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Brunei Darussalam

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## Their Majesties welcome President of Kosovo

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 5<sup>th</sup> May**

– Brunei Darussalam hosted a State Visit by Her Excellency Dr. Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu, President of the Republic of Kosovo, and Mr. Prindon Sadriu, First Gentleman. They were welcomed 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, and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam, with full state honours including a 21-gun salute and a Guard of Honour at Istana Nurul Iman.

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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 with Her Excellency Dr. Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu, President of the Republic of Kosovo, and Mr. Prindon Sadriu, First Gentleman.

## Brunei, Indonesia boost strategic relations



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Prabowo Subianto, President of the Republic of Indonesia inspecting the Guard of Honour mounted by members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 14<sup>th</sup> May**

– 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 His Excellency Prabowo Subianto, President of the Republic of Indonesia, and delegation during a one-day State Visit.

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## His Majesty in Malaysia for ASEAN Summit

**KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 26<sup>th</sup> May**

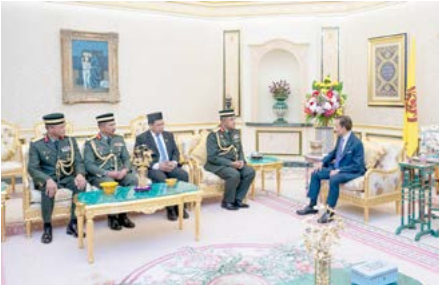
– His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang

Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, attended the 16<sup>th</sup> BIMP-EAGA Summit and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-GCC Summit. At the BIMP-EAGA Summit, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam acknowledged the progress made over the past three decades, called for a re-evaluation of achievements under Vision 2025, and expressed support for Vision 2035. His Majesty emphasised the importance of inclusive growth, deeper regional integration, and stronger institutional frameworks to ensure equitable benefits for all member states.



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**3. His Majesty receives audience**



**4. Her Majesty receives audience**



**9. His Majesty receives intending hajj pilgrims**



**12. His Majesty receives Letters of Credence**



**17. 487 receive Honorary Medals**



**18. Promote resilience, adaptability, and public engagement**



**20. Military professionalism must keep improving**



**23. Speaker of LegCo receives courtesy calls**



**24. Brunei reaffirms peacekeeping commitment**



**26. Committed to affordable health access**



**28. Ensure inclusive adoption of digital technologies**



**30. Inclusive, resilient education across the region**



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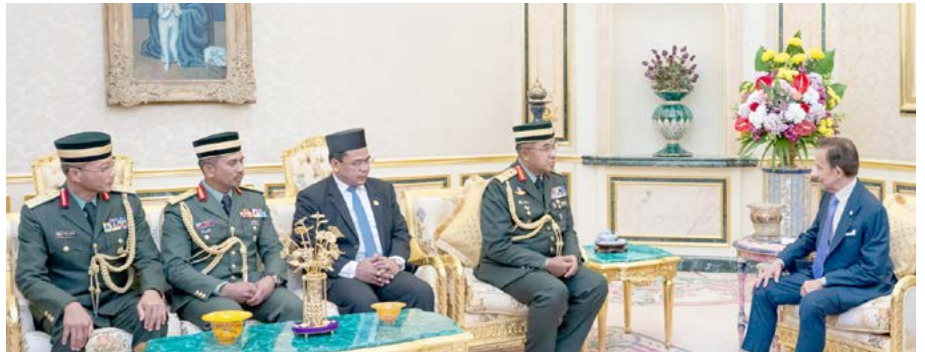
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## His Majesty receives audiences

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

- Yang Berbahagia General Datuk Haji Mohd. Nizam bin Haji Jaffar, Chief of Defence Force, Malaysian Armed Forces on 8<sup>th</sup> May.



Delegation of Ministers and representatives of Ministers of ASEAN Member States, Plus Three Countries, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

His Excellency Lieutenant General Domingos Raul 'Falur Rate Laek', Chief of Defence Force of Timor-leste on 13<sup>th</sup> May.



Her Excellency Sengdavanh Vongsay, outgoing Ambassador of Lao People's Democratic Republic to Brunei Darussalam on 13<sup>th</sup> May.



Her Excellency Alexandra McKenzie, outgoing British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam on 19<sup>th</sup> May.





## Her Majesty receives audiences

Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam received in audience at Istana Nurul Iman:

Newly appointed envoys: Her Excellency Pengiran Hairani binti Pengiran Tajuddin, Permanent Representatives of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in New York, United States; Her Excellency Hajah Nor Huda binti Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Haji Ahmad, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brunei Darussalam to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Her Excellency Naureen Ahsan, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam; Yang Berbahagia Datin Zaeidah binti Mohamed Esa, spouse of Malaysian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam; Heather Mc Intyr, spouse of Australian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam; and Madam So Sotheary, spouse of Cambodian Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.



Yang Berbahagia Datin Risia binti Sheikh Ali Omar Bajarai, spouse of the Chief of Defence Force of the Malaysian Armed Forces on 8<sup>th</sup> May.



Her Excellency Sengdavanh Vongsay, the outgoing Ambassador of Lao People's Democratic Republic to Brunei Darussalam on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.



Her Excellency Alexandra McKenzie, the outgoing British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam; Her Excellency Eve Lubin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the French Republic to Brunei Darussalam; Madam Hoda Rajabi, spouse of His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Brunei Darussalam; and Madam Ha Ji Hoon, spouse of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to Brunei Darussalam on 20<sup>th</sup> May.



Rosa Maria Quintão, spouse of the Chief of Defence Force of Timor-Leste on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

## The Crown Prince receives audiences

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



Her Excellency Sengdavanh Vongsay, the outgoing Ambassador of Lao People's Democratic Republic to Brunei Darussalam on 15<sup>th</sup> May.



Her Excellency Alexandra McKenzie, the outgoing British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam on 20<sup>th</sup> May.



## 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 has consented to send congratulatory messages to:

- His Excellency Lawrence Wong, following the victory of the People's Action Party (PAP), led by the Prime Minister in the recent Republic of Singapore general election on 3<sup>rd</sup> May;
- His Excellency Friedrich Merz, following his appointment as Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany on 6<sup>th</sup> May;
- The Honourable Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia on the occasion of his reappointment as the

Prime Minister of Australia on 13<sup>th</sup> May;

- The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada following his recent victory in the Canada Federal Election and on the occasion of his reappointment as the Prime Minister of Canada on 14<sup>th</sup> May;

His Excellency Lawrence Wong on the occasion of the reappointment as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore on 23<sup>rd</sup> May; and

- His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and members of the royal family as well as the government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the occasion of its Independence Day on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

## News

### Their Majesties welcome President of Kosovo (continued)

From front page

Following the State Welcoming Ceremony, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha received the President of the Republic of Kosovo and the First Gentleman in an Audience Ceremony, attended by members of the royal family.

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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 Excellency the President of the Republic of Kosovo inspecting the Guard of Honour mounted by members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam being introduced to the official delegation of the Republic of Kosovo, including the Chief of Staff and advisers from the Office of the President.



Her Excellency the President and the First Gentleman being introduced to the members of the royal family and Brunei's key officials.



Among the students waving miniature flags of both countries.



The Firing of 21 cannon shots during the Salute of Honour.





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 receiving in audience Her Excellency the President of the Republic of Kosovo and First Gentleman.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving the 'Order of Independence' conferred by Her Excellency the President.



His Majesty conferring the 'Darjah Kerabat Laila Utama Yang Amat Dihormati (D.K.)' to Her Excellency the President, which carries the title of 'Datin Laila Utama'.



Present at the Audience Ceremony were other members of the royal family.

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During the ceremony, the President conferred the 'Order of Independence' upon His Majesty, while His Majesty awarded the 'Darjah Kerabat Laila Utama Yang Amat Dihormati (D.K.)' to the President, granting her the honorary title 'Datin Laila Utama'.

A Bilateral Meeting was also held where both leaders discussed strengthening economic cooperation and people-to-people ties, including the signing of a Visa Waiver Agreement for ordinary, diplomatic, and official passports.

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The Bilateral Meeting taking place at Cheradi Ratna Kenchana, Istana Nurul Iman.





His Majesty during the Bilateral Meeting. Also present was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (left); and His Majesty and Her Excellency the President signing the Visa Waiver Agreement (right).

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During the State Banquet, His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) highlighting the growing ties between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Kosovo, recognising Kosovo's progress since independence and reaffirming Brunei's support for sovereign states. Diplomatic relations between the two nations began in 2017, following Brunei's recognition Kosovo's independence in 2012.



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His Majesty and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri during the State Banquet in honour of the State Visit of Her Excellency the President and First Gentleman.



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



Her Excellency the President delivering a speech.



Also present at the State Banquet were other members of the royal family.





His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family bids farewell to Her Excellency the President of the Republic of Kosovo and First Gentleman.

From page 7

The President expressed gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality. The visit also included tours of significant Bruneian landmarks such as the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque, the Royal Regalia Museum, and Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

Her Excellency the President and First Gentleman during their visit to the Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Mosque (right); and Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (BKISHHB) (below).



Her Excellency the President delivering a lecture at Universiti Brunei Darussalam (left); and during the visit to the Royal Regalia Museum (right).



The First Gentleman during the visit to the Defence Academy at Royal Brunei Armed Forces.



Her Excellency the President and First Gentleman departing the country after concluding the three-day State Visit.



## His Majesty receives intending hajj pilgrims



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 intending hajj pilgrims. Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) (above and below).



**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 1<sup>st</sup> May** – 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 a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet) with 992 intending hajj pilgrims (472 men and 520 women) at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince

Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

Before the ceremony, the pilgrims performed Zuhur and Sunat Hajat prayers.

His Majesty presented *ihram* garments to male pilgrims and *telekung* (prayer veils) to female pilgrims as a gesture of goodwill. Six travel companies have been appointed as official Hajj service providers this year.



The intending hajj pilgrims performing Zuhur and Sunat Hajat prayers.



Intending hajj pilgrims at the event.



Intending hajj pilgrims receiving gifts from His Majesty, a bag containing white *ihram* garments for male pilgrims and *telekung* (prayer veils) for female pilgrims.



## Brunei, Indonesia boost strategic relations (continued)

From front page

The visit began with the Welcoming Ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman, including a 21-gun salute and inspection of the Guard of Honour. The President of the Republic of Indonesia was formally introduced to Brunei Darussalam's royal family members and key officials, and His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was introduced to the President's official delegation.

During the Audience Ceremony, His Majesty conferred the 'Darjah Kerabat Laila Utama Yang Amat Dihormati (D.K)' on the President, granting him the title 'Dato Laila Utama'.

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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 together with His Excellency President of the Republic of Indonesia receive the Salute of Honour.



His Excellency President of the Republic of Indonesia being introduced to the members of the royal family and Brunei's key officials.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam conferring the 'Darjah Kerabat Laila Utama Yang Amat Dihormati (D.K)' to the President, which carries the title 'Dato Laila Utama' (left); and during the Audience Ceremony with His Excellency President (right).



Among those present at the ceremony.



Recitation of *doa selamat* by Yang Berhormat State Mufti.





His Majesty and His Excellency the President during the Bilateral Meeting.

## From page 10

The leaders later held a Bilateral Meeting, discussing cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, tourism, renewable energy, and regional and international matters, including the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Both reaffirmed support for a sovereign Palestinian state based on pre-1967 borders.



His Majesty and His Excellency the President during the event.



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



His Excellency President delivering a speech at the State Banquet.

A State Banquet followed, attended by members of the royal family. His Majesty in a *titah* (royal speech) emphasised the strong, historic, and religious ties between Brunei and Indonesia, citing the need for continued cooperation amid global challenges. His Majesty expressed confidence in President Prabowo's leadership and future bilateral progress.

The President expressed deep gratitude for the warm hospitality and highlighted the shared cultural, religious, and historical ties between the two nations, describing the relationship as that of one family.

The President and his delegation departed from Brunei the same day, marking a successful and symbolic visit that reinforced the close and enduring relationship between the two countries.



His Majesty as well as other members of the royal family at the State Banquet (above); and a performance during the event (left).

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# His Majesty receives Letters of Credence

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 17<sup>th</sup> May** – 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 Letters of Credence from 26 non-resident foreign envoys at Istana Nurul Iman.

Following the formal presentation, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam granted an audience to the newly accredited envoys who do not reside in Brunei Darussalam.

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving Letters of Credence from His Excellency Alem Tsehaye Woldemariam, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Eritrea to Brunei Darussalam (left); and Her Excellency Sarah Ann McGrath, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ireland to Brunei Darussalam (right).



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam receiving Letters of Credence from His Excellency Hassan Saleh Algadam Aldjinedi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Chad to Brunei Darussalam (left); Her Excellency Constance Chemwayi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Government of Belgium to Brunei Darussalam (middle); and His Excellency Peter Van Acker, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belgium to Brunei Darussalam (right).



His Majesty receiving Letters of Credence from Her Excellency Betty Oyella Bigombe, High Commissioner of the Republic of Uganda to Brunei Darussalam (left); His Excellency Morecome Mumba, High Commissioner of the Republic of Zambia to Brunei Darussalam (middle); and His Excellency Dante Brandi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Italy to Brunei Darussalam (right).



His Majesty receiving Letters of Credence from His Excellency Hassan Abdelsalam Omar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Sudan to Brunei Darussalam (left); His Excellency Tomáš Ferko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to Brunei Darussalam (middle); and His Excellency Jaime Munoz Sandoval, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Chile to Brunei Darussalam (right).

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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 members of the royal family bidding farewell to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Indonesia.



His Excellency the President and his delegation left the country after completing one-day State Visit.



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His Majesty receiving Letters of Credence from His Excellency Brigadier General Félix Diallo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Mali to Brunei Darussalam (left); His Excellency Denis Chaibi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the European Union to Brunei Darussalam (middle); and His Excellency Dr. Mubarak Saeed Ahmed Burshaid Al Dhaheeri, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Arab Emirates to Brunei Darussalam (right).



His Majesty receiving Letters of Credence from His Excellency Anders Sjöberg, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Government of Sweden to Brunei Darussalam (left); His Excellency Miguel de Mascarenhas de Calheiros Velozo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Portugal to Brunei Darussalam (middle); and His Excellency Jakob Brix Tange, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Denmark Government to Brunei Darussalam (right).



His Majesty receiving Letters of Credence from His Excellency Dr. Edin Jahić, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Brunei Darussalam (left); His Excellency Ekitela Ronald John Moru, High Commissioner of the Republic of Kenya to Brunei Darussalam (middle); and His Excellency Delgahadeniya Dissanayake Mudiyanse Senarath Bandara Dissanayake, High Commissioner of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka to Brunei Darussalam (right).



His Majesty receiving Letters of Credence from Her Excellency Anne Vasara, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Finland to Brunei Darussalam (left); His Excellency Uwihanganye Jean de Dieu, High Commissioner of the Republic of Rwanda to Brunei Darussalam (middle); His Excellency Radamés Jesús Gómez Azuaje, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (right).



His Majesty receiving Letters of Credence from His Excellency Michael Wehi Mailletonga Walsh, New Zealand High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam (left); His Excellency Víctor Hugo Rohas González, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Costa Rica to Brunei Darussalam (middle); and Her Excellency Koumba Diop, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Guinea (right).



His Majesty in a group photo with non-resident Heads of foreign envoys to Brunei Darussalam.



## His Majesty in Malaysia for ASEAN Summit (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 at the Plenary and Retreat Session of the 46<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit.

### From front page

During the ASEAN-GCC Summit, His Majesty highlighted the urgency of strengthening cooperation amid a volatile global landscape. His Majesty urged the implementation of the ASEAN-GCC Framework of Cooperation, acknowledged the Gulf Cooperation Council's leadership in renewable energy, and encouraged collaboration in climate action and digital transformation. His Majesty also expressed support for ongoing peace efforts in global conflicts and reaffirmed the importance of upholding international law and a rules-based order.



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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the Plenary Session and Retreat Session of the 46<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit (above and below).







His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attending the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of ASEAN Youth.

From page 14

His Majesty also held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Phạm Minh Chính, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, during which His Majesty conveyed condolences on the passing of the late President Trần Đức Lương and reaffirmed the strong bilateral relationship between the two countries.

His Majesty looked forward to furthering cooperation in areas such as trade, energy, agriculture, aquaculture, the *halal* industry, and food security, while also strengthening people-to-people ties, particularly in education and defence. Brunei and Viet Nam have shared diplomatic relations since 1992, marked by extensive collaboration across multiple sectors.

Earlier, on 26<sup>th</sup> May, His Majesty participated in the 46<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, where His Majesty was welcomed by Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia. Together with ASEAN leaders and representatives from the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, His Majesty attended the Plenary and Retreat Sessions of the Summit.



His Majesty upon arrival at the Gala Dinner.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait.



His Majesty with ASEAN leaders and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste at the Signing Ceremony of the 'Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future'.



His Majesty with ASEAN Leaders and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste at the signing ceremony.

In a *titah* (royal speech), His Majesty recognised ASEAN's achievements in regional integration over the past decade and stressed the need to build resilience in the face of emerging challenges. His Majesty called for the strengthening of intra-ASEAN trade, welcomed the successful conclusion of the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement negotiations, and supported the early finalisation of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement. On climate change, His Majesty highlighted the importance of fully implementing ASEAN SHIELD and urged member states to ratify the agreement establishing the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change.



Various cultural performances during the dinner.

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From page 15

His Majesty further emphasised the continued importance of community-building beyond 2025, including Timor-Leste's accession to ASEAN, and expressed full support for the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, aimed at creating a people-centred, adaptive, and resilient region.

Additionally, His Majesty attended the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Youth and the signing ceremony of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2045. In a *titah*, His Majesty underscored the vital role of youth in shaping ASEAN's future and commended initiatives such as the ASEAN Youth Economic Forum.



His Majesty in a group photo at the 16<sup>th</sup> Brunei Darussalam–Indonesia–Malaysia–Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit.



His Majesty in a group photo at the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-GCC Summit.

His Majesty also held a meeting with His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait, where both leaders reaffirmed the close ties between Brunei Darussalam and Kuwait. Discussions focused on expanding cooperation in trade, education, and investment, especially as the two countries mark the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations.

Concluding the engagements, His Majesty attended a Gala Dinner hosted by the Malaysian Prime Minister and his spouse, Dato' Seri Dr. Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, in honour of ASEAN and Timor-Leste leaders and special guests. The evening featured cultural performances celebrating regional unity and friendship.



His Majesty with His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait.

## Appointment of Deputy Permanent Secretary, MORA

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 11<sup>th</sup> May** - By command of 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, it is hereby announced that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented for Awang Haji Shamshol bin Haji Omar, Director of Islamic Studies at the

Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) to be promoted and to be appointed as Deputy Permanent Secretary (Policy and Religion) at MoRA.

The date of promotion and appointment of the said officer is effective on Monday, 14 Zulkaedah 1446 corresponding to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025.



## 487 receive Honorary Medals



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) as representative 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 at the Honorary Medal Conferment Ceremony.

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 1<sup>st</sup> May** – A total of 487 individuals were awarded the Pingat Indah Kerja Baik (P.I.K.B.) during a ceremony at Istana Nurul Iman.

Representing 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 for the conferment of the medals was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office.

Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik.

The recipients included personnel from various ministries and the private sector.

The ceremony concluded with a *doa selamat* recited by Yang Berhormat Pehin Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince during the conferment of medals to the recipients (above and below).



Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar reciting the *doa selamat*.

Attendees at the ceremony.



## Promote resilience, adaptability, and public engagement



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) delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the Official Opening Ceremony of the 17th Conference of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI).

**JERUDONG, 7<sup>th</sup> May** – 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), officially opened the 17th Conference of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) and its related meetings.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince receiving a *pesambah* (souvenir).



His Royal Highness signing a Commemorative Parchment.

In his *sabda* (royal speech), His Royal Highness the Crown Prince expressed Brunei Darussalam's honour in hosting the event and underscored the significance of constructive dialogue aligned with ASEAN Leaders' long-term strategic vision. Reflecting on ASEAN's founding in 1967 as a milestone for regional unity and cooperation, His Royal Highness reaffirmed Brunei Darussalam's full support for Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship, themed 'Inclusivity and Sustainability'.

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His Royal Highness at the Official Opening Ceremony of the 17th Conference of AMRI and related meetings.



Yang Berhormat Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence, as Chairman of the 17th AMRI delivering his welcoming speech during the Official Opening Ceremony of the 17th AMRI and related meetings.



Among the performances during the event.





His Royal Highness in a group photo

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Looking ahead, His Royal Highness welcomed the forthcoming ASEAN Community Vision 2045, which aims to shape the region over the next two decades by fostering resilience, adaptability, and public engagement. His Royal Highness also highlighted AMRI's crucial role in promoting ASEAN integration, advancing digital literacy, and addressing the challenges of the digital age, including emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI). Notably, His Royal Highness commended Brunei's achievement as the first ASEAN nation to complete the analogue television switch-off in 2017, symbolising its commitment to digital transformation.

His Royal Highness reaffirmed Brunei's dedication to regional cooperation and resilience in the face of evolving global challenges before officially declaring the 17<sup>th</sup> AMRI Conference open.

During the Opening Ceremony, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at PMO and Second Minister of

Defence, in his capacity as Chairman of the 17<sup>th</sup> AMRI, addressed growing concerns surrounding misinformation and AI-generated content. The Minister stressed the importance of fostering social responsibility and ensuring a secure and trustworthy media environment across ASEAN.

Since 2017, ASEAN has made substantial progress in combating fake news and misinformation. Initiatives such as the adoption of a Framework and Joint Declaration, and the formation of a Task Force on Fake News, have laid the foundation for enhancing critical thinking among ASEAN citizens and strengthening their ability to assess the reliability of information.

To promote regional understanding and cultural tolerance, the information sector continues to utilise platforms like ASEAN Television News and the ASEAN Quiz. Amid the ongoing digital transition, AMRI and the Senior Officials Meeting Responsible for Information (SOMRI) are intensifying efforts to boost media literacy, ensuring that ASEAN citizens are well-equipped to navigate the complexities of the digital era and that the media landscape evolves to meet the needs of the future.

## ISB celebrates IB graduation of Year 13 students

**JERUDONG, 24<sup>th</sup> May** - The Year 13 class from the International School Brunei (ISB) who completed the 2025 International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme were celebrated at a graduation ceremony held at the Royal Berkshire, Royal Brunei Polo and Country Club.

The event was attended by 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, along with Their Royal Highnesses' children.

The royal family expressed pride as they witnessed the awarding of excellent achievements, particularly recognising Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim for his outstanding performance in multiple subjects. Yang Teramat Mulia, one of the graduates, gave a royal speech reflecting on his journey from ISB's Pre-Kindy programme to his IB graduation, highlighting the support of his teachers and encouraging fellow students to cherish their experiences.



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 at the International Baccalaureate (IB) International School Brunei (ISB) 2025 Graduation Ceremony. Also present were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince's Children.



Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the ceremony.



Yang Teramat Mulia Pengiran Muda 'Abdul Muntaqim receiving a certificate for the excellent achievements.



## Military professionalism must keep improving

**MUARA, 31<sup>st</sup> May** - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Deputy Sultan, officiated the 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grand Parade of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) at the Royal Brunei Naval Base. The event began with a Royal Salute and inspection of the Guard of Honour, comprising over a thousand personnel from various branches of the RBAF. Commanded by Commander Mohammad Faizal Ezam, the parade featured a march-past. His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, in a *sabda* (royal speech), highlighted RBAF's growth and modernisation.

His Royal Highness emphasised the importance of human resource development alongside modern military capabilities. Since 2022, RBAF has seen an 11 per cent personnel increase due to revised recruitment policies and expanded training capacities.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Deputy Sultan delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) at the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grand Parade at the Royal Brunei Naval Base in Muara.



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince inspecting the Guard of Honour.

His Royal Highness praised career development policies that support personnel retention and advancement, noting that more personnel are choosing to extend their service. Collaboration with local institutions for military education, including Universiti Brunei Darussalam and the Brunei Technical Education Institution, is helping enhance training while reducing costs. International trainers are also brought in to support local development.



His Royal Highness acknowledged that only a limited number of personnel attend courses abroad due to infrastructure and expertise limitations and stressed the need for the RBAF to match the professionalism of public sector roles. His Royal Highness highlighted the potential of the Land Force Engineer Regiment to independently manage engineering tasks under national standards and encouraged inter-agency cooperation to achieve this. Addressing digital threats, His Royal Highness supported continued collaboration with Brunei Cyber Security and foreign armed forces to strengthen national cyber defence.

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His Royal Highness receiving the Royal Salute.



The Grand Parade with a march-past (above and below).



Among those present at the event to spectate the celebration.







His Royal Highness taking a closer look at the exhibition.



His Royal Highness receiving a *junjung ziarah* (meet and greet).



His Royal Highness touring the exhibition.

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His Royal Highness also praised the Special Forces Regiment, which has produced 28 Tier 2 personnel to spearhead new special operations units, ultimately aiming to establish a unified Special Operations Command (SOCOM). This development, alongside broader investment in personnel, reflects RBAF's commitment to maintaining high readiness and capability.

His Royal Highness expressed gratitude towards the Veteran Association (PERWIRA) for their continued national contributions and conveyed his appreciation to all RBAF personnel, both active and retired, as well as those involved in organising the celebrations.

A *doa selamat* was recited to bless the occasion, followed by a naval sail-past, aerial fly-past, and a visit to the Defence Development Exhibition. His Royal Highness later attended



various meet-and-greet sessions and joined a Royal Luncheon. The event concluded a cake-cutting ceremony.

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His Royal Highness in a group photo during the RBAF 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.





His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Deputy Sultan during the luncheon.



His Royal Highness cutting a cake in conjunction with the 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.



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



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Held under the theme 'Together United to Achieve the Nation's Aspirations', this year's celebration underscored RBAF's role in national unity and security, guided by Brunei Vision 2035 and the strategic pillars of the 2021 Defence White Paper. Prior to the parade, a Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony was held on 30<sup>th</sup> May at Bolkiah Garrison, attended by His Royal Highness. It included Quranic recitations, prayers for His Majesty's health, and prayers for RBAF's continued success, concluding with a commemorative dinner and photo session.



His Royal Highness attending the Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony in conjunction with the RBAF Anniversary celebration.



His Royal Highness attending the Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony in conjunction with the RBAF Anniversary celebration.





## Speaker of LegCo receives courtesy calls

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 27<sup>th</sup> May** - 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 separate courtesy calls from the High Commissioners of Pakistan and Bangladesh at the Dewan Majlis building.

During the meeting with His Excellency Janbaz Khan, High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam, both sides expressed satisfaction with current

bilateral relations and discussed enhancing cooperation in investment, IT, food security, and medicine. The Speaker of LegCo also acknowledged the contributions of Islamic Republic of Pakistan professionals in Brunei Darussalam.

In a meeting with Her Excellency Naureen Ahsan, High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam, both parties reaffirmed strong bilateral ties and explored collaboration in agricultural research, air connectivity, and people-to-people exchanges.



Yang Berhormat Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) with His Excellency High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Brunei Darussalam during the courtesy call.



Yang Berhormat Speaker of the LegCo with Her Excellency High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Brunei Darussalam during the courtesy call.

## Exploring field of information, two-way broadcasting

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 7<sup>th</sup> May** – On the sidelines of the 17<sup>th</sup> AMRI and 8<sup>th</sup> AMRI Plus Three Conferences, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence, held bilateral meetings with Yang Berhormat Teo Nie Ching, Deputy Minister of Communications of Malaysia and His Excellency Neth Pheaktra, Minister of Information of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

During the meeting with the Deputy Minister of Communications of Malaysia, the Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence expressed Brunei Darussalam's support for Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025 and thanked Malaysia for supporting Brunei's AMRI leadership.

In the meeting with Minister of Information of The Kingdom of Cambodia, the Minister praised the country's role as AMRI Vice-Chair and its efforts in combating misinformation. Discussions in both meetings focused on strengthening cooperation in information and broadcasting and supporting ASEAN's regional goals under Brunei's AMRI chairmanship (2025–2026).



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence during the Bilateral Meetings with His Excellency Neth Pheaktra, Minister of Information of Cambodia.



Yang Berhormat Minister during the Bilateral Meetings with the Deputy Minister of Communications of Malaysia.



## Brunei reaffirms peacekeeping commitment

**BERLIN, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, 15<sup>th</sup> May** – Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence, led a delegation to the United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting 2025, held from 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May.

The meeting, themed 'The Future of Peacekeeping', gathered high-level representatives from 133 countries, including 54 ministers and 15 deputy ministers, and focused on enhancing UN peacekeeping missions through improved mandates, funding, technology use, and operational safety.

The Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence engaged in

bilateral discussions with counterparts from the Federal Republic of Germany, the People's Republic of China, ASEAN, and other international partners to strengthen cooperation in peace and security.

Brunei Darussalam reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to UN peacekeeping, highlighting its participation in missions since 1993, and ongoing deployments to United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon. It has also been a member of the UN Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C34) since 2017.

The meeting concluded with 74 countries making pledges to address capability gaps and modernise peace operations.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence in a group photo at the United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting 2025.

## Revolutionising health and safety

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 20<sup>th</sup> May** – In conjunction with World Occupational Safety and Health Day 2025 (28<sup>th</sup> April), Brunei Darussalam underscores the critical importance of workplace safety and well-being as key to national progress and prosperity. A safe, healthy work environment is not only essential for individuals but also vital for the country's overall development.

Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence, responsible for the Safety, Health and Environment National Authority (SHENA), emphasised that the workforce is Brunei's most valuable asset and must be prioritised. The 2025 theme, 'Revolutionising Health and Safety: The role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Digitalisation in the Workplace' highlights the transformative

potential of AI in improving workplace safety—through automation, predictive maintenance, risk assessments, and real-time safety communication.

Brunei, with 99 per cent internet penetration and a fast-growing ICT sector, is well-positioned to lead in integrating these technologies. However, the Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence cautioned about challenges such as data privacy and job displacement, urging a careful, collaborative approach among government, industry, and workers.

The Government of Brunei Darussalam is addressing this through the Digital Economy Master Plan 2025 and Digital Transformation Plan 2023–2027, aligned with Brunei Vision 2035, to ensure ethical and progressive use of digital tools for workforce well-being.

The Minister called for strengthened

partnerships and continued investment in digital safety solutions to uphold the highest standards of occupational safety and cultivate a culture of safety across all sectors.



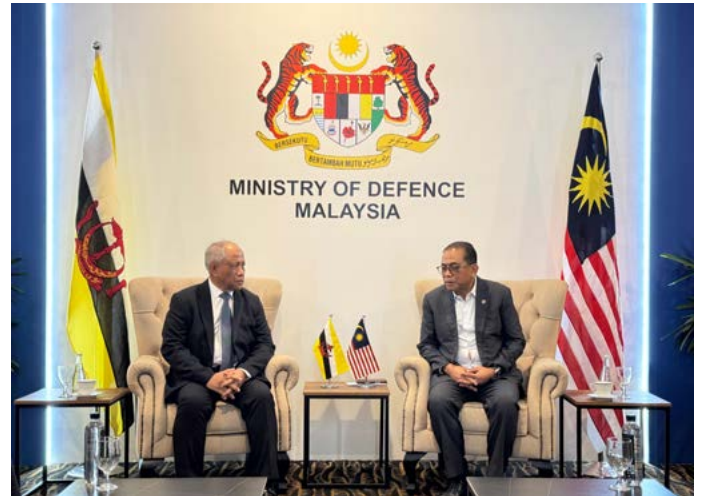
Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence responsible for the Safety, Health and Environment National Authority (SHENA).



## Regional Defence ties reinforced at Langkawi exhibition

**LANGKAWI, MALAYSIA, 21<sup>st</sup> May** – Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence, led a Ministry of Defence (MinDef) delegation to the 17<sup>th</sup> Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA'25) from 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May.

LIMA'25, themed 'Innovate Today, Thrive Tomorrow', is a major Asia-Pacific maritime and aerospace event co-organised by the Malaysian Ministry of Defence and Global Exhibitions and Conferences Sdn. Bhd. The event featured over 800 exhibitors from 30 countries.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence during the bilateral meeting with Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin, Malaysian Minister of Defence.



Yang Berhormat Minister visiting Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre.

Yang Berhormat Minister leading the Ministry of Defence delegation to the 17<sup>th</sup> Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2025 (LIMA'25).

The Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF) showcased its S-70i Black Hawk in the aircraft static display alongside aircrafts from several international forces, reflecting strong Brunei-Malaysia defence ties and a commitment to advancing defence technology.

During the event, the Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence, led a MinDef held bilateral meeting with Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin, Malaysian Minister of Defence, reaffirming close defence relations and discussing regional security. The Minister also received a courtesy call from Sudan's Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence.

The exhibition was officially opened by Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Diraja Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysian Prime Minister.



## Strengthen cooperation for region peace, stability

**REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, 31<sup>st</sup> May** - Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence, led Brunei Darussalam's delegation to the Informal Southeast Asia-United States Defence Ministers' Meeting held as part of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Shangri-La Dialogue.

The meeting, chaired by The Honourable Pete Hegseth, United States (US) Secretary of Defence, gathered defence ministers from Southeast Asia, including Timor-Leste, to address regional security issues and explore ways to boost ASEAN's capabilities and cooperation with the US.

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Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence in a group photo at the Informal Southeast Asia-United States (US) Defence Ministers' Meeting.



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During the meeting, the Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence reaffirmed Brunei Darussalam's commitment to ongoing engagement with the US, particularly through ADMM-Plus, in support of regional peace and stability. The Minister also held bilateral discussions with His Excellency K. Shanmugam, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, and His Excellency Chan Chun Sing, Coordinating Minister for the Civil Service and Minister for Defence of the Republic of Singapore, highlighting the strong and special bilateral relationship between Brunei and Singapore.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence with His Excellency K. Shanmugam, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs of the Republic of Singapore during the bilateral meeting.

## Honouring nurses and midwives

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 12<sup>th</sup> May** – International Nursing and Midwifery Day (INMD) is celebrated in Brunei Darussalam on 12<sup>th</sup> May each year, combining International Nurses Day and International Day of the Midwife.

For 2025, the theme for International Nurses Day, set by the International Council of Nurses, is 'Our Nurses. Our Future. Caring for Nurses Strengthens Economies,' while the theme for International Day of the Midwife is 'Midwives: Critical in Every Crisis'.

In his message for INMD 2025, Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, the Minister of Health, emphasised the critical role that nurses and midwives play in healthcare systems and national development.

The Minister of Health explained that the selected theme underlines how a strong and healthy nursing workforce contributes not only to better health outcomes but also to stronger economies.

The Minister acknowledged the growing pressures faced by the global nursing workforce, including chronic staff shortages, unsafe working conditions, low salaries, burnout, and professional migration. These issues, the Minister said, have serious implications for the quality of healthcare, the economy, and the future of public health systems.

In Brunei Darussalam, the Ministry of Health is actively working to address these challenges by focusing on the well-being of nurses and midwives. The Minister shared that maintaining their welfare leads to improved care quality, higher workforce retention, and stronger economic performance. Nurses are particularly vital in areas such as basic healthcare, maternal and child health, and managing chronic diseases.

The Minister reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to supporting



Nursing and midwifery are the backbone of healthcare and are noble professions that we need to protect, respect and appreciate.

nurses and midwives through fair salaries, mental health services, and continuous professional development.

The Minister highlighted ongoing efforts to provide opportunities for training, research, and professional growth both locally and internationally. These initiatives not only enhance personal development but also help build a safer and more supportive work environment, ultimately leading to better healthcare services and a more resilient health system.

This year's INMD celebration serves as a reminder of the strategic importance of recognising, supporting, and investing in nurses and midwives. The Minister concluded by urging all nurses and midwives in Brunei to continue delivering excellent care with dedication and patience.

The Minister stressed that responsible and compassionate healthcare workers are key to sustaining a high-quality healthcare system and driving the country's social and economic development, in line with the themes 'Our Nurses. Our Future. The Economic Power of Care' and 'Midwives: Critical in Every Crisis'.

## Committed to affordable health access

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 18<sup>th</sup> May** - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health, participated in the 37<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting (CHMM37) held on 17<sup>th</sup> May.

The meeting gathered health ministers and senior representatives from Commonwealth nations to discuss sustainable and innovative health financing under the theme 'Investing in Health: Sustainable Financing for an Equitable Commonwealth'.

Discussions focused on the need to strengthen health systems, ensure equitable access to services, and address challenges such as non-communicable diseases, mental health, climate change, and the role of digital technology in improving healthcare delivery. Participants emphasised that investment in health should be seen as essential for national development and that inadequate funding risks slowing progress toward Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and global health goals.

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The Minister of Health, in his remarks, reiterated the country's commitment to UHC and highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen primary care, adopt a Health-in-All Policies approach, and explore innovative financing methods.

The Minister acknowledged common

Yang Berhormat Minister of Health delivering a speech at the 37<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting (CHMM37).

challenges like rising healthcare costs, demographic shifts, and increased demand for specialised services. The Minister also shared Brunei Darussalam's initiatives to enhance the health workforce and integrate digital health technologies to improve service efficiency and outcomes.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of the CHMM37 Statement, outlining shared commitments and policy directions for member states. During the visit, the Minister also met with Her Excellency Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Commonwealth Secretariat General who was recently appointed.



## Health is a shared responsibility, a universal right

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 22<sup>nd</sup> May** – Brunei Darussalam, led by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health, participated in the 78<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly held from 19<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May. Themed 'One World for Health', the assembly focused on global health cooperation and equity. In his address, the Minister of Health emphasised that health is a universal right and shared responsibility, stressing the importance of international collaboration in addressing increasingly complex health threats. The Minister reaffirmed Brunei Darussalam's support for the World Health Organization's (WHO) leadership in guiding global health efforts, particularly during emergencies.

Brunei welcomed the conclusion and formal adoption of the WHO Pandemic Treaty on 20<sup>th</sup> May, viewing it as a key step toward strengthening global preparedness and ensuring equitable access to health tools through mechanisms such as the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System (PABS). The Minister called for the finalisation of PABS negotiations to secure fair and transparent innovation, especially for developing nations.

The Minister also urged the acceleration of progress toward Universal Health Coverage and health-related Sustainable Development Goals. Highlighting national progress, the Minister introduced BruHealth 5.0, Brunei's latest digital health platform, which aims to enhance healthcare accessibility and empower individuals in managing their health.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health and delegation at the 78<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly.

Brunei further expressed concern over the humanitarian crisis in Palestine, calling for an immediate end to violence and the protection of civilians and health workers in accordance with international humanitarian law. The country emphasised the need for uninterrupted access to essential health services and humanitarian aid. On the sidelines of the assembly, the Minister also held bilateral discussions Yang Berhormat Dr. Dzukefly bin Ahmad, Minister of Health of Malaysia to explore further regional cooperation in the health sector.

## 'The Intelligent Age: Redefining Healthcare for the Future'

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 24<sup>th</sup> May** - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health, attended the Annual Health Roundtable Conference Programme held from 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May, alongside the 78<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly. Organised by the World Economic Forum Centre for Health and Healthcare under the theme 'The Intelligent Age: Redefining Healthcare for the Future', the event brought together global leaders to promote AI-powered healthcare innovation, policy collaboration across regions, and stronger public-private partnerships aimed at equitable health access and reducing global health risks.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health at the Annual Health Roundtable Conference Programme.

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Yang Berhormat Minister of Health in a group photo.

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Throughout the two-day conference, the Minister of Health participated in multiple sessions focused on health equity,

preventative healthcare innovations, climate-related health challenges, and the development of global health data systems. The Minister notably served as a panel member during the session on health equity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), where he highlighted Brunei Darussalam's commitment to Universal Health Coverage and the importance of a Whole of Government and Whole of Nation approach in ensuring high-quality, accessible healthcare for all.

The Minister addressed the growing burden of NCDs in Brunei, the associated health disparities, and the country's strategy to improve equitable access to healthcare. The Minister emphasised Brunei's intent to harness technology and data, citing initiatives such as BruHealth 5.0, to support health equity through preventive care, remote services, and digital solutions. His participation underscored Brunei Darussalam's dedication to international cooperation and innovation in healthcare based on equity and inclusivity.

## Dialogue session on medical, health studies experience

**UNITED KINGDOM, 26<sup>th</sup> May** - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health, attended a meeting and dialogue session with Bruneian students and trainees in medical-related fields in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Held in a hybrid format at the Marriott Hotel in Glasgow, the event was organised by the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Brunei Student Unit, and the Brunei Medical Student Association.

It aimed to expose students to the needs of Brunei's healthcare system and provide a platform for experience sharing. The session included a briefing from the MoH delegation covering topics such as career paths in medicine and dentistry, specialty training, and areas of expertise required.

During the dialogue, the Minister of Health stressed the importance of maintaining communication with relevant ministries to support training and planning, and emphasised that students



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health engaging with students in a dialogue session.

and trainees are vital national assets expected to return and contribute to improving the country's healthcare system. This engagement reflects the Ministry's continued commitment to nurturing future health professionals abroad for the betterment of Brunei Darussalam's healthcare.

## Ensure inclusive adoption of digital technologies



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy in a group photo at the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) Meeting.

**JEJU, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, 19<sup>th</sup> May** – The APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) meeting took place from 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May. Chaired by His Excellency Inkyo Cheong, Korea's Minister of Trade, the meeting gathered trade and economic ministers and representatives from APEC economies. Among them 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.

Tomorrow: Connect, Innovate, Prosper', Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy discussed collaborative approaches to integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) in trade, focusing on areas such as customs, tariffs, and information sharing. They also addressed World Trade Organization (WTO) reform, emphasising APEC's role in the multilateral trading system, and explored strategies for sustainable supply chains and responses to the climate crisis.

Guided by the APEC 2025 theme 'Building a Sustainable

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The Minister highlighted the country's national AI strategy and its application in sectors like healthcare. The Minister also stressed the need to address regulatory gaps, safeguard data privacy, and ensure inclusive adoption of digital technologies to promote equitable growth in the region. Furthermore, Brunei Darussalam underscored the importance of defending the multilateral trading system, supporting the WTO's work toward restoring its dispute settlement mechanism ahead of the 14<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Minister held bilateral talks with Her Excellency Grace Fu Hai Yien, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment and Minister-in-Charge of Trade Relations of the Republic of Singapore. Both ministers reaffirmed the strong ties between their countries, shared concerns about increasing protectionism, and reiterated their commitment to

the rules-based multilateral trading system. They also explored opportunities for deeper cooperation through ASEAN and APEC, particularly in energy and sustainability.

Additionally, the Minister met with Mrs. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the WTO to discuss WTO reform and related priorities.

The meeting also hosted a gathering of Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) ministers and representatives. They emphasised the importance of advancing the CPTPP's General Review process, welcomed progress in Costa Rica's accession, and agreed to initiate dialogues with the European Union and ASEAN in 2025.

Overall, the APEC MRT meeting served as a platform for reaffirming regional commitment to sustainable trade, innovation, and multilateral cooperation.

## Enhance international-class cardiac care capabilities



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Finance and Economy as Chairman of Gleneagles Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) launching the Philips Azurion 7 B12/12 Image Guided Therapy Biplane System.

**JERUDONG, 20<sup>th</sup> May** – Gleneagles Jerudong Park Medical Centre (JPMC) has become one of the few centres globally to integrate high-definition Intravascular Ultrasound (IVUS) and Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) on a unified platform. This was made possible through the launch of the Philips Azurion 7 B12/12 Image Guided Therapy Biplane System, enhancing workflow in the catheterisation lab.

The system features dual 12-inch detectors for high-clarity, multi-angle imaging, improving precision in complex cardiac procedures. Its intuitive touch-screen control at the table side



speeds up decision-making and boosts efficiency.

Dr. Peter Tay, Chief Executive Officer of Gleneagles JPMC, highlighted the system's ability to support minimally invasive, image-guided procedures with better imaging, lower radiation, and less need for open surgery.

The launch was officiated by 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, in his capacity as Chairman of Gleneagles JPMC.

## Advance ASEAN economic integration efforts

**KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 27<sup>th</sup> May** - 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 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Community Council (AECC) Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

Chaired by Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Utama Tengku Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry of Malaysia, the meeting brought together AECC Ministers from all 10 ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste. The ministers reviewed the progress of initiatives under the ASEAN Economic Community pillar, including the region's economic outlook and Malaysia's Priority Economic Deliverables. Key milestones noted included the successful conclusion of negotiations to upgrade the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) and the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA).

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Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy during the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Community Council Meeting (AECC).



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In response to global trade tensions, the AECC reaffirmed its support for a rules-based multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization at its core, and pledged to avoid retaliatory actions against unilateral tariffs from the United States. The importance of the ASEAN Geoeconomic Taskforce was highlighted, especially in addressing emerging geo-economic challenges. Ministers also acknowledged the recent Special ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting with Dialogue Partners—People's Republic of China, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand—held on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

The Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy expressed support for the progress of the AEC, notably the endorsement of the AEC Strategic Plan 2026–2030 and implementation



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Finance and Economy in a group photo.

of the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap for Digital Transformation. The Minister also welcomed the upgraded ATIGA and ACFTA as key steps in deepening ASEAN

economic integration. The meeting was preceded by the Preparatory Meeting of the Senior Economic Officials on 24<sup>th</sup> May.

## Inclusive, resilient education across the region



Yang Berhormat Minister of Education at the 7<sup>th</sup> APEC Education Ministers Meeting (AEMM).



**REPUBLIC OF KOREA, 16<sup>th</sup> May** – Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md. Salleh, Minister of Education, attended the 7<sup>th</sup> APEC Education Ministers Meeting (AEMM) from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May. The meeting, held for the first time in nine years, gathered representatives from 20 of 21 APEC economies to discuss future education strategies, digital transformation, and regional cooperation.

Under the theme 'Bridging the Education Gap and Promoting Inclusive Growth in the Era of Digital Transformation', key issues such as digital technology, AI, climate change, and inequality

were highlighted. Ministers exchanged views on topics like personalised education, education access, and sustainable economic growth.

The Minister of Education presented Brunei Darussalam's strategic education plans, including the Digital Transformation Plan 2023–2027, School Network Infrastructure Upgrade (SNIU), and national educator training. The Minister also noted Brunei's active role in the APEC Digital Education Policy Training Programme (ADEPT), fostering collaboration and addressing digital learning disparities.

## Innovative tech solutions for education challenges

**LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, 23<sup>rd</sup> May** – Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md. Salleh, Minister of Education, represented Brunei Darussalam at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Education World Forum (EWF) held from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May. The forum, the world's largest gathering of Education and Skills Ministers, focused on building inclusive, resilient education systems under the theme 'From Stability to Growth: Building Stronger, Bolder and Better Education Together'.

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Yang Berhormat Minister of Education in a group photo at the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Education World Forum (EWF).



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Participants discussed education challenges, innovative solutions, and collaboration, with a focus on technology, public-private partnerships, and international cooperation. The Minister of Education also joined the ASEAN Ministerial Roundtable on Basic Learning and reviewed findings from the SEA-PLM initiative, supported by the United Kingdom's (UK) SAGE programme.

The Minister also held a bilateral meeting with Stephen Morgan MP, UK Minister for Early Childhood Education to enhance cooperation in early childhood education and met with Bruneian students in London.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Education representing Brunei Darussalam at the 21st Annual Education World Forum (EWf).

## Build inclusive digital ecosystem for all walks of life

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 17<sup>th</sup> May** - Every 17<sup>th</sup> of May, Brunei Darussalam, along with members of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), celebrates World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD). The theme for 2025, 'Gender Equality in Digital Transformation,' emphasises the importance of building an inclusive, empowering, and equitable digital future for everyone.

As digital technology increasingly influences how people live, learn, work, and communicate, efforts must grow to ensure equal access and opportunities, particularly for women and girls, who still face challenges like gender bias, financial constraints, and underrepresentation in STEM fields.

Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka

Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications, highlighted that Brunei's education policies have promoted equal opportunities in ICT, with women comprising 34 per cent of the ICT workforce in 2024, reflecting progress in their involvement and leadership.

The Brunei Infocommunications Technology Industry Authority (AITI) supports digital and gender inclusiveness through programmes like 'Digital for All,' which offers digital skills training to communities including the elderly and underprivileged, aiming to close skills gaps and foster digital confidence.

AITI also hosts 'Girls in ICT Day' to encourage young women's participation in ICT careers, with workshops focused on digital content creation for social impact. These efforts demonstrate Brunei's commitment to an inclusive digital



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications.

ecosystem, and the Minister of Transport and Infocommunications called on all stakeholders to collaborate in creating development opportunities within the digital era.

## Innovative tech solutions essential for road safety

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 22<sup>nd</sup> May** - Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications, represented Brunei Darussalam at the 2025 Annual Session of the United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF) Advisory Board.

Attending as a UNRSF Advisory Board Member for the Asia-Pacific region for 2025-2026, the Minister of Transport and Infocommunications role highlights Brunei Darussalam's commitment to supporting both domestic and international road safety efforts to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities.

The meeting was opened by His Excellency Abdessamad Kayouh, Minister of Transport and Logistics of the Government of Morocco, as Chairman of the UNRSF Advisory Board, and included an introductory speech by Jean Todt, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General.

The Advisory Board reviewed the progress and results outlined in the 2024 UNRSF Annual Report, reflecting on the fund's impact in nearly 100 countries since its launch in 2019. Discussions centred on guidelines and recommendations for the 2025 Proposal Paper, focusing on priorities and strategic engagement for fundraising.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications representing Brunei Darussalam at the 2025 Annual Session of the United Nations Road Safety Fund (UNRSF) Advisory Board held in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Minister acknowledged the crucial support of donor countries and stressed the importance of innovative and technological approaches in enhancing road safety. The Minister noted the evolving road mobility landscape with new energy and technology-based vehicles, which introduces new risks and calls for involving automotive and non-traditional stakeholders in safety initiatives.

The Minister also shared that Brunei's current road safety priorities include managing speed and preventing mobile phone use while driving, with the National Road Safety Council planning a 'watch your speed, watch the road' campaign through strengthened public-private cooperation.



## Deepen cooperation in smart city development

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA, 30<sup>th</sup> May** - Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Korea have reaffirmed their commitment to digital transformation by renewing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) focused on Smart City Development.

The signing took place during the Suwon 2025 Asia-Pacific Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) Forum, highlighting the strengthening bilateral ties and mutual goals for inclusive, technology-driven urban growth.

Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications, participated in the forum's opening and a high-level roundtable alongside representatives from around 20 countries.

The Minister of Transport and Infocommunications discussed Brunei's initiatives in digital transport, including the upcoming Request for Information (RFI) under the 12<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan to develop a Smart Transport System, complementing a Request for Proposal (RFP) currently under evaluation.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of Smart City Development.

The MoU, signed by both countries' transport ministers, underscores a shared commitment to knowledge and technology exchange, forming a foundation for deeper collaboration and accelerated digital innovation.

## Promote values of love, responsibility, respect and care

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 14<sup>th</sup> May** - International Family Day, celebrated globally on 15<sup>th</sup> May, highlights the crucial role of families in a nation's development. Brunei Darussalam observes this day to show its support for the family institution.

In 2025, the theme is 'Family-oriented Policies for Sustainable Development: Towards the Second World Summit for Social Development 2025'. Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Nazmi bin Haji Awang Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, emphasised that strong families are key to achieving Brunei Vision 2035, especially in ensuring a high quality of life and building a caring, resilient society.

Brunei also celebrates National Family Day annually on the first Sunday of May, with the 2025 celebration on 4<sup>th</sup> May, themed 'My Family is My Hope', promoting values of love, responsibility, respect, and care.

Additionally, the Family Institution Action Plan (2025–2029) will be launched, aiming to strengthen family resilience, promote social security, and support at-risk groups through Whole of Nation strategies.

Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports.



## Regional transport sector issues discussed

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR, 25<sup>th</sup> May** - Ir. Awang Haji Mohammad Nazri bin Haji Mohammad Yusof, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC), represented Brunei Darussalam at the 59<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) and the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-United States Senior Transport Officials Dialogue (ASEAN-US STOD), held from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May in Yangon.

The meeting, officiated by Yang Berhormat Tuan Aung Kyaw Tun, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and chaired by Mr. Win Khant, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, reviewed the implementation of programmes under the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan (KLTPSP) 2016–2025.

Discussions focused on regional transport sector priorities including safety, sustainability, and digitalisation. Brunei Darussalam highlighted its involvement in expanding air



Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC) attending the 59<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting (STOM) and the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-United States Senior Transport Officials Dialogue (ASEAN-US STOD).

connectivity, improving road safety, developing an electric vehicle roadmap, and enhancing sustainability in the transport sector.

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Brunei, through the Maritime and Port Authority of Brunei Darussalam (MPABD), currently chairs the ASEAN Maritime Transport Working Group (MTWG) and led discussions on initiatives such as the ASEAN Single Shipping Market and endorsed the ASEAN Regional Strategy on Ship Waste Management.

The meeting also included engagements with Dialogue Partners, including the United State, the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, covering smart mobility, AI technologies, and environmental sustainability. Senior officials from MTIC and MPABD also attended, with outcomes of the meeting to be further reviewed during the 60<sup>th</sup> STOM ahead of the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Transport Ministers Meeting.

## Explore new areas of collaboration



Yang Berbahagia the Commander of the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) receiving the Commander's Salute from the Guard of Honour comprising members the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF).



**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 8<sup>th</sup> May** – The Ministry of Defence hosted an official visit from Yang Berbahagia General Datuk Haji Mohd. Nizam bin Haji Jaffar, Commander-in-Chief of the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF), from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May. The Commander-in-Chief of the MAF was welcomed by Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF), and received a Guard of Honour from the Royal Brunei Land Force.

During his visit, The Commander-in-Chief held a goodwill

meeting with the RBAF Commander, where both sides reaffirmed their commitment to ongoing military cooperation. He also paid a courtesy call to Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Awang Haji Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Defence.

Both parties expressed interest in strengthening bilateral defence ties and exploring new areas of collaboration through bilateral and multilateral platforms.

## Foster defence cooperation, share military expertise

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 13<sup>th</sup> May** – The Ministry of Defence of Brunei Darussalam welcomed His Excellency Lieutenant General Domingos Raul 'Falur Rate Laek', Commander of the Defence Forces of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, for an official visit from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May.

The Commander of the Defence Forces of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste was received with full honours by by Major General Dato Paduka Seri Haji Muhammad Haszaimi bin Bol Hassan, Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed

Forces (RBAF).

During the visit, both commanders held a meeting focused on enhancing defence cooperation through joint training, expertise sharing, and military exchanges. The Commander of the Defence Forces of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste also received briefings on Brunei Darussalam's defence structure and visited the RBAF Museum. The itinerary includes visits to key RBAF units and cultural sites, reinforcing the growing bilateral defence relationship between Brunei and Timor-Leste.



His Excellency the Commander of the Defence Forces of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste with Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF).



His Excellency inspecting the Guard of Honour mounted by members of the Royal Brunei Land Force (RBLF).





## Brunei dedicated to developing Emergency Medical Team's skills

**GADONG, 17<sup>th</sup> May** - Brunei Darussalam, alongside other ASEAN Member States, States to enhance cooperation in disaster risk reduction and response as guided by the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER).

This commitment is reinforced by the ASEAN Leaders' Declarations on 'One ASEAN One Response' and Health Disaster Management. Supporting these declarations, the ASEAN Regional Capacity for Disaster Health Management (ARCH Project) outlines strategic initiatives to build disaster-resilient health systems across ASEAN.

A key part of this project involves capacity-building training in disaster health management, including the Basic Course (B-course) and Coordination Course (C-course), which have been successfully delivered in several member states.

To address Brunei Darussalam's specific needs, both courses are conducted together in a four-day training supported by ARCH, featuring guidance from experienced instructors and locally



Acting Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health as Guest of Honour delivers a speech during the Opening Ceremony.

adapted materials. The training included 60 healthcare and emergency response experts from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and other agencies, with the opening officiated by Dr. Hajah Rafidah binti Haji Gharif, Acting Permanent Secretary at the MoH.

At the regional level, Brunei actively participates in ASEAN's health emergency preparedness framework, engaging in initiatives such as the ARCH Project, regional simulation exercises, and contributing to the ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ASEAN-ERAT), all of which strengthen

regional coordination and response.

Nationally, the MoH takes part in inter-agency disaster response simulations to improve coordination and readiness. These efforts enhance Brunei's capacity to manage emergencies locally and position it as a reliable regional partner.

The ongoing training programme reflects this dedication, focusing on developing the Emergency Medical Team's skills and knowledge to respond effectively to disasters, while emphasising the importance of coordination within an integrated response system.



## Brunei Darussalam participates in EB157 Board Meeting

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 30<sup>th</sup> May** - Health Ministers and representatives from various member countries of the Executive Board (EB) of the World Health Organization (WHO) attended the 157<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Board Meeting held from 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May.

Brunei Darussalam was represented by Her Excellency Dayangku Mazlilah binti Pengiran Haji Mahalee, Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations (UN) in Geneva, Switzerland, along with senior officials from the Ministry of Health.

Brunei became a member of the WHO Executive Board at the 77<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA) in 2024, representing the Western Pacific Region for a term from May 2024 to May 2027. The WHO Executive Board, composed of 34 member states serving three-year terms, meets twice a year to set the agenda and implement decisions of the WHA.

During the EB157 meeting, key topics included the outcomes



Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations in Geneva with the delegation at the 157<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Board Meeting.

of the 78<sup>th</sup> WHA, committee reports on programmes, budgets, administration, and health emergency preparedness. Brunei also serves on the Standing Committee on Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response, representing the Western Pacific Region for a two-year term.

## Increase youth involvement in policymaking, address global challenges

**SELANGOR, MALAYSIA, 8<sup>th</sup> May** - The Legislative Council (LegCo) of Brunei Darussalam attended the Second Consultative Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), held in Klang, from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May. The delegation was represented by Yang Berhormat Dayang Chong Chin Yee and Yang Berhormat Awang Abdul Aziz bin Haji Hamdan.

The meeting, with the theme 'Ensuring ASEAN's Future: Youth in Action for Sustainability and Inclusivity', was officiated by Tan Sri Dato' (Dr.) Johari bin Abdul, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malaysia and President of AIPA. It was chaired by Dato' Indera Mohd. Shahar bin Abdullah, a Member of the House of Representatives of Malaysia.

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The event served as a platform for young parliamentarians to discuss the role of youth in shaping ASEAN's future. LegCo members participated in two dialogue sessions titled 'Advancing Sustainability – Empowering ASEAN Youth Voices' and 'Building Inclusive ASEAN Youth by Leveraging the Digital Age', as well as in a plenary session. These sessions provided opportunities for delegates from eight ASEAN countries to share initiatives aimed at increasing youth engagement, particularly in policymaking and addressing global challenges such as climate change and the misuse of artificial intelligence.

The meeting concluded with a closing speech by Dato' Indera Mohd. Shahar, who emphasised the need for collective efforts to enhance youth inclusiveness in ASEAN's development. The outcomes of the discussions will be presented at the 46<sup>th</sup> AIPA General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, with a focus on advancing the region's youth development agenda.



Members of the Legislative Council (LegCo) attending the Second Consultative Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA).



Members of the LegCo in a group photo.

## Fostering unity, advancing ASEAN aspirations



Yang Berhormat Legislative Council (LegCo) Members attending the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' Interface Meeting in conjunction with the 46<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit.

**KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 26<sup>th</sup> May** - The 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-AIPA Leaders' Interface Meeting took place at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, alongside the 46<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit.

Brunei Darussalam's Legislative Council was represented by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman and Yang Berhormat Pengiran Haji Isa bin Pengiran Haji Aliuddin.

This annual meeting serves as the primary forum for fostering cooperation and understanding between ASEAN Heads of Government and AIPA parliamentary leaders in support of a united, inclusive, and sustainable ASEAN community.



Prior to the main event, AIPA delegates held a Preparatory Meeting to finalise a joint message, which was delivered during the interface by Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Dato' (Dr.) Johari bin Abdul, the Speaker of the Malaysian House of Representatives, as President of AIPA.

The message reiterated AIPA's support for the summit's theme and its commitment to regional integration and sustainable development in line with ASEAN Community Vision 2045.

The event concluded with the signing of the 'Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future' by summit and AIPA leaders.



## Strengthen legal cooperation in human trafficking



Brunei Darussalam delegation at the Workshop on the ASEAN Handbook and Compendium on International Legal Cooperation on Trafficking in Persons Phase Two in a group photo.

**BANGKOK, THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND, 8<sup>th</sup> May** - Brunei Darussalam's delegation, comprising representatives from key government agencies, attended the Workshop on the ASEAN Handbook and Compendium on International Legal Cooperation on Trafficking in Persons Phase Two, held from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May.

The workshop, organised by the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) in collaboration with the ASEAN-Australia Counter Trafficking Programme (ASEAN-ACT) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, aimed to support the implementation of the ASEAN Convention Against

Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP) and the ASEAN Work Plan Against TIP (2023–2028).

The workshop's objectives included updating the ASEAN handbook and developing a compendium on international legal cooperation in trafficking cases, enhancing formal and informal cooperation among ASEAN members.

The event gathered 69 representatives from 11 ASEAN countries, fostering dialogue and stronger regional responses to human trafficking. The documents discussed are expected to be further reviewed during the 25<sup>th</sup> SOMTC.

## CPI decreases 0.1% in April 2025

**BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 22<sup>nd</sup> May** - In April, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased by 0.1 per cent compared to April last year, mainly due to a 0.4 per cent drop in the food and non-alcoholic beverages index and a 0.01 per cent decline in the non-food index.

The reduction in food prices was largely driven by lower meat prices, especially chicken, and a decrease in milk, dairy products, particularly eggs. The slight decline in the non-food index resulted from lower transport prices, especially motorcars, and cheaper online media streaming subscriptions due to exchange rate changes.

Compared to March, the CPI rose by 0.3 per cent, with the non-food index increasing by 0.5 per cent, mainly from higher clothing, footwear, and transport costs, while the food and non-alcoholic beverages index fell by 0.3 per cent, influenced by lower prices for vegetables and dairy products.

The CPI measures price changes in a fixed basket of consumer goods and services, based on average household expenditures from the Household Expenditure Survey, and the full April 2025 report is available on the DEPS website.

