



برونى دارالسلام

Brunei Darussalam

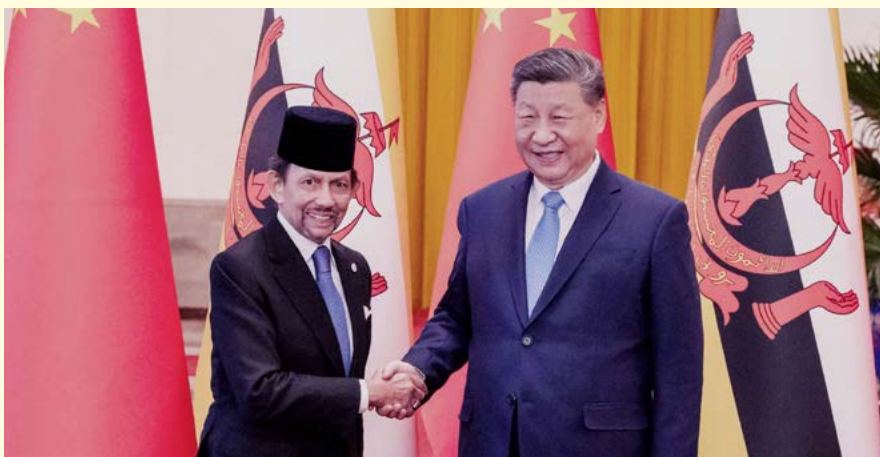
Brunei Darussalam newsletter

Published by the Information Department
Prime Minister's Office

FEBRUARY 2025
VOLUME 40 ISSUE 2

Enhancing Brunei-China relations, 8 MoUs signed

BEIJING, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, 6th February – 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 is conducting a state visit to the People's Republic of China, which began with a meeting with His Excellency Zhao Leji, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; a Welcoming Ceremony; a meeting with His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of China; the Signing Ceremony of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs); a Wreath Laying Ceremony; and a meeting with His Excellency Li Qiang, Chinese Premier.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency President of the People's Republic of China during the State Visit to the People's Republic of China.

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His Majesty welcomes Yang di-Pertuan 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 His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia upon arrival at the dinner hosted by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam. Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 26th February – 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 welcomed the arrival of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia at His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's Flight Hangar this afternoon.

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Stakeholders urged to focus on raising standards

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 20th February – All stakeholders are urged to remain focused in raising the safety standards, improving operational reliability and asset integrity, enhancing execution excellence, and building on strong leadership performance as we move forward in 2025.

A steadfast commitment in effective governance, ethics and compliance to remain firmly embedded in their operations to ensure the sustainability, credibility and long-term success will be key to securing continued and lasting growth.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) while chairing the 414th Board of Directors Meeting of the Brunei Shell Petroleum Sdn. Bhd. and the 192nd Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei Shell Marketing Sdn. Bhd. for the First Quarter of 2025. The meeting was held at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) building.

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3. Their Majesties receive audience



8. His Majesty highlights PKBN's vital role in nation's development



12. Patriotism shines through at Grand Assembly



17. His Majesty officiates new mosque, joins Friday prayer



20. His Royal Highness attends winter festival



23. New agreement explores innovative investment



7. Asian Winter Games officiation, Brunei-Kyrgyzstan relations underscored



12. Call for unity in achieving national success



16. His Majesty graces 21st LegCo Opening Ceremony



18. Celebrating the Crown Prince's 51st birthday



21. Minister attends 156th WHO EB session



24. Brunei launches two new river cruises



FEBRUARY 2025 - VOLUME 40 ISSUE 2

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM NEWSLETTER

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

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Their Majesties receive audience

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience His Excellency Tun Dato Seri Paduka Datuk Seri Panglima (Dr.) Musa bin Haji Aman, Yang di-Pertua Negeri of Sabah and spouse, Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Datin Seri Panglima Datuk Hajah Faridah binti Haji Tussin at Istana Nurul Iman on 13th February.



Audience Ceremony with Prime Minister of Malaysia

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 18th February – 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 Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia as Chair of ASEAN.

During the Audience Ceremony, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister of Malaysia discussed ASEAN developments, including Malaysia's preparations as Chair of ASEAN for 2025 in hosting the upcoming 46th and 47th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits later this year.

Accompanying Yang Amat Berhormat was His Excellency Thaksin Shinawatra as Head of the ASEAN Chairman Advisory Group. Also present at the ceremony held at Istana Nurul Iman was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Erywan bin Pehin Datu Pekerma Jaya Haji Mohd. Yusof, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Following the Audience Ceremony, His Majesty attended a luncheon with the Prime Minister of Malaysia. The Prime Minister is on a series of visits to hold meetings with ASEAN heads of state and government, starting with a meeting with His Majesty as the most senior ASEAN leader.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the Audience Ceremony with Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister of Malaysia, where both leaders discussed ASEAN developments.



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 receiving in audience Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister of Malaysia as Chair of ASEAN, who was accompanied by His Excellency Head of the ASEAN Chairman Advisory Group.



His Majesty receives UK Supreme Court Deputy President

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 The Right Honourable Lord Patrick Stewart Hodge, Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom at Istana Nurul Iman on 27th February.



His Majesty sends congratulatory messages

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran; the government and people of Iran on the occasion of its National Day on 11th February;
- His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, Emperor of Japan; His

Excellency Shigeru Ishiba, Prime Minister of Japan; the government and people of Japan on the occasion of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito's 65th Birthday Anniversary on 23rd February; and

- His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait; His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait; members of the royal family; the government and people of Kuwait on the occasion of its 64th National Day on 25th February.

His Majesty receives 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 received congratulatory messages from the Heads of State and Leaders from friendly nations, as well as Secretary-Generals on the occasion of Brunei Darussalam's 41st National Day on 23rd February.

Among the aforementioned Heads of State were:

- His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia;
- His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
- His Majesty King Mohammed VI, King of the Kingdom of Morocco;
- His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, King of the Kingdom of Thailand;
- His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of the Kingdom of Cambodia;
- His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, King of the Kingdom of Sweden;
- His Majesty King Charles III, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- His Majesty King Harald R. of Norway, King of the Kingdom of Norway;
- His Majesty Phillippe, King of the Kingdom of Belgium;
- His Majesty King Willem-Alexander R., King of the Kingdom of Netherlands;

- His Majesty King Felipe R., King of the Kingdom of Spain;
- His Excellency Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of the Republic of Singapore;
- His Excellency Prabowo Subianto, President of the Republic of Indonesia;
- His Excellency Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., President of the Republic of the Philippines;
- His Excellency Thongloun Sisoulith, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR);
- His Excellency Luong Cuong, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;
- His Excellency Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of the State Administration Council and Prime Minister of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;
- His Excellency Dr. José Ramos-Horta, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste;
- His Excellency Donald J. Trump., President of the United States of America;
- Her Excellency Sam Mostyn, AC, Governor-General of Australia;
- His Excellency Asif Ali Zardani, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan;
- His Excellency Mohammed Shahabuddin, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh;
- His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China;
- His Excellency Choi Sang-mok, President of the Republic of Korea;
- His Excellency Kim Jong Un, President

of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

- His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye;
- His Excellency Serdar Berdimuhamedov, President of the Republic of Turkmenistan;
- His Excellency Rumen Radev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria;
- His Excellency Aleksandar Vucic, President of the Republic of Serbia;
- Her Excellency Dr. Vjosa Osmani, President of the Republic of Kosovo;
- Her Excellency Karin Keller-Sutter, President of the Swiss Confederation;
- His Excellency Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President of the Federal Republic of Germany;
- His Excellency Andrzej Duda, President of the Republic of Poland;
- His Excellency Sergio Mattarella, President of the Italian Republic;
- His Excellency Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, President of the Portuguese Republic;
- His Excellency Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt;
- His Excellency Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria;
- His Excellency Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles;
- Her Excellency Mary May Simon, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada; and

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From page 4

- His Excellency Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, President of the Republic of Cuba.

Meanwhile, the said Leaders from friendly nations include:

- His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia;
- Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia;

- His Excellency Lawrence Wong, Prime Minister Republic of Singapore;
- Her Excellency Paetongtarn Shinawatra, Prime Minister the Kingdom of Thailand;
- His Excellency Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister the Kingdom of Cambodia;
- His Excellency Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of Lao PDR;
- His Excellency Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam;
- His Excellency Muhammad Shehbaz

Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan; and

- His Excellency Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Chief Advisor of the Interim Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The Secretary-Generals were:

- His Excellency Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); and
- His Excellency Hissein Brahim Taha, Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

News

Enhancing Brunei-China relations, 8 MoUs signed (continued)

From front page

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

During the meeting with the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, which took place at the Great Hall of the People, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) highlighting Brunei - China's strong bilateral relations and reaffirmed Brunei's commitment to the One China Policy. His Majesty emphasised the benefits of the Strategic Cooperative Partnership, which has improved the lives of both nations' citizens. His Majesty expressed gratitude for China's support of Brunei's diversification efforts and highlighted the importance of safeguarding mutual interests amid global geopolitical uncertainties, particularly in enhancing economic ties. His Majesty also encouraged more people-to-people exchanges, including welcoming more Chinese visitors through visa waiver agreements. Documents signed during the visit aim to solidify Brunei-China strategic relations. Additionally, His Majesty praised China's support for ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations and expressed interest in further strengthening legislative cooperation.

Following the meeting, His Majesty attended the Welcoming Ceremony, where the Monarch was warmly greeted by the President of China. His Majesty was introduced to Chinese dignitaries, and Brunei's delegation was introduced to the



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the meeting with His Excellency Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

President of China. Following the national anthems of both countries, His Majesty inspected the Guard of Honour, mounted by the People's Liberation Army.

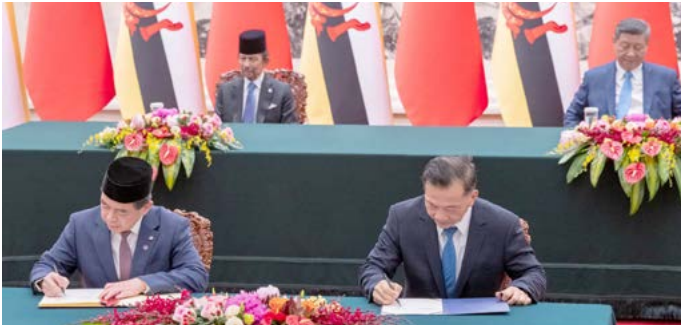
Afterward, His Majesty held a meeting with the President and expressed appreciation for the growing friendship between Brunei and China, emphasising the continued development of their bilateral relations. His Majesty highlighted the progress of the Brunei-China Strategic Cooperative Partnership, which is based on mutual respect and trust, and looks forward to further enhancing cooperation for mutual benefit.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being introduced to the Chinese dignitaries (left); and inspecting the Guard of Honour during the Welcoming Ceremony.





His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Excellency President of China witnessing the Signing Ceremony of Memoranda of Understanding at the Great Hall of the People.

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The Monarch noted that Brunei benefits from strong cooperation with China in trade, investment, agriculture, fisheries, and people-to-people exchanges. The Joint Steering Committee serves as the primary platform for collaboration between the two nations. His Majesty also reaffirmed Brunei's commitment to building a sustainable economy and attracting foreign investment.

The Brunei-Guangxi Economic Corridor and the Muara Container Terminal with Beibu Gulf will strengthen Brunei's position as a regional logistics hub. Additionally, His Majesty welcomed efforts to expand agriculture and fisheries exports to China and China's support for the Hybrid Rice Research Centre in Brunei.

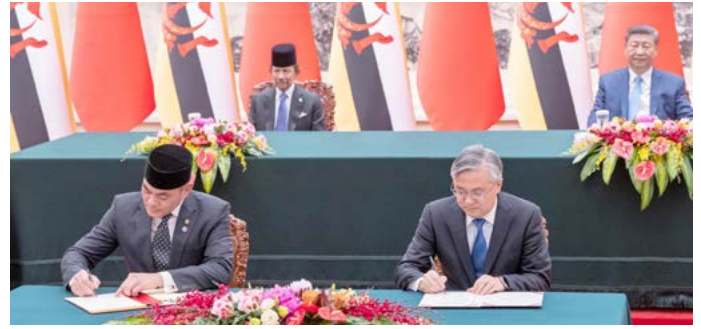
His Majesty praised the energy cooperation, particularly with Hengyi in the downstream oil and gas sector, and the progress made with Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Hengyi project, which supports Brunei's economic diversification. His Majesty also appreciated visa waiver arrangements for Bruneians visiting China.

Looking ahead, His Majesty emphasised the importance of strengthening bilateral and regional partnerships in an uncertain global environment. His Majesty expressed appreciation for China's support under the ASEAN-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and welcomed further cooperation, particularly in establishing the ASEAN Climate Change Centre in Brunei.

The two leaders then witnessed the signing of eight MoUs during a ceremony.

Judicial Cooperation MoU between the Supreme People's Court of China and Brunei's Supreme Court, signed by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Paduka Steven Chong Wan Oon, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and His Excellency Zhang Jun, President and Chief Justice of China.

A Bilateral Cooperation Plan on the Silk Road Economic Belt and



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Peruan of Brunei Darussalam shaking hands with His Excellency Chinese Premier during the meeting.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Peruan of Brunei Darussalam shaking hands with His Excellency Chinese Premier during the meeting.

Maritime Silk Road Initiative, signed 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, and His Excellency Zheng Shanjie, Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission. They also signed the Economic Development Cooperation.

Trade Promotion Cooperation, signed by Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy and His Excellency Wang Wentao, Minister of Commerce of China.

A MoU on Translation and Publication of Classics, signed by China's National Press and Publication Administration and Brunei's Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports.

MoUs with Xinhua News Agency and China Media Group, signed by relevant representatives from both countries.

Protocol to Extend the MoU between Bandar Seri Begawan Municipal Board and Nanjing Municipal People's Government, signed by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs, and His Excellency Zhou Hongbo, Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee of Nanjing on behalf of China.

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His Majesty attending the Wreath Laying Ceremony, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen (left); and laying a wreath at the Monument to the People's Heroes, Tian'anmen Square (right).



From page 6

In the afternoon, His Majesty attended a State Luncheon hosted by the President. Before leaving the Great Hall of the People, His Majesty was presented with a photobook as a souvenir.

His Majesty afterwards attended a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Monument to the People's Heroes, Tian'anmen Square and laid a wreath at the monument.

In a meeting with the Chinese Premier, His Majesty highlighted China as a key partner for Brunei, noting the benefits of people-to-people exchanges and cooperation across various sectors. His Majesty emphasised the importance of strengthening regional partnerships, particularly through the ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, which has been a comprehensive partnership for years. His Majesty acknowledged China's efforts in fostering closer ties through

initiatives like the ASEAN-China Year of People-to-People Exchanges, and expressed optimism about the ASEAN-Gulf Cooperation Council-China Summit in Kuala Lumpur for promoting sustainable economic growth.

The meeting also focused on bilateral progress, with His Majesty noting the positive developments under the Strategic Cooperative Partnership since 2018. His Majesty highlighted the encouraging Chinese foreign direct investments in Brunei, welcoming more investments that support the country's diversification.

His Majesty also expressed interest in developing Brunei's agriculture and fisheries sectors, particularly through collaborations on hybrid rice production. His Majesty emphasised the importance of regional platforms in navigating evolving geopolitical and geo-economics challenges, and reiterated Brunei's commitment to deeper engagements in trade, energy, and digitalisation for future sustainability.

Asian Winter Games officiation, Brunei-Kyrgyzstan relations underscored



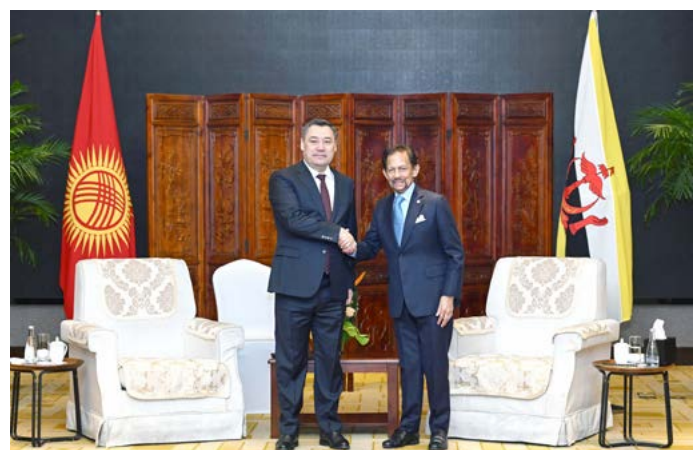
His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attending a Welcoming Banquet hosted for leaders and special guests attending the Opening Ceremony of the 9th Asian Winter Games.

HARBIN, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, 7th February

– His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended a meeting with His Excellency Sadyr Zhaparov, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, at the JW Marriott Hotel, where they discussed the longstanding diplomatic relations between their countries and the potential for further strengthening ties, including the possibility of a visa waiver arrangement.

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

Later, His Majesty participated in a Welcoming Banquet hosted by His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of China at the Taiyangdao Hotel, followed by the Opening Ceremony of the 9th Asian Winter Games at the Harbin International Conference and Exhibition Centre.

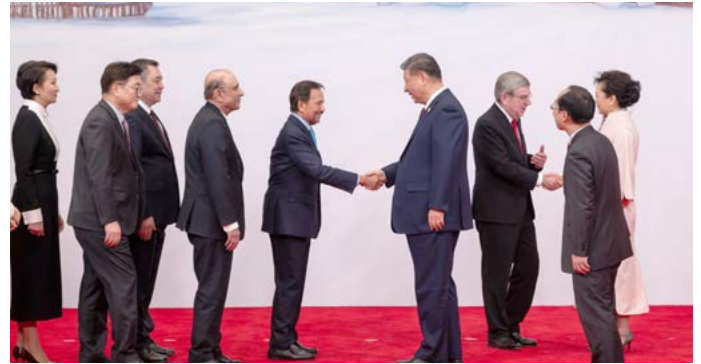


His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the meeting with His Excellency President of the Kyrgyz Republic.

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His Majesty during the Opening Ceremony of the 9th Asian Winter Games (left); and His Majesty being welcomed by His Excellency President of the People's Republic of China (right).



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The event featured cultural performances and a parade of

athletes from 34 countries. The games, running from 7th to 14th February, will see over 1,270 athletes compete in 11 winter sports disciplines.

His Majesty highlights PKBN's vital role in nation's development

TEMBURONG, 17th February - 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) during the Passing Out Parade Ceremony of the 13th PKBN Intake at the PKBN Training Camp Parade Ground in Batu Apoi highlighted the significance of National Service Program (PKBN) in shaping Bruneian youth as future leaders and contributors to national development.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam congratulated a total of 367 trainees for successfully and safely completing the three-month program.

His Majesty acknowledged the program's success in preparing youth for real-world challenges and the role in instilling noble values and a strong national identity.

His Majesty, in the *titah*, highlighted that the key factor contributing to this intake's success was the implementation of the Pre-Conditioning and Injury Management Program.

His Majesty noted that this initiative enhanced the physical, mental, and spiritual endurance of the trainees, enabling them to meet the challenges of PKBN with greater preparedness.

His Majesty proclaimed that the time has come to review the duration of the PKBN training, with the possibility of extending it to six months. This extension would provide a more conducive and sufficient training period to achieve the program's main objectives.



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 Passing Out Parade for the 13th National Service Program (PKBN) intake.



His Majesty at the Passing Out Parade for the 13th PKBN Intake.

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His Majesty presenting awards to some of the top trainees at the event.

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Furthermore, His Majesty added that the trainees would be able to adjust gradually to the intensity of the training.

His Majesty further expressed his hopes that relevant agencies, whether from government, private sector, or non-governmental organisations (NGOs), would provide full support and commitment to ensure the success and realisation of the program's plan.

His Majesty also commended the participation of 15 PKBN alumni who have returned to serve as certified instructors in drill skills and physical training through the Train the Trainers Program.

Afterwards, His Majesty presented awards to the top 6 trainees

of the program. The Best Male Trainee in Precision Drill was Trainee 14406 Muhammad Shahroni bin Haji Md. Kanderishah; while the Best Female in the category was Trainee 14342 Noor Syafiqah Fazlyiah binti Muhammad Redzuan.

The Best Male in Physical Training was received by Trainee 14426 Muhammad Fakhruddin bin Abdullah; while Trainee 14445 Amira Farzana binti Mohammad Johardi received the award under the female category.

Lastly, the Best Overall in the male category was received by Trainee 14562 Mohd. Alif Khan bin Othmawee; while Trainee 14563 Annisha Suraya binti Razali received for the female category.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam signing the commemorative parchment at the event.



His Majesty receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir).



His Majesty in a group photo with the top six trainees of the program (left).



His Majesty in a group photo with the trainees.



His Majesty during the unscheduled visit to Rataie Primary School.



His Majesty mingling with the Rataie Primary School students during the visit (above and below).



His Majesty during the unschedule visit to Semabat Primary School.



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The event initially commenced with *doa selamat*, a Royal Salute and the national anthem.

After the ceremony, His Majesty made unscheduled visits to two primary schools in the Temburong District: Rataie Primary School; and Semabat Primary School.



His Majesty during the unscheduled visit to Semabat Primary School.

Stakeholders urged to focus on raising standards (continued)

From front page

Previously, on 19th February, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam also chaired the 225th Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei LNG Sdn. Bhd. (BLNG) and the 111th Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei Gas Carriers Sdn. Bhd. (BGC) for the First Quarter of 2025 held at the same venue.

In a *titah* at the meeting, His Majesty commended the progress achieved across Brunei Shell Joint Venture (BSJV) and BGC throughout 2024 in critical areas. His Majesty stressed the importance of sustaining this momentum and further strengthening these achievements.

His Majesty further encouraged the continued commitment of the employees and leadership in driving performance.

His Majesty emphasised that long-term planning is essential for ensuring the sustainability and competitiveness of the BSJVs and BGC, laying a strong foundation for the business' continued growth and success.

The meeting touched on the strategic direction for both BLNG and BGC in the coming years. Both meetings also discussed key



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) while chairing the 414th Board of Directors Meeting of the Brunei Shell Petroleum Sdn. Bhd. and the 192nd Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei Shell Marketing Sdn. Bhd. for the First Quarter of 2025.

aspects such as operational performance, safety, financials, and manpower development.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam chairing the meeting.



His Majesty at the 225th Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei LNG Sdn. Bhd. and the 111th Board of Directors Meeting of Brunei Gas Carriers Sdn. Bhd. for the First Quarter of 2025.



Call for unity in achieving national success

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 22nd February – Recently, we have been frequently presented with news about the national economic situation. These include statements suggesting weaknesses in the government's efforts to advance key sectors and provide opportunities for local entrepreneurs.

The matter was addressed 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 in a *titah* (royal speech) delivered at Istana Nurul Iman in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 41st National Day Celebration.

Acknowledging the challenges faced by the government in the efforts to enhance the country's economic performance, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam noted that the nation nevertheless continues to achieve success in key areas contributing to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), including initiatives towards economic diversification.

Further addressing economic diversification, His Majesty highlighted that, according to the facts, government initiatives have yielded positive GDP growth in the non-oil and gas sector since 2017, averaging 4.3 per cent per year. This means that the sector has increased its GDP contribution from 43 per cent in 2017 to 54 per cent in 2023. Within the timespan, growth in the sector was primarily driven by the petrochemical industry at an average growth of 44.5 per cent; followed by the financial sector at 5.3 per cent; and the local trade sector at 3.5 per cent.

The Monarch added that aside from economic progress, the government is still capable of providing education, healthcare, security, public infrastructure and essential services to safeguard the well-being of all citizens and residents.

Likening the nation to a large house, whose strength not only depends on its foundations and structure but also on the shared responsibility of its people, His Majesty emphasised that the success and prosperity of the country does not rest solely on the government, but on every level of society.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 41st National Day Celebration.

"No one is exempt from nation-building," said His Majesty, "every contribution – big or small – is valuable. Great achievements require ambition and unwavering determination. As long as we share a common vision, stand united as a team, and work diligently, we will undoubtedly achieve success and excellence."

"In navigating the current digital era, all parties, especially the younger generation, must seize the opportunity by equipping themselves with the latest technological skills. This can be achieved through progressive and innovative thinking, as well as a strong determination to change. Therefore, it is important to foster the spirit of independence as a foundation for success in development," His Majesty continued.

Urging for everyone to work together in building a brighter future for current and future generations, His Majesty further expressed hope that with the spirit of patriotism and unity, we can achieve a sustainable, developed and inclusive national vision.

Patriotism shines through at Grand Assembly

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 23rd February – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam graced the 41st National Day Grand Assembly at Taman Haji Sir Muda Omar 'Ali Saifuddien.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam 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 Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan dan Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Brunei Darussalam's 41st National Day Celebration.

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Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah; and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

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His Majesty's arrival was accompanied by the singing of the national anthem. The Monarch then inspected the Guard of Honour, mounted by personnel from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) and the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam inspecting the Guard of Honour, mounted by personnel from the Royal Brunei Armed Forces and Royal the Brunei Police Force.

The event commenced with a march-past comprising over 11,000 participants representing 185 groups – preceded by the giant-sized Brunei Darussalam flag bearers; the oath reciting team; bearers of the Brunei Darussalam flag and National Day logo; RBAF; RBPF; other uniformed teams; the statutory body team; the public sector; and district offices. The celebration was further enlivened by a traditional dance performance in the first segment, involving primary school students.

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His Majesty and other members of the royal family witnessing the performances at the assembly.



Among those participating in this year's march-past.

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His Majesty receiving a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from the participants of the assembly.



Among those participating in this year's march-past.



The Corporate Business Development and Marketing Officer at Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam leading the recitation of the National Day oath.



Snippets of the performances during the celebration (above and below).





His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family at the Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony in conjunction with the 41st National Day Celebration.

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Meanwhile, the march-past continued with higher learning institutions; colleges; schools; and private educational institutions in Brunei, followed by a singing performance by eight local singers.

The final group comprised disabled and senior citizens; citizens of friendly nations; national sports associations; financial institutions; the oil and gas industry; the excellent team; and the seven Brunei Indigenous Tribes.

The recitation of the National Day oath was led by Awang Zainul Ghazi bin Haji Johari, Corporate Business Development and Marketing Officer at Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam; while the three chants of *Allahu Akbar* (Allah is the Greatest) were led by Pengiran Hafizul Hanif bin Pengiran Haji Md. Hata, Religious Officer at the Department of Syariah Affairs, Ministry of Religious Affairs.

A performance themed '*Bersatu Mencapai Cita Negara*' and '*Darussalam Gemilang*' then took place, involving 7,400 participants from various sectors and agencies.

Before leaving the event, His Majesty received a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from the participants of the assembly.

Previously, on 22nd February, the Monarch also attended a Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony in conjunction with the 41st National Day Celebration, held at the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien mosque. Also present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

His Majesty joined the mass Maghrib prayer, followed by a mass Sunat Hajat prayer, as well as mass recitations of Surah Yaa Siin and *doa kesyukuran* – all of which were led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar. The ceremony was also held simultaneously across all mosques, *surau* and religious halls nationwide.



His Majesty upon arrival at the Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony in conjunction with the 41st National Day Celebration.

His Majesty welcomes Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia (continued)

From front page

In the evening, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam hosted a dinner for His Majesty Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia at Istana Nurul Iman. The dinner saw the attendance of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's son: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.



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 welcoming the arrival of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar, Yang di-Pertuan Agong of Malaysia.

His Majesty graces 21st LegCo Opening Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 26th February - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Opening Ceremony of the First Meeting of the 21st Legislative Council (LegCo) Session held at the Dewan Majlis Building, announced that LegCo sessions will be held twice a year.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) emphasised that it will strengthen governance and allow more timely discussions on national policies and legislative matters.

The Monarch stressed members to carry out their duties more effectively by enhancing procedural frameworks in line with the Standing Orders.

His Majesty also touched on the government's decision to update the medical service policies including adjustments to welfare provisions for stateless permanent residents to ensure equal medical benefits.

Touching on the economic matters, His Majesty noted the positive impact of diversification efforts and the petrochemical industry has been the key driver of economic expansion. The gross domestic product (GDP) contribution by the non-oil and gas sector recorded an average annual growth of 4.3 per cent between 2017 and 2023. The downstream oil and gas sector has also expanded significantly from \$136 million in 2017 to \$1.241 billion to the national GDP in 2023.

Meanwhile, the country's service sector also recorded an increase, from \$1.485 billion in 2017 to \$1.721 billion in 2023, with a 2.5 per cent average in annual growth rate.

At a microeconomic level, His Majesty emphasised the importance of sustaining business growth and tourism initiatives to support local entrepreneurs to be reminded against



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 Opening Ceremony of the First Session of the 21st Legislative Council (LegCo) Meeting.

over-reliance on the oil and gas sector.

On the matter of technological advancements, His Majesty has stated that the need to empower human capital development and national capabilities - especially with artificial intelligence (AI) - which has opened up new opportunities in the digital era.

Concluding the session, His Majesty expressed hope that the LegCo session would encourage meaningful discussions, strategic decision making and collaborative efforts towards achieving Brunei Vision 2035.

Accompanying His Majesty at the session was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.

A *Doa selamat* was read by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti.



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



Among those present at the session.



Yang Berhormat State Mufti reciting the *doa selamat*.

His Majesty officiates new mosque, joins Friday prayer

PANCHOR, MENGKUBAU, 28th February – 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 officiated the opening of the new An-Na'im Mosque, and joined the first mass Friday prayer held at the mosque earlier today.

Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

Upon arrival, His Majesty signed the plaque, accompanied by three cheers of *Allahu Akbar* led 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, marking the official opening of the new mosque.

Following a Friday sermon delivered by Awang Haji Ahmad Abdussalam bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Assistant Director of the Islamic Da'wah Centre; a mass Friday prayer was led by Awang Muhammad Saifullah bin Rosli, Mosque Affairs Officer at the An-Na'im Mosque.

Prior to departure, His Majesty and members of the royal family received a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) from members of the congregation.

The mosque, built on an eight-acre land, costs \$4.3 million and utilises provision under the National Development Plan. It has the capacity to accommodate around 2,500 congregants.

The mosque features the main male prayer hall; the female prayer hall; library; administration office; PA system room; male and female toilets and ablution areas, as well as toilets for individuals with disabilities; *jenezah* management room, store and parking spaces.



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 signing the plaque to mark the official opening of the new An-Na'im Mosque, Kampung Panchor Mengkubau.



Accompanying His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the An-Na'im Mosque were the Monarch's sons: His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.



His Majesty and members of the royal family listening to the Friday sermon.



His Majesty joining the mass Friday prayer, led by the Mosque Affairs Officer at the An-Na'im Mosque, Kampung Panchor Mengkubau.



The Assistant Director of the Islamic Da'wah Centre delivering the Friday sermon.



Aerial view of An-Na'im Mosque, Kampung Panchor Mengkubau.

Celebrating the Crown Prince's 51st birthday

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 19th February – A series of events were held to celebrate the 51st birthday of His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince first attended a luncheon at the PMO building, hosted by PMO on the morning of 17th February. His Royal Highness was accompanied by the Crown Prince's brother, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The cake-cutting session took place at the Pesambah Gallery in the East Wing. His Royal Highness the Crown Prince also received a greeting card from PMO and *pesambah* (souvenir) from 11 agencies comprising the government sector, higher education institutions and the Brunei Darussalam Scouts Association. Afterwards, His Royal Highness proceeded to the Banquet Hall for the luncheon.

Later in the day, His Royal Highness and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman attended a High Tea Reception hosted by the Ministry of Defence at the Officers' Mess, Bolkiah Garrison. Accompanying Their Royal Highnesses was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

At the High Tea Reception, Their Royal Highnesses were introduced to the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) personnel involved in peacekeeping and humanitarian missions; recipients of awards; as well as attendees of courses, military exercise and competition.

Appointment of New Deputy Permanent Secretary

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 12th February – By command of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, it is hereby announced that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to the appointment of Awang Haji Shaharuddin Khairul bin Haji Anuar, Director of Housing Development at the Ministry of Development (MoD) as the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Infrastructure, Housing and Professional) at MoD, effective from 13th February.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) cutting a cake (above); and in a group photo during the luncheon hosted by PMO (below). Also present was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman in a group photo at the High Tea Reception hosted by the Ministry of Defence. Accompanying Their Royal Highnesses was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince being introduced to the Royal Brunei Armed Forces personnel.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince signing a commemorative parchment.

His Royal Highness was presented with a video clip and a photobook titled '*Sejambak Ristaan XVII*'. His Royal Highness then signed a commemorative parchment, before proceeding to the special area for the High Tea Reception, where the cake-cutting session took place. His Royal Highness also received a *pesambah* from all members of RBAF, themed '*Integrating Technology Towards a Healthier Lifestyle*'.

Their Royal Highnesses also attended a reception hosted by the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF) on 18th February. The event was held at the Banquet Hall, Police Headquarters in Gadong.

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His Royal Highness receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir) themed 'Integrating Technology Towards a Healthier Lifestyle'.

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Present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Commandant of the Women Police at RBPF, and Yang Amat Mulia Pengiran Lela Cheteria Sahibun Najabah Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Aziz.

The event saw the signing of a commemorative parchment by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, as well as a cake-cutting session accompanied by a birthday song performed by a choir comprising RBPF officers. His Royal Highness then accepted a *pesambah* presented by Dato Seri Pahlawan Awang Sulaiman bin Alidin, Deputy Commissioner of Police as Acting



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince cutting a cake at the High Tea Reception.

Commissioner of Police at RBPF, and proceeded to the banquet table for the Reception.

Today, Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) as the Secretariat for the Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans hosted a Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony at An-Naura Hall, YSHHB Complex. The event was graced by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik as Chairman of the Committee of Governors of YSHHB.

The ceremony commenced with mass recitations of Surah Yaa Siin, *tahlil* and *doa kesyukuran* in conjunction with His Royal Highness's 51st birthday. The event then continued with a mass Asar prayer led by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Awang Haji Metassan bin Haji Tahir.



Their Royal Highnesses and other members of the royal family at the reception hosted by the Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF).



His Royal Highness during the cake-cutting session (left); and receiving a *pesambah* (right) at the reception.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik as Chairman of the Committee of Governors of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah during the Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony.



His Royal Highness attends winter festival



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah at the Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival, held at the Sun Island Scenic Resort, Harbin, Heilongjiang Province.

HARBIN, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, 7th February – His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah attended the Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival, the world's largest annual winter festival, held at the Sun Island Scenic Resort, Harbin, Heilongjiang Province.

At the festival, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen viewed several ice sculpture replicas of world famous landmarks; as well as an ice sculpture made especially for the visit 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 to Harbin.

ADMM Retreat: Strengthening ASEAN unity and cooperation

PENANG, MALAYSIA, 26th February – The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Retreat convened at Shangri-La Rasa Sayang Resort & Spa, Penang.

The meeting was chaired by Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin, Minister of Defence of Malaysia as the Chairman of ADMM for 2025.

This year's retreat was attended by ASEAN Defence Ministers and representatives; Minister of Defense of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as an Observer of ADMM; and the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN to exchange views on strengthening ASEAN unity and cooperation.

The Brunei Darussalam delegation was led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence at the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Retreat.

Joining the delegation were Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Seri Pahlawan Haji Alirupendi bin Haji Perudin, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence (MinDef) as the Leader of ASEAN

Defence Senior Officials' Meeting Brunei Darussalam, and other officials from MinDef.

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Also attending the meeting was His Excellency Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Haji Mahmud bin Haji Saidin, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Malaysia.

Carrying the theme 'ASEAN Unity for Security and Prosperity', the ADMM Retreat has agreed to adopt the Joint Statement by the ASEAN Defence Ministers on Cooperation in the Field of Artificial Intelligence in the Defence Sector. On the sidelines of the retreat, a bilateral defence discussion was also held between Brunei and Malaysia.

Ministry amps up efforts in early detection, cancer care

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 4th February – In 2023, Brunei Darussalam recorded 794 new cancer cases and 351 cancer-related deaths, as reported by the Brunei Darussalam Cancer Registry. To mark World Cancer Day 2025, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health highlighted ongoing efforts in prevention, early detection, treatment, and palliative care.

Key initiatives include the National Health Screening Program, offering free cancer screenings for colorectal, breast, and cervical cancers. The BruHealth App now allows users to register for screenings, with the introduction of a Risk Assessment feature in 2024, which helps users determine their eligibility.

Additionally, the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) test, introduced in August 2024, replaces the Pap test for cervical cancer screenings, aligning with the WHO's strategy to eliminate cervical cancer by 2030.

In August 2024, a Breast Imaging Centre was opened to provide

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more comfortable and private screenings, and in January 2025, the National Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control Guidelines were launched. The Brunei Cancer Centre continues to offer advanced treatments and comprehensive cancer care, with the Minister of Health emphasising collective efforts to prevent complications and provide equitable care.

Minister attends 156th WHO EB session

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 5th February – Ministers of Health and representatives from several member countries of the Executive Board (EB) of the World Health Organization (WHO) attended the 156th Session of the EB from 3rd to 11th February.

Brunei Darussalam's delegation was led by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health, and included senior officials from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in Geneva.

The session covered several key topics, including reports from the WHO Director-General, regional committees, and the Program, Budget, and Administration Committee.

It also discussed the financial allocations



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health leading Brunei Darussalam's delegation to the 156th Session of the Executive Board.

for 2024-2025 and proposed allocations for 2026-2027. The session reviewed administrative and technical agendas, with draft resolutions and decisions considered for the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA) in May. Brunei co-sponsored a resolution proposed by Malaysia on 'Promoting and Prioritising Integrated Lung Health

Approach'.

Additionally, the Minister of Health held bilateral discussions with the Honourable Abdulla Nazim Ibrahim, Minister of Health of the Republic of Maldives, focusing on health cooperation between the two countries and within the region.

Towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, 14th February – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health attended the Third Cohort of the Global Councils on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and had the honour of becoming the Chairperson of the Global

Council focusing on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3: Good Health and Well-Being at the World Governments Summit 2025.

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Yang Berhormat Minister of Health speaking at the World Governments Summit 2025.

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The summit, themed 'Shaping Future Governments', took place from 11th to 13th February in Dubai.

The third cohort of the council brought together ministers chairing each of the 17 SDGs, including His Excellency Le Thanh Long, Deputy Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; His Excellency Thoriq Ibrahim, Minister of Climate Change, Environment and Energy of the Republic of Maldives; the Honourable Savannah Maziya, Minister of Information, Communications and Technology of the Kingdom of Eswatini; the Honourable Adrian R. Forde, M.P., Minister of Environment and National Beautification, Green and Blue Economy of Barbados; and Her Excellency Ohood Khalfan Al Roumi, Minister of State for Government and Future Development of the UAE as President of the Global Council on SDGs.

The Minister of Health also participated in several other events, including the XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable; SDGs in Action Forum; and the Global Health Forum.

At the XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable, the Minister joined discussions on long-term global development strategies beyond 2030. The discussions explored long-term strategies and innovative frameworks to shape the global development agenda; mechanisms to enhance cooperation between governments, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, and international organisations; and transformative innovations to drive progress toward the XDGs 2045.

The Minister was a panelist in a session under the SDGs in Action Forum, 'Innovative Strategies for Universal Health Coverage and Reducing Health Inequalities'. During the session, he highlighted key healthcare challenges and shared Brunei's digital health initiatives.

The Minister was also part of the panel during another session under the Global Health Forum, 'From Vision to Reality', with discussions focusing on healthcare systems in the post-COVID era and the future vision of healthcare. The Minister discussed Brunei's use of artificial intelligence (AI) in diabetic retinopathy and breast cancer screening, and emphasised AI's role in addressing workforce shortages and enhancing healthcare resilience.

The Minister additionally met Dr. Amer Ahmad Sharif, Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Health/Dubai Academic Health Cooperation and President of Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences to explore potential collaborations in strengthening national and global healthcare systems.

Reception celebrates Emperor of Japan's birthday

GADONG, 26th February – The Embassy of Japan in Brunei Darussalam hosted a reception in conjunction with the 65th Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito, Emperor of Japan at The Rizqun International Hotel.

Representing the Government of Brunei Darussalam as the Guest of Honour at the event was Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health.

The event saw a speech delivered by His Excellency Kikuta Yutaka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (Designate) of Japan to Brunei Darussalam, who affirmed Japan's commitment in supporting Brunei Darussalam's energy transition and economic diversification as the country's main investor and business partner.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (Designate) of Japan to Brunei Darussalam added that currently, there are 21 Japanese companies operating in Brunei as partners contributing to the local economic development. The Ambassador also touched on the deepening of maritime defence and security cooperation between both countries, as well as cultural exchange



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health representing the Government of Brunei Darussalam as the Guest of Honour at the reception.

and people-to-people relations.

The reception also featured exhibition booths from Japanese companies operating in the country, showcasing their achievements and current activities.

Brunei, UAE explore future cooperation efforts

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, 14th February – 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 attended the World Governments Summit 2025 in Dubai.

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His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi; and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai were present at the summit.

The Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy also held a Bilateral Meeting with His Excellency Mohammad Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs at PMO, UAE.

The meeting discussed developments in the cooperation with the UAE formalised through the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Experience Exchange on Government Development and Modernisation, and explored future cooperation efforts and proposed engagements towards expanding bilateral relations between both countries.

During the summit, 28 senior government officials attended the Brunei Executive Leadership Program Graduation Ceremony on 10th February. The program is an outcome of the MoU conducted in collaboration with the UAE Government Experience Exchange Office.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy during the Bilateral Meeting with His Excellency Minister of Cabinet Affairs at the Prime Minister's Office, United Arab Emirates.

The World Governments Summit took place in Dubai from 11th to 13th February under the theme 'Shaping Future Governments'.

The World Governments Summit brought together governments, international organisations, and private sector leaders with a focus on six key themes: Effective Governance and Accountability; Financing the Future and the Global Economy; Climate, Crisis Mitigation, and Resilient Cities; Human-Centric Futures and Capacity Building; Global Health Transformations; and Emerging Frontiers and the Future.

CBNA promotes Brunei-Canada trade relations

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 21st February – 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; and Her Excellency Ambra Dickie, High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam officially launched the Canada-Brunei Chamber of Commerce and Networking Association (CBNA). The launching took place at the CAE Brunei Multi-Purpose Training Centre.

The event also saw a speech delivered by The Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic Development of Canada.

CBNA aims to promote collaboration and create mutual benefits for businesses in both countries. It will serve as the primary institution, in alignment with the growth of trade relations and the friendship between Brunei and Canada.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; and Her Excellency High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam launching the Canada-Brunei Chamber of Commerce and Networking Association.

New agreement explores innovative investment

ANGGEREK DESA, 27th February – The Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) and Tipolis Pte. Ltd. (Tipolis), a developer of next-generation special economic zones based in the Republic of Singapore, have signed an agreement to assess the feasibility of a potential joint project in Brunei Darussalam.

The agreement initiates the specific feasibility study and contract negotiations, aligning with Brunei's diversification efforts under Brunei Vision 2035.

The ceremony took place at the main auditorium of the Design and Technology building in Anggerek Desa, with the attendance of Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy as the Chairman of BEDB.

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Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy as the Chairman of the Brunei Economic Development Board at the signing.

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The Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy also represented BEDB during the signing; while the statutory body's counterpart was represented by Dr. Titus Gebel, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Tipolis.

The Minister stated that the project has the potential to

make the country's economy more dynamic, creating greater economic opportunities for Bruneians and fostering long-term prosperity.

Tipolis specialises in private sector-led, contracts-based models under their brand concept of International Cities, designed to drive economic growth and innovation while integrating with host nations' long-term development strategies.

Embassy celebrates Iran's 46th National Day

GADONG, 11th February – To celebrate the 46th Anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran's National Day, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Brunei Darussalam hosted a reception at the Songket Ballroom, The Rizqun International Hotel.

Representing the Government of Brunei Darussalam as Guests of Honour at the event were Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism and spouse. Also present were His Excellency Mohammad Taghi Rajabi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam and spouse.

The event commenced with the singing of national anthems of both countries, followed by the recitation of verses of the Al-Quran. The Ambassador of Iran also delivered a speech at the reception.

The highlight of the event comprised a cake-cutting session carried out by the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism



Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism and spouse at the Reception. Also present were His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam and spouse.

and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei launches two new river cruises

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 13th February – As part of the ongoing initiative to enhance and diversify Brunei Darussalam's tourism, the Tourism Development Department, under the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT), launched two newly upgraded river cruises: the Brunei Heritage River Cruise and the Brunei Safari River Cruise.

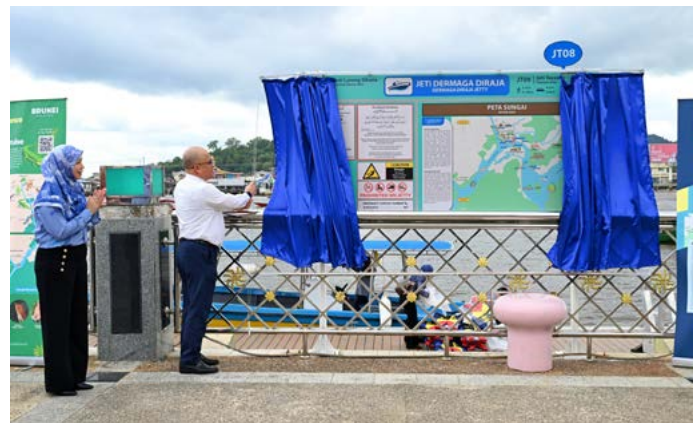
The launching was officiated by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism.

Also present were the Permanent Secretary and Deputy Permanent Secretary at MPRT, members of the Legislative Council, foreign envoys, and representatives from government agencies, including those from the Enhancement of Ecotourism Working Group Committee (JKPP).

The event also featured the unveiling of new river jetty signage placed along the Brunei and Kedayan Rivers, a joint effort by the Tourism Development Department and JKPP.

Following the launch, the Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism joined others on-board the newly introduced river cruises to experience upgrades first-hand.

The Brunei Heritage River Cruise now offers a more enriched experience through the country's rich heritage, incorporating historically significant sites such as Pulau Chermin, Pulau Keingaran and Makam Di Luba. Meanwhile, the Brunei Safari River Cruise provides an opportunity to explore Brunei's stunning biodiversity along a newly introduced route through the Kedayan River.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism officiating the launching (above); and joining onboard the newly introduced river cruises (below).



Speech competition upholds Arabic Language

GADONG, 16th February – Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA), through its Faculty of Arabic Language held a Regional Arabic Speech Competition and the 2024 Arabic Festival Prize Presentation in celebration of World Arabic Language Day in Brunei Darussalam.

Present as the Guest of Honour was His Excellency Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Buraithin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam.

The competition, which hosted physically by UNISSA for the first time, featured four participants from local and international institutions.

The event included a performance, followed by a prize and certificate presentation by the Guest of Honour.



His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam attending the 2024 Arabic Festival Prize Presentation in celebration of World Arabic Language Day in Brunei Darussalam.

BILIF wins international award

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 26th February – Brunei Institute of Leadership and Islamic Finance (BILIF) was awarded the International Finance Awards 2024 under the category 'Best Islamic Finance Training Institution – Brunei 2024' during the 12th Annual International Finance Award, which took place on 21st February at Waldorf Astoria Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand.

Present to accept the award was Awang Haji Afero Eswandy bin Haji Awang Mohamad, Acting Chief Executive Officer of BILIF.

The award, organised by the International Finance Magazine, United Kingdom, recognises industry talent, leadership skills, net worth and capability on a global scale.

The award also aims to acknowledge and honour financial and relevant institutions for their outstanding achievements, encompassing innovative endeavours in corporate social responsibility, charitable initiatives, robust corporate governance practices, and contributions that positively impact the global finance community, alongside their performance within their specific domains.

Its recipients represent various sectors, including finance, banking, brokerage, insurance, utilities, and telecommunications,



The Acting Chief Executive Officer of Brunei Institute of Leadership and Islamic Finance at the award ceremony.

primarily from the Middle East, Asia, Europe and Africa.

Prior to the event, BILIF also organised meetings and discussions with the Islamic Bank of Thailand, the Thai Banking Academy, and the Stock Exchange of Thailand. The sessions were held to explore opportunities for bilateral cooperation between BILIF and the organisations, particularly towards the development of human capital and the enhancement of expertise in Islamic finance.

Brunei's first-ever liver transplant a success

JERUDONG, 2nd February – Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) announced a historic achievement in Brunei Darussalam's healthcare landscape: the successful completion of the nation's first-ever liver transplant from a living donor.

The ground-breaking procedure conducted on 1st February involved a 35-year-old daughter, who donated a portion of her liver to her 59-year-old father. Both individuals are in stable condition and continue to recover under close medical

supervision at JPMC.

Previously, liver transplants required overseas treatment, but the successful operation has demonstrated Brunei's ability to provide specialised transplant care locally, improving patient recovery outcomes while reducing medical costs for the nation.

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This accomplishment also aligns with the vision to make Brunei self-sufficient in healthcare and promote medical tourism, said Dr. Meera Sahib Kabeer, Chief Medical Officer of JPMC in a press conference held at the Pantai Jerudong Specialist Centre.

The surgery was led by Dr. Palat Balachandran, alongside a highly skilled team of specialists; while Dr. Taufique Ahmed, Visiting Consultant, Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist at JPMC prepared the patient and donor for the transplant surgery.



The press conference held at the Pantai Jerudong Specialist Centre.

Locals banks receive regional recognitions

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 7th February – Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) and Baiduri Bank recently received recognitions at the Asian Management Excellence Awards 2025 in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand.

BIBD was presented with the Brunei Health and Wellness Initiative of the Year – banking award for its commitment to workplace and community well-being.

The recognition highlights the impact of BIBD's Wellness Ambassadors initiative, a pioneering program that empowers BIBD employees and strategic partners to serve as first responders in both physical and mental health emergencies.



The Chief Operating Officer of Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam in a group photo at the Asian Management Excellence Awards 2025.



The Deputy Head of Group Human Resources at Baiduri Bank accepting the award Brunei Employee Engagement of the Year – banking award.

On the other hand, Baiduri Bank, for the second time in a row, was recognised for its commitment to employee engagement and talent development, winning the Brunei Employee Engagement of the Year – banking award.

Lyndsay Spray, Chief Operating Officer of BIBD; and Chiam Chin Huei, Deputy Head of Group Human Resources at Baiduri Bank, accepted the awards on behalf of their respective banks.

The award ceremony was hosted by Asian Business Review by Charlton Media Group, a regional magazine serving Asia's dynamic business community.

CPI registers 0.4 per cent decrease

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 22nd February – The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in January registered a 0.4 per cent decrease compared to January 2024, driven by the declines of 1 per cent in the food and non-alcoholic beverages index; and 0.2 per cent in the non-food index.

The decrease in the food and non-alcoholic beverages index was contributed by lower chicken meat prices due to lower domestic demand, and a fall in the prices of imported fresh fish and prawns from supplier countries.

The decline of 1.2 per cent in transport was attributed to lower air fares. Meanwhile, the housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels category recorded a decline of 0.8 per cent, particularly in the price of maintenance and repair of dwellings.

For a month-on-month comparison, the CPI in January registered a 1.2 per cent decrease compared to December 2024. This was driven by a 1.6 per cent decrease in the non-food index, while the food and non-alcoholic beverages index showed a 0.4 per cent increase.

The decrease in the non-food index was primarily contributed by a decline in the prices of transport (4 per cent); and clothing and footwear (6.7 per cent). Meanwhile, the increase in the food and non-alcoholic beverages index was mainly driven by the prices of fish and seafood (1.5 per cent); and vegetables (1.7 per cent).

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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND STATISTICS
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

JANUARY 2025

Year-on-Year

JAN 25
JAN 24

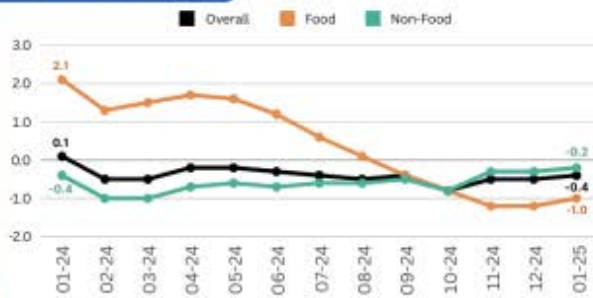
▼ **0.4%**

Month-on-Month

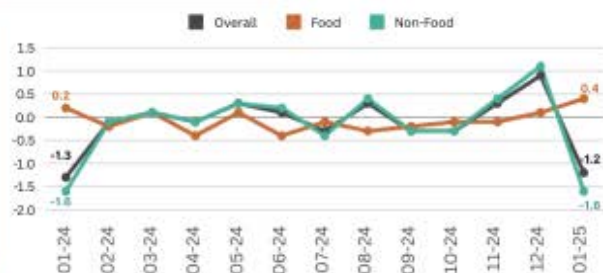
JAN 25
DEC 24

▼ **1.2%**

Year-on-Year



Month-on-Month



CPI Basket



The CPI basket worth BND100.00 in January 2015 is now worth **BND105.95** in **January 2025**

Food **BND115.68**
Non-Food **BND103.69**

Main Contributors Year-on-Year

Food and Non-Alcoholic
Beverages

▼ **1.0%**

Meat



▼ **3.1%**

Fish and Seafood



▼ **2.8%**

Milk, Dairy Products and Eggs



▼ **2.3%**

Non-Food

▼ **0.2%**

Transport



▼ **1.2%**

Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other
Fuels



▼ **0.8%**

Notes

- CPI measures the average change of prices of a **fixed** basket of goods and services paid by households in a certain period of time.
- Month-on-month means to compare prices with the previous month.
- Year-on-year means to compare prices with the same month in the previous year.

Total trade shows 3.4 per cent growth in December 2024

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 26th February – The total trade for December 2024 grew by 3.4 per cent to \$1,942.0 million, compared to November 2024. This growth was contributed by exports valued at \$1,155.4 million and imports amounting to \$786.6 million.

The major contributors to the export value were mineral fuels, accounting for 72.7 per cent; followed by chemicals at 25.2 per cent; and machinery and transport equipment at 1.1 per cent.

The main export markets were Australia, accounting for 22.1 per cent; followed by the Republic of Singapore at 16.5 per cent; and the People's Republic of China at 15.3 per cent. The largest export commodities to these countries were mineral fuels and chemicals.

Meanwhile, imports in December 2024 were valued at \$786.6 million. The three main import commodities were mineral fuels, accounting for 59.9 per cent; followed by machinery and transport equipment at 17.4 per cent; and food at 8.8 per cent.

The largest import partners were Malaysia, accounting for 40.4 per cent; followed by the United Arab Emirates at 13.6 per cent; and China at 6.8 per cent. The main import commodities from these trading partners were mineral fuels; machinery and transport equipment; as well as foods.

Compared to November 2024, the trade balance in December 2024 fell by 14.1 per cent, driven by the rise in imports by 8.6 per cent.

The imports for end use categories, were mainly used as intermediate goods, processing accounting for 61.1 per cent; followed by capital goods for business operations at 34.7 per cent; and consumption goods for household use at 4.2 per cent.

For the whole year of 2024, the total trade was valued at \$24,786.0 million, an increase by 0.1 per cent compared to \$24,772.6 million in 2023.



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BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE STATISTICS DECEMBER 2024

BND Million

