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Brunei Darussalam

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Provide opportunities, intensify interactions of ASEAN youths



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 other ASEAN Leaders in a group photo at the 42nd ASEAN Summit.

LABUAN, BAJO, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, May 10 - 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 Opening Ceremony and Plenary Session of the 42nd ASEAN Summit which was held at Komodo Ballroom, Meruorah Convention Centre.



Upon arrival, His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was welcomed by His Excellency Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia.

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Brunei-Malaysia renew Air Services Agreement

LANGKAWI, MALAYSIA, May 24 - The Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of Malaysia have signed an Air Services Agreement.

Signing on behalf of the Government of His Majesty was Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications while

the Malaysian Government was signed by Yang Berbahagia Anthony Lok Siew, Minister of Transport.

The renewed agreement was an update of the Air Services Agreement that was signed on February 14, 1992 where the transportation rights between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia have been improved.

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His Majesty attends coronation of King Charles III



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen at the Coronation Ceremony of His Majesty King Charles III, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Her Majesty Queen Camilla.

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, May 6 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the Coronation Ceremony of His Majesty King Charles III, King of the United Kingdom (UK) of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Her Majesty Queen Camilla held at the Westminster Abbey.

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3. Striving towards achieving Brunei Vision 2035



7. Harness youth's potential, contributing towards achieving SDGs



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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 consented to send congratulatory messages to:

● 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 May 25.

● His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Türkiye on his victory in the recent presidential election on May 30.

News

Striving towards achieving Brunei Vision 2035



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).

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 1 - All parties must simultaneously strive to achieve the Brunei Vision 2035 with spirit and a strong Whole of Nation Approach.

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam stated the matter in a *titah* (royal speech) at the Hari Raya Aidilfitri Celebration for 1444 Hijrah/2023 Masihi organised by Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (YSHHB) which took place at the International Convention Centre with the theme 'Empowering the involvement of the community in achieving Brunei Vision 2035'.

What is important are the blessings in all aspects of life according to the pure foundation of Islam, because this is the key to success accompanied by the practice of the Malay Islamic Monarchy



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Malik; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the event (above and below).



assimilated by the country.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam was also pleased in welcoming the presence of this year's participants, which consisted of officers and staff from Government Linked Companies (GLCs) and private companies including welfare bodies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that are active in implementing the Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) programmes.

Their concern for the welfare of the people has a positive impact on the vision's goal and serves as catalyst for national development.

His Majesty also welcomed the presence of senior citizens and youths representing all walks of life who play a role in making the Brunei Vision 2035 a success.

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Earlier, His Majesty expressed gratitude to Allah the Almighty for the blessings which enabled the sultanate to celebrate this glorious Aidilfitri celebration.

In the festive atmosphere of celebrating Aidilfitri, His Majesty further reminded not to forget the challenges of the Coronavirus during this endemic phase and the need to continue practicing health protocols and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to preserve common well-being.

Also in attendance were His Majesty's sons, brothers and sister, 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, Chairman of the YSHHB Committee of Governors; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen; His Royal Highness Prince Haji Jefri Bolkiah; and Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ceremony was enlivened with stage performances by kindergarten, primary and secondary students of YSHHB schools.

His Majesty and members of the royal family later toured the exhibition with the open house concept participated by 18 GLCs and NGOs that are actively involves in community development activities.

His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam touring booths (right 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 and members of the royal family mingling with performers of the event.



A performance by Yayasan Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah School students.

His Majesty attends King's Reception



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen arriving at the King's Reception for Overseas Guests.



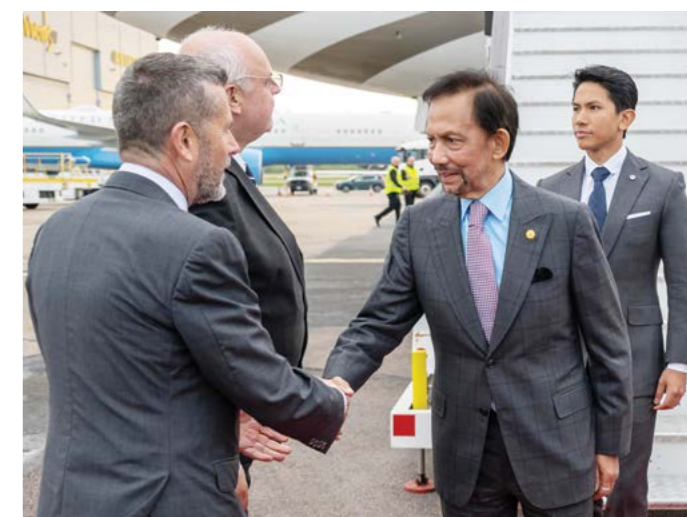
His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen with His Majesty King Charles III, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, May 5 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam attended the King's Reception for Overseas Guests hosted by His Majesty King Charles III, King of the United Kingdom (UK) of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the Buckingham Palace.

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

The King's Reception was attended by guests from overseas and at the event, His Majesty King of the UK of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had the opportunity to interact with His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and other guests.

Earlier, His Majesty's arrival at London Stansted Airport was welcomed by Glenn Mayes DL, Deputy Lieutenant of Essex as Personal Representative of His Majesty King of the UK of Great



His Majesty arriving at London Stansted Airport.

Britain and Northern Ireland; and Michael John Holloway OBE, Special Representative of the Foreign Secretary.

His Majesty attends coronation of King Charles III (continued)

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

The Coronation Ceremony was attended by members of royal families, Heads of States and governments as well as guests from all over the world.



The coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Her Majesty Queen Camilla at the Westminster Abbey.

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The ceremony began with a procession that started at Buckingham Palace and ended at Westminster Abbey.

During the procession, His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Camilla the Queen Consort travelled in the Diamond Jubilee State Coach, to attend the Coronation Service.

After the Coronation Service, His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla returned to Buckingham Palace with a larger scale ceremonial procession which is known as the Coronation Procession, in which Their Majesties travelled in the Gold State Coach.

The Coronation Procession included Armed Forces from across the Commonwealth and the British Overseas Territories, and all Services of the Armed Forces of the UK included ten members of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces.

At the Buckingham Palace, Their Majesties received a Royal Salute from the UK and Commonwealth Armed Forces in



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 prior to departure from London.

the Buckingham Palace Gardens, and then appeared on the Buckingham Palace Balcony.

Provide opportunities, intensify interactions of ASEAN youths (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 with His Excellency Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia as Chairman of ASEAN 2023.

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

The ceremony which was also attended by Heads of State and Government from ASEAN as well as the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste – commenced with the ASEAN anthem, 'The ASEAN Way' and opening remarks from the President of the Republic of Indonesia as Chairman of ASEAN this year, in which the President welcomed all leaders and delegates attending the 42nd ASEAN Summit in Labuan Bajo. This was followed with a speech from His Excellency Taur Matan Ruak, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

At the Plenary Session, His Majesty in a *titah* (royal speech) welcomed Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia; His Excellency Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; as well as the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to their first ASEAN Summit. His Majesty also congratulated His Excellency Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, for hosting the South East Asian Games (SEA Games) this year for the first time



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam at the Plenary Session of the 42nd ASEAN Summit.

in the country.

Following the formation of ASEAN 60 years ago, His Majesty highlighted that the principles and fundamentals towards addressing ASEAN's common desire to ensure peace, security and prosperity in South East Asia continue to remain relevant today.

His Majesty also expressed the view that ASEAN should prioritise matters that will play a vital role in the future of the region, in particular the youth. Therefore, ASEAN must provide more opportunities and intensify interactions between its youths so that they are able to contribute to community-building efforts successfully. In this regard, His Majesty was pleased with the support of ASEAN Member States for the ASEAN Junior Fellowship Programme – which was proposed in 2021 and aims to provide the youth with a greater understanding of the work of ASEAN – has progressed well. His Majesty also welcomed Timor-Leste's participation in the programme starting this year.

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"The protection and preservation of the environment for future generations should also be focused on," added His Majesty, "as developmental activities have had a detrimental effect on the ecosystem, such as pollution and loss of biodiversity, thus worsening the impacts of climate change in the region. In this regard, it is hoped that the establishment of the ASEAN Centre for Climate Change in Brunei Darussalam this year will produce innovative solutions and policy recommendations in addressing these issues."

In addition, His Majesty urged ASEAN to ensure the region is equipped to face emergencies and disasters by taking a more coordinated and strategic approach to safeguard regional growth and economic development, while it continues on its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In concluding the *titah*, His Majesty further underscored the importance of the ASEAN SHIELD which emphasises the need for a Whole of ASEAN Approach, a more enhanced cross-sectoral coordination and be better prepared in overcoming future challenges.

Earlier, the President of the Republic of Indonesia in a speech reiterated that ASEAN must focus efforts on strengthening its centrality in the midst of deepening geopolitical rivalries. In addition, ASEAN should also work towards making energy transition a priority in achieving financial stability, along with the continued strengthening of the 'One Health Initiative' by increasing investment in research and procurement of medical equipment and medicine.

Harness youth's potential, contributing towards achieving SDGs

LABUAN BAJO, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, May 10 – 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 was pleased with the continued momentum to provide space and support for the youth to contribute to building a resilient and dynamic ASEAN.

To this end, stated His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, ASEAN commended the convening of the ASEAN Youth Dialogue last April, which aimed to make digital development equitable and inclusive in Southeast Asia towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this regard, the youth have an important



His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen arriving at Komodo-Labuan Bajo Airport.

The Plenary Session also discussed on matters related to ASEAN Community-building, with focus on the theme for this year's Summit, 'ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth'.

At the end of the Plenary Session, the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Development of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision; ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Strengthening of ASEAN's Capacity and Institutional Effectiveness; ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Combating Trafficking in Persons Caused by the Abuse of Technology; ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Developing Regional Electric Vehicle Ecosystem; ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Advancing Regional Payment Connectivity and Promoting Local Currency Transaction; ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Protection of Migrant Workers and Family Members in Crisis Situation; ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on One Health Initiative; ASEAN Leaders'

Statement on the Establishment of an ASEAN Villages Network; ASEAN Declaration on the Placement and Protection of Migrant Fishers; and Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Membership in ASEAN and its Annexes, were adopted.

This year marks Timor-Leste's first participation in an ASEAN Summit where ASEAN Leaders – during the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits last November – agreed in-principle to admit Timor-Leste as the 11th member of ASEAN and for the country to be granted an observer status in ASEAN allowing its participation in all ASEAN meetings as well as at the summit plenaries.

Earlier on the day, His Majesty's arrival at Komodo-Labuan Bajo Airport was greeted by Yang Terhormat Dr. Ir. Mochamad Basuki Hadimuljono, Minister for Public Works and Housing as the Minister-in-Attendance.



contribute towards achieving the SDGs, as well as in realising the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

role in advancing and accelerating the work in achieving the SDGs as they are more adept to utilising technology.

His Majesty made a *titah* (royal speech) at the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of ASEAN Youth held at the Meruorah Convention Centre.

His Majesty encouraged ASEAN to continue providing opportunities for the youth to harness their potential and

During the session, ASEAN Leaders and representatives of ASEAN Youth, among other things, discussed on the role of the youth as future leaders towards enhancing sustainable development in the region.

During the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with representatives of ASEAN Youth, Brunei Darussalam was represented by Muhammad Zainul-Akhyaar bin Amer Hairunuddin from the Prime Minister's Office and Siti Rafhanah binti Haji Nor Hasnul, student at Universiti Teknologi Brunei.

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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 during the ASEAN Leaders' Interface with representatives of ASEAN Youth.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Excellency Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

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At the side-line of the summit, His Majesty attended separate bilateral meetings with ASEAN Leaders.

His Majesty first attended a Bilateral Meeting with His



Brunei Darussalam representatives.



His Majesty with Yang Amat Berhormat Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Excellency the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, in which both leaders, among other things, discussed on bilateral cooperation under the Plan of Action to Implement the Comprehensive Partnership for 2023–2027 between Brunei Darussalam and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, including in the areas of energy, halal products, tourism, as well as people-to-people exchanges. His Majesty and His Excellency also looked forward to exploring opportunities towards further strengthening bilateral cooperation between both sides.

His Majesty then attended a Bilateral Meeting with Yang Amat Berhormat the Prime Minister of Malaysia. During the meeting, both leaders discussed on ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual importance to Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia including through the Annual Leaders' Consultation between both countries.

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His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen during the welcoming dinner.

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In the late afternoon, His Majesty and other ASEAN Leaders boarded the AYANA Lako di'a phinisi boat to cruise along Angel Island which is located on the west of Labuan Bajo.

Later in the evening, His Majesty attended a Welcoming Dinner hosted by His Excellency Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia and Chairman of ASEAN which took place at the

AYANA Komodo Waecicu Beach, held in honour of the ASEAN Heads of State and Government who are attending the 42nd ASEAN Summit and the event featured cultural performances.

At the events, His Majesty was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.



His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen with the ASEAN Leaders during the cruise.

ASEAN needs to preserve, uphold its centrality and cohesiveness

LABUAN BAJO, REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA, May 11 - His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, attended the Retreat Session of the 42nd ASEAN Summit and the 15th Brunei



Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA)

Summit, which were held at Komodo Ballroom, Meruorah Convention Centre.

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

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His Majesty first attended the Retreat Session of the 42nd ASEAN Summit, in which His Majesty delivered a *titah* (royal speech) highlighting that intensifying major power rivalries including in the Asia-Pacific region have, among other things, resulted in global supply chain disruptions, economic uncertainty, the rise of mini lateral blocs and shifting strategic alliances. Therefore, ASEAN needs to preserve and uphold its centrality and cohesiveness in order to ensure that it remains relevant as a platform for constructive dialogue.

To this end, His Majesty believed that ASEAN needs to do more in promoting and implementing the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, which would ensure it also remains a platform for dialogue and cooperation towards continued progress, peace and prosperity.

On the situation in Myanmar, the resolution



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkhiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen during the Retreat Session of the 42nd ASEAN Summit.

of the problems in the country is in the hands of its people, through a Myanmar-led and Myanmar-owned process. Therefore, ASEAN should continue to facilitate a conducive environment for their reconciliation.

In concluding the *titah*, His Majesty proposed that ASEAN should consider engaging Myanmar once again in the near future, to emphasise concerns on the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, which ASEAN Leaders had agreed upon in 2021.

His Majesty later attended the 15th BIMP-EAGA Summit, in which His Majesty in a *titah* expressed satisfaction with BIMP-EAGA cooperation that has continued to progress well, despite challenges faced since the COVID-19 pandemic started.

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam with His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen during the 15th BIMP-EAGA Summit.



His Majesty with ASEAN Leaders at the 15th Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit.



His Majesty during the meeting with His Excellency Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

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"Furthermore, the reopening of borders has facilitated the resumption of transport services and movement of goods and people, thus bringing in opportunities such as tourism and cross-border trade to the sub-region. To this end, the development of more joint cooperation projects will further strengthen supply chain and secure BIMP-EAGA's growth area as a production base for the region. This also highlights the importance of connectivity as a driver of growth and economic activities," added His Majesty.

With the new norm of doing business in the post-COVID-19 era, it is crucial to advance digitalisation through ICT-related projects, to align with BIMP-EAGA's work implemented at the ASEAN level such as the Digital Economy Framework Agreement and the Bandar Seri Begawan Roadmap on Digital Transformation.

In concluding the *titah*, His Majesty stated that the relocation of the Republic of Indonesia's new capital, namely Nusantara,



His Majesty with ASEAN Leaders at the 15th BIMP-EAGA Summit.



His Majesty with Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

in Kalimantan will create even more opportunities for growth and development in this sub-region. Therefore, BIMP-EAGA is encouraged to take advantage of opportunities by having better coordination and facilitation of BIMP-EAGA's initiatives.

At the end of the summit, the leaders endorsed the Joint Statement of the 15th BIMP-EAGA Summit.

Earlier, in the morning, His Majesty attended separate bilateral meetings with ASEAN Leaders.

His Majesty attended a Bilateral Meeting with His Excellency Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, in which both leaders highlighted the good progress on cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, including in the fields of education and people-to-people exchanges.

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Both leaders also welcomed the expansion of cooperation in energy and agriculture, in particular the supply of rice. Ahead of the 30th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between both countries in 2023, His Excellency extended an invitation to His Majesty for a State Visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic to commemorate this milestone.

His Majesty then attended a Bilateral Meeting with His Excellency Taur Matan Ruak, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, in which both leaders emphasised the importance of education cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, including scholarship programmes.

His Excellency also expressed pleasure on the signing of the Air Services Agreement between both countries, which is vital in



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 prior to departure from Labuan Bajo.

promoting tourism. In addition, His Majesty extended an invitation to His Excellency the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste to visit Brunei Darussalam.

His Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen left Labuan Bajo in the afternoon after completing the 42nd ASEAN Summit.

His Majesty receives intending hajj pilgrims

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 24

– 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 and *junjung ziarah* with this year's intending hajj pilgrims. The ceremony took place at Istana Nurul Iman.

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

This year, 1,035 Brunei Darussalam's intending pilgrims also include medical

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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 in audience from intending male and female 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).



Mass Zohor Prayer prior to the event.



His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during the audience ceremony intending Hajj pilgrims. Also in attendance was His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah, the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the PMO.



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team, administrative, and hajj service operators.

The intending hajj pilgrims have undergone several sessions of hajj courses aiming at giving them a better understanding on how to perform the hajj.



Among Brunei Darussalam's intending hajj pilgrims this year.



The intending pilgrims receiving gifts from His Majesty, a bag containing white *Ihram* clothes for male pilgrims and *telekung* (prayer veils) for women.



RBAF needs to maintain country's sovereignty, security



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).

RIMBA, May 31 - The Royal Brunei Armed Forces (RBAF) needs to remain committed to maintaining the sovereignty and security of Brunei Darussalam while at the same time respect and improve relations with other countries.

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) said as we all are well aware that building strength is not an easy task, it is highly dependent on the integrity of the organisation and the effectiveness of leadership.

Delivering a *titah* at the 62nd RBAF Anniversary Celebration Grand Parade held at the Rimba Air Force Base, Royal Brunei Air Force (RBAirF), His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam hoped that RBAF's leadership model centered on the force's core values,

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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 inspects the Guard of Honour (left) and waving to the crowd at the grand parade (right).

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Maqasid Syariah and the Malay Islamic Monarchy (MIB) philosophy, will truly be understood, appreciated and practiced as the main guide by all levels of RBAF leaders.

"In efforts to strengthen the capabilities and to take advantage of this historic day, I am pleased to consent to the establishment of the Fleet Tactical Aircraft Squadron and the expansion of the Patrol Vessel Squadron for the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN)," said His Majesty.

In the context of defence effectiveness, His Majesty expressed satisfaction with the achievements of joint security and land border operations under the leadership of RBAF's joint force headquarters which contributing to the decrease in the trend of arrest cases in several strategic places nationwide.

"In the development of human capital, the country can be proud of the achievement of education and training institutes in the

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His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam during signing a plaque while officiating the Fleet Tactical Aircraft Squadron, Royal Brunei Navy.



A helicopter fly-pass.



His Majesty cutting an anniversary cake (left) and receiving a pesambah (souvenir) (right).

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RBAF which have achieved significant successes," His Majesty added.

With such development, His Majesty believes that RBAF will be able to fill long overdue vacant positions and strengthen the number of trained soldiers in addition to providing job opportunities to the youth and job seekers.

His Majesty was also pleased in seeing the involvement of the invited Air Force from other countries in showcasing their strategic aircraft which reflects the unity and strong defence diplomatic relations between Brunei Darussalam and friendly countries.

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

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His Majesty touring the Defence Industries Exhibition involving companies from international defence industries (above and below).



His Majesty touring the military aircraft display.



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 Their Royal Highnesses in a group photo.

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and His Royal Highness 920 Major (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

Upon arrival, His Majesty were ushered to the RBAirF Sports Complex accorded the Royal Salute and consented to inspect the Guard of Honour.

The parade then proceeded with the slow and fast march-past carrying His Majesty's and the RBAS's Royal Regimental Flags. Three chants of *Daulat Kebawah Duli Tuan Patik* echoed in the air.

The celebration was enlivened with a fly-past of RBAirF Blackhawk and CN-235 aircraft. Following the fly-past, His Majesty and the other members of royal family then proceeded to Hangar 'B' Military Apron.

His Majesty witnessed a live static airborne demonstration performed by 31 personnel from 31 Squadron RBAirF and Special Forces Regiment (SFR); and viewed an exhibition of static displays presented by the Ministry of Defence's Directorate of Development and Work Services. His Majesty later officiated the Fleet Tactical Aircraft Squadron, RBN.

Subsequently, His Majesty visited the military aircraft display featuring aircraft from the RBAirF along with invited air forces from abroad namely Indonesian Air Force (TNI-AJI); Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF); Philippines Air Force (PAF); Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF); Royal Air Force (RAF), United Kingdom; Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) and United States Air Force (USAF).

His Majesty the proceed to Hangar 'B' for luncheon.

The theme of this year's RBAF celebration, "Together Accomplishing the National Vision" is in line with the role of RBAF in supporting national progress and development holistically.

Previously, on May 30, a Doa Kesyukuran Ceremony was held in conjunction with the celebration at the Surau Ad-Difa', Bolkiah Garrison. Attending the ceremony were His Royal Highness the Crown Prince; and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdul Mateen.

The ceremony began with the recitation of Surah Al-An'am, verses 81 to 83 by Private Muhammad Zainul Arifin bin Haji Haminuddin from the Second Battalion, Royal Brunei Land Forces



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah the Crown Prince and Senior Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and His Royal Highness 920 Major (U) Prince 'Abdul Mateen joining the religious ceremony.



Their Royal Highnesses at evening banquet.

(RBLF), who represented the RBAF at the 9th International Al-Quran Memorisation Competition for Islamic Armed Forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2022.

A mass Fardu Maghrib Prayer led by Imam Mohammad Khairul Azmi bin Haji Salleh, Imam of Surau Ad-Difa' and continued with the mass Sunat Hajat Prayer, recitation of Surah Yaa Siin and *tahlil*.

The *doa kesyukuran* was read by Commander Haji Ainolnizam bin Haji Ibrahim, RBN, Director of JAMA'AT who also led the mass Fardu Isyak Prayer.

Their Royal Highnesses later proceed to the Officer's Mess at Bolkiah Garrison for an evening banquet prior to the conclusion of the event.

YASKA Centre supports former childhood cancer patients

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 26

- Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman officially launched the new Children's Cancer Foundation (YASKA) Community Centre in Kampung Kiarong.

Dr. Hajah Norehan binti Haji Johari, Chairperson of YASKA in her welcoming address among others underlined the goal of the centre which is to provide ongoing support to former childhood cancer patients; help to improve their quality of life; making the centre a place for social and recreational activities; a place for academic learning and support as well as therapeutic games.

Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah later was introduced to seven former cancer patients aged between four to 17.

With the opening of this new YASKA Community Centre it will enable child cancer patients to carry out more activities after treatment.



Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah binti Pengiran Haji Salleh Ab. Rahaman launching the new Children's Cancer Foundation (YASKA) Community Centre.



Her Royal Highness in a group photo at the centre.

New appointments

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 9

- By command of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni A-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, it is hereby announced that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented for Haji Mohammad Salihin bin Haji Aspar, Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary (Transport), Ministry of Transport and Infocommunications (MTIC) to be appointed and confirmed in his post as the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Transport), MTIC, effective May 10.

Meanwhile on May 17, the Public Service Department, Prime Minister's Office announced that His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam has consented to the appointment of Haji Suhaimi bin Haji Gemok, Assistant Director of the Islamic Legal Unit at the Ministry of Religious Affairs as Director of Syariah Affairs at the Ministry of Religious Affairs effective from April 17.

Carry out trust, display fighting spirit

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 1 - The real goal of the athletes of the 32nd South East Asian Games (SEA Games), Phnom Penh, Cambodia is to carry out the trust given as national athletes who have been selected to make the country proud, by focusing on the competition and by displaying a fighting spirit that never gives up until the end of the competition.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council

said that this trust should also be taken as a challenge, which is not just to compete but to make the country proud by winning medals, which is our main goal.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah highlighted the matter in a *sabda* (royal speech) at the Flag Presentation Ceremony to the national contingent to the SEA Games held at the Indoor Stadium, Hassanal Bolkiah National Stadium Sports Complex.

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His Royal Highness reminded that discipline as a national athlete is a responsibility and should be integrated, as Bruneians are known to be courteous with its strong traditions.

His Royal Highness later handed over the national flag to Zainab binti Haji Morshidi, the Acting Director of Youth and Sports Development in her capacity as the 32nd SEA Games Chef de Mission.

Brunei Darussalam is sending a 100-member contingent comprising of 65 athletes and 35 officers.

His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council handing over the national flag to the Chef de Mission.



SEA Games Opening Ceremony

PHNOM PENH, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA, May 5 – His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) attended the Opening Ceremony of the 32nd South East Asian Games (SEA Games) at the Morodok Techno National Stadium.



This is the first time for the Kingdom of Cambodia to host such a large sports event in South East Asia.

Mohd. Ali Saifullah bin Haji Mohd. Suhaimi, a national Pencak Silat athlete was honoured as the Brunei Darussalam's flag bearer during the parade.

Zainab binti Haji Morshidi, Acting Director of Youth and Sports Development, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports in her capacity as Chef de Mission led the Brunei Darussalam contingent comprising 100 members consisting of 35 officers; coaches and medical officers as well as 65 athletes in 12 sports - Aquatics Swimming; Athletics; Badminton; Billiards and Snooker;



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) at the Opening Ceremony of the 32nd South East Asian Games (SEA Games) 2023 at the Morodok Techno National Stadium.

E-sports; Fencing; Karate-do; Obstacle Race; Pencak Silat; Petanque; Weightlifting; and Wushu.



The Brunei Darussalam contingent during the opening ceremony.

His Royal Highness graces 32nd SEA Games Closing Ceremony



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, the Honorary Life President of the South East Asian (SEA) Games Federation and President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) at the Closing Ceremony of the 32nd SEA Games.

PHNOM PENH, KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA, May 17 - His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Honorary Life President of the South East Asian (SEA) Games Federation and President of the Brunei Darussalam National Olympic Council (BDNOC) graced the Closing Ceremony of the 32nd SEA Games at Morodok Techo National Stadium.



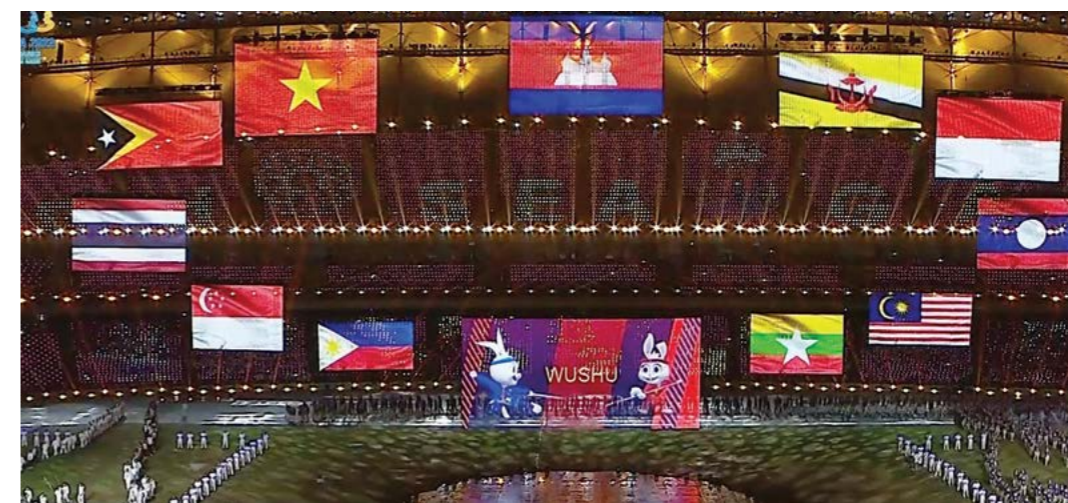
The SEA Games was officially closed by His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei

Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Some 10,890 delegation members from 11 nations participated in the biennial meet competing in 36 types of sports with 579 events.

Viet Nam took the lead with 136 gold medals, 105 silver and 118 bronze. Brunei Darussalam managed to win two gold medals, one silver and six bronze

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Closing Ceremony of the 32nd SEA Games at Morodok Techo National Stadium.



Members of the Brunei Darussalam contingent in a group photo.



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien with the national Wushu athlete, Mohamad Adi Salihin bin Roslan, the first gold medal recipient for Brunei on May 10 (above and below).



His Royal Highness Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiah presenting a medal to national athlete, Hosea Wong Zheng Yu, the second national gold medal winner recipient in combined men's taijijian and taijiqian event (above) and to Basma Lachkar, bronze medal winner in the combined women's taijijian and taijijian event (below) on May 12.



His Royal Highness in a group photo with national athlete, Hosea Wong Zheng Yu, the second gold medal recipient in combined men's taijijian and taijiqian event.

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medals. Both gold medals and one bronze were contributed through the Wushu sports events while the sports of Pencak Silat, Karate and Badminton each contributed to the winning of silver and bronze medals.

The next 33rd SEA Games will be held in Thailand from December 9 to 22, 2025.

Royalty witness Coronation Ceremony virtually

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 7 - Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs witnessed the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, King of the United Kingdom (UK) of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Her Majesty Camilla the Queen Consort, which was streamed live from Westminster Abbey, London.

The ceremony was organised by the British High Commission in Brunei Darussalam at a hotel in the capital.

Earlier, His Excellency John Virgoe, British High Commissioner, in his welcoming remarks, among others, underlined that the royal families of the two countries enjoy close ties of friendship with the exchange of visits between leaders. In conjunction with the Coronation Ceremony, several events are taking place at 280 diplomatic missions around the globe.



Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna binti Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs in a group photo.

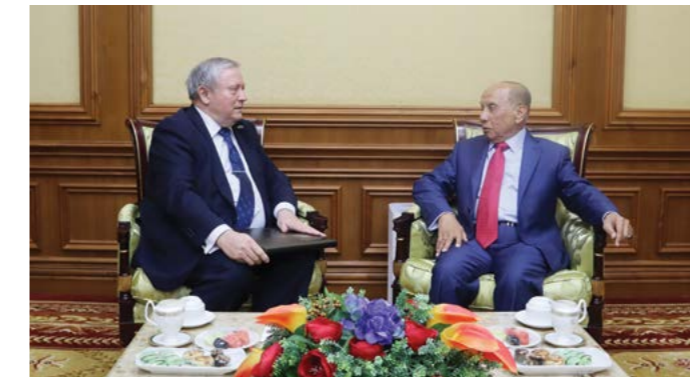
LegCo Speaker receives separate courtesy calls

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 30 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Lela Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Abdul Rahman bin Dato Setia Haji Mohammed Taib, Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) received separate courtesy calls from three foreign envoys at the Legislative Council building.

During the courtesy call with Her Excellency Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Philippines, both sides emphasised the importance of people-to-people exchange to further strengthen the good and close friendship.

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Yang Berhormat the Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) with Her Excellency Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Philippines during the courtesy call.



Yang Berhormat the Speaker of the Legislative Council (LegCo) with His Excellency Mikhail Vladimirovich Baranov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the country (left) and with Her Excellency Caryn Roberta McClelland, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America (right).

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Meanwhile in a courtesy call with by His Excellency Mikhail Vladimirovich Baranov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the country, both sides hoped that the bilateral relations will always be strengthened and emphasised the importance of relation between Parliament



and religious institution that could contribute to stronger ties between the two countries.

In a courtesy call with Her Excellency Caryn Roberta McClelland, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America, both parties touched on the new norms following the COVID-19 pandemic in various aspects.

Develop ties in areas of education, Islamic science

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 30 - A six-member delegation from the Republic of Azerbaijan led by Mr. Gunduz Ismayilov, the Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on Religious Associations of the Republic paid separate courtesy calls to two state dignitaries in the country.

On May 29, the delegation paid a courtesy call to Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs.

Meanwhile, on May 30, the delegation paid a courtesy call to Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Seri Maharaja Dato Paduka Seri Setia (Dr.) Ustaz Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Juned, the State Mufti at Darulifta, the State's Mufti Office.

The delegation is on a two-day visit in the country to develop ties in the areas of education and Islamic science as well as discuss coordination efforts on the issues of Islamophobia at the international level.

Yang Berhormat State Mufti during the courtesy call with the Republic of Azerbaijan delegation.



Yang Berhormat Minister of Religious Affairs with the Deputy Chairman of the State Committee on Religious Associations of the Republic Azerbaijan.



Ministry of Defence and RBAF attends 16th LIMA '23

LANGKAWI, MALAYSIA, May 23 - Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Lailaraja Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Awang Halbi bin Haji Mohd. Yussof, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence led a delegation of Brunei Darussalam to the 16th Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition 2023 (LIMA '23) held from May 23 to 27, at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre (MIEC).

On the side-lines of the LIMA '23, the Minister at PMO and Second Minister of Defence also had a Bilateral Meeting with Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Utama Haji Mohamad bin Haji

Hasan, Minister of Defence of Malaysia.

At the Bilateral Meeting, the Minister at the PMO and Second Minister of Defence congratulated the Minister of Defence of Malaysia for the success of the 16th LIMA '23. Both sides also highlighted the strong defence relations between Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia and further shared various strategic issues of mutual interest, including the current regional and global security situation.

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This year the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN) KDB DARULEHSAN and other international navies participated in the LIMA '23 Fleet Review held at the Resort World Langkawi. The LIMA '23 Fleet Review was graced by Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, the Prime Minister of Malaysia. The RBN's participation in this year's LIMA '23 Fleet Review signifies the longstanding and strong defence relationship between both navies of Brunei Darussalam and Malaysia.



Yang Berhormat the Minister at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Second Minister of Defence at a Bilateral Meeting with Yang Berhormat Minister of Defence of Malaysia.

The biennial event combines the best of the aerospace and maritime industries and is one of the largest maritime and aerospace exhibitions in the Asia-Pacific. The prestigious international defence exhibition hosted by the Malaysian Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Transport was organised by Alpine Integrated Solution Sdn. Bhd, with support from the Malaysian Armed Forces, Royal Malaysia Police and the Malaysian Defence Industry Council (MDIC).



The Ministry of Defence (MinDef) and RBAF's attendance at the exhibition provides an ideal platform to enhance engagement in defence technologies and systems realising capability development within the MinDef and the RBAF.

Yang Berhormat the Minister at the PMO and Second Minister of Defence in a group photo at 16th LIMA '23.

Excessive salt intake increases health risks

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 2 - A study conducted by the Health Promotion Centre at the Ministry of Health found that only 806 out of 1,470 food products sold in the country displayed salt information on food packs.

This was stated by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health at the Launching Ceremony of the National Strategy for Salt Reduction.

The Minister of Health said that adding salt in cooking, adding soya sauce as well as chili and tomato sauce while eating are among the common habit in the country.

The National Steps-Non-Communicable Diseases Survey 2016 showed that the mean population salt intake for Brunei Darussalam is 10 grams per day, which is double the amount recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The survey also showed that 28 per cent of adults in Brunei Darussalam have high blood pressure. According to the minister, high blood pressure can be prevented by adopting a healthy lifestyle, especially



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health launches the National Salt Reduction Strategy Book 2023-2030.

through healthy eating practice.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Shake the Salt Habit".

The National Salt Reduction Strategy Book 2023-2030 serves as a guidance towards

achieving the national target which is the reduction of salt intake by 2030.

Various guidelines have been produced as a guide for ministries and stakeholders involved, in order to achieve the target goals.

Our nurses, our future

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 11 - In Brunei Darussalam, International Nurses Day (IND) and International Day of Midwives (IDM) are celebrated simultaneously every May 12 and it is named as International Nursing and Midwifery Day (INMD) with this year's theme "Our Nurses. Our Future".

This was shared by Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, the Minister of Health in his message in conjunction with INMD 2023.

Nurses and midwives must always be up-to-date according to the latest medical technology trends to achieve the increasing expectations of clients.

"Nurses and midwives not only need to focus on client care but also on their family as a whole. In addition to being competent in applying knowledge, skills and technology, nurses and midwives also need to be attentive to social values, human instincts and



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health.

nursing ethics that must be maintained at all times.

"The Ministry of Health (MoH) will always strive to further strengthen nursing services in the country and has plans towards the provision of 'Advanced Practice Nurses and Midwives' to address health and care challenges in the future.

"In further improving the professional development of nursing and midwifery, MoH is currently providing a more comprehensive clinical monitoring system for nurses by emphasising patient safety in every implementation of care and treatment for patients in accordance with the policies

prepared by the Ministry of Health," said the Minister of Health.

In concluding the message, the Minister urged nurses and midwives to be more active in their involvement to improve the quality of care and patient safety in the country.

Brunei Darussalam achieves significant progress in health



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health delivering a speech at the 76th World Health Assembly (left) and Yang Berhormat in a committee panel (right).



GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, May 27 - Since the establishment of the World Health Organization (WHO), Brunei Darussalam has achieved significant progress in health, from increased life expectancy, elimination of smallpox, malaria, polio, measles and rubella, to the immunisation coverage over 95 per cent.

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohammad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, the Minister of Health said that in Brunei Darussalam, the most significant improvement is the use of the mobile health application, BruHealth which now has a coverage of over 90 per cent of the population, management of health data infrastructure and the usage of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Speaking at the Plenary Session of the 76th World Health Assembly, the Minister of Health added that two major initiatives have been implemented including the establishment of an intelligence hub responsible for the automation national

surveillance and response activities and the establishment of Health Digital Unit to coordinate digital health transformation across the health care services.

Brunei Darussalam is collaborating with WHO to strengthen the function of the behavioural insights function unit, understand individual behaviour, facilitate cohesion community and generate trust on health related issues.

The theme of this year's assembly is "WHO at 75: Saving Lives, Driving Health for All".

While in Geneva, the Minister also had bilateral discussions on cooperation in the health sector with Yang Berhormat Dr. Zaliha Mustafa, Minister of Health Malaysia and His Excellency Anutin Charnvirakul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health of Thailand.

Strengthening actions towards achieving UHC



Yang Berhormat Minister of Health at the plenary session (above) and Yang Berhormat Minister in a group photo with Her Excellency Commonwealth Secretary General (right).



GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, May 23 - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohamad Isham bin Haji Jaafar, Minister of Health attended the 35th Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting on May 20.

During the plenary session in the agenda on 'Basic health care as the main driver to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC)', the Minister of Health said that Brunei Darussalam prioritised UHC as the basic pillar in the planning and implementation of the national health care system framework for the provision of high-quality health care that is accessible to all.

"However," according to the Minister, "there are challenges that

need to be focused on including human resources shortages, the aging population, rising healthcare costs and the increasing burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)."

While in Geneva, the Minister also paid a courtesy call to Her Excellency Patricia Scotland, Commonwealth Secretary General, to discuss health-related matters among Commonwealth countries.

Brunei Darussalam has also been given the honour of chairing the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Health (CACH) which provides advice and guidance to Commonwealth health ministers and Commonwealth Secretariat on public health issues for the term 2023 to 2024.

Reducing risk for a resilient future

NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, May 22 - Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ahmaddin bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Minister of Home Affairs attended the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters.

The High-Level Meeting which convened on May 18-19 was organised by the United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and chaired by His Excellency Csaba Kőrösi, President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Carrying the theme "Working Together to Reduce Risk for a Resilient Future", the meeting aims to provide an opportunity for member states, dialogue partners and international bodies to jointly find solutions in reducing risks and become disaster resilient, in line with the principles and objectives of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The meeting also assesses the effectiveness and progress of the Sendai Framework and review gaps and challenges while identifying new innovation and technology to tackle



Yang Berhormat Minister of Home Affairs delivers his statement during the plenary session.

emerging threats and challenges such as disease outbreaks and climate change.

More than 132 countries have attended the meeting and have shared their respective commitments in support of the Sendai Framework implementation as well as sharing various good practices

and the importance of global and regional cooperation. The meeting also adopted a Political Declaration that outlines policies and practical solutions to enable member states to further accelerate the progress of the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

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The Minister of Home Affairs during the plenary session in his country statement highlighted the proactive measures undertaken by the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to mitigate the impacts of disasters in the country and share the involvement of other supporting agencies in the development of the national documents such as Brunei Darussalam National Climate Change Policy and Disaster Management Strategic Policy Framework which compliments the international framework and provide a

more coordinated approach to address various types of disasters across different sectors and stakeholders while ensuring there is synergy between climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and disaster resilience development.

The Minister also emphasised the importance of enhancing regional and international cooperation in disaster risk reduction, particularly in addressing transboundary risks and hazards towards collectively responding to disasters in the region in a rapid, effective and timely manner towards the different types of emergencies and crisis.

Minister of Education attends EWF

LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, May 13 - Yang Berhormat Datin Seri Setia Dr. Hajah Romaizah binti Haji Md. Salleh, Minister of Education attended the 19th Education World Forum (EWF) held from May 7 to 10 at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre.

EWF is the largest gathering of Education Ministers and Policymakers in the world which is aimed to discuss future education policies.

Some 88 Education Ministers from 116 countries attended this year's forum with the support of the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office, the Department for Education, the Department for Business and Trade, the British Council, and the EWF industry partners.

The forum aims to build leadership and resilience towards stronger education from early childhood education to higher education and lifelong learning.

Following the theme "New Beginnings: Nurturing Learning Culture, Building Resilience, Promoting Sustainability. Stronger, Bolder, Better Education by Design," plenary sessions and ministerial exchanges reflected various



Yang Berhormat Minister of Education in a group photo with Ministry of Education officials.

aspects, including issues and challenges relating to education. There were also opportunities to visit selected schools in London.

While attending the forum, the Minister of Education also had the opportunity to meet with the Right Honourable Nicolas John Gibb, Minister of State (Minister of State for Schools) of the Department

of Education, United Kingdom (UK) to discuss bilateral relations and cooperation between Brunei Darussalam and the UK, particularly in the field of Education.

Accompanying the Minister of Education at the conference were the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Core Education) and senior officials from the Ministry of Education.

Brunei-Malaysia renew Air Services Agreement (continued)

From front page

Present to witness the signing of agreement were Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia and His Excellency Brigadier General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Haji Mahmud bin Haji Saidin @ Haji Mohd Saidin, High Commissioner of Brunei Darussalam to Malaysia.

The Minister of Transport and Infocommunications also attended the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA'23) and held a separate courtesy call with the Malaysian Minister of Transport and Somalia Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation.



Yang Amat Berhormat the Prime Minister of Malaysia witnessing the signing of Air Services Agreement.

Towards digital, future-ready society

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 17 - The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is celebrated every May 17 to increase awareness of the tremendous possibilities that ICT and the Internet can bring to the societies and economies globally.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Empowering the Least Developed Countries through Information and Communication Technologies".

The matter was highlighted in a message by Yang Berhormat Pengiran Dato Seri Setia Shamhary bin Pengiran Dato Paduka Haji Mustapha, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications in commemoration of WTISD 2023.

The Minister of Transport and

Infocommunications further said, digital literacy and skill development are the keys to empowering the citizens.

Under the Digital Economy Masterplan 2025, Brunei Darussalam is gearing towards a digital and future-ready society. In order to achieve this, we must equip our people with the knowledge and skills necessary to leverage technology effectively.

Brunei Darussalam is also encouraging Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises to take up digitalisation and online businesses.

Among the initiatives include the efforts by Authority for Info-Communications Technology to offer joint funding scheme called 'The Productivity and Efficiency Joint-Funding for Digital Adoption



Yang Berhormat Minister of Transport and Infocommunications.

(PENJANA)' to businesses to take up digital solutions to enhance their productivity.

Exchange information, ideas on parliamentary matters



Legislative Council (LegCo) member in a group photo with Bangsamoro Attorney General's Office (BAGO) delegation.

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 16 - The Legislative Council (LegCo) yesterday received a Working Visit from a delegation of the Bangsamoro Attorney General's Office (BAGO).

The delegation was welcomed by Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Johan Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Adanan bin Begawan Siraja Khatib Dato Seri Setia Haji Md. Yusof, LegCo Member.

The working visit aimed to observe and share best practices of the two countries and foster close relations between lawmakers of both sides.

Meanwhile today, the delegation visited Syariah Court and had a bilateral discussion with the Chief Syar'ie Judge, the Syariah High Court Judges and senior officials of the Syariah courts.

Present to welcome the delegation was Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Paduka Seri Utama Dato Paduka Seri Setia Haji Awang Salim bin Haji Besar, Chief Syar'ie Judge.



BAGO delegation during the working visit.



The delegation during the visit to Syariah Court.

During the visit, both sides also had the discussed related matters of mutual opportunities in exchanging views and interest.

Brunei emphasise importance of 'ASEAN Centrality'

MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, MAY 25 – Brunei Darussalam will continue to emphasise the importance of 'ASEAN Centrality' in upholding the security and stability of this region.

In this regard, Brunei Darussalam and other ASEAN Member States will continue to foster long-standing ties with ASEAN Dialogue Partners such as the Russian Federation especially in the field of security.

This was mentioned by Dato Seri Paduka Awang Haji Sufian bin Haji Sabtu, Deputy Minister (Security and Law) at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) as



Deputy Minister (Security and Law) at PMO as Deputy Chairman of the National Security Committee during the bilateral meeting with His Excellency Secretary of the Security Council of Russia Federation on May 22.



Deputy Minister (Security and Law) at PMO as Deputy Chairman of the National Security Committee during the meeting.

Deputy Chairman of the National Security Committee during the 3rd ASEAN Russia Consultations of the High Ranking Representatives for Security Issues on May 23, which was held as part of the XI International Meeting of High-Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters.

The meeting was co-chaired by His Excellency Nikolai Patrushev, Secretary to the Security Council of the Russian Federation and His Excellency Lieutenant General Ke Da, representing the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia as Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Partner Relations.

Meanwhile, the XI International Meeting of High-Ranking Officials Responsible for Security Matters was held for three days from May 23 to 25, and was attended by

representatives from 101 countries.

On May 25, the Deputy Minister at the PMO delivered a statement on international cooperation to combat illegal drug trafficking during a round table discussion chaired by Mr. Ivan Zubov, Deputy Minister, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation.

Prior to this, Brunei Darussalam's delegation also had the opportunity to attend a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Nikolai Patrushev, Secretary of the Security Council of Russia Federation on May 22, 2023 to discuss matters related to the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Security Committee of Brunei Darussalam and the Security Council of the Russian Federation which was signed in June 2019.

ACCSM strengthens ASEAN civil service cooperation

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 10 - With the theme "Strengthening ASEAN Public Sector: Fit for the Future", the Plenary Session of the 22nd ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) was held recently with Brunei Darussalam serving as chair until next year.



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The 22nd ASEAN Cooperation on Civil Service Matters (ACCSM) Senior Officials (SOM) Meeting underway.

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Following a preparatory meeting on May 9, the ACCSM session resumed with the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) being chaired by Dr. Norfarizal bin Othman, Acting Director-General of Public Service Department and was attended by senior officials from public service sector of ASEAN Member States with delegates from Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as

observers. The SOM discussed the planning of activities and the Roadmap during Brunei Darussalam's Chairmanship of the ACCSM.

In addition to ACCSM's role in strengthening public service cooperation at the ASEAN level, it is also a platform for sharing information, innovations, and best practices related to Public Service Management among ASEAN Member States.

Create greater understanding about the Republic of Türkiye

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 30 - The Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye has donated a collection of books separately to Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali's (UNISSA) Library and Universiti Brunei Darussalam's (UBD) Library.

The books were presented by His Excellency Professor Dr. Hamit Ersoy, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Brunei Darussalam to Dr. Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal, Rector of UNISSA which was held today.

Meanwhile on May 18, the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Brunei Darussalam donated books to UBD's Library and was handed over to Dr. Hazri bin Haji Kifle, the Vice-Chancellor of UBD in a ceremony held at UBD's Library.

With such contributions, it will provide students and users access to a selection of books ranging from royal cuisines of Türkiye, culture, history, literature, and arts.

The book donation marks a friendly gesture and cordial relationship in education, culture and arts between Brunei Darussalam and the Republic of Türkiye. The books are to enrich the learning resources available both in UNISSA and UBD Libraries and enable more Bruneian readers to understand and learn about the Republic of Türkiye.

The contribution is part of its effort to create greater understanding and awareness of Türkiye in the Brunei community.



His Excellency Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Brunei Darussalam presents the books to Rector of Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA),



His Excellency Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Brunei Darussalam presents the books to Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei joins IVLP to deal with climate change

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 17 - Sufina Raihani binti Haji Mohd. Salleh, Special Duties Officer at the Brunei Climate Change Secretariat has completed an International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) on 'The Climate Crisis: Working Together for Future Generations' in the United States (US).

She joined over 70 climate experts, advocates and policymakers from more than 60 countries to address the climate crisis and its impacts.

The participants visited Washington DC, to learn about US federal government efforts to mitigate the climate crisis; San Francisco, California, to learn about innovative initiatives by industries to improve and restore the environment.

They also visited New Orleans, Louisiana, to see the challenges of a region dealing with a need to evolve away from extractive industries while actively managing disasters, displacement, and climate injustice; and Miami, Florida, to participate in local efforts in advocating and implementing sustainable practices.

Following the completion of the programme, she also met



Her Excellency United States Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam presenting a certificate of completion to Special Duties Officer at the Brunei Climate Change Secretariat.

Her Excellency Caryn McClelland, US Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam, to discuss lessons learned from the programme and explore how Brunei can work together with the US to combat the climate crisis.

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Her Excellency US Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam also presented a certificate of completion to her.

"Tackling the climate crisis is at the centre of US foreign policy, diplomacy, and national security. The IVLP initiatives is one of the ways the US government is demonstrating its commitment to addressing the climate crisis by bringing participants from around the world together to share best practices and collaborate together," said the US Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam.

The US is also supporting the establishment of the new ASEAN Centre for Climate Change (ACCC), based in Brunei, through technical exchanges with the premier US climate experts.

The US Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory has provided training that expands the ACCC's capacity for decarbonisation research, disaster management planning, and other initiatives.

The IVLP is the US Department of State's premier professional exchange programme, connecting current and emerging foreign leaders with their American counterparts through short-term programs to build mutual understanding on a wide range of issues.

Nearly 200,000 distinguished individuals have participated in the programme, including more than 500 current or former chiefs of State or Heads of government, and thousands of leaders from the public and private sectors.

PMCAF delegation observes teaching techniques of PMCA recipient

TUTONG, May 23 - The Princess Maha Chakri Award Foundation (PMCAF) delegation from Thailand led by Dr. Krissanapong Kirtikara, Chairman of the PMCAF visited Sekolah Rendah Pengiran Kesuma Negara Bukit Beruang.

The arrival of the delegation was welcomed by Marina Chek binti Bujang, Director of the Department of Schools and Hazibah binti Haji Abd Manan, the school's Headmistress as well as Mohamad Amir Irwan bin Haji Moxsin, a teacher from the school who is also the recipient of the 5th Princess Maha Chakri Award (PMCA) 2023.

The visit began with a welcoming speech and briefing about the school delivered by the school's headmistress followed by a sharing session presented by Mohamad Amir Irwan bin Haji Moxsin which then followed by lesson observation and career journey showcase.

Accordingly, the purpose of the visit was for the PMCAF to hold a meeting and observation of teaching practised by the recipient which was used as the main selection criteria.

Also present during the visit were senior officials from the Ministry of Education.

The PMCAF delegation is on a working visit to Brunei Darussalam for four days from May 21 to 24 where the delegation had the opportunity to pay a courtesy call to Dr. Shamsiah Zuraini Kanchanawati binti Haji Tajuddin, Permanent Secretary (Core Education), Ministry of Education on May 22.

The delegation also had the opportunity to visit schools and institutions where previous PMCA recipients work.



The Princess Maha Chakri Award Foundation (PMCAF) delegation during the visit to Sekolah Rendah Pengiran Kesuma Negara Bukit Beruang.



Mohamad Amir Irwan bin Haji Moxsin, recipient of the 5th Princess Maha Chakri Award 2023 during the observation of his teaching techniques.

Mohamad Amir Irwan's dedication in education was recognised by Thailand's PMCAF for promoting education in Brunei Darussalam. The award commemorates outstanding teachers whose achievements have led to a significant impact on the students' lives and a better education system.

CPI increases 0.1 per cent m-o-m and 0.4 per cent y-o-y in March

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, May 15 - In March, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) went up by 0.1 per cent month-on-month (m-o-m) compared to February. The marginal increase was attributed to a lower increase of 0.1 per cent in non-food prices, while the prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages decreased. This was the first decline since May 2021.

The m-o-m decrease in the food and non-alcoholic beverages prices was attributed to vegetables (1.8 per cent); oil and fats (2.9 per cent); and sugar, jam, honey, chocolate and confectionery (0.4 per cent). Meanwhile, the rise in the prices of non-food was contributed by recreation and culture (3.1 per cent); restaurants and hotels (0.5 per cent); and clothing and footwear (1.2 per cent). The increase in the recreation and culture prices was mainly due to the rise in the price of holiday and umrah packages.

For year-on-year (y-o-y) changes, the CPI increased by 0.4 per cent compared to March 2022. The rise was driven by an increase in prices of food and non-alcoholic beverages by 3.9 per cent. Meanwhile, the non-food prices registered a decrease of 0.5 per cent.

The y-o-y increase in food and non-alcoholic beverages prices was due to the rise in rice and cereals (6.6 per cent); meat (5.8 per cent); and fish and seafood (3.6 per cent). The increase in rice and cereals

prices was mainly driven by the rise in raw material prices for cakes, pastries and biscuits. The rise in meat prices, particularly chicken meat, was contributed by the high cost of chicken feed. Whereas, the increase in fish and seafood prices was mainly attributed to the rise in prices of canned fish and fresh prawns.

However, the y-o-y increase was moderated by a decrease in non-food prices which was driven by transport

(4.1 per cent); miscellaneous goods and services (2.5 per cent); and communication (2.9 per cent).

Transport prices registered a decline due to a fall in the prices of air fares and motor cars. Meanwhile, the fall in miscellaneous goods and services prices was mainly due to the decrease in the price of vehicle insurance. Moreover, the fall in telephone and telefax services prices was the main contributor to the decrease in the price of communication.



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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

MARCH 2023

Month-on-Month

March 2023 /
February 2023

▲ 0.1%

Year-on-Year

March 2023 /
March 2022

▲ 0.4%

Month-on-Month



Year-on-Year



Base Year (Jan 2015=100)



The same CPI basket of goods and services worth **BND100.00** in **January 2015** is now worth **BND106.89** in **March 2023**

Main Contributors Year-on-Year

Food ▲ 3.9%

Rice and Cereals

▲ 6.6%

Meat

▲ 5.8%

Fish and Seafood

▲ 3.6%

Non-Food ▼ -0.5%

Transport

▼ -4.1%

Miscellaneous Goods and Services

▼ -2.5%

Communication

▼ -2.9%

Notes

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