



Aidilfitri Celebration with dignitaries

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 21st March – 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 hosted the Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1447H/2026M Audience and Junjung Ziarah Ceremony, receiving greetings from state dignitaries and foreign diplomats.



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 upon arrival at the Banquet Hall of Istana Nurul Iman.

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Ensuring people's well-being



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 presenting His Majesty's personal gift to recipients during the ceremony at Reception Hall of Istana Nurul Iman.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 9th March – 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 bestow personal gifts upon 19,242 recipients nationwide in conjunction with this year's Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration.

The recipients comprise selected groups of Brunei Darussalam citizens and permanent residents who are Muslim. The initiative, now in its 17th year, is aimed at easing the burdens of those in need. The ceremony commenced with the presentation of personal gifts by His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's sons and daughters, acting as His Majesty's personal representatives, followed by distribution at designated centres across the four districts.

In Brunei-Muara District, at the Reception Hall of Istana Nurul Iman, His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, presented gifts to 1,000 recipients.

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EMAIL US AT: penerbitan@information.gov.bn

EDITORIAL Advisory Board:
 Dayang Siti Bismi Nuruliman Awang Haji Emzah (bismi.emzah@jpm.gov.bn)

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

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

Text and Translation:
 Saerah Haji Abd Ghani (saerah.ghani@information.gov.bn)

Layouts:
 Mohd. Arbyy Hj A.M Soehine (arbyy.soehine@information.gov.bn)

Proofreader:
 Nurul Hazwani Abu Omar (hazwani.omar@information.gov.bn)

Photographs
 Photography Unit,
 Media and Corporate Communication
 Division, Information Department

General inquiries:
 Tel: (673) 2383 400

Information Department
www.information.gov.bn

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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 Anutin Charnvirakul on the occasion of his re-appointment as the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand on 19th March;
- His Excellency Asif Ali Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the government as well as the people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion of Pakistan Day on 23rd March;
- His Excellency Dr. Thoungloun Sisoulith and His Excellency Dr Sonexay Siphandone on the occasion of their recent re-appointment respectively as the President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 23rd March; and
- His Excellency Mohammed Shahabuddin, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and His Excellency Tarique Rahman, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; the government as well as the people of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on the occasion of its Independence Day on 26th March.

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Aidilfitri Celebration with dignitaries (continued)

The event was attended by members of the royal family, cabinet ministers, Legislative Council members, senior officials, and international representatives.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam at the Banquet Hall of Istana Nurul Iman (right).



During the ceremony, Their Majesties and members of the royal family graciously received Hari Raya greetings from guests, reflecting the spirit of unity, respect, and goodwill between the monarchy, government, and diplomatic community.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam greeting guests (left).

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His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with the guests (above and below).



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Pemancha Pengiran Anak Haji Mohamed Alam with the guests.



Her Majesty Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha and other members of the royal family in a group photo session.

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



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Rashidah Sa'adatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Majeedah Nuurul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Fadzilah Lubabul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Ameerah Wardatul Bolkiah; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador At-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Amal Umi Kalthum Al-Islam (above & below).



Stay vigilant on global developments

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 12th March – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) at the Opening Ceremony of the First Meeting of the 22nd Legislative Council (LegCo) Session, underscored the council's role as a vital platform for addressing real national issues through informed deliberation and close engagement between the government and the people.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam highlighted the need for heightened vigilance amid evolving geopolitical and economic challenges, particularly those affecting energy revenues, and called for strong cooperation among LegCo members in navigating these uncertainties.

His Majesty emphasised the urgency of accelerating national development in line with Brunei Vision 2035, including efforts to diversify the economy, strengthen fiscal resilience, promote private sector growth—especially among MSMEs—and enhance public infrastructure such as transport systems. At the same time, the Monarch stressed that development must be guided by prudent and high-impact spending.

His Majesty also reaffirmed the importance



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) at the Opening Ceremony of the First Meeting of the 22nd Legislative Council (LegCo) Session.

of good governance and integrity, stressing a zero-tolerance stance on corruption and warning that it poses a serious threat to national security if left unchecked.

In addition, His Majesty called for greater attention to road safety following a recent fatal incident, urging relevant authorities to strengthen both enforcement measures and infrastructure improvements.

In conclusion, His Majesty called on LegCo members to work collaboratively in generating practical and innovative solutions, with the shared goal of building

a progressive, resilient, and people-centred nation.

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

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Also present were His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah and His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah.



Among those present at the session.



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

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other members of the royal family at the First Meeting of the 22nd LegCo Session.



His Majesty in a group photo with members of LegCo at the ceremony.



Yang Berhormat State Mufti reciting a *doa selamat*.



Some of the attendees.

Balance celebration with obligation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 20th March. – Hari Raya is a time of celebration and joy. For Muslims, however, this joy must be observed with moderation. We should guard against being carried away by desires and emotions to the point of neglecting fundamental obligations such as prayer.

The etiquette of Hari Raya also calls for mindfulness of others, including fulfilling zakat fitrah to ease the burdens of the poor and needy. Beyond that, we are encouraged to show compassion to fellow Muslims everywhere, near or far.

This was emphasised by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam in a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1447 Hijrah/2026 Masihi at Istana Nurul Iman.

His Majesty highlighted that many people today face hardship, some lack food, others have lost their homes to disasters, and many are victims of war. His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stressed that such suffering should be met with sincere compassion. Even when material assistance is not possible, offering prayers remains a responsibility, reflecting the sacred bond of brotherhood in Islam. As taught by Prophet Muhammad, believers are like one body—when one part suffers, the whole body shares the pain.

His Majesty underscored that this sense of brotherhood, rooted in faith, is strong and enduring. The Monarch expressed hope that Brunei Darussalam will continue to uphold unity through compassion and mutual support, at the very least through prayers.

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As a sign of solidarity with those affected by calamities, His Majesty also directed the addition of a special supplication to the usual Doa Hajat recited during this period.

Earlier in the *titah*, His Majesty expressed gratitude for the opportunity to celebrate Hari Raya Aidilfitri once again in a peaceful and prosperous environment. Aidilfitri is a gift from Allah the Almighty to those who have fulfilled the obligation of fasting, and it should be received with sincere gratitude.

This gratitude is expressed by following the sunnah—reciting takbir and *tahmid* to glorify Allah and performing the Sunat Hari Raya prayer at the mosque.

In concluding the *titah*, His Majesty and members of the royal family extended their Hari Raya Aidilfitri greetings to all citizens and residents, wishing everyone good health and well-being in celebrating this blessed occasion.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam delivering a *titah* (royal speech) in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri 1447H/2026 Masihi.

His Majesty attends Tahliil Ceremony at the Royal Mausoleum

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 26th March – His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended a Tahliil Ceremony at the Royal Mausoleum, held in remembrance of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's late parents and late son, Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam; Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Abdul Rahman; and Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim.

The ceremony was also attended by members of the royal family and senior government officials. It included the recitation of Surah Al-Faatihah, Tahliil, and prayers for the well-being of His Majesty and the nation, led by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Awang Haji Salim bin Haji Besar, Chief Syarie Judge.



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam pouring *Aying Asah-Asahan* (scented water) onto the tomb of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam's late father, Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam at the Tahliil Ceremony.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam pouring *Aying Asah-Asahan* onto the tombs of the Monarch's late mother, Al-Marhumah Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Damit binti Al-Marhum Pengiran Bendahara Pengiran Anak Haji Abdul Rahman (left); and late son, Al-Marhum His Royal Highness Prince Haji 'Abdul 'Azim (right).



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

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During the ceremony, His Majesty poured *Aying Asah-Asahan* (scented water) on the tombs of the late members of the royal family.



His Majesty with other members of the royal family at the Tahliil Ceremony at the Royal Mausoleum, Jalan Tutong.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam pouring *Aying Asah-Asahan* on the tombs of the late Pengiran Babu Raja Pengiran Anak Hajah Besar and the late Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Seri Utama (Dr.) Haji Ismail bin Omar Abdul Aziz.



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



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

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

Drawing closer to Al-Quran through *tadabbur*

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 6th March – The Government of Brunei Darussalam continues to strengthen religious education and initiatives to help society internalise the Al-Quran as a ‘manual of life’, including regional collaborations like the Tafsir Ilmi publication. These efforts aim to nurture future generations who are proficient in recitation, understanding, and practice of the Al-Quran through *tadabbur*.

During the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for 1447 Hijrah/2026 Masihi, 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 emphasised that this year’s theme ‘Strengthening the Learning of Al-Quran and Appreciating Its Teachings’, focuses on strengthening learning and appreciation of the Al-Quran, in line with the nation’s aspiration to build a strong Muslim identity grounded in its teachings. His Royal Highness the Crown Prince highlighted that the Al-Quran is not just for recitation but also serves as guidance for life, encouraging reflection and understanding.

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Accompanying His Royal Highness the Crown Prince were His Royal Highness Prince ‘Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince ‘Abdul Mateen.



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 delivering a *sabda* (royal speech) in conjunction with the National Level Nuzul Al-Quran Celebration for 1447 Hijrah/2026 Masihi.



Presentations of Al-Quran recitations from the Musabaqah winners of the National Level Al-Quran Memorisation and its Understanding Competition for 1447 Hijrah.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs delivering his welcoming speech at the event.

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His Royal Highness outlined three key elements of *tadabbur*: proper recitation (*tilawah*), understanding (*ta’lim*), and application in daily life (*tazkiyah*). His Royal Highness also cautioned against the challenges of modern technology, especially Artificial Intelligence (AI), stressing that while it is a useful tool, it cannot replace authentic religious scholarship and must be used responsibly within proper knowledge frameworks.

His Royal Highness called for balanced development—combining technological literacy with strong faith and sound knowledge—to safeguard the integrity of the ummah. His Royal Highness concluded by urging collective efforts to deepen understanding and practice of the Al-Quran.

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His Royal Highness presenting gifts and souvenirs to the winner of Category A (Memorisation of Juz 30 and its Understanding), Dayang Nur Syifa Hasanah binti Mohammad Fikri.



His Royal Highness presenting gifts and souvenirs to the winner of Category B (Memorisation of selected surah and its Understanding), Dayang Ainaa Zunah Insyirah binti Haji Abdul Manap (left); and Category C (Memorisation of Juz 1-4 and its Understanding for all ages), Dayang Siti Nurzawanah binti Mohammad Saidin (right).



His Royal Highness presenting gifts and souvenirs to the winner of Category D (Memorisation of Juz 1-15 and its Understanding), Dayang Ameerah Batrisyia@ Sarah Huwaina binti Haji Amir Hisham (left); and Category E (Memorisation of 30 Juz of Al-Quran and its Understanding), Awang Ahmad Huzaifah bin Haji Awang Hasbi (right).



Among the attendees.



The recitation of *doa selamat* was led by Yang Berhormat Chief Syarie Judge.

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The event also included a speech from Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs, recitations, and the recognition of winners across various Al-Quran memorisation and understanding categories.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office at the event.

Ensuring people's well-being (continued)

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Meanwhile, at Baitur Rahmah, Istana Nurul Iman, Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah presented gifts to another 1,000 recipients.

In the Belait District, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik distributed gifts to 1,000 recipients, while in the Tutong District, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen presented gifts to 1,000 recipients. In the Temburong District, Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah presented gifts to 677 recipients.

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 presenting His Majesty's personal gift to recipients during the ceremony (right).



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen presenting His Majesty's personal gift to recipients during the ceremony at Tutong Community Hall, Tutong District.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen presenting His Majesty's personal gift to recipients during the ceremony at Tutong Community Hall, Tutong District.

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Aidilfitri prayer marked the occasion

KIARONG, 21st March – Muslims in Brunei Darussalam marked the 1st of Syawal with Hari Raya Aidilfitri Prayer, celebrated with joy, gratitude, and moderation in accordance with Islamic teachings. At Jame' 'Asr Hassani Bolkiah, the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and members of the royal family added to the significance of the occasion.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office at the Hari Raya Aidilfitri Sunat Prayer at Jame' 'Asr Hassani Bolkiah, Kampung Kiarong. Also in attendance were His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen (above & below).

The sermon emphasised that Aidilfitri represents not just celebration, but also a spiritual victory after Ramadan—reflecting success in self-discipline, personal improvement, and strengthened faith. Worshippers were reminded to embrace sincerity, forgiveness, and unity, making reconciliation meaningful rather than symbolic.

Muslims were also encouraged to continue good practices beyond Ramadan, including observing the six days of Syawal fasting, while celebrating in moderation and avoiding excess.

The sermon further highlighted compassion for those facing hardship worldwide and the importance of prayers for peace and well-being.

Overall, Aidilfitri was observed as a day of gratitude, renewal, and unity, with a call to uphold faith, humility, and social harmony.



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Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Hafizah Sururul Bolkiah presenting His Majesty's personal gift to recipients during the ceremony at Baitur Rahmah, Istana Nurul Iman.



Her Royal Highness Princess 'Azemah Ni'matul Bolkiah presenting His Majesty's personal gift to recipients during the ceremony at the Community Hall, Pekan Bangar, Temburong District.

Khatam Al-Quran Ceremony

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 3rd March – Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) held a Khatam Al-Quran Ceremony in conjunction with Ramadan 1447 Hijrah/2026 Masihi at the An-Naura Hall.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Chairman of the Committee of Governors of YSHHB, graced the ceremony.

The ceremony commenced with the recitation of *Takhtim* Al-Quran by Awang Ahmad Rithaudin bin Haji Sabtu, YSHHB officer, followed by the completion of Al-Quran recitations by 30 YSHHB officers and staff.



His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Chairman of the Committee of Governors of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB), at the Khatam Al-Quran Ceremony (above, left & below).

This was followed by the *doa khatam* and *doa selamat*, led by Yang Dimuliakan Begawan Pehin Khatib Dato Paduka Awang Haji Mustapa bin Haji Murat. The event then continued with the *iftar* (breaking of the fast) and the congregational Maghrib prayer.

Also in attendance were members of the YSHHB Board of Directors, members of the Board of Trustees of the Pengiran Muda Mahkota Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans, YSHHB officers and staff, as well as teachers from YSHHB schools.



Among those who participated in the Khatam Al-Quran Ceremony.

Exploring cooperation in a harmonious atmosphere

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 24th March – A Singapore delegation led by His Excellency Associate Professor Dr. Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Acting Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs and Senior Minister of State at the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, is undertaking a three-day goodwill visit to Brunei Darussalam from 22nd to 24th March in conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

The visit aims to strengthen the long-standing bilateral relations between Republic of Singapore and Brunei Darussalam and to further explore areas of cooperation in a spirit of goodwill and mutual understanding.

As part of the programme, the delegation attended a Hari Raya Aidilfitri gathering at the residence of Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs in Kampung Sungai Besar on 23rd March. The event was attended by senior Singaporean officials, Members of Parliament, Brunei government representatives, and local dignitaries. It also featured an exchange



His Excellency Acting Minister-in-Charge of Muslim Affairs and Senior Minister of State at the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Singapore together with his delegation visit Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs.

of tokens of appreciation, symbolising friendship and mutual respect between both sides.

During the visit, the delegation also paid a Hari Raya Aidilfitri goodwill visit to Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Awang Haji Abdul Aziz bin Juned, State Mufti today. The delegation included Singaporean

ministers, Members of Parliament, senior officials, and representatives from various ministries, as well as diplomatic staff from the Singapore High Commission in Brunei.

These engagements form part of broader Hari Raya Aidilfitri outreach activities during the visit, reflecting the close and enduring ties between Brunei Darussalam and Singapore.



His Excellency visit in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration.



Yang Berhormat State Mufti receives a Hari Raya Aidilfitri goodwill visit from His Excellency.

Iftar Reception by Canada High Commission

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 4th March – The High Commission of Canada in Brunei Darussalam hosted an Iftar Reception at Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, attended by over 180 guests including government officials, diplomats, and community leaders.

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Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence; Yang Berhormat Minister at the PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; and His Excellency Dr. Tamer Mansy, High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam at the Iftar Reception Ceremony held at the Balai Khazanah Islam Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah.



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The guest of honour was 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, together with Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd. Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy.

In his remarks, His Excellency Dr. Tamer Mansy, High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam highlighted the strong and longstanding relationship between Canada and Brunei, as well as Canada's commitment to strengthening cooperation with ASEAN in areas such as trade, regional stability, and people-to-people ties. The High Commissioner of Canada also expressed appreciation for Brunei's hospitality during Ramadan.

Economic relations were noted to be growing, particularly with the establishment of the Canada-Brunei Chamber of Commerce. The year, 2026 was highlighted as significant for both countries, with Brunei celebrating national milestones and Canada co-hosting the FIFA World Cup 2026.



Yang Berhormat Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence; Yang Berhormat Minister at the PMO and Second Minister of Finance and Economy; and His Excellency Dr. Tamer Mansy, High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam at the Iftar Reception Ceremony.

The event also featured Al-Quran recitation and a *tausyeh* performance, adding a spiritual and cultural dimension to the gathering, while reinforcing friendship and cooperation between the two nations.

Healthy hearing, better learning and well-being

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 3rd March – In conjunction with World Hearing Day (3rd March), Brunei Darussalam highlights the importance of hearing health, especially for children, under the 2026 theme 'From communities to classrooms: hearing care for all children'. Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health emphasised that hearing care must begin at home, extend through communities, and be supported in schools to ensure no child is left behind.

Globally, around 90 million children have hearing loss, with 60 per cent of cases being preventable through basic public health measures. Early detection is critical, as untreated hearing issues can affect a child's language, education, confidence, and future opportunities.

In Brunei Darussalam, cases of hearing problems among children aged 0–5 have increased significantly, though not all are permanent. The government provides free hearing aids where needed and has introduced universal newborn hearing screening since 2023 to enable early diagnosis and intervention.

Additional efforts include school-based screenings and advanced treatments such as early cochlear implant surgery. These initiatives reflect a strong commitment to improving outcomes, supporting inclusive education, and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn and thrive.

The Ministry of Health also calls for continued involvement from



families, educators, and communities to make accessible hearing care a reality for all children.

Stronger systems, healthier living

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 4th March – In conjunction with World Obesity Day (4th March), Brunei Darussalam highlights obesity as a major national and global challenge under the theme '8 Billion Reasons to Act on Obesity'. The issue is influenced by environmental, socio-economic, and healthcare factors, requiring a coordinated, whole-of-society approach.

In Brunei, obesity rates are high and concerning. Among adolescents, 18.1 per cent are obese and 35.6 per cent are

overweight, while among adults, 32.4 per cent are obese—the highest rate in ASEAN. Obesity increases the risk of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and stroke, while also impacting quality of life and healthcare resources.

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Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad. Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health, stated this in his message in conjunction with World Obesity Day 2026.

To address this, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has adopted a comprehensive, systems-based approach. Key efforts include establishing an Obesity Steering Committee, collaborating with the World Health Organization, and introducing training programmes to strengthen obesity care within primary healthcare.

Prevention initiatives focus on schools and communities, such as the Health Promoting School Programme and the Healthy

Lifestyle Programme, which have shown positive results in weight reduction. Clinical support is also provided through specialised services like the Obesity Clinic at RIPAS Hospital, offering multidisciplinary treatment.

The government continues to expand screening, education, and community partnerships to promote healthier lifestyles. However, individuals and society also play a crucial role in creating supportive environments for healthy choices.

The MoH calls for collective action to improve diets, increase physical activity, support healthy habits from a young age, and reduce stigma—working together towards a healthier future for Brunei.

Early detection helps prevent kidney disease

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 11th March – In conjunction with World Kidney Day 2026 (12th March), Brunei Darussalam highlights chronic kidney disease (CKD) as a growing global and national health concern, affecting about 10 per cent of the world's population. In Brunei, cases of end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) are rising, with over 1,100 patients recorded in 2025.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health emphasised that CKD often develops silently and, if untreated, can lead to kidney failure requiring dialysis or transplantation. Key risk factors include diabetes and hypertension.

Aligned with the theme 'Kidney Health for All: Caring for

People, Protecting the Planet', the focus is on prevention, early detection, and sustainable care. The Ministry of Health is strengthening screening, early intervention, and access to treatment, while promoting home-based dialysis to improve patients' quality of life and reduce environmental impact.

Kidney transplantation is highlighted as the most effective long-term solution, with efforts underway to improve access, collaboration, and public awareness of organ donation.

Overall, the message calls for collective action to prioritise prevention, protect healthcare resources, and ensure better health outcomes for future generations.

Healthy mouth, catalyst for a Happy Life



The Senyum Pelajar Programme is carried out in kindergartens, primary, and secondary schools through interactive oral health briefings and preventive treatments to instil good dental care habits from an early age.



BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 21st March – In conjunction with World Oral Health Day 2026 (20th March), Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health highlighted the theme 'A Happy Mouth Is... A Happy Life', emphasising the importance of oral health across all stages of life.

Good oral health contributes not only to physical well-being but also to emotional and social health, while poor oral hygiene can lead to pain, reduced confidence, sleep problems, and serious diseases such as heart disease and diabetes. It can also affect nutrition, school attendance, and productivity.

In Brunei Darussalam, the Ministry of Health provides comprehensive dental services through hospitals, health centres, and specialised programmes. In 2025, over 154,000 patients received treatment, with most appointments made via

the BruHealth app.

Various community programmes are in place, including initiatives for young children, students, people with special needs, and the elderly, alongside school-based dental services that promote early oral hygiene habits. However, tooth decay rates remain significant among children.

To address this, the ministry is strengthening prevention efforts, expanding school and community programmes, and implementing national oral health strategies aligned with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.

The public is encouraged to practise good oral hygiene, reduce sugar intake, avoid harmful dental practices, and attend regular check-ups. The Ministry remains committed to improving access to and sustainable oral healthcare for all.

Enhancing early TB detection and treatment

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 24th March – World TB Day 2026 highlights global efforts to eliminate tuberculosis under the theme ‘Yes, We Can End TB! Led by Countries, Powered by People’, calling for strong community involvement alongside government action.

Globally, TB remains a major health threat, with an estimated 10.7 million cases and 1.23 million deaths in 2024, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). It continues to be one of the leading causes of death worldwide, especially among people living with HIV.

In Brunei Darussalam, TB cases have slightly fluctuated over the past three years (260 in 2023, 235 in 2024, and 241 in 2025), reflecting improved active case detection following WHO recommendations. The Ministry of Health has strengthened

TB control through improved monitoring systems, updated guidelines, expanded screening programmes, and increased public awareness.

Drug-resistant TB (MDR-TB and XDR-TB) remains very rare in Brunei, with no cases recorded from 2023–2025, and TB-HIV co-infections remain low.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health emphasised the importance of early detection, full treatment adherence, and community cooperation encouraging anyone with symptoms such as a persistent cough, fever, night sweats, or weight loss to seek medical care promptly. The goal is to eliminate TB by 2030 through coordinated national and community efforts.

Digital transformation reshaping healthcare delivery

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 29th March – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health attended the Zhongguancun Forum 2026 in Beijing, a major international platform focused on technological and industrial innovation, where the Minister of Health also delivered a keynote address at the World Digital Forum on the role of digital technology and AI in healthcare.

The Minister highlighted how AI and digital transformation are reshaping healthcare delivery, improving efficiency, supporting clinical decision-making, and strengthening public health systems.

In Brunei Darussalam’s context, the Minister noted that rising non-communicable diseases make digital health tools essential for early detection, prevention, and long-term care.

The Minister also emphasised the importance of BruHealth app, which has evolved into a national digital health platform supporting data management, public engagement, and future AI-driven health solutions. Key priorities include ensuring trust, governance, and patient safety.

The Minister also underscored the value of international collaboration, particularly with China and regional partners, in areas such as AI governance, research, and health technology.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health with Minister of the National Health Commission.

During the visit, the Minister held bilateral discussions with health leaders from China and Indonesia and visited leading hospitals and technology companies to explore cooperation.

Overall, the visit strengthened Brunei’s global health partnerships and supported efforts to build a more advanced, resilient, and digitally enabled healthcare system.

Collective effort to protect medicinal and aromatic plants

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 4th March – In conjunction with World Wildlife Day (3rd March), Brunei Darussalam highlights the importance of wildlife and biodiversity, with the 2026 theme ‘Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods’.

These plants play a vital role in healthcare, cultural traditions, livelihoods, and ecosystem balance.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism emphasised that medicinal and aromatic plants support human well-being through natural medicines and products, while also contributing to local economies and biodiversity conservation.

However, they face serious threats from deforestation, climate change, and unsustainable harvesting.

To address this, Brunei has implemented strong legal and policy frameworks, including the Forest Act, National Forestry Policy, and the National Biodiversity Policy and Strategic Plan of Action (2024–2030), focusing on conservation, sustainable use, and habitat protection.

Efforts include forest conservation, sustainable planting, law enforcement, research, and community engagement.

The government also encourages collaboration among all stakeholders and promotes responsible use, research, and preservation of traditional knowledge.

Overall, the message calls for collective action to protect medicinal and aromatic plants to ensure long-term environmental sustainability, cultural preservation, public health, and economic benefits for future generations.

Forest Sustainability: The Foundation of Global Economic Stability

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 21st March – In conjunction with the International Day of Forests (21st March) 2026, Brunei Darussalam highlights the theme ‘Forests and the Economy’, emphasising the vital role of forests in supporting economic stability, sustainability, and human well-being.

Forests are key national assets, providing ecosystem services such as climate regulation, biodiversity conservation, and disaster risk reduction, while also contributing to industries like forestry and eco-tourism. In Brunei, forests cover about 72.1 per cent of the land, with a commitment to maintain at least 55 per cent as Permanent Forest Reserves.

The forestry sector contributes economically through wood

production, exports, downstream industries, and employment opportunities, with further growth potential. Initiatives such as forest plantations, branding of local wood products, and expos aim to strengthen the industry.

Forests also support tourism and emerging opportunities in the carbon economy, aligned with climate and sustainability goals. Ongoing efforts in conservation and reforestation, including tree-planting programmes, reinforce long-term environmental and economic resilience.

Overall, the message underscores that sustainable forest management is essential for economic prosperity, climate resilience, and the well-being of current and future generations.

Sharing best practices in language teaching

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE, 10th March – Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md. Salleh, Minister of Education attended the 60th Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Regional Language Centre (RELC) International Conference as the Guest of Honour and President of the SEAMEO Council (2025–2027). The conference serves as a key platform for global educators to share innovations and best practices in language education.

In her address, the Minister of Education highlighted the conference theme on global trends and innovations, emphasising the role of generative AI as a ‘cognitive partner’ in education, while stressing the need for inclusive, human-centred, and equitable approaches.

During her visit, the Minister was briefed on the Centre’s programmes and regional impact, reflecting strong collaboration between Brunei and SEAMEO RELC. The Minister also held a courtesy meeting with His Excellency Mr. David Neo, Acting Minister (Community, Culture and Youth) and Senior Minister of State (Education), Republic of Singapore and engaged with Bruneian scholarship recipients, encouraging academic

excellence and strong national values.

The visit strengthened regional cooperation and reaffirmed Brunei’s commitment to advancing education and developing future-ready generations.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Education in a group photo.

ASCC meeting highlights ASEAN’s inclusive, resilient vision



Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, as the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council Minister for Brunei Darussalam, at the 35th ASCC Meeting.

MAKATI, THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, 6th March – Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Nazmi Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports represented Brunei Darussalam at the 35th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council Meeting, where ministers reaffirmed their commitment to building a people-centred, inclusive, and resilient ASEAN under the ASEAN Community Vision 2045. Timor-Leste participated for the first time as an ASEAN member.

The meeting emphasised strengthening coordination, monitoring systems, and initiatives that deliver meaningful impact to communities. Brunei supported key priorities including resilient families, youth empowerment, social inclusion, innovation, and sustainability.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports highlighted the importance of family institutions, youth empowerment—particularly in climate and disaster resilience—and ongoing national efforts such as reviewing the Family Institution Action Plan and introducing disaster management modules in the National Service Programme.

At the ASCC High-Level Forum 2026, the Minister stressed the importance of empowering youth as active contributors to policymaking through education, innovation, and leadership opportunities. The Minister also shared initiatives like the Youth Town Hall and the BIMP-EAGA Youth Bus to promote engagement and regional collaboration.

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The forum concluded with a ministerial statement reaffirming ASEAN's commitment to empowering people and communities as drivers of regional development.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, as the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Council Minister for Brunei Darussalam in a group photo at the 35th ASCC Meeting.

Recognising role of women in family and society

JERUDONG, 12th March. – The International Women's Day 2026 Celebration in Brunei Darussalam, held at the Jerudong Sports Complex, centred on the theme 'Protecting, Enabling, and Empowering: Advancing Women in Society', reflecting the nation's continued commitment to strengthening the protection, welfare, and development of women.

During the event, Dayang Fauziah binti Haji Mohd. Salleh, Acting Director of the Department of Community Development (JAPEM) under the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS), shared encouraging findings from the Research on Women's Development in Brunei Darussalam.

The study highlighted significant progress in women's participation in education and the workforce, and will inform the Women's Action Plan 2026–2030, aimed at further empowering women within families, communities, and national development.

The ceremony also saw the launch of the research Executive Summary, which will serve as a key reference for policymakers and stakeholders, and is accessible to the public online.

The event was attended by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Nazmi Mohamad, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, as the guest of honour, alongside government officials and stakeholders.

It concluded with a *doa kesyukuran*, marking Brunei Darussalam's 13th observance of International Women's Day and reaffirming the country's commitment to advancing the role of women in society.

In conjunction with International Women's Day on 8th March, the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports also emphasised the theme 'Protect, Enable and Empower: Advancing Women in Society', underscoring the importance of safeguarding women's rights, expanding opportunities, and strengthening their role across all sectors.

The Minister noted that the theme aligns with national priorities to enhance women's safety, well-being, education, career development, and leadership participation, while supporting the upcoming National Plan of Action on Women.

Women in Brunei continue to make notable progress, with high literacy rates of 96.1 per cent and increasing participation in both education and the workforce.

Their contributions remain vital to national development and the achievement of Brunei Vision 2035.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports attends as the guest of honour at the International Women's Day 2026 Celebration, held at Dar Al-Intishar, Jerudong Sports Complex (above and below).



The government has further strengthened policies and initiatives to protect and empower women, including consultations on eliminating violence against women, the introduction of workplace harassment guidelines, and the enhancement of support systems.

These efforts are complemented by civil society organisations through awareness programmes, mental health support, and initiatives addressing gender-based violence.

Overall, the celebration reaffirmed Brunei Darussalam's commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive, and empowering environment where women can fully contribute to the nation's future.

Enhancing Brunei–Kelantan Syariah Judicial Cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 31st March – Yang Amat Arif/Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Awang Haji Salim bin Awang Haji Besar, Chief Syariah Judge of Brunei Darussalam received a courtesy visit from Yang Arif Tuan Haji Zaini bin Sulaiman, Senior Judge of the Kelantan Syariah High Court, Chief Syariah Judge of Kelantan and his delegation.



Yang Amat Arif/Yang Berhormat Chief Syariah Judge of Brunei Darussalam receiving courtesy visit from Yang Arif Tuan Haji Zaini bin Sulaiman, Senior Judge of the Kelantan Syariah High Court, Chief Syariah Judge of Kelantan and his delegation (above & below).

The delegation was welcomed by senior judges and officials, and attended a briefing on the Syariah court system.

This was followed by a bilateral discussion between both parties, focusing on judicial matters.



The visit aimed to strengthen cooperation and foster closer ties between the Syariah judicial institutions of Brunei and Kelantan, particularly in the area of Syariah law.

DANA receives \$10,000 donation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 18th March – The Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans (DANA) received a \$10,000 donation from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Brunei Darussalam during a ceremony at Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB).



Yang Berhormat Attorney General receives donation on behalf of the Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah Fund for Orphans (DANA).

The contribution was presented by His Excellency Chen Shaochun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam and received on behalf of DANA by Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Paduka Dayang Hajah Nor Hashimah binti Haji Mohammed Taib, Attorney General in her capacity as a member of the YSHHB Board of Directors on behalf of DANA.

The donation reflects continued support for the welfare of orphans in Brunei, with DANA expressing appreciation for contributions that help improve their well-being.

Saudi Arabia donates 720 boxes of dates

KIARONG, 3rd March. – The Ministry of Religious Affairs received a donation of 720 boxes of dates from the Government of Saudi Arabia during a ceremony held at the Multipurpose Hall of Jame' Asr Hassanil Bolkiah.



Yang Mulia Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs in a group photo at the Dates Handover Ceremony.

The ceremony commenced with the recitation of Surah Al-Faatihah and a *doa selamat*, followed by the presentation of the dates to Yang Mulia Pengiran Dato Seri Paduka Haji Mohammad Tashim bin Pengiran Haji Hassan, Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, by Hani Yahya A. Maghrabi, Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam.

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The event proceeded with the handover of the contribution to the Acting Managing Director of Zakat, Waqf and Baitulmal for distribution to the asnaf across the country.

This was followed by the distribution of the dates to representatives of selected mosques in all four districts. The donation of Khalash dates underscores a shared concern for the well-being of the Muslim community, particularly the asnaf.

It also reflects the strong ties of friendship, cooperation, and Islamic brotherhood between Brunei Darussalam and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, while encouraging the practice of sharing sustenance and observing the sunnah of breaking the fast with dates during the month of Ramadan.

Yang Mulia Deputy Minister receiving dates from Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Brunei Darussalam.

Sharing blessings with orphans

JERUDONG, 12th March – Nazmi Textile Mall organised a donation presentation and iftar event for over 150 orphans at Jerudong Park and Polo Country Club as part of Ramadan charitable efforts and in preparation for Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

The donation presentation was attended by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Pehin Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Haji Mohd. Yusof, Member of the Legislative Council; His Excellency Ramu Abbagani, High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam, and spouse; and Awang Nazeer Ahmed Zackariah, Managing Director of Nazmi Textile Mall, and spouse.

More than 150 orphans were celebrated during the event, comprising 146 from Mukim Berakas 'A' and the remainder from Kampung Belimbing, Subok. The initiative reflects ongoing community care and generosity, aiming to bring joy to orphans while sharing blessings during the holy month.



Yang Berhormat Member of the Legislative Council at the donation presentation. Also in attendance were His Excellency High Commissioner of India to Brunei Darussalam.

Showcasing language mastery and public speaking skills

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 18th March – The 37th Japanese Speech Contest in Brunei Darussalam was jointly organised by the Embassy of Japan, Lifelong Learning Centre (L3C), and Universiti Brunei Darussalam, with support from Royal Brunei Airlines and the Japan Foundation. The event aimed to promote Japanese language learning and public speaking skills.

The event was attended by His Excellency Kikuta Yutaka, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam.

Participants competed in Japanese Speech (Beginner and Advanced categories) and Group Presentation categories. Winners were selected across different levels, including secondary school students, with topics ranging from personal interests to Japanese culture.

The Advanced category champion received the grand prize of a sponsored trip to Japan to represent Brunei in an ASEAN-level speech programme, offering opportunities for cultural exchange and engagement.



His Excellency Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Brunei Darussalam at the event.

Overall, the contest successfully fostered enthusiasm for the Japanese language and strengthened cultural ties between Brunei and Japan.

Mural honours 40 years of Canada–Brunei relations

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 19th March – A mural titled 'The Stamp – Setem' was unveiled at the Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation Complex to mark the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and Brunei Darussalam. Commissioned by the Canadian High Commission and created by a local art studio, the mural symbolises cultural exchange, shared values, and enduring friendship. The artwork features elements from both countries, with water as a central symbol connecting them, and incorporates the number 40 to represent the milestone.

His Excellency Dr. Tamer Mansy, Canadian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, in his speech highlighted art as a powerful medium for unity and cultural understanding, while Dr. Nor Imtihan binti Haji Abdul Razak, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Development, in the capacity of Acting Managing Director of Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) expressed appreciation for the initiative in promoting harmony and creativity.

The mural stands as a public symbol of the strong bilateral relationship, supported by various organisations, and reflects continued commitment to strengthening ties between Canada and Brunei.



His Excellency High Commissioner of Canada to Brunei Darussalam and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Development in the capacity of Acting Managing Director of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Foundation (YSHHB), at the inauguration of the new mural.

British-Brunei Business Forum holds 25th AGM

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 7th March – The Britain Brunei Business Forum (BBBF) held its 25th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Laksamana College of Business, bringing together members and stakeholders to review its activities and strengthen UK–Brunei business ties.

The AGM began with opening remarks from Ms. Ann Herrigan, Deputy British High Commissioner, who underscored the importance of strong and enduring UK–Brunei business relations and commended the Britain Brunei Business Forum for its active role in fostering dialogue and collaboration.

During the AGM, Pengiran Aki Ismasufian stepped down as Chair after completing his three-year term but remains on the committee. Dr. Siva Subramaniam was elected as the new Chair for 2026/2027, with Ms Yeeman Cheng and Mr Ambrose Nathan appointed as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer respectively.



Group photo session.

Speakers highlighted the importance of the UK and Brunei. The new leadership continued collaboration and dialogue in reaffirmed its commitment to advancing the enhancing business relations between Forum's mission and sustaining its growth.

MoU on infrastructure and AI advancement

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 31st March – Unified National Network Sdn Bhd (UNN) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Watercloud International (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. to collaborate on advancing AI infrastructure and meeting the growing demand for AI-driven services.

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Unified National Network Sdn Bhd (UNN) and Watercloud International during the signing ceremony.



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UNN was represented by Christopher Phan, Acting Chief Executive Officer and Heiko Trost, Chief Digital Officer while Watercloud International was represented by Leonard Melvin Fernando, Chief Executive Officer and Dr. Farzin Karma, President.

The partnership will leverage UNN's AI-ready data centre and strong subsea connectivity to deliver high-performance, low-latency AI solutions across the region.

As part of the collaboration, both parties will work on

deploying advanced technologies, including AI cloud services, data infrastructure, off-grid power systems, and high-density computing, ensuring scalability, efficiency, and sustainability.

The MoU strengthens Brunei's position as a regional hub for digital innovation, while enabling Watercloud International to utilise UNN's secure and robust infrastructure to provide reliable, scalable AI solutions.

Overall, the agreement lays the groundwork for future cooperation in AI infrastructure, research, and service delivery.

Advancing ASEAN conservation and restoration efforts

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 30th March – Brunei Darussalam, through its Forestry Department, is hosting a three-day Experiential Learning Exchange (ELE) programme under the Enhancing Conservation and Restoration of Wetlands and Peatlands in ASEAN as Effective Sinks and Reservoirs of Greenhouse Gases (EnCORE Wetlands Project) organised by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

The programme brings together around 40 participants from ASEAN Member States, regional organisations, and local agencies to share knowledge and best practices in managing and restoring peatlands and mangrove ecosystems.

Key activities include field visits to Tasek Merimbun, Badas Peat Swamp Forest, and Pulau Selirong to observe Brunei's conservation and restoration efforts firsthand, as well as training on ecosystem restoration monitoring tools.



Participants of the Enhancing Conservation and Restoration of Wetlands and Peatlands in ASEAN as Effective Sinks and Reservoirs of Greenhouse Gases (EnCORE Wetlands Project), in a group photo.

The initiative aims to strengthen regional cooperation, enhance technical capacity, and support climate change mitigation, while showcasing Brunei's expertise in sustainable forest management and

biodiversity conservation. Supported by the UK Mission to ASEAN, the programme reinforces Brunei's role in advancing regional environmental sustainability and collaboration.

UBD breaks into global top 100 for Islamic Studies

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 26th March – Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) has achieved a major global milestone by entering the Top 100 worldwide in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026 for Theology, Divinity and Religious Studies, placing in the 51–100 band.

The achievement highlights UBD's growing international reputation in Islamic

Studies, anchored by the Sultan Omar 'Ali Saifuddin Centre for Islamic Studies (SOASCIS), which drives multidisciplinary research in areas such as governance, society, history, and contemporary issues aligned with Brunei's MIB philosophy.

UBD's Islamic Studies programme integrates teaching, research, and cross-faculty collaboration, addressing real-

world challenges across sectors including policy, health, economy, and society. The QS ranking is based on global academic reputation and Scopus-indexed research output from 2019 to 2023.

The university was ranked 6th in Southeast Asia in this subject area and 42nd globally for academic reputation, reflecting strong recognition within the international academic community.

UBD leadership stated that the recognition underscores the continued relevance of Islamic knowledge in addressing modern global challenges and reinforces the university's position as a globally engaged institution advancing impactful, future-oriented scholarship.



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