



Youths as cornerstone during challenges, 11 receive State Decorations

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the Audience and Investiture Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 78th Birthday Celebration, held at Balai Singgahsana Indera Buana, Istana Nurul Iman.

Accompanying His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were Their Majesties' children, siblings and other members of the royal family: 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 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 'Abdul Wakeel; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; 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 Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her



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) at the Audience and Investiture Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 78th Birthday Celebration.

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.

The ceremony commenced with a *titah* (royal speech) emphasising that

the country's priority is still focused on realising the objectives of the Brunei Vision 2035 by boosting economic growth and concomitantly, preserving the well-being of the people.

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Their Majesties attend Malaysian Coronation Ceremony

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, July 20 – 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 attended the Coronation Ceremony

of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia at the Balairung Seri, Istana Negara, Kuala Lumpur.

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

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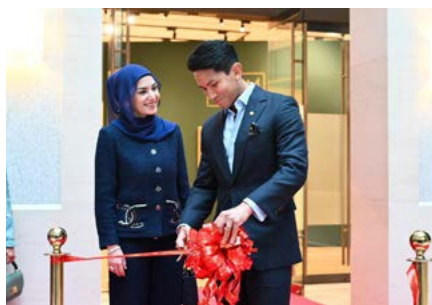
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Their Majesties receive audiences

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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience the special guests of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 78th Birthday Celebration at Istana Nurul Iman on July 15. They were:



His Excellency Tun Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi bin Tuanku Jaafar, Governor of Sarawak and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Fauziah binti Mohammad Sanusi.



His Excellency Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madamme Chang Hwee Nee.



Yang Terhormat TNI General (Purn.) Dato Paduka Seri Muhamad Andika Perkasa from the Republic of Indonesia and spouse, Datin Diah Erwiany Perkasa.

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 July 9:



Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin, Minister of Defence of Malaysia (above, left); His Excellency John Virgoe, outgoing British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam (above, right); His Excellency Kim Soung-eun, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam (right).



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 Istana Nurul Iman:



Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Datuk Seri Panglima (Dr.) Hajah Norlidah binti Tan Sri Datuk R.M. Jasni, spouse of the Governor of Sabah on July 15.



Mrs. Tuti Suwidjingsih, spouse of the outgoing British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam; and Yang Mulia Madamme Kwon Soo Hyun, spouse of the outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam on July 9.

Their Royal Highnesses receive 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, and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman received in audience His Excellency Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madamme Chang Hwee Nee at Qashr Al-Meezan on July 16.



Crown Prince receives audiences

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office received in audience at Qashr Al-Meezan on July 10:



His Excellency John Virgoe, outgoing British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.



His Excellency Natsuo Yamaguchi, Member of the House of Councillors in the National Diet of Japan and Chief Representative of the Komeito Party of Japan.



His Excellency Kim Soung-eun, outgoing Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam.

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:

- Her Excellency The Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Dominion of Canada; The Right Honourable Justin P.J. Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; the government and people of Canada on the occasion of Canada Day on July 1;
- Her Excellency The Honourable Samantha Joy Mostyn AO following her recent appointment as the 28th Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia on July 1;
- His Excellency Joseph R. Biden Jr., President of the United States on the occasion of its Independence Day

on July 4;

- The Right Honourable Sir Keir Starmer MP following his appointment as the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on July 5;
- His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, the government and people of France on the occasion of Bastille Day on July 14;
- His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, King of the Kingdom of Thailand on the occasion of His Majesty's 72nd Birthday Anniversary on July 28; and
- His Excellency Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian following his appointment as the new President of the Islamic Republic of Iran on July 30.

Youths as cornerstone during challenges, 11 receive State Decorations (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 gracing the Audience and Investiture Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 78th Birthday Celebration (above and below).

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His Majesty lauded the maturity of the country's citizens and residents after facing situations and uncertain conditions.

The Monarch also highlighted the youth as a cornerstone in facing challenges, bearing responsibilities in shaping the nation's future, and they should continue to be given opportunities as drivers of change. This is in line with efforts to strengthen human capital development through innovative education and training systems to solidify the marketability and skills of locals, including youths, in accordance with the needs of the industry, economy and professional bodies.

The Monarch added that the government, through the Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) – in collaboration with Far Eastern University, the Republic of the Philippines – has established the JPMC College of Health Sciences, the first private nursing college in the country. In addition to providing opportunities for skill improvement, the institution is set to address the needs of the private and public sectors and to produce quality nurses. It also aims to compete at the international level in the future.



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The Audience and Investiture Ceremony taking place.



Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were the Monarch's children, siblings and other members of the royal family (above and below).

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His Majesty further noted Brunei Darussalam's positive economic growth in 2023, with the non-oil and gas sector's gross domestic product (GDP) recording a 4.5 per cent increase, and a 59.8 per cent increase in overall domestic exports contributed by the sector.

The prospects of the country's economic growth is even more promising, where the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office projected the country's GDP growth for 2024 to be at 2.7 per cent. Meanwhile, the Asian Development Bank projects a 3.7 per cent growth; and the International Monetary Fund projects a 2.7 per cent growth, based on the downstream and food sectors' continuous growth. His Majesty was also pleased with the 6.8 per cent year-on-year growth in the nation's GDP for the first quarter of the year.

"Efforts to create more investment opportunities, jobs and the transfer of expertise and technology to the local workforce will continue to be upgraded," said the Monarch. "This is linked with the huge potential in the development of the second phase of the Hengyi Industries' integrated petrochemical and refining complex in Pulau Muara Besar; the expansion of the Muara Port; as well as the Integrated Marine Maintenance and Decommissioning Yard project."

"Priority also continues to be given to the development of local entrepreneurs. Various programmes and initiatives have been introduced to further strengthen the capabilities of local micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including revising the MSME policy towards a more conducive direction; expanding business networks and market access; as well as conducting trainings to upgrade entrepreneurial skills."

His Majesty then touched on the upcoming development of a digital payment hub spearheaded by National Digital Payments Network Sdn. Bhd., underscoring its great potential in generating growth in cashless transactions



through various multimedia platforms.

Moving on to international affairs, His Majesty highlighted this year marks the country's 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties with other nations, and its membership with regional and international organisations. The foreign policy implemented during these four decades has enabled the country to maintain strong relationships and cooperation with strategic partners.

The principles of cooperation and mutual understanding also emphasise the nation's commitments at regional and international levels – including the Paris Agreement, where Brunei aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent by 2030. The government is currently preparing a National Adaptation Plan to increase resiliency against the impacts of climate change. His Majesty stressed that environmental sustainability will continue to be the country's main agenda, as it will be inherited by the future generations.

His Majesty then conferred Brunei Darussalam State Decorations to 11 recipients.

The Monarch first presented The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei, First Class (P.S.N.B), which carries the title 'Dato Seri Setia', to Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr.) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, Premier of Sarawak.

This was followed by the presentation of The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, First Class

(S.P.M.B), which carries the titles 'Datin Seri Paduka' and 'Dato Seri Paduka', to Yang Berhormat Datin Paduka Dayang Hajah Nor Hashimah binti Haji Mohammed Taib, Attorney General; and Yang Mulia Awang Haji Mohamad Azmi bin Haji Mohd. Hanifah, Deputy Minister (Energy) at PMO respectively.

Meanwhile, The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei, Second Class (D.S.S.U.B), which carries the title 'Dato Seri Setia', went to Dr. Awang Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali. The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei, Third Class (S.N.B) was bestowed upon Dr. Dayang Hajah Anie Haryani binti Haji Abdul Rahman, Chief Executive Officer of Brunei Darussalam Food Authority.

Six recipients were conferred The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, Third Class (S.M.B): Awang Aliuddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Core Education) at the Ministry of Education; Major (Rtd) Awang Haji Mohammad bin Dollah, Acting Director of the National Service Programme; Awang Musa bin Haji Sulaiman, Senior Special Duties Officer at His Majesty's Office; Awang Haji Mohammad Din bin Haji Ahmad, Staff Officer at His Majesty's Office; Dayang Hajah Noorrafidah binti Haji Sulaiman, Deputy Managing Director at Brunei Darussalam Central Bank; and Dayang Hajah Rostina binti Haji Kepli, Special Grade Nursing Officer at the Ministry of Health.

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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 Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei, First Class (P.S.N.B), which carries the title 'Dato Seri Setia', to Yang Amat Berhormat Premier of Sarawak.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferring The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, First Class (S.P.M.B), which carries the titles 'Datin Seri Paduka' to the Attorney General.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferring The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, First Class (S.P.M.B), which carries the title 'Dato Seri Paduka', to the Deputy Minister (Energy) at the Prime Minister's Office.



His Majesty conferring The Most Eminent Order of Islam Brunei, Second Class (D.S.S.U.B), which carries the title 'Dato Seri Setia', to the Rector of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali.



His Majesty conferring The Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei, Third Class (S.N.B) to the Chief Executive Officer of Brunei Darussalam Food Authority.



His Majesty conferring The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, Third Class (S.M.B) to the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Core Education) at the Ministry of Education.



His Majesty conferring The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, Third Class (S.M.B) to the Acting Director of the National Service Programme.



His Majesty conferring The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, Third Class (S.M.B) to the Senior Special Duties Officer at His Majesty's Office.



His Majesty conferring The Most Honourable Order of Seri Paduka Mahkota Brunei, Third Class (S.M.B) to Staff Officer at His Majesty's Office (left); Deputy Managing Director at Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (right); and Special Grade Nursing Officer at the Ministry of Health (below).

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

Among the special guests who were present were His Excellency Tun Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi bin Tuanku Jaafar, Governor of Sarawak and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Fauziah binti Mohammad Sanusi; Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Datuk Seri Panglima (Dr.) Hajah Norlidah binti Tan Sri Datuk R.M. Jasni, spouse of the Governor of Sabah; His Excellency Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madamme Chang Hwee Nee; Yang Amat Berhormat Premier of Sarawak and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Puan Sri Datuk Amar Hajjah Juma'ani binti Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang; Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hasan, Deputy Premier of Sarawak, Second Minister for Natural Resources and Urban Development and Minister for International Trade, Industry and Investment of Sarawak and spouse, Yang Berbahagia Datin Dato Hajah Dayang Morlich binti Datuk Haji Awang Daud.



To bless the ceremony, a *doa selamat* was recited by Yang Berhormat State Mufti.

Celebrations commence with Grand Parade, Doa Kesyukuran Ceremonies

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 15 – The 78th Birthday Celebrations 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 commenced with the Grand Parade Ceremony held at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by an estimated 6,000 students waving Brunei Darussalam flags, alongside the beating of *hadrah* involving 500 students.

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 the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness 920 Major (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

Upon arrival, His Majesty was honoured with the Royal Salute, accompanied by the National Anthem, followed by a 21-gun salute.

His Majesty then consented to inspect the Guard of Honour, mounted by 1,247 personnel from the Royal Brunei Land Force, Royal Brunei Navy, Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF), Royal Brunei Police Force, as well as uniformed government departments and

associations.

His Majesty also witnessed the slow and fast march-past drills, commanded by 782 Lieutenant Colonel Pengiran Baharuddin bin Pengiran Haji Ali.

Three cheers of '*Daulat Kebawah Duli Tuan Patik*' resounded in the air, followed by a Royal Salute and a fly-past comprising seven Blackhawk RBAirF aircraft.

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Students waving miniature flag awaiting for the arrival of His Majesty at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.



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; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness 920 Major (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bolkih; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkih; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkih.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkih Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Grand Parade Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 78th Birthday Celebration.



Among the guests who attended the ceremony.



The Grand Parade Ceremony taking place.



His Majesty and other members of the royal family at the Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty's 78th Birthday Celebration.

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Previously, on July 14, the Monarch attended the Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony in conjunction with His Majesty's 78th Birthday Celebration. Accompanying His Majesty were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul

Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

A mass Maghrib Prayer was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, who also led the *Doa Kesyukuran*.

Royal Banquet for His Majesty's Birthday



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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam attending the Royal Banquet in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 78th Birthday Celebration at Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 16 – 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 and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam attended a Royal Banquet in conjunction with His Majesty

the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 78th Birthday Celebration at Istana Nurul Iman.

Also in attendance were His Majesty's children, siblings and other members of the royal family: 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 Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Bini Hajah Faizah binti Dato Haji Nasir; 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 Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri at the Royal Banquet.

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The special guests included His Excellency Tun Pehin Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi bin Tuanku Jaafar, Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Fauziah binti Mohammad Sanusi; Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Datuk Seri Panglima (Dr.) Hajah Norlidah binti Tan Sri Datuk R.M. Jasni, spouse of Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Sabah; His Excellency Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madamme Chang Hwee Nee; Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr.) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, Premier of Sarawak and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Puan Sri Datuk Amar Hajjah Juma'ani binti Tun Tuanku Haji Bujang; His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Saud bin Abdul Mohsen Al-Saud, as representative of His Royal Highness Prince Saud bin Abdul Mohsen Al-Saud; Yang Berhormat Dato Paduka Seri Laila Jasa Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah bin Ali Hasan, Deputy Premier of Sarawak, Second Minister for Natural Resources and Urban Development and Minister for International



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri at the Royal Banquet. Also present were His Majesty's special guests: His Excellency Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak and spouse.

Trade, Industry and Investment of Sarawak and spouse, Yang Berbahagia Datin Dato Hajah Dayang Morliah binti Datuk Haji Awang Daud; and Yang Terhormat TNI General (Purn.) Dato Paduka Seri Muhamad Andika Perkasa from the Republic of Indonesia and spouse, Datin Diah Erwiany Perkasa.

Other guests included state dignitaries, cabinet ministers, members of the legislative council, foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam and senior government officials.



Also in attendance were His Majesty's children, siblings and other members of the royal family (above and below).



The banquet commenced with the singing of the National Anthem, followed by the recitation of *doa selamat* by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.

The ceremony was enlivened by a *silat* performance by the Brunei Darussalam Pencak Silat Federation. The event also saw musical band performances involving the Royal Brunei Armed Forces; the Royal Brunei Police Force; the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports; Radio Television Brunei; the Royal Brunei Police Cadet Corps; as well as schools.



The banquet ended with a colourful fireworks display.

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Cabinet ministers and foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam; and Yang Berhormat State Mufti reciting the *doa selamat* at the banquet.



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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam and members of the royal family taking group photos with His Majesty's special guests (above and below).



His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri; and members of the royal family taking group photos with His Majesty's special guests.



Their Majesties with His Excellency Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Sarawak and spouse; and Yang Amat Berhormat Premier of Sarawak and spouse.

Their Majesties attend Malaysian Coronation Ceremony (continued)

From front page

Their Majesties were greeted upon arrival by Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Dato' Seri Dr. Wan Azizah Dr. Wan Ismail.

Their Majesties also received the Salute of Honour, accompanied by Brunei Darussalam's National Anthem.

Their Majesties then proceeded to Balairung Seri for the Coronation Ceremony, which was also attended by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain; Their Royal Highnesses the Raja-Raja and the Raja-Raja Permaisuri; Their Excellencies Yang Di-Pertua Negeri-Yang Di-Pertua Negeri; Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan-Toh Puan; and His Excellency Lee Hsien Loong, Senior Minister of the Republic of Singapore.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam attending the Coronation Ceremony of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia at the Balairung Seri, Istana Negara.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri interacting with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The ceremony commenced with the arrival of His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Her Majesty Raja Zarith Sofiah binti Almarhum Sultan Idris Shah, Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia. His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia also delivered a *titah* (royal speech) following the coronation ritual.

His Majesty also attended a four-eye meeting with Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister of Malaysia, which took place at the Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur. The two leaders discussed the 25th Annual Leaders' Consultation, which will be chaired by Brunei Darussalam next month, as well as bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest.

Later in the evening, Their Majesties and members of the Bruneian royal family attended a Royal Banquet held in conjunction with the Coronation Ceremony of His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia. The event took place at Dewan Persantapan, Istana Negara.

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Their Majesties and members of the royal family in a group photo with His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Her Majesty Raja Zarith Sofiah binti Almarhum Sultan Idris Shah, Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia.



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 attending the Royal Banquet held in conjunction with the Coronation Ceremony of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri with His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia during the banquet.

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Before proceeding to the Banquet Hall, Their Majesties joined a group photo session with His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia and Her Majesty Raja Permaisuri Agong of Malaysia; His Majesty King of the Kingdom of Bahrain; Their Royal Highnesses the Raja-Raja and the Raja-Raja Permaisuri; Their Excellencies Yang Di-Pertua Negeri-Yang Di-Pertua Negeri; Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan-Toh Puan; as well as Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister of Malaysia and spouse.



The event featured traditional Malaysian orchestra performances.

His Majesty during the four-eye meeting with Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister of Malaysia at the Grand Hyatt.

Get-Together and Junjung Ziarah Ceremonies held nationwide



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; 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 Get-Together and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony in Belait District.

BELAIT, July 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 concluded the series of Get-Together and Junjung Ziarah Ceremonies in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 78th Birthday Celebration at Padang Bandaran in Jalan Sultan, Belait District.

The event saw a special performance by 378 participants, comprising youth and students, emulating the theme '*Raja Berdaulat Lagi Terhormat*'. The event also featured 47 booths comprising elderlies, residents of *mukim*, associations, private agencies, the Royal Brunei Armed Forces, British Garrison and others – all of whom had the opportunity to take part in the *junjung ziarah* and take group photos with His Majesty and members of the royal family. The event concluded with a Luncheon at Dewan Persantapan Diraja.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family during the get-together and receiving a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from the people of Belait District (above and below).

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Performers during the get-together at Padang Bandaran in Jalan Sultan, Belait District.



His Majesty and members of the royal family in a group photo with the performers at the Get-Together and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony in Belait District.



His Majesty and members of the royal family during the Luncheon at Dewan Persantapan Diraja (above and below).



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A similar event also took place for the people of Brunei-Muara District at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin in Bandar Seri Begawan on July 29. The event saw special performance themed '*Raja Untuk Rakyat dan Rakyat Untuk Raja*', which involved some 200 performers. Afterwards, a Luncheon took place at Dewan Persantapan Lapau.

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His Majesty and members of the royal family witnessing the performances at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddin.



His Majesty and members of the royal family at the Get-Together and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony in Brunei-Muara District.



Snippets of the performances during the ceremony.



His Majesty and members of the royal family in a group photo with the participants of the performance at the Get-Together and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony in Brunei-Muara District.



His Majesty and members of the royal family during the Luncheon at Dewan Persantapan Lapau.

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The same theme was also featured in the special performance for the Get-Together and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony in Temburong District on July 25. The special performance comprising 421 participants was held at the field of the Community Hall Complex in Pekan Bangar. A Luncheon was held at the main hall of the complex following the ceremony.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family at the Get-Together and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony in Temburong District.



His Majesty and members of the royal family during the get-together in Temburong District.



Performers during the get-together in the Temburong District.



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



His Majesty and members of the royal family during the get-together in Temburong District.



His Majesty and other members of the royal family at the Get-Together and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony in Tutong District.

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The first Get-Together and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony for this year's celebration took place at the field of the Tutong Community Hall Complex, Tutong District on July 23. Some 340 participants took part in the event's special performance, themed '*Raja Berdaulat Kesayangan Rakyat*'. The ceremony was then followed by a Luncheon at the main hall of the complex.



Accompanying His Majesty in all the events were the Monarch'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 Bolkihah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkihah.



Among the performers at the ceremony.

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His Majesty during the get-together with the people and performers in Tutong District.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and members of the royal family joining the Luncheon at Tutong Community Hall Complex, Tutong District.



Ilal Hijrah: Nurturing the mind through religion, *dakwah*

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 6 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) touched on the theme for the Ilal Hijrah 1446 Celebration, '*Memelihara Akal* (Nurturing the Mind)', which stresses that the mind determines an ideal life. A healthy mind leads to a healthy life, and if the mind is harmed, life will also be affected.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivered the *titah* in conjunction with the Ilal Hijrah 1446 Celebration broadcast nationwide.

The Monarch noted that over 11,000 individuals, from children to adults, are receiving psychiatric and clinical psychology treatment at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital. Hence, there is a need to strengthen existing efforts to effectively address mental health issues.

His Majesty aspires for mental health programmes, in scientific and spiritual approaches, to be activated through

education – particularly religious education and continuous *dakwah* (Islamic preaching).

“This is part of the concept of *hijrah*, which encourages change or improvement from negativity to positivity. This is the core practice of *hijrah*, it should be carried out together as a way of life, to achieve the best changes in life,” underscored the Monarch.

Earlier in the *titah*, His Majesty expressed hope for the year 1446 Hijrah to bring about a new spirit in living a life of devotion.

Previously, His Majesty attended the Ilal Hijrah 1446 Celebration held at the Jame' 'Asr Hassanil Bolkiah, Kampung Kiarong.

Also present were His Majesty's sons: 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; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The event commenced with the Doa Akhir Tahun Hijrah, recited by Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs



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 Ilal Hijrah 1446.

as the Chairman of the Ilal Hijrah 1446 Celebration Executive Committee. This was followed by a 21-cannon shot.

The mass Maghrib and mass Sunat Hajat prayers were led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, who also led the recitation of *doa selamat*.

This year's celebration was co-organised by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Health.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attending the Ilal Hijrah 1446 Celebration. Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



MB Polo Team wins His Majesty's Polo Cup 2024

JERUDONG, July 13 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam graced finals of His Majesty's Polo Cup 2024 at the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.

Upon arrival, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was greeted by the Monarch's children: His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; along with Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Sanggamara Diraja Major General (Rtd) Pengiran Haji Ibnu Basit bin Pengiran Datu Penghulu Pengiran Haji Apong.

Also present were Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Anisha Rosnah binti Adam; Her Royal Highness Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

At the finals, the MB Polo Team, led by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen, emerged as champions after defeating the Brunei Polo Team, led by Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah, with the score of 8 to 7½.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting the winning prize to the MB Polo Team, led by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam presenting prizes to His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah (left); Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah (centre); and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Muda Bahar ibni Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Digadong Sahibul Mal Pengiran Muda Haji Jefri Bolkiah (right).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a group photo with the participants of the tournament.

His Majesty presented prizes to the two teams; as well as to the second runner-up, the Ahmibah Team, led by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; and the third runner-up, the Jerudong Park Team.

The Monarch also presented souvenirs to the judges of the finals.

The tournament was jointly organised by the Royal Brunei Polo Association and the Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club.



The finals of His Majesty's Polo Cup 2024 taking place.

Royal celebration with uniformed organisations

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 27 – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam graced the Royal Banquet for security and uniformed personnel as well as civilian uniform organisations in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 78th Birthday celebration at Istana Nurul Iman.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri were His Majesty's children, siblings and other members of the royal family: 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 Mohamed Bolkiah; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri 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.

At the banquet, His Majesty had a get-together with uniformed officials and personnel from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam at the Royal Banquet for security and uniformed personnel as well as civilian uniform organisations in conjunction with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's 78th Birthday Celebration.

(RBAF); Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF); Royal Customs and Excise Department; Prisons Department; Immigration and National Registration Department; Fire and Rescue Department; Department of Civil Aviation; Marine Department; Gurkha Reserve Unit; British Forces Brunei; Detention and Rehabilitation Unit, Internal Security Department; Veterans Association of RBAF; Retired Personnel of RBPF Association; and His Majesty the Sultan's Flight.



Their Majesties and other members of the royal family during the Royal Banquet.



His Majesty and members of the royal family having a get-together with uniformed officials and personnel, as well as members of volunteer organisations.



Cabinet Ministers and their spouses attending the banquet.



Yang Berhormat State Mufti reciting the *doa selamat*.

His Majesty also had a get-together with members of volunteer organisations, including the RBAF Military Cadets; RBPF Cadets; Cadets of the Fire and Rescue Department; Brunei Scout Association; Girl Guides Association of Brunei Darussalam; Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society; and the National Service Programme.

BICTA 2024 sees increase in participation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 3 – 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 as the Royal Patron of the Brunei ICT Awards (BICTA) graced the BICTA 2024 Ceremony held at the International Convention Centre.

The event saw a welcoming speech by Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications, who said that there was a 70 per cent rise in BICTA participation this year, with 158 entries and the highest ever recorded amount of entries from schools. With the increase in competition categories, the number of judges comprising representatives from the government, private sector, industry experts and academics also increased.

After hosting the Asia Pacific ICT Alliance (APICTA) Awards for the first time in 2012, Brunei Darussalam is once again given the honour of hosting APICTA 2024 at the end of the year. The Minister of Transport and Infocommunications stated that to date, the country has won four awards and 32 merit prizes.



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 gracing the Brunei ICT Awards (BICTA) 2024 Ceremony.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince presenting the BICTA 2024 Royal Patron Award to Datastream Digital Sdn. Bhd. (above, right); His Royal Highness being greeted upon arrival (left).



His Royal Highness presenting prizes to Sekolah Rendah Rimba III, the winner of the Primary School Category (left); and the Tertiary School Category merit award recipient from Universiti Teknologi Brunei (right).

According to the Global Innovation Index 2023 report issued by the World Intellectual Property Organization, Brunei has recorded improvements in areas such as institutions, infrastructure, human capital and research, as well as business sophistication. This was also highlighted by the 'Digital Innovation Profile for Brunei Darussalam', an evaluation conducted by the Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam (AITI), in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union in 2022.

Such initiatives signify the capacity and maturity of the local digital innovation ecosystem. Currently, there are proposals to strengthen the digital innovation community, networks and

platforms to encourage entrepreneurial culture and investment to increase technological readiness.

Highlighting BICTA's relevance in the nation's innovation ecosystem and building an innovation culture, the Minister added that the Council for Research and Advancement Technology and Science has adjusted its focus towards the latest developments and supporting technological trends. The Minister also mentioned the significant roles of the Brunei Innovation Lab and the Brunei Economic Development Board, through Darussalam Enterprise (DARE), in bolstering technological innovation and entrepreneurship.

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His Royal Highness in a group photo.

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“These platforms are available for BICTA participants to grow,” said the Minister, adding that the BICTA Steering Committee now also includes representatives from companies and agencies that support digital innovation ecosystem.

At the event, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince witnessed a video presentation showcasing BICTA’s achievements in the past 20 years; a presentation of the chief judge’s report by Pengiran Sarimah binti Pengiran Haji Abdul Latiff, Chair of InfoCom Federation Brunei (IFB) as Second Co-Chairperson of the BICTA 2024 Steering Committee; followed by another video presentation of a compilation of the participants’ activities and experience throughout 2024. His Royal Highness then presented prizes to the award recipients.

Datastream Digital Sdn. Bhd.’s product, ‘eZakat’, received the BICTA 2024 Royal Patron Award. The product also won a merit award in the Inclusion and Community Services Category; in addition to winning the Technology Category.

Meanwhile, Sekolah Rendah Rimba III won the Primary School Category for their product, ‘ASK ALAI’. The category’s merit award winners were Sekolah Persediaan Arab Bandar Seri Begawan, with their product, ‘ScamCareBN’; Seri Mulia Sarjana International School, with their product, ‘TerraBN Sentinel’; Sekolah Rendah Lambak Kanan Jalan 49, which won two awards for their products, ‘PIXEL PIONEER 49ERS’ and ‘CODE CRAFTER 49ERS’; and Sekolah Rendah Tumpuan Telisai, with their product, ‘Bantu Pelajar Kitani’.

Under the Secondary School Category, Sekolah Menengah Berakas emerged as the winner for their product, ‘Project Aquacool Evaporative Cooling Suit’. Chung Hwa Middle School, Bandar Seri Begawan won three merit awards for their products, ‘TrashMove’, ‘Parents Care’, and ‘InnerPal’. Other merit award winners were Anthony Abell College, with their product, ‘Intellect Trails Puzzle’; and Maktab Sains Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan, with their product, ‘Intention’.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications delivering a welcoming speech at the BICTA 2024 Ceremony.

Universiti Teknologi Brunei won the Tertiary School Category for their product, ‘BirthPro VR: Low Risk Birth VR Simulation’; in addition to a merit award owing to their other product, ‘Sustainable Smart Water Management System At Home Using IoT’. Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali also won a merit award for their product, ‘Intelligent Maqra’ah Online Al-Quran’.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince touring the BICTA 20 Years gallery and the BICTA 2024 winners’ exhibition.

SOUL CAT Entertainment won the Consumer and Business Services Category for their product, ‘VAGUE’; while Rumine Corporation received a merit award for their product, ‘Safety XR’.

DigiNations’ product titled ‘DigiThink’ won the Inclusion and Community Services Category, as well as a merit award for the Research and Development Category. Meanwhile, the winner of the latter category was Pararoutte Company, with their product, ‘Empowering Rural and Urban Resilience: Holistic FloodTech’.

The merit award for the Technology Category went to ‘AIQuatic’, a product by AIQuatic Enterprise.

As for the Smart Nation Awards, TechBru Solution (B) Sdn. Bhd. and the Education Technology Centre, Ministry of Education (MoE) were crowned as winners, with their products titled ‘Asset Track+’ and ‘SUMBER, Digital Resource Management System’ respectively.

Afterwards, His Royal Highness received a *pesambah* (souvenir) from the Minister; and toured the BICTA 20 Years gallery, as well as the BICTA 2024 winners’ exhibition. Prior to departure, His Royal Highness attended a Luncheon and joined a group photo session.

Apart from winning cash prizes and trophies, the winners in each category will represent Brunei at the APICTA Awards 2024.

BICTA is an annual ICT competition organised by the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications in collaboration with AITI and IFB, with the support of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, MoE and DARE. The ceremony’s trophies and plaques were sponsored by Imagine Sdn. Bhd.

Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony for His Royal Highness

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 1 – Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) hosted a Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony in commemorating the 41st Birthday Celebration of His Royal Highness Prince ‘Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu‘izzaddin Waddaulah. The event was held at the An-Naura Hall, YSHHB Complex.

His Royal Highness Prince ‘Abdul Malik, Chairman of the YSHHB Committee of Governors graced the ceremony.

The event commenced with a recitation of Surah Yaa Siin, followed by a prayer read by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Awang



His Royal Highness Prince ‘Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu‘izzaddin Waddaulah, Chairman of the Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Committee of Governors during the Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony in commemorating the 41st Birthday Celebration of His Royal Highness Prince ‘Abdul Malik.

Haji Mustapa bin Haji Awang Murat. The ceremony continued with a mass Asar Prayer.



His Royal Highness Prince ‘Abdul Malik cutting a birthday cake at the ceremony.

His Royal Highness also cut a birthday cake and received a *pesambah* (souvenir) from YSHHB.

In conjunction with the celebration, His Royal Highness delivered \$50,000 to two Non-Governmental Organisations. Out of the amount, \$25,000 was presented to Dayang Hajah Juhana binti Haji Mohd. Jaya, President of the Aftercare Support Association (AFSA) on behalf of AFSA; while another \$25,000 was given to Datin Hajah Masni binti Haji Mohd. Ali, President of Persatuan Basmi Dadah (BASMIDA) for the association’s Aftercare Drop-In Centre, which is hoped to help reintegrate former residents of the Al-Islah Centre to the society.

His Royal Highness was appointed as the Chairman of the Committee of Governors of YSHHB on March 1, 2013.



His Royal Highness presenting donations to the Aftercare Support Association and Persatuan Basmi Dadah.



Brunei opens first special needs school

BENGKURONG, July 4 – His Royal Highness Prince ‘Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu‘izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Anisha Rosnah binti Adam attended the opening of the Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam (Pusat Ehsan) *surau* and the Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam School.

Also in attendance were Her Royal Highness Princess ‘Azemah Ni‘matul Bolkiah as Chairperson of Pusat Ehsan, and other members of the royal family.

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His Royal Highness Prince ‘Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu‘izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Anisha Rosnah binti Adam gracing the event.



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The event saw a welcoming speech by Dato Paduka Dr. Awang Haji Affendy bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin, Member of the Board of Trustees and Medical Trustee of Pusat Ehsan as the Event Chair, who explained that the school has been operating since January after obtaining approval from the Ministry of Education (MoE).

The school is the first school in the country for special needs students, offering programmes that are in line with early years, primary school and a School Readiness Programme (a joint collaboration between school educational teachers and Pusat Ehsan therapists to prepare students before joining any formal school).

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen then delivered a *sabda* (royal speech), underscoring Pusat Ehsan's mission to improve the quality of life of children with special needs through comprehensive education, as well as vocational programmes and rehabilitation. Pusat Ehsan is proud to have assembled a dedicated and experienced teaching staff, including therapists who are Allied Health Professionals recognised by the Ministry of Health.

Emphasising Pusat Ehsan's commitment towards inclusivity, understanding and equal opportunities for all, His Royal Highness touched on a *titah* (royal speech) delivered by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the recent Teacher's Day Celebration, which highlighted the importance of inclusive education and recognised MoE's efforts in supporting the building of the special needs school.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the opening of the Pusat Ehsan Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam (Pusat Ehsan) *surau* and the Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam School.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen presenting a token of appreciation to HYang Mulia Datin Paduka Seri Dayang Hajah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz as the Patron of Pusat Ehsan.



His Royal Highness and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Anisha Rosnah touring the school (above and right).

Afterwards, His Royal Highness presented tokens of appreciation to Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah for organising charity polo events for Pusat Ehsan since 2016; as well as to His Royal Highness' mother, Yang Mulia Datin Paduka Seri Dayang Hajah Mariam binti Haji Abdul Aziz as the Patron of Pusat Ehsan for her leadership in the centre's development.

Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin; Dato Ting Jack Chai, Managing Director of Cityneon Displays and Construction Sdn. Bhd.; and Awang Low Ah Hai, Principal at LAH Consultants also received tokens of appreciation.

His Royal Highness also delivered souvenirs and certificates to the sponsors, and received donations amounting to \$10,000. The donations were presented by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs as Chairman of Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam; and His Excellency Xiao Jianguo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam.

His Royal Highness then observed a solar panel display sponsored by Berakas Power Company and the facilities at the School Readiness Programme, before officiating the opening and touring the Al-Ameerah Al-Hajjah Maryam School, followed by the new *surau*.

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Their Royal Highnesses during the opening of the *surau*. Also in attendance were Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah as Chairperson of Pusat Ehsan, and other members of the royal family.

Launching of Faith and Devotion Art Exhibition

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 18 – His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Anisha Rosnah binti Adam officiated the Launching of the Faith and Devotion Art Exhibition.

Upon arrival at the Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (BKISHHB), His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Anisha Rosnah witnessed a video presentation and launched the BKISHHB logo.

His Royal Highness and Yang Amat Mulia then proceeded to

launch and tour the exhibition, which features over 20 orientalist paintings by renowned 19th century artists. The exhibition explores depictions of the many parts of the Muslim world termed as 'the Orient' in the 19th century and shed light on Islamic culture and religion at a time when artists from Europe, America and the Ottoman Empire (later Türkiye) were inspired by the culture and religious practices of the region bordering the Mediterranean and further east.

The exhibition will be open to the public from July 20 to January 30 next year. More information can be found at the exhibition's official social media: '@faithdevotion'.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah launching the Faith and Devotion Art Exhibition (left); and presenting a souvenir to Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam as the Diamond Partner (right).



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Anisha Rosnah binti Adam witnessing a video presentation and launching the Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah logo.



His Royal Highness and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Anak Isteri Anisha Rosnah touring the exhibition.

Athletes urged to demonstrate competitiveness, best achievements

BERAKAS, July 20 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar ‘Ali Saifuddien Sa’adul Khairi Waddien, President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council called for all national athletes and coaches, as well as sports associations to set the goal of producing athletes capable of qualifying for the Olympics without relying on Universality Places.

The *sabda* (royal speech) was delivered at the National Flag Handover Ceremony for the Brunei Darussalam contingent

heading to the 33rd Olympic Games in Paris, French Republic. The event took place at the green room of the Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium.

“It is a challenge to come up with detailed plans to reach the goal. Without it, no goal can be achieved,” said His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah, urging to emulate and learn from regional or international sport associations that have produced successful athletes.

His Royal Highness reminded athletes, particularly those joining the Olympic Games, to avoid thinking that they are just there to participate, as it will compromise hopes for future progress and the efforts to qualify. His Royal Highness also hopes for national sports associations to join

regional and international tournaments that are recognised by their respective International Federations to ensure that their athletes will get points, allowing them to participate in the Olympic Games.

The event also saw welcoming remarks delivered by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Nazmi bin Haji Awang Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.

Following the *sabda*, His Royal Highness handed over the national flag to Hajah Umi Kalthum binti Haji Abdul Karim, Director of Youth and Sports as the Chief de Mission of the Brunei Darussalam Contingent to the 33rd Olympic Games.

This year, Brunei Darussalam will be competing in two games: athletics and swimming. Muhammad Noor Firdaus Ar-Rasyid bin Haji Mohd. Idris will be joining the Men’s 100-Metre Sprint. Meanwhile, Zeke Chan Zhi Yue and Hayley Wong Ann Yue are set to compete in the Men’s 100-Metre Backstroke event and Women’s 100-Metre Breaststroke event respectively.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar ‘Ali Saifuddien Sa’adul Khairi Waddien, President of Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) (left); and in a group photo at the National Flag Handover Ceremony for the Brunei Darussalam contingent heading to the 33rd Olympic Games in Paris, French Republic (below).



Her Royal Highness signs Book of Condolence



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar ‘Ali Saifuddien Sa’adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs signing the Book of Condolence on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan Haji Omar ‘Ali Saifuddien Sa’adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 25 – Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar ‘Ali Saifuddien Sa’adul Khairi Waddien, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, signed the Book of Condolence at the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Bandar Seri Begawan, following the recent passing of the late His Excellency Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam on July 19.

Upon arrival, Her Royal Highness was greeted by His Excellency Tran Anh Vu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Viet Nam to Brunei Darussalam.

Courtesy calls strengthens cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 11 – Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohamed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) received a courtesy call from His Excellency Natsuo Yamaguchi, Member of the House of Councillors in the National Diet of Japan and Chief Representative of the Komeito Party of Japan.

Accompanying His Excellency was Her Excellency Toshiko Takeya, Member of the House of Councillors in the National Diet of Japan and Chair of the Women’s Committee of the Komeito; His Excellency Yasuhiro Nakagawa, Member of the House of Councillors in the National Diet of Japan and Vice Director of the Local Assembly Bureau of the Komeito; and His Excellency Maeda Toru, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to Japan.

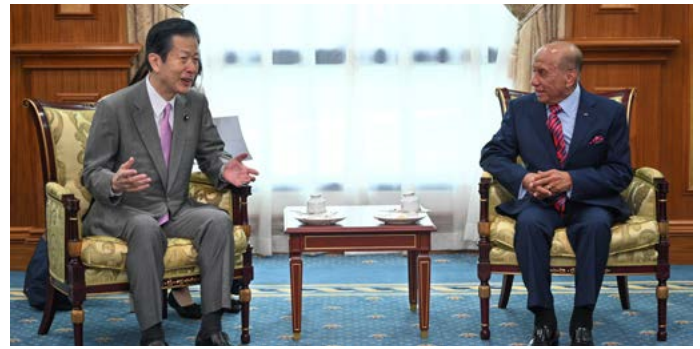
During the courtesy call, both sides discussed the system and function of each House, and hoped to further strengthen cooperation and relations between the two Houses through visits and capacity building. The visit ended with a tour of the LegCo Conference Hall.

Meanwhile, on July 3, the Speaker of LegCo received a farewell visit from His Excellency John Virgoe, outgoing British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, who will be concluding his tenure.

During the meeting, both parties expressed appreciation for the strong ties and friendship between Brunei Darussalam and the United Kingdom. They also exchanged views on current issues and matters of mutual interest, particularly in the legislative system, and discussed plans to further strengthen cooperation.

On July 2, the Speaker of LegCo received a courtesy call from Yang Berhormat Drs. Made Mangku Pastika, Vice Chairman of the House of Regional Representative of the Republic of Indonesia’s (DPDRI) Ethics Council and nine Members of Parliament (MPs) of Indonesia.

During the session, both parties discussed the progress and development of the two countries, and expressed appreciation



Yang Berhormat Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) during the courtesy call from His Excellency Member of the House of Councillors in the National Diet of Japan and Chief Representative of the Komeito Party of Japan.



Yang Berhormat Speaker of LegCo and His Excellency in a group photo.

for the long-standing ties between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Indonesia. The session also highlighted the code of ethics and conduct of the MPs, as well as the Standing Order – a guide in handling meetings, process in approving laws and the rights of the LegCo members.

The visit continued with a dialogue session between the delegates of Indonesia and LegCo members who were present. The dialogue touched on matters related to the code of ethics and conduct; the importance of the MPs in maintaining integrity in all affairs; as well as the economy and well-being of the people.



Yang Berhormat Speaker of LegCo during the farewell visit from His Excellency outgoing British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, who will be concluding his tenure.



Yang Berhormat Speaker of LegCo during the courtesy call from Yang Berhormat Vice Chairman of the House of Regional Representative of the Republic of Indonesia’s Ethics Council and nine Members of Parliament of Indonesia.



Yang Berhormat Speaker of the Legislative Council with Yang Berhormat Vice Chairman of the House of Regional Representative of the Republic of Indonesia’s Ethics Council and nine Members of Parliament of Indonesia in a group photo.

Ministry of Defence, Malaysia pays official visit



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence welcoming the arrival of Yang Berhormat Minister of Defence of Malaysia, who is in Brunei Darussalam from July 8 to 9.

BERAKAS, July 9 – The Ministry of Defence received an official visit from Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin, Minister of Defence of Malaysia, who is in Brunei Darussalam from July 8 to 9.

Yang Berhormat Minister of Defence of Malaysia paid a goodwill visit to Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence.

During the visit, both parties expressed satisfaction in the strong and continuously growing defence and military relations between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia. They also acknowledged the importance of continuing the existing cooperation, in addition to discussing regional and global peace and security.

Ministry of Defence receives introductory visit

BOLKIAH GARRISON, July 4 – The Ministry of Defence received an introductory visit from Yang Berbahagia General Tan Sri Dato' Seri Mohammad bin Ab. Rahman, Chief of the Defence Force of the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF), who is in Brunei Darussalam for an official visit from July 2 to 5.

Upon arrival at the Bolkiah Garrison, Chief of the Defence Force of MAF was greeted by Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF). He also received a General Salute and inspected the Guard of Honour mounted by personnel from the Royal Brunei Land Force.

The Chief of the Defence Force of MAF paid a courtesy visit to Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence; and a goodwill visit to the Commander of RBAF.



Yang Berbahagia Chief of the Defence Force of the Malaysian Armed Forces during the introductory visit to the Ministry of Defence.

CPTPP: Enhancing economic diversification

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 24 – In approaching Brunei Vision 2035, Brunei Darussalam will continue to enhance its economic diversification efforts through modernising strategies and policies aimed at providing a conducive business environment, particularly for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, and attracting Foreign Direct Investments in strategic sectors.

For a small economy with a population of just under half a million people, Brunei Darussalam's participation in Free Trade Agreements offers critical opportunities for market access and supply chain integration, especially with like-minded advanced economies such as those in the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

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



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy delivering his remarks at the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership Stakeholder Engagement.

at the CPTPP Stakeholder Engagement, held at the Theatre Hall, Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE).

Touching on Brunei's commitments under ASEAN and the World Trade Organisation, the Minister at the PMO and Second

Minister of Finance and Economy stated that they align with Aspiration 3 of Brunei's Economic Blueprint, which supports and is dedicated towards an 'Open and Globally Connected Economy'.

It is in this spirit that Brunei ratified the CPTPP Agreement, which came into force on July 12, 2023 with the objective to deliver economic benefits and opportunities for businesses. The Minister then called for businesses to learn about the CPTPP Agreement, as well as its use, benefits and relations with potential partners.

Earlier, the Minister highlighted Brunei Darussalam's economic prospect, which is projected to show positive growth this year, as reported by the International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank- and the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office. This can be attributed to the continued positive cooperation between the public and private sectors.

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The welcoming remarks were delivered by Bruce Christie, Assistant Deputy Minister of Trade Policy and Negotiations at Global Affairs Canada as the Chair of the 2024 CPTPP Senior Officials Meeting.

The event included presentations on CPTPP by Nor Zerlina binti Haji Momin, Director of Trade Division at MOFE; Pirkko Penttila, First Secretary of Trade Policy at the Embassy of Canada to Japan; and Rob Cook, Deputy Director of the Department for Business and Trade, the United Kingdom (UK).

The discussion moderated by Darren Smith, Executive Director of Trade Policy and Negotiations (Asia) at Global Affairs Canada saw the sharing of experience and insights on utilising CPTPP provisions when conducting exports by Hajah Nur Raihan binti Dato Paduka Haji Mohd. Rosli, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Brunei Fertilizer Industries Sdn. Bhd. The event concluded



Yang Berhormat Minister at the event.

with closing remarks from Dr. Hajah May Fa'ezah binti Haji Ahmad Ariffin, Permanent Secretary (Economy, Trade and Industry) at MoFE.

The event was organised by MOFE,

together with Global Affairs Canada and the Department for Business and Trade, UK. Also present were representatives from the private sector and government agencies, as well as senior officials and delegates from CPTPP.

Brunei-US strengthen bilateral relations

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 3 – The Embassy of the United States of America (US) in Brunei Darussalam celebrated the US' 248th Independence Day, as well as the 40th Anniversary of Diplomatic Ties between Brunei Darussalam and the US, themed 'Anchored in Friendship'. The event took place at the embassy in Jalan Duta.

Present as the Guest of Honour was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy. Also in attendance were government officials, business executives and leaders of public associations.

The event saw welcoming remarks from Her Excellency Caryn R. McClelland, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the US to Brunei Darussalam, followed by a memento presentation to the Guest of Honour.

The event was further enlivened by performances from the US



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

Air Force Band of the Pacific, 'Small Kine'; and Basil Ali Witsqa, alumni of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative.

Brunei-Canada celebrate 40 years of Diplomatic Relations

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 1 – The High Commission of Canada in Brunei Darussalam hosted a reception to celebrate 'Canada Day in Concert' in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary Celebration of Brunei-Canada Diplomatic Relations.

Attending the event as Guests of Honour, were Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications and spouse, Datin Hajah Mahayon binti Haji Mohammad Taha.

At the reception, Her Excellency Ambra Dickie, High Commissioner of Canada Brunei Darussalam launched the celebration.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications and spouse attending the reception to celebrate 'Canada Day in Concert' in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary Celebration of Brunei-Canada Diplomatic Relations.

Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister visits BKISHHB

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 16 – Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (BKISHHB) received a visit from His Excellency Heng Swee Keat, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore and spouse, Madamme Chang Hwee Nee, as well as delegation.

The visit began with the signing of a commemorative parchment, followed by a group photo session. The delegation was briefed by Dr. Haji Awang Mohammed Hussain bin Pehin Penyurat Haji Awang Ahmad, Director of BKISHHB, before touring the exhibition galleries.



His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore during the visit to Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah.

Developing the TVET Curriculum

GADONG, July 4 – Seventeen Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) teachers from 11 Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) member countries have completed a two-week regional training programme on 'Integrating Transferable Skills into the TVET Curriculum'.

The two-week programme began on June 24, hosted and facilitated by the SEAMEO VOTECH Regional Centre.

The certificate presentation ceremony took place at the centre, conducted by Her Excellency Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam.

The participants of the programme were equipped with theory and practical exercises for an in-depth understanding of transferable skills, as well as identifying and integrating them into the TVET curriculum. They were also given guidance to help them develop solutions for their teaching contexts.



Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam presenting a certificate at the ceremony.

Noorhayati Cynthia Noorhaizamdin was the main facilitator of the programme; alongside Dr. Paryono dan Ariffin Yusof, who were the co-facilitators.

LCB receives collection of 162 books

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 17 – Laksamana College of Business (LCB) received a collection of 162 books on various subjects, including the Chinese culture from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam.

The donation was presented by His Excellency Xiao Jianguo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to Brunei Darussalam; and received by Dr. S Sivarajah, Chief Operating Officer and

Deputy Principal of LCB – both of whom also delivered speeches at the event.

The ceremony was followed by a tour of the bookshelf displaying the donated books and a luncheon at The Chef.

His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of China to Brunei Darussalam and the Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Principal of Laksamana College of Business.



Tree planting event supports Green Protocol initiative

BERAKAS, July 21 – A total of 73 tree saplings – including Baru-Baru, Ru Laut, and Penaga Laut varieties – were planted to commemorate the 72nd Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, King of the Kingdom of Thailand.

The event involving the Thai community in Brunei Darussalam took place at the Berakas Forest Reserve Recreational Park, organised by the Royal Thai Embassy in Brunei and the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT).



The Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT); Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary at MPRT; and Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam in a group photo.

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Present at the event were Hajah Tutiatty binti Haji Abdul Wahab, Permanent Secretary at MPRT; Noralinda binti Haji Ibrahim, Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary at MPRT; and Her Excellency Boosara Kanchanalai, Ambassador Extraordinary

and Plenipotentiary of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam.

The event aimed to support the government's Green Protocol initiative and promote a sustainable lifestyle, aligning with the Brunei Darussalam National Climate Change Policy in paving the way for a more sustainable nation by reducing carbon emissions.

Signing of MoA to promote contact, communication

BERIBI, July 22 – Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of the Philippines signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) during the Business to Business (B2B) Global Travel Exchange and Roadshow held on the first floor of Wafa Hotel and Apartment, Annajat Complex.

Representing each party at the signing were Awang Haji Abdul Hamid@Haji Sabli bin Haji Arshad, President of the Association of Travel Agent Brunei (ATAB); and Michelle Taylan, President of the Global Tourism Business Association (GTBA).



The MoA is hoped to promote contact and communication between both parties, in addition to expanding tourism growth between both countries and implementing various programmes and activities to support the cooperation.

Present as the Guest of Honour was Salinah binti Haji Mohd. Salleh, Acting Director of Tourism Development, who also delivered a keynote speech titled 'Experience Brunei: A Blend of Rich Heritage and Wilderness Adventures'.

Also in attendance were Her Excellency Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam; Arturo P. Boncato Jr., Group General Manager of Megaworld Hotels and Resorts, the Philippines; as well as other guests from both parties.

The Roadshow was organised by Oneklik Events, Boracay Local Government Unit and ATAB, with the support of Brunei Tourism and the Embassy of the Philippines in Brunei.

The Acting Director of Tourism Development present as the Guest of Honour at the signing.

Textile exhibition commemorates Brunei-Bangladesh relations



The Permanent Secretary (Sports) at the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and Her Excellency High Commission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam at the exhibition.

KOTA BATU, July 2 – The High Commission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in Brunei Darussalam together with the Museums Department, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) is holding a textile exhibition to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Brunei Darussalam at the Malay Technology Museum.

The exhibition features a variety of textiles from Bangladesh, showcasing the richness of its cultural heritage and handicrafts.

Present to launch the exhibition as the Guest of Honour was Pengiran Mohammad Amirrizal bin Pengiran Haji Mahmud, Permanent Secretary (Sports) at MCYS. Also in attendance was Her Excellency Nahida Rahman Shumona, High Commission of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam.

As part of the anniversary celebration, the High Commission of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam also donated four collections of sari fabrics to the museum. The exhibition is open to public starting from today until July 16.

Programme explores Brunei's cultural diversity

TUNGKU, July 3 – Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB) launched the University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP) Discovery Camp 2024 Brunei Odyssey, in tandem with the Brunei Mid-Year Conference and Exhibition 2024.

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Among the distinguished guests at the event were Her Excellency High Commissioner of the Dominion of Canada to Brunei Darussalam; His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam; Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Brunei Darussalam; Her Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam; and the Deputy High Commissioner of Malaysia to Brunei Darussalam.



The programme preceded with a high tea reception for the participants at the Garden's Veranda Banquet Hall and Restaurant, Rimba Garden Central. The event saw a welcoming address by Dr. Hajah Roslyna binti Haji Rosli, Director of Tri-Ced. The participants of the programme also received commemorative mementos, presented by Datin Paduka Professor Dr. Dayang

The UMAP Discovery Camp 2024 Brunei Odyssey offers a 13-day immersive experience to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of Brunei Darussalam's cultural diversity, ecosystems, and Islamic heritage. The programme includes a unique blend of interactive activities, classroom sessions, and outdoor adventures.

UBD-CityUHK strengthen academic, research collaborations

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 9 – Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) and City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a Student Exchange Agreement. The event took place at UBD.

Dr. Hazri bin Haji Kifle, Vice Chancellor of UBD signed the MoU on behalf of the local institution; while its counterpart was represented by Professor Freddy Boey, President of CityUHK. Also present were the senior management and staff of CityUHK.

Under the MoU and Student Exchange Agreement, both institutions will strengthen academic and research collaborations in

different areas of mutual interests. UBD will also be sending off their students for their Discovery Year programme, and receive students from CityUHK for their Semester Exchange Programme.

Following the signing, the CityUHK delegation toured several lab facilities on the campus and were briefed on the various research and education activities conducted. The delegation also toured UBD's Botanical Research Centre, guided by Dr. Hussein bin Haji Taha, Director for Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research at UBD.

Vice Chancellor of UBD and the President of CityUHK during the signing ceremony.



National athletes bag two gold medals

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 3 – A total of 30 national athletes representing Wadokai Karate Brunei Darussalam, the Shitokai Karate Association Brunei Darussalam and Shotokan Karate Brunei Darussalam joined the 23rd Milo International Karate Do Championship held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from June 28 to 30. The athletes successfully amassed two gold, three silver and three bronze medals.

The gold medals were attained by Aunie Qaisara binti Mohd. Nazri from the Shitokai Karate Association Brunei Darussalam in the Girls' Individual Kata for 10-11 Years Old Group 1; and Wan Azlee Khairi bin Wan Zuraimi from Wadokai Karate Brunei Darussalam in the Boys' Individual Kumite for 10-11 Years Old (Under 30 Kilogrammes).

Meanwhile, the silver medals were bagged by Wan Mohammad Rayyan Daniel bin Zayadi from Wadokai Karate Brunei Darussalam in the Boys' Individual Kumite for 10-11 Years Old (Under 35 Kilogrammes) Group 1; Awangku Md. Abdul Qaqi bin Pengiran Haji Zainal from Wadokai Karate Brunei Darussalam in the Male Junior Individual Kumite for 16-17 Years Old (Under 76 Kilogrammes); and Adilah Nur Husnaa Syahmina binti Md. Hassanal from Shotokan Karate Brunei Darussalam in the Youth Under-14 Individual Kata for 12-13 Years Old Group 1.

The bronze medals went to Awangku Md. Ammar Ar-Raziqin bin Pengiran Mohd. Alli Isa Putera from Wadokai Karate Brunei Darussalam in the Boys' Individual Kumite for 10-11 Years Old (Under 30 Kilogrammes); Aunie Qaisara in the Girls' Individual Kumite for 10-11 Years Old (Under 30 Kilogrammes); and Adilah Nur Husnaa Syahmina in the Youth Under-14 Individual Kumite for 12-13 Years Old

(Under 42 Kilogrammes).

The championship held at Titiwangsa Stadium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia gathered 2,150 international athletes from Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, the Jordan, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of India, the Republic of Singapore, Hong Kong, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and Australia.



The national athletes representing Wadokai Karate Brunei Darussalam, the Shitokai Karate Association Brunei Darussalam and Shotokan Karate Brunei Darussalam joining the 23rd Milo International Karate Do Championship held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Students bag 24 medals in APAF

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 10 – Fourteen students from Yippy Tune recently represented the country at the Asia Pacific Arts Festival (APAF) in Jeonju, Republic of Korea, along with 145 participants from the Kingdom of Cambodia; the Republic of Indonesia; Korea; Malaysia; the Republic of Turkiye; and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The national team, comprising students aged seven to 15, participated in a variety of music competitions at the festival, including the piano, violin, bass, drums, ukulele and vocals. They won 24 medals overall: comprising one gold, which went to 14-year old Megan Lee; 12 silver; and 11 bronze medals.

The students also learnt and performed a Korean cultural dance; as well as participated in the gift exchange with participants from different countries during the closing ceremony.



The national team at the Asia Pacific Arts Festival.

Brunei Darussalam demonstrates excellence in 10th APTJSO

THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA, July 28 – The Brunei Darussalam delegation participating in the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Junior Science Odyssey (APTJSO) – which was held from July 22 to 26 in Siem Reap – won medals in various categories.

The delegation was divided into two teams. Team 'A' comprised students from Jerudong International School: Awang Nu'man bin Lamun; Noor Izatul Syafiqah binti Haji Saiami; and Barizah Alya Syasya binti Haji Romi Irwin. They were accompanied by Awang Hafiz Aizuddin bin Haji Ansanawi, supervising teacher as mentor from Sekolah Menengah Sayyidina Ali.

Meanwhile, Team 'B' comprised students from International School Brunei: Zayyan Aaryan bin Noorhadzrin; Alya Irdina binti Muhammad Shahmun Azimin; and Sharifah Ayesha Al-Insyirah binti Shaikh Sharul Azhar. They were accompanied by Nurul Faizah binti Ya'akub, supervising teacher as mentor from Sekolah Menengah Berakas.

Sharifah Ayesha Al-Insyirah from Team 'B' received the Outstanding Award for Individual Student with a bronze medal for her overall performance across three categories: Video Competition, Quiz Competition and Pitching Competition.

She also won the gold medal in the individual Quiz Competition;



The Brunei Darussalam delegation participating in the 10th ASEAN Plus Three Junior Science Odyssey.

while Zayyan Aaryan from Team 'B' and Nu'man from Team 'A' clinched silver medals; and Noor Izatul Syafiqah and Barizah Alya Syasya from Team 'A' bagged bronze medals. Team 'B' also won a bronze medal for the team Video Competition.

APTJSO is an annual programme targeting students between ages 13 to 15 from ASEAN Plus Three (ASEAN+3) countries. This year's programme was themed 'Racing Up Against Climate Change', organised by the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation of Cambodia, in collaboration with the ASEAN+3 Centre for the Gifted in Science and supported by ASEAN.

CPI registers decline in June 2024

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, July 28 – The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in June registered a decrease of 0.3 per cent compared to June last year. This was driven by a 0.7 per cent decrease in the non-food index.

Meanwhile, the food and non-alcoholic beverages index recorded an increase of 1.2 per cent.

The decrease in the non-food index was driven by lower prices of communication (2.8 per cent), particularly internet services; and transport (1.3 per cent), following the decline in motor car and air fare prices.

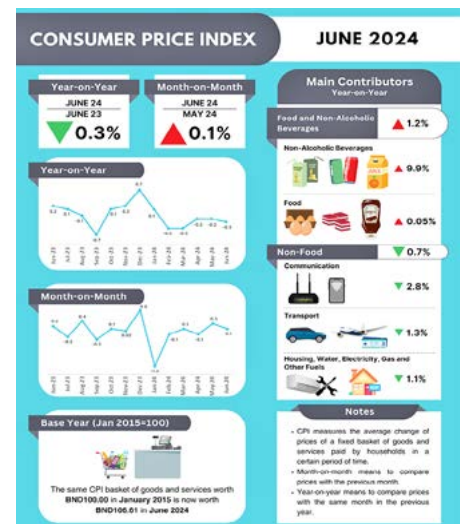
Meanwhile, the increase in the food

and non-alcoholic beverages index was attributed to the rise in the prices of non-alcoholic beverages (9.9 per cent), particularly ready-to-consume drinks; as well as milk, dairy products and eggs (2 per cent).

Compared to May, the CPI in June also increased by 0.1 per cent, following an increase in the non-food index by 0.2 per cent. Meanwhile, the food and non-alcoholic beverages index decreased by 0.4 per cent.

The non-food index increased mainly due to the prices of transport (0.7 per cent); and recreation and culture (0.6 per cent).

Meanwhile, the decrease in the food



and non-alcoholic beverages index was mainly contributed by fish and seafood (1 per cent) and meat (0.5 per cent).