

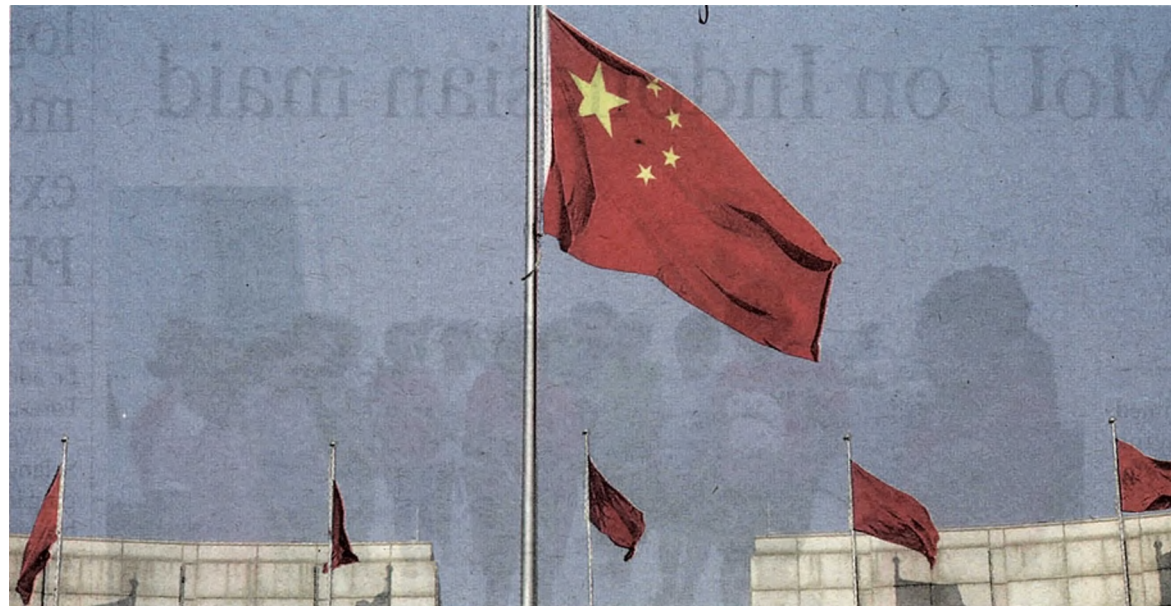
PM to visit Middle East this month, China in May

Prior to that, the PM says he will complete his working visit to the Asean countries, beginning with Brunei

PRIME Minister (PM) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said he is planning to go to the Middle East for a working visit at the end of next month and to China in May.

Prior to that, the PM said he would complete his working visit to the Asean countries, beginning with Brunei, which is scheduled for tomorrow, followed by other countries such as Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

"I'll complete Asean first before going to the Middle East, am waiting for the date. Probably in March or after the Parliament session... After that it will be China," he was quoted as saying in a *Bernama* report when met by reporters after attending the Malaysian Family Lou Sang Chinese New Year Luncheon yesterday.



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Bloomberg

Malaysia established diplomatic relations with China in 1974, the first country in Asean to do so. Since then, the two countries have forged close ties and developed partnerships for

mutual benefit in various aspects.

Indonesia was the first country visited by Ismail Sabri after he took office as the ninth PM on Aug 21 last year.

Separately, the PM said no

restrictions would be imposed on economic activities including the operation of Ramadhan bazaar this year.

According to the *Bernama* report, the PM said the bazaar's standard

operating procedure would be refined and announced once it is ready.

"We will not close the business. I have mentioned Hari Raya Aidilfitri, the fasting month, the Ramadhan market, the night market, it will still be open as usual," he said.

It has been reported that some Ramadhan bazaar traders have expressed worries on not being able to operate this year due to the emergence of Omicron in Malaysia which resulted in a high number of cases.

Up to 22,802 Covid cases were detected on Saturday, pushing the cumulative number of cases to reach above three million.

In 2020, the operation of Ramadhan bazaars nationwide was not allowed to operate to curb the spread of Covid, while in 2021, the bazaars in the Enhanced Movement Control Order were also banned from operating. — TMR