlil* and *Doa Allah Peliharakan Sultan*.

His Majesty then poured *Aying Asah-Asahan* (scented water) onto the grave of His Majesty's late parents and son.

Also pouring *Aying Asah-Asahan* was His Royal Highness the Crown Prince. Followed by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik, then His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, followed by His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.



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



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



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



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



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

His Majesty graces monthly Polo Tournament 2024



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Anisha Rosnah binti Adam; and Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah during the Monthly Polo Tournament at the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar in a group photo.

JERUDONG, April 26 – The 'White Team' led by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen defeated the 'Green Team' led by Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah, with a score 5.5-3 in four chukkas. The tournament was held at the Jerudong Park Polo and Riding Club.

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 Monthly Polo Tournament for the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club (RBPRC).

Also in attendance were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Anisha Rosnah binti Adam; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen receiving a medal.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah in action during the polo match.

Brunei-Thailand strengthen close relations (continued)

From front page

Prime Minister of Thailand.

The ceremony began with both leaders proceeding to the Special Dais to receive the Salute of Honour accompanied by the national anthems of both countries. This was followed with the inspection of the Royal Guard of Honour mounted by members of the Royal Thai Armed Forces.

His Majesty was then introduced to dignitaries from Thailand, followed with the introduction of Brunei Darussalam's delegation to the Prime Minister of Thailand.

The cabinet ministers of the Government of Thailand subsequently introduced themselves to His Majesty.

After the Welcoming Ceremony, His Majesty and the Prime Minister proceeded to Pakdi Bokdi Building for a Bilateral Meeting.

At the meeting, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) to express condolences and sympathies to the Thai families who have lost their loved ones in the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

In this regard, Brunei Darussalam remains deeply concerned over the escalation of violence and reiterated its commitment to a long-term peace plan through the two-state solution and achieving an independent state of the Palestinian people.

His Majesty expressed hope the



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency Prime Minister of Thailand inspecting the Royal Guard of Honour of the Royal Thai Armed Forces.

international community will come together and bring the conflict to an end for humanitarian assistance to reach Palestine.

His Majesty also recalled the fruitful discussions during the Prime Minister's official visit to Brunei Darussalam last year to deepen mutually beneficial ties in numerous areas.

As Brunei Darussalam and Thailand mark the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations through exchanges of visits and joint activities, His Majesty highlighted the countries' continued expansion of cooperation in many areas including trade, education, defence and people-to-people exchanges over the past four decades.

Brunei Darussalam expressed appreciation for Thailand's continued support for the supply of rice since 1971, making Thailand an important trading partner.

The emphasis on food security and uninterrupted supply chains is more vital than before amidst the geopolitical uncertainties faced today.

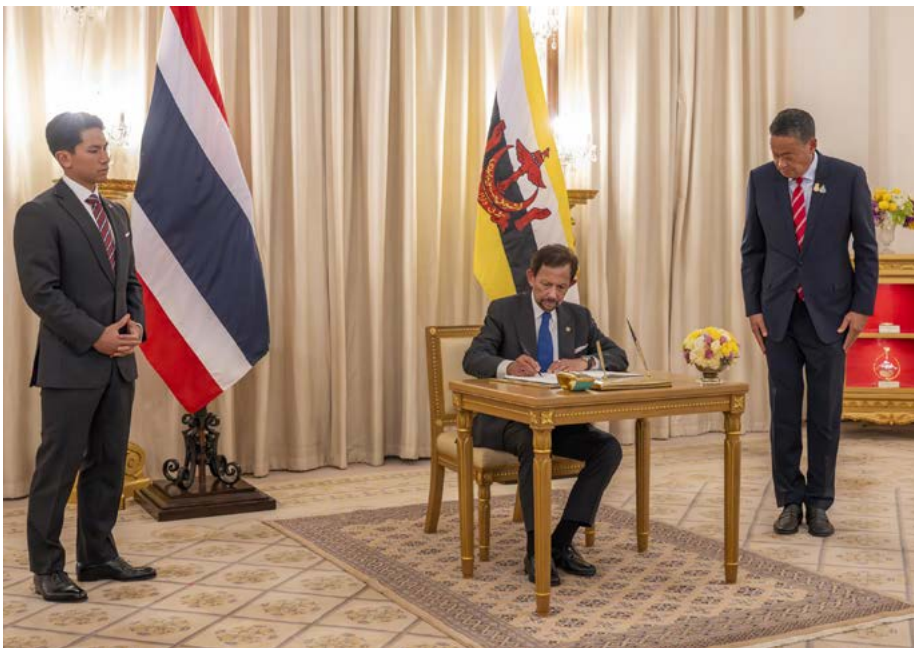
To this end, Brunei Darussalam looks forward to work closely with Thailand in deepening trade linkages in agriculture, energy as well as halal food and welcomed Thailand's interest in developing investment ties.

His Majesty highlighted people-to-people exchanges are progressing well, including the ongoing education exchanges and the recent naval port calls by three of His Thai Majesty's Ships: 'Bhumipol Adulyadej', 'Taksin' and 'Kraburi', as well as the resumption of direct flights between the two countries.

At the Bilateral Meeting, His Majesty also exchanged views with the Prime Minister on regional and international issues, including cooperation in ASEAN as well as the situation in Myanmar and developments in the Middle East.

At the end of the Bilateral Meeting, a joint statement was issued.

His Majesty and the Prime Minister also witnessed the signing ceremony of two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between the Government of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Thailand.



His Majesty signing the visitor's book alongside His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and His Excellency Prime Minister.

Continue on page 13



His Majesty, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and His Excellency Prime Minister during the bilateral meeting.

From page 12

Signing the MoU on Tourism Cooperation on behalf of Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism and His Excellency Anutin Charnvirakul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior on behalf of the Government of Thailand.

Meanwhile, representing the Government of Brunei Darussalam for the MoU between Brunei Investment Agency (BIA) and Thailand's Government Pension Fund (GPF) was Awang Haji Sofian bin Mohammad Jani, Managing Director of BIA, while the Government of Thailand was represented by Mr. Songpol Chevapanyaroj, Secretary General of GPF.

Following the Signing Ceremony, His Majesty viewed a Thai Handicraft



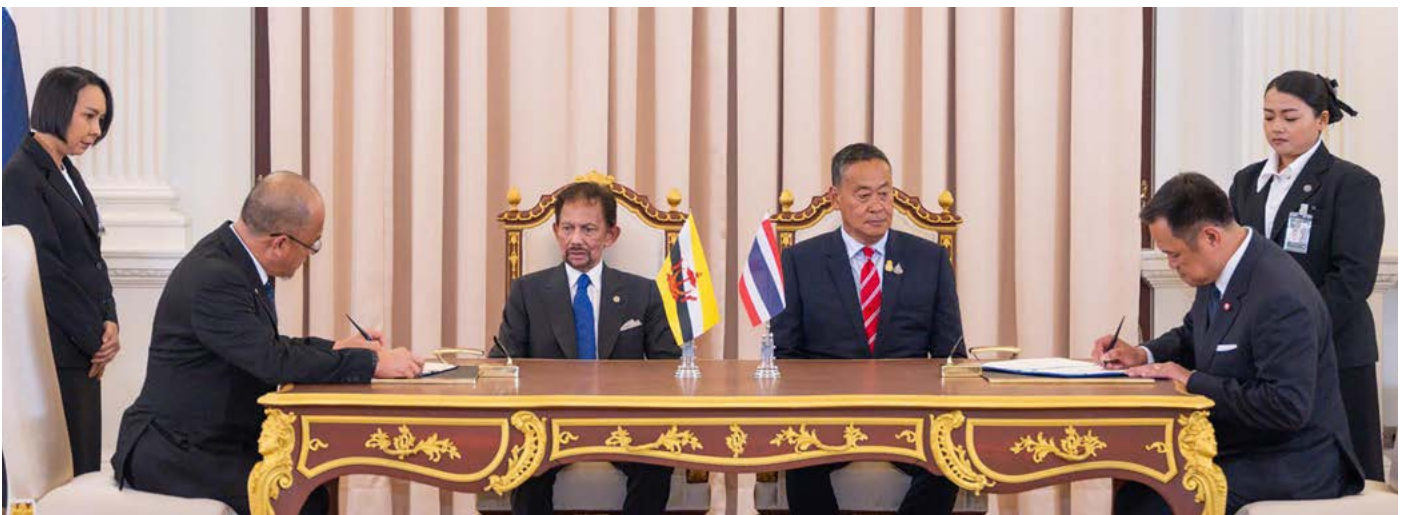
His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech).

Exhibition showcasing local handicraft products.

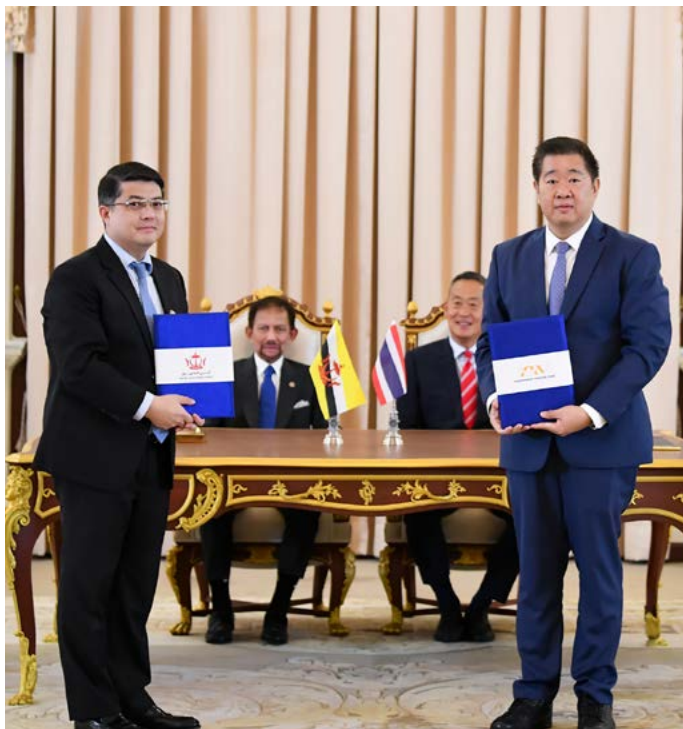
His Majesty then attended the Official Luncheon, hosted by the Prime Minister of Thailand.

At the luncheon, His Majesty delivered a *titah* expressing his appreciation to visit Thailand once again particularly in celebrating the 40th anniversary of

Continue on page 14



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Prime Minister of Kingdom of Thailand at the signing ceremony.



His Majesty and Prime Minister of Kingdom of Thailand at the signing ceremony (left); His Majesty viewing an item on display at the Thai Exhibition (above).

diplomatic relations between Brunei and Thailand.

In the *titah*, His Majesty was recalled rapid developments that have taken place in Thailand. His Majesty added that the 'Amazing Thailand' has transformed into an urban economy in the agricultural, manufacturing and services sectors, thus bringing economic prosperity and development to its people.

His Majesty in the *titah* said that Brunei Darussalam hopes to continue the close and excellent relations, marked by

mutual respect and understanding, as well as to work together in protecting and safeguarding the common aspirations of both countries.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister in his speech touched on His Majesty's leadership is highly respected for being the longest reigning monarch in the world.

His Majesty also attended the Royal Audience with His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, King of Thailand and Her Majesty Queen Suthida Bajrasudhabimalalakshana at

Dusit Palace.

The Royal Audience, among other things, aimed to further enhance the long-standing relationship between Brunei and Thailand as well as provided the opportunity for His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to meet with His Majesty and Her Majesty in strengthening the bond and kinship between the royal families of both countries.

Continue on page 15



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) during the official luncheon hosted by His Excellency Prime Minister of Kingdom of Thailand. Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



His Majesty with His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, King of the Kingdom of Thailand and Her Majesty Queen Suthida Bajrasudhabimalalakshana at Dusit Palace. His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen also attended the Royal Audience.

From page 14

After the Royal Audience, His Majesty left Bangkok. Present at Suvarnabhumi International Airport to bid farewell to His

Majesty were His Excellency Pirapan Salirathavibhaga, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy, as the Minister-in-Attendance; and His Excellency Boosara Kanchanalai, Ambassador of Thailand to

Brunei Darussalam.

Accompanying His Majesty to the events was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



His Majesty with King of the Kingdom of Thailand and Her Majesty Queen. Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness prior to leaving Bangkok (above and below).



Close relationships catalyst achieving mutual prosperity



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam shakes hands with His Excellency President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia during a Courtesy Visit to Cambodia.

PHNOM PENH, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA, April 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, arrived in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia last night to hold a Courtesy Visit to His Excellency Samdech Techo Hun Sen, President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Upon arrival at Phnom Penh International Airport, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was welcomed by the President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia; and His Excellency Hun Many, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Civil Service of the Kingdom of Cambodia. Also present to greet His Majesty on arrival was His Excellency Pengiran Kasmirhan bin Pengiran Haji Tahir, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Cambodia.

Continue on page 17



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the breakfast hosted by His Excellency President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen in a group photo with His Excellency President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

From page 16

This morning, His Majesty attended a breakfast hosted by the President, which took place at Rosewood Phnom Penh Hotel.

The Courtesy Visit with the President, which among other things, reflects the warm, close and long-standing relations between the leaders of Brunei and Cambodia, in which such close ties will serve as a catalyst to achieving shared well-being and prosperity.

Also present at the event were His Excellency Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of Cambodia; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Civil Service of Cambodia; and Lieutenant General Hun Manith, Head of General Department of Research and Intelligence, Ministry of National Defence.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness welcomed by the His Excellency President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Accompanying His Majesty was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

His Majesty then left Phnom Penh, concluding the Courtesy Visit.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness upon departure from Phnom Penh, Cambodia.



His Excellency President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia bidding farewell.

BSJV hosts 'Muhibah Raya'



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, who is also the Chairman of Brunei Shell Joint Ventures (BSJV) Board of Directors in a group photo at the BSJV Raya Celebration.

JERUDONG, April 17 - The Brunei Shell Joint Ventures (BSJV) companies comprising of Brunei Shell Petroleum Sdn. Bhd. (BSP), Brunei LNG Sdn. Bhd.

(Brunei LNG), Brunei Shell Marketing Sdn. Bhd. (BSM) along with Brunei Gas Carriers Sdn. Bhd. (BGC), Shell Deepwater Borneo (SDB) and Shell Exploration and

Production Brunei (SEPB) for the first time organised a Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration

Continue on page 18



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 touring the booths.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince in a group photo while touring the booths.

From page 17

that took place at Indera Samudera Grand Hall, The Empire Brunei.

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), who is also the Chairman of BSJV Board of Directors, graced the celebration.

Upon arrival, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince was greeted 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; Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; as well as Miss Agnete Johnsgaard-Lewis, Managing Director of BSP and Country Chair of Shell Companies in Brunei.

In her welcoming remarks, the Managing

Director of BSP noted that Aidilfitri embodies the spirit of togetherness, and the joint celebration commemorates the unity embodied by the Shell or Shell-affiliated group of companies in the Sultanate.

"I am proud that the presence of the companies here today represents an end-to-end energy partnership, from upstream to downstream as well as mobility and shipping, that have created value for Brunei for almost a century."

Traditional performances further enlivened

the ceremony.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince then toured the open house booths presented by several organisations showcasing their corporate social responsibility initiative.

The celebration themed 'Muhibah Raya' aimed to foster closer relations and unity, embodying the spirit of unity and goodwill, while also reflecting the scale of impact and contributions of the oil and gas industry to the nation's economy and ecosystem.



Performances during the celebration.

International friendly match



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, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the football match.



BERAKAS, April 20 – DPMM FC emerged as winners of the international friendly match against Guangxi Pingguo Haliao which was held at the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

Present to watch the match 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, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Also present were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince's children: Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman; and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raiihanul Bolkiah.

In the match, DPMM FC beat Guangxi Pingguo Haliao Guojing Football Team 3-1.

Players during the match.



Also present were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince's children: Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman; and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raiihanul Bolkiah.



Imagine Football Fiesta Dinner Reception



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Deputy Sultan and Chairman of DPMM FC; Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raiihanul Bolkiah in a group photo at the dinner reception with English Premier League (EPL) Legends.

Continue on page 20



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Deputy Sultan and Chairman of DPMM FC; Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman at the dinner.

From page 19

JERUDONG, April 29 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Chairman of DPMM FC and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman attended the Imagine Football Fiesta (IFF) Welcoming Dinner Reception.

The event took place at Indera Samudera Grand Hall, The Empire Brunei.

Also present were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince's children, Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Muneerah Madhul Bolkiah; Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda Muhammad Aiman; and Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Anak Faathimah Az-Zahraa' Raihaanul Bolkiah.

The IFF was organised by Imagine Sdn. Bhd. in conjunction with the 40th Brunei Darussalam National Day Celebration.

The ceremony ran concurrently with the presentation of certificates to the sponsors.

Expand cooperation in law



Yang Berhormat Speaker of the Legislative Council with His Excellency High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 8 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, the Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) received a courtesy call from His Excellency

Laurence Bay Siow Hon, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore where they discussed the opportunity to further expand cooperation especially in the field of law, which was one of the important field of cooperation to be explored.

On the legal system, the two sides discussed the similarities of the two councils in terms of procedures and practices based on the previous government system that is unique and still being practised.

The High Commissioner of the Republic of Singapore also congratulated the Speaker of the LegCo for the success of the First Meeting of the 20th LegCo that brought forth many relevant issues and of interest of the people.

Several other matters were also highlighted, such as currency exchange between Brunei and Singapore, which is special between both nations, and education and its importance in helping a country prosper.

Minister of Religious Affairs receives courtesy call

BERAKAS, April 19 – Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs received a courtesy call from Dato Jameel Sulaiman Bondagjy, Chairman of Syarikat Nozoly in Saudi Arabia recently at the Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) building.

Syarikat Nozoly has long established cooperative relationship with the Hajj Management Department of the MoRA as the appointed provider of hajj facilities and services in Masyair (Arafah and Mina).

Due to the change in the management system and hajj services in Saudi Arabia, Syarikat Nozoly joined Syarikat Rawaf Mina, a hajj service provider company appointed by MoRA to provide services for the Sultanate's pilgrims in Madinah, Makkah and Masyair for 1445 Hijrah/2024 Masihi.

Dato Jameel Sulaiman Bondagjy's visit to Brunei also aimed to



Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs with the Chairman of Syarikat Nozoly in Saudi Arabia during the courtesy call.

explain the changes implemented by Syarikat Rawaf Mina and Syarikat Nozoly for the upcoming hajj season, such as providing sofas and storage at Brunei pilgrim camps in Arafah and Mina.

Dato Jameel Sulaiman Bondagjy also shared the challenges and changes expected during the upcoming hajj season.

'My Health, My Right'



A healthcare personnel attending to a young patient.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 7 - World Health Day is celebrated every 7th of April with different themes. This year's theme is 'My Health, My Right'.

The theme focuses on health threats currently experienced by millions of people globally, including the increase in diseases and calamities causing death and disability such as air pollution, political conflicts, hunger and high level of mental or psychological stress.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), air pollution has caused a worrying death rate of around one every five seconds. The continued burning of fossil fuels and high carbon emissions have polluted the planet and gradually rob people of their right to live life without pollution.

Health is a basic right of each individual. Everyone has the right to get quality, good and easy access to health services – anytime and anywhere – without being burdened with financial constraints.

The Universal Health Coverage (UHC) principle thus promises financial protection and access to health services that can prevent the occurrence of poverty in the community, promote family and community well-being as well as protect against public health crises.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health stated this in a message to mark World Health Day.

The Minister of Health added that the WHO Council on the

Economics of Health For All states that at least 140 countries have agreed that health is a basic human right but it is not practised through enforcement to ensure that people have access to the services.

This is proven in fact that at least 4.5 billion people, or more than of the world population, did not have full access to basic and essential health services in 2021.

"Therefore, 'My Health, My Right' aims to fight for the rights to obtain healthcare and education as well as access to clean and safe water, clean air, nutritious food, quality housing, good working environment and discrimination free life.

"Brunei Darussalam is one of the countries in Western Pacific region with high universal health coverage (UHC) offering strong health system, based on comprehensive basic healthcare and channelled through effective community services, that covers every corner of the country, comparable with developed countries such as Japan and Singapore," said the Minister.

The Minister added that the government's investment in ensuring quality healthcare for all people in the country has proven effective through health status achievements according to indications outlined under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals such as child mortality rate, immunisation coverage for children, access to medicine and treatment as well as investment in prevention and recovery programmes.

"UHC provides a ray of hope towards equality as it has principles that ensure no one is denied access to healthcare," said the Minister.

"However, to achieve UHC is not about expanding coverage but transforming the healthcare system, which requires innovative approaches, strong policies and regulations and sustainable investment to meet evolving needs of the people of Brunei and also around the world," added the Minister.

The Minister concluded by calling for the renewal of commitment to justice and equality in health and collaboration across sectors as well as boundaries to develop an inclusive health system without discrimination.

The healthcare that we provided to the people and the population is not only a moral duty, it is a strategic investment for the future. By providing access to healthcare, we are able to highlight human potential, stimulate economic growth and build a robust and inclusive society and inclusive," emphasised the Minister.

Awareness, Acceptance and Appreciation: Moving from Surviving to Thriving

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 2 - In Brunei Darussalam, the rate of autism have shown a significant increase. Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health in a message in conjunction with World Autism Awareness Day 2024 highlighted that in 2011, only 36 children were diagnosed with autism, now 230 children have been diagnosed in 2024.

Overall, the number of children diagnosed with autism in the country is 2,199. This means that there are nearly 2,200 families who require support from all levels of society and almost all these autistic children will require support in terms of their education in both school and pre-school.

According to the Minister of Health, the development of autistic

children is something that is given special attention in this country. Child Development Centre (CDC) not only provides regular health monitoring services, but also provides various services to support the early development of autistic children. CDC also provide Education Programme on autism for parents with autistic child.

The Minister further highlighted that Brunei Darussalam needs to be ready to support and care for individuals with autism because it is a lifelong condition.

"Therefore, solid support from all levels of society including schools, educational institutions, workplaces, colleagues,

Continue on page 22

From page 21

employers and other stakeholders including non-governmental organisations (NGOs), community leaders and others is vital to raise awareness on autism and ensure that all differently-abled individuals are given equal opportunities to improve the quality of life from all aspects throughout their lives," said the Minister.

Earlier, the Minister in his message said that World Autism Awareness Day is celebrated every 2nd of April with the aim to raise awareness and commitment towards efforts to improve the quality of life for individuals with autism.

The United Nations has chosen 'Awareness, Acceptance and Appreciation: Moving from Surviving to Thriving' as this year's theme for World Autism Awareness Day 2024.

The celebration also plays a role in celebrating the achievements of every autistic individual as well as giving hope that we will all be more attentive to the needs, uniqueness, privileges and challenges experienced by autistic individuals so that Brunei Darussalam will become a more inclusive and compassionate nation.

Launching of AI Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Services

JERUDONG, April 24 - Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) took a leap forward by introducing the first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Services.

With the advancement of technology, medical screening tools have vastly evolved throughout the years, where enabling easy to use and non-invasive methods to diagnose diseases, and AI Diabetic Retinopathy is no exception.

The launching of the AI Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Services was officiated by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health as Executive Director of JPMC, which took place at the JPMC Ophthalmology Clinic.

The ceremony included a demonstration



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health at the event.

of the AI Diabetic Retinopathy Screening.

According to the Minister of Health, one in three people with diabetes is diagnosed with diabetic retinopathy, making it one of

the most common diabetes complications. With the innovation of AI technology, it will transform healthcare standards by improving quality of life through preventive care.

Committed in ensuring equitable vaccine access

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 24 – This year, Brunei Darussalam alongside other member countries of the World Health Organization (WHO), celebrate World Immunisation Week which is celebrated annually from April 24 to 30.

This year's celebration carries the theme 'Humanly Possible', serving as a reminder of the progress humanity has achieved in maintaining global health through

vaccines to prevent diseases.

This matter 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 Immunisation Week 2024.

Through the continuous commitment of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, the National Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) of Brunei Darussalam has successfully contributed to the status of Brunei Darussalam as one of the countries declared by WHO as Malaria free in 1987; Polio free in 2000, Measles free in 2015 and Rubella free in 2018.

Brunei Darussalam is fortunate as all the country's citizens and residents receive vaccination services from the Government of His Majesty through the Ministry of Health (MoH).

The Minister of Health shared that Brunei Darussalam's National Children

Immunisation Programme has achieved and maintained child immunisation coverage rates exceeding 95 per cent annually.

The achievement proves that the National EPI and vaccination initiatives in the country are effective and vital in providing early protection or prevention not only to an individual but to the surrounding such as family members and the community.

However, despite the success of the EPI at the global level, challenges still persist in access and intake of vaccines that can threaten the health and well-being of millions of people, especially in communities with limited access to medical services.

Thus, in celebrating World Immunisation Week, MoH will continue to commit and strive to further strengthen immunisation services in the country for all its residents, of all ages, and to ensure that the impact of vaccines continues to bring us closer to a world free from the threat of disease which can be prevented.



A child receiving immunisation.

Roadmap, economic diversification strategy



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy receiving a copy of the report from His Excellency British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 16 – The Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE) as Co-Chair of the Brunei Green Economy Framework (BGEF) in collaboration with the British High Commission, organised the Launching Ceremony of the Brunei Green Economy Report which took place at the Dewan Theatre, MoFE.

Present as the Guest of Honour were 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; and His Excellency John Virgoe, British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

The launching of the Brunei Green Economy Report is one of the deliverables under the United Kingdom-Brunei Strategic Dialogue: Brunei Green Economy Framework that sought to formulate a sustainability roadmap

to guide strategies in diversifying the Sultanate's economies.

It was also one of the country's initiatives for achieving its commitment of net-zero emission by 2050.

The Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy emphasised the importance of empowerment in moving towards a green economy, where the report promotes collaboration to identify opportunities for targeted investments, policy improvements, business matching and international partnerships as the nation aims to build a resilient and sustainable economy that balances environmental stewardship with economic prosperity.

The British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam also delivered a speech emphasising the importance of international cooperation in dealing with global challenges such as climate change and economic sustainability.

A discussion panel was also held between experts from Brunei Darussalam and the United Kingdom on ideas, insights and best practices in conducting a green transition while ensuring economic prosperity.

Embracing inclusivity in education, science, and culture

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 23 – In an era marked by rapid technological advancement and globalisation, it is imperative to ensure that no one is left behind. We must strive to create inclusive education systems that cater to the diverse needs of all learners, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Thus, South East Asian Minister of Education Organization (SEAMEO)



Yang Berhormat Minister of Education delivering a speech.

Vocational and Technical Education and Training (VOCTECH) as hubs of excellence in education, science, and culture, they serve as catalyst for innovation and progress in our region.

The matter has been emphasised by Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Mohd. Salleh, Minister of Education at the Opening Ceremony of the 7th SEAMEO Centres Policy Research Network (CPRN) Summit 2024.

Through research and advocacy efforts of the centre, they contribute valuable insights and recommendations to inform evidence-based policymaking in education.

The Minister of Education added, "the SEAMEO CPRN Summit 2024 provides a platform for collaboration and knowledge-sharing among SEAMEO Centres and key stakeholders. By coming together to exchange ideas and best practices that can strengthen collective efforts to promote inclusivity."

The Minister also highlighted Brunei Darussalam's commitment in promoting inclusivity in education, science, and

culture.

Brunei Darussalam is also actively participating in efforts to build a future-ready South East Asia. As diverse as is South East Asia with rich cultural heritage and values, mutual respect and understanding amongst nations has been integral to regional integration and cooperation.

Further regional collaboration through SEAMEO has strong potentials to ensure regional development, and addressing inclusivity regardless of socio-economic background, have equal opportunities to access quality education, engage in scientific research, and participate in cultural activities.

"However," the Minister explained, "we have to acknowledge that there is limited access to reliable data and research, capacity constraints in research and policy analysis, and competing priorities and interests among stakeholders."

"Apart from that, cultural and contextual differences among member countries may

Continue on page 24

From page 23

require tailored approaches and strategies to address specific challenges effectively.

"The summit can provide the platform for professional discourse and strategic networking to move forward and progress policies and initiatives collectively."

SEAMEO VOCTECH organised the 7th SEAMEO CPRN Summit 2024 for three days at Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah.

The SEAMEO CRPN Summit 2024 gathers policymakers, researchers, educators, and stakeholders from various countries: Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Republic of the Philippines, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the Kingdom of Bhutan, Japan, Hong Kong and Finland, to discuss topics in policy research revolving around the theme, 'Embracing Inclusivity in Education, Science and Culture'.

The Minister as the Vice President of SEAMEO Council, inaugurated the summit.

Datuk Dr. Habibah binti Abdul Rahim, Secretariat Director of SEAMEO; Ambassadors and high commissioners of SEAMEO member countries and

associate member countries of Brunei Darussalam; permanent and deputy permanent secretaries; directors and deputy directors of SEAMEO VOCTECH; and representatives from ministries, institutions and partner organisations were also present.



Attendees at the Opening Ceremony of the 7th SEAMEO Centres Policy Research Network (CPRN) Summit 2024.

State Mufti receives goodwill visit



Yang Berhormat State Mufti during the courtesy call.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 24 – Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti received a goodwill visit from Imam Support Chaplain (Flight Lieutenant) Abdul Kader, Chaplains Centre Royal Australian Air Force Williams Australia, at Darulifta, the State Mufti's Office.

During the visit, the Australian delegation and the State Mufti exchanged views on the development of Islam in the two countries, and discussed relations between both nations, particularly in the field of education.

Imam Abdul Kader is in the Sultanate as part of a five-day working visit until tomorrow, which includes attending the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) Dawn Service.

ASEAN: Enhancing connectivity and resilience

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, April 6 – Yang Mulia Pengiran Datin Seri Paduka Hajah Zety Sufina binti Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Sani, Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy (Fiscal) attended the 11th ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM) and Related Meetings held in Luang Prabang, from April 2 to 5.

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

The ministerial meetings began with dialogues between ASEAN finance ministers and representatives, as well as ASEAN central bank governors, the ASEAN Business Advisory Council, European Union-ASEAN Business



Yang Mulia Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy (Fiscal) and Brunei Darussalam Central Bank Managing Director with ASEAN Finance Ministers and central bank governors in a group photo.

Council and United States-ASEAN Business Council to discuss opportunities for public and private sector collaboration in sustaining ASEAN's long-term growth and sustainable development in areas such as green, blended and transition

finance, digital economy, FinTech and illicit trade.

During the plenary session, ASEAN

Continue on page 25

From page 24

finance ministers and representatives endorsed the priorities of Laos 2024 ASEAN Chairmanship, themed 'ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience'.

The Deputy Minister of Finance and Economy (Fiscal) at the meeting emphasised ASEAN needs to continue nurturing a resilient and dynamic financial ecosystem that facilitates seamless cross-border payments, attracts private

investments and encourages innovative financing solutions. In this case, advancing digital integration efforts will be fundamental in driving forward financial and economic growth and inclusion for the ASEAN Region.

Strengthen regional cooperation, create ASEAN agricultural investment



Legislative Council members in a group photo at the workshop on 'Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD), on the Implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sector'.

VIENTIANE, LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, April 26 - Yang Berhormat Awang Lau How Teck and Yang Berhormat Awang Zainol bin Haji Mohamed, Legislative Council (LegCo) members participated in the workshop on 'Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD), on the Implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines on Promoting Responsible Investment in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Sector' in Vientiane, Laos on April 24 and 25.

The workshop aimed to strengthen inter-parliamentary regional

cooperation in creating responsible agricultural investment in the ASEAN region.

The workshop is part of a joint effort between AIPA-FAO-IISD by targeting members of parliament to strengthen their involvement in the process of forming an action plan for the implementation of ASEAN RAI at the parliamentary level.

The workshop's outcome will be discussed for approval at the AIPA General Assembly to be held at the end of this year.

Türkiye Embassy hosts blood donation drive

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 16 - The Embassy of Türkiye in Brunei Darussalam hosted a blood donation drive among its staff.

According to His Excellency Professor Dr. Hamit Ersoy, Ambassador of Türkiye to Brunei Darussalam, the blood donation was held as a response to calls for blood donations from the Blood Donation Centre at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha (RIPAS) Hospital.

The Ambassador of Türkiye to Brunei Darussalam added that the embassy holds blood donation drives annually to exercise their social responsibility and give back to the community in addition to highlighting and raising awareness about health.

A staff of the embassy donating blood.



US Embassy celebrates Hari Raya Aidilfitri with YASKA



US Embassy staff and children from the Children's Cancer Foundation (YASKA) participating in an activity during the Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration and 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the US and Brunei Darussalam.

BERAKAS, April 19 – The Embassy of the United States of America (US) in Brunei Darussalam and the Children's Cancer Foundation (YASKA) held a Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration and 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the US and Brunei Darussalam.

Twenty paediatric cancer survivors and 20 embassy staff joined the event which was held at the Peak Club.

In attendance was Her Excellency Caryn

Continue on page 26

From page 25

McClelland, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Brunei Darussalam.

This year marks 40 years since the US established diplomatic relations with Brunei Darussalam. Since then, both countries have enjoyed a long lasting and prosperous friendship through the Treaty of Peace, Friendship, Commerce and Navigation.



US Embassy staff and children from the Children's Cancer Foundation (YASKA) during the Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration and 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the US and Brunei Darussalam.

UNISSA International Day

GADONG, April 22 – To celebrate the diverse cultures and backgrounds, as well as foster ties between international and local students of the university, Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) held a UNISSA International Day on Saturday, April 20 with a theme 'Sehati Sejiwa Al-Wafidun'.

Present as a Guest of Honour was Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA.



Rector of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) during the International Day.

International students also attended a sharing session held by speakers Mardhiah binti Rozalan from Singapore, Mohamed Kouda from Togo and Faisol from Thailand.

The event saw cultural exhibits by students from Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Egypt, China, Japan, Pakistan, Palestine, Nepal, Morocco, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, and Gambia, showcasing their cultural attire, foods and traditional games.



UBD, Go Rush Express establish strategic partnership

TUNGKU LINK, April 23 – Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and Go Rush Express signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) held at UBD, marking the beginning of a significant partnership aimed at the internationalisation of higher education.

Signing on behalf of UBD was Dr. Hazri bin Haji Kifle, Vice Chancellor of UBD, while Go Rush Express was represented by Danny Chua, its Managing Director.

Apart from establishing a foundation for cooperation in research, education, and training programmes, the collaboration is also a strategic step towards enhancing the role of logistics in Brunei's economy, in line with Wawasan Brunei 2035.



Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam and Managing Director of Go Rush Express sign copies of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Commemorating ANZAC Day



MUARA, April 25 - The Australian High Commission in Brunei Darussalam organised a dawn service to mark the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) Day at the Brunei-Australia Memorial at Muara Beach.

Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF); Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Mohammad Irwan bin Haji

Continue on page 27

Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) in a group photo with His Excellency Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

From page 26

Hambali, Commissioner of Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF); service chiefs, military officials as well as Australia and New Zealand nationals in Brunei Darussalam were also present at the event.

His Excellency Luke Arnold, Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam in his speech, highlighted the psychological burdens faced by many armed forces personnel, about how the understanding of mental health since the first world war has driven between Brunei and Australia to work together.

The ceremony saw the laying of wreaths by the Australian High Commissioner, the Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), as well as members of the diplomatic corps.



Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) laying a wreath.

UNISSA receives visit from OT FIN Satu



Rector of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) with the delegation from PT FIN Centerindo Satu (FIN SATU) of the Republic of Indonesia.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 30 – Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) recently received a visit from the PT Fin Centerindo Satu (FIN SATU) of the Republic of Indonesia and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

for cooperation and collaboration towards human capital development in Islamic finance at its campus in Gadong.

Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA signed the MoU on behalf

of the university, while FIN SATU was represented by its commissioner Harianto Solichin.

During the visit, among the matters discussed were the setting up of industry training at the Syariah Tower (Menara Syariah) in Indonesia, designed as a national and international Syariah-based economic and educational ecosystem centre; in providing exposure to UNISSA alumni through internship programmes; and sharing expertise through training and academic programmes according to the agreed-upon specialised fields.

FIN SATU is also set to organise lectures featuring experts from UNISSA and Faculty of Islamic Economics and Finance (FEKIm) students as well as to set up a collaboration network between the two sides in the field of Islamic finance.

Visit from CEAIE, CATC



The delegation from the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) and the China-ASEAN TVET Cooperation (CATC) in a group photo.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 2 – A delegation comprising 28 people from the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) and the China-ASEAN TVET Cooperation (CATC) visited Politeknik Brunei (PB).

The visit is part of the CATC initiative. The delegation was led by An Yan, Deputy Secretary-General of CEAIE.

Welcoming the arrival of the delegation was Lim Kian Boon, Acting Director of PB.

The visit saw the discussion of exchange information and best practices between the two institutions, as well as proposals for joint venture activities.

Continue on page 28

From page 27

The delegation visited facilities at the PB main campus, and attended an Ifar Mahabbah Programme and mosque tour at Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.

Delegation during their visit.



Exports Volume increases in Q4 2023



The exports unit value index recorded a decrease of 16 per cent in Q4 2023 compared to the previous year, resulting a decline in exports value from \$4,537.1 million to \$4,457.4 million.

The decrease in exports unit value index was mainly driven by manufactured goods, mineral fuels and crude materials (inedible).

The imports unit value index recorded a decrease of 5.5 per cent compared to the previous year, resulting in a fall in imports value from \$3,237.2 million to \$2,972.7 million dollars.

This was contributed by a decreases in mineral fuels, chemicals and machinery and transport equipment.

The imports volume index in Q4 2023 rose by 4.1 per cent due to an increase of machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods and chemicals.

For 2023, total exports value decreased due to a fall in both export unit value index (22.1 per cent) and exports volume index (2.8 per cent).

The decrease in exports volume was contributed by food, manufactured goods, and mineral fuels.

Meanwhile, the decrease in total imports value was due to a decrease in unit value index (8.6 per cent) while imports volume index rose (0.1 per cent).

International Merchandise Trade Index (IMTI) measures the changes of unit value and volume of import and export commodities in Brunei Darussalam within a specific period of time.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 2 – Exports volume index in the fourth quarter (Q4) 2023 rose by 11.3 per cent mainly due to mineral fuels (12.2 per cent) and chemicals (0.3 per cent).

CPI March 2024 deceases 0.5 per cent compared to March 2023

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, April 23 – The Consumer Price Index (CPI), in March registered a decreases of 0.5 per cent compared to March 2023, mainly driven by 1 per cent decrease in the non-food index. Meanwhile, the food and non-alcoholic recorded an increase of 1.5 per cent.

The decrease in the non-food index was mainly due to a fall in the prices of clothing and footwear; and communication particularly internet services.

Meanwhile, an increase in the food and non-alcoholic beverages index was driven by the rise in the prices of non-alcoholic

beverages particularly ready-to-consume drinks; and milk, dairy products and eggs.

Brunei Darussalam recorded an increase of 0.1 per cent for CPI, in March compared to February. It was driven by the food and non-alcoholic beverages index; and the non-food index. Food and non-alcoholic beverages index was contributed by prices of fish and seafood (0.7 per cent); and meat (0.4 per cent).

Meanwhile, the non-food index was due to costs of recreation and culture (1.4 per cent), particularly holiday and *umrah* packages; and clothing and footwear (1.2 per cent).