



Elderly man in slapping incident claims trial

Accused charged with voluntarily causing hurt to non-Muslim youth eating in public during fasting hours.

Report on
page 5

Foreign worker EPF move expected to benefit economy

As costs of imported labour increase, employers will favour hiring more locals or seek alternatives such as automation: MEF

Report on
page 3

Mounting bazaar waste sparks environmental concerns

Food left rotting at landfills emits dangerous levels of climate-changing methane and produces leachate that contaminates groundwater: Academic

Report on
page 4



Many houseowners said they would not trade their old premises for new ones if it means having to apply for another housing loan. — IKHWAN ZULKAFLEE/THE SUN

Development trepidation

Proposed law to lower property owner consent for urban renewal projects from 100% to 80% raising fears of fresh mortgage struggles among residents.

Report on
page 2

PM assures fair compensation under URA amid displacement fears

PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has moved to quash fears that the proposed Urban Renewal Act (URA) will drive Malays and Bumiputera communities out of prime city areas.

He stressed that the law would prioritise fairness and protect homeowners from displacement.

Anwar said the new Act would ensure that homeowners receive fair compensation if their properties are demolished for redevelopment projects.

He added that current homeowners would be allocated a unit within any redevelopment project undertaken by developers.

"The compensation homeowners receive will be based on the future market value of their property, enabling them to regain property ownership in the newly developed project," Anwar said in a statement read by his senior press secretary Tunku Nashrul Abaidah.

Anwar added that under the current system, compensation is based on the property's present value, often leaving homeowners unable to afford a new unit within the redevelopment.

"In addition to higher compensation, the Act will also ensure various forms of support for homeowners, including transit housing rental payments, ex-gratia payments for renovations and other financial assistance to help sustain their livelihoods throughout the construction period. The proposed Act will also emphasise the principles of social justice, which form the foundation of the Madani vision."

Anwar asserted that critics have no basis for claiming that the Act would displace Malays and Bumiputera communities from the city or that the proposed law would solely benefit developers.

The proposed legislation is expected to be tabled in Parliament in July. — **BY IKHWAN ZULKAFLEE**

Concerns over proposed redevelopment projects

➤ New mortgage payments, higher costs, lowering of homeowner consent threshold for renewal of urban properties among grievances of residents

■ **BY IKHWAN ZULKAFLEE**
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: The burden of a new mortgage could be a deal-breaker causing homeowners to oppose the proposed Urban Redevelopment Act (URA), although it aims to improve the quality of life of residents in identified areas, among others, through redevelopment projects.

One such location is Taman Pusat Kepong, one of over a hundred sites identified by the Town and Country Planning Department and Kuala Lumpur City Hall as suitable for urban renewal within the capital city.

Vimala Vetiperiannan, a homeowner in the area, expressed her concerns, saying that her family has only two years left on their housing loan.

"I don't want to spend another 20-odd years repaying the loan. Plus, it's not like we are living in a hazardous place. It's comfortable for my family and we get along well with our neighbours," the 45-year-old housewife told *theSun* when met in Taman Pusat Kepong on Tuesday.

She said the apartment where she lives with her husband and two children cost them only RM80,000 when they bought it in 2000.

"If our flat is torn down to make way for a new building, I imagine the price will skyrocket."

Another resident, Chong Tan Koon, 78, said although the apartment where he lives with his wife and children is old, he wouldn't trade it for a new one — especially if it means that his family would have to apply for a new mortgage.

"There's hardly any crime in the area, and my family has lived here for over 20 years. I just don't see the benefits for me or my family from this proposed Act."

He said in recent years there has, however, been an influx of foreigners renting flats in the surrounding areas.

Checks by *theSun* found that the rent for a basic three-bedroom unit at Greenview Apartment, one of the oldest apartment blocks in the area, is about RM900 per month.

Meanwhile, Taman Pusat Kepong Residents Association committee member

Ng Be Pak, 62, said while the area may need a new recreational park, new housing projects are unnecessary.

"Yes, it is congested here, and even the public field behind the association's building has been turned into a private car park. However, I respectfully reject the idea of tearing down the building to construct a new one."

The URA, proposed by Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming, seeks to lower the homeowner consent threshold for urban renewal projects from the current 100% to 80%.

The ministry has identified 534 potential redevelopment sites in Peninsular Malaysia, including 139 within Kuala Lumpur, covering 13.4% of the city's total area, with a combined gross development value of RM355.3 billion.

Set to be tabled in the next Parliament session in July, the URA has sparked heated debates among property developers and homeowners, with key concerns revolving around the percentage of Bumiputera ownership and the "en bloc" sale of entire strata developments.

This has raised fears of potential displacement, particularly among lower-income house owners.

One of the most contentious issues surrounding the URA is the consent threshold, with critics arguing that it may disproportionately affect Malay communities and lower- to middle-income urban groups (B40 and M40).



SPREADING RAYA CHEER ... The prime minister's wife Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, who is also the patron of Pusanita, distributing Aidilfitri aid to the needy under Pusanita's Semarak Ramadan programme in Putrajaya yesterday. — **BERNAMAPIC**

Bus operators warned against illegal fare hikes during Aidilfitri

JERANTUT: The Transport Ministry has warned that strict action, including licence revocation, will be taken against any express bus company that deliberately increases ticket prices for economy-class buses ahead of the Aidilfitri festive season.

Its minister Anthony Loke said the ministry had received complaints from the public regarding fare hikes imposed by express bus operators, particularly for routes from the capital to the East Coast.

"I have instructed the Land Public Transport Agency to investigate the companies involved in these fare hikes. There are two categories of bus services, economy and executive. For economy-class buses, fares are regulated and cannot be raised arbitrarily."

"Executive buses offer additional services and their ticket prices are not regulated. However, even for executive buses, if the price increase is excessive, we will take action."

"So, we need to investigate first to determine the category of these fare hikes," he said after a helmet exchange programme at Jerantut district council hall on Tuesday.

Loke said express bus operators are only permitted to impose a 10% surcharge during festive seasons.

On March 22 last year, he announced that a 10% surcharge on express bus fares during festive periods was allowed, considering factors such as increased service

capacity and bus rental costs.

He had said the surcharge was not a new policy and had been in place for the past 20 years, applicable from one week before to one week after major celebrations.

When asked about integrated enforcement operations for Aidilfitri, he said they would be conducted nationwide from March 24 to April 8 to monitor, detect and take action against road users who violate traffic laws.

"We have identified hotspots, with 36 locations in Pahang alone. We will deploy Road Transport Department officers to these hotspots."

On the helmet exchange programme, Loke said similar initiatives would be continued in the future to raise awareness among motorcyclists and pillion riders about the importance of wearing helmets that meet safety standards.

"Today, the ministry and the Road Transport Department distributed 500 helmets to Jerantut residents as part of efforts to improve road safety. From my observation, most of the helmets brought to be exchanged were no longer suitable for use."

"If a helmet is in poor condition, it is no longer safe as it cannot fully protect motorcyclists and their pillion riders. That is why it is crucial to wear a good-quality helmet, and we hope this programme will help increase awareness on this matter."

— **Bernama**

Bolstering maritime defence amid regional challenges

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's maritime defence strategy is centred on surveillance, military asset deployment, international cooperation and defence system modernisation.

Speaking in the Senate, Defence Deputy Minister Adly Zahari said the country's maritime defence focus in the Straits of Malacca includes trade and shipping lane security, combating maritime crimes, regional cooperation and joint military exercises.

"The focus in the South China Sea differs as it presents more complex geopolitical challenges due to overlapping maritime claims involving Malaysia, China, Vietnam, the Philippines and Brunei.

"The Royal Malaysian Navy's (RMN) priorities in the area include safeguarding Malaysia's maritime zones, addressing foreign power provocations, deploying strategic assets for surveillance and strengthening regional and international cooperation," he said during the question-and-answer session yesterday.

He was replying to a question on Malaysia's maritime defence focus in the Straits of Malacca and the South China Sea as well as RMN's efforts in addressing threats and enforcement provocations in overlapping border areas.

Adly said the RMN has implemented various measures to address maritime security challenges in overlapping border areas, such as increased presence and patrols, soft power approaches and military diplomacy, asset and defence technology modernisation and collaboration with local and regional agencies. — Bernama

Mosques, surau ordered to hold solat hajat

KUALA LUMPUR: All mosques and surau under the supervision of the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (Jakim) and the Federal Territories Islamic Religious Department (Jawi) have been ordered to perform *solat hajat* for Palestine throughout the remaining days of Ramadan.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar said the directive underscores Malaysia's solidarity with the Palestinian people in light of Israel's brutal attacks in Gaza, which violate the ceasefire agreement.

He said the government strongly condemns the actions of the Zionist regime, describing the recent killing of 404 people, including women and children, and the injury of 562 others in Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip as an unacceptable war crime. — Bernama

Income generation initiatives benefit over 6,000 participants

KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 6,287 participants have successfully taken part in the People's Income Initiative (IPR) under the Agro-Entrepreneur Initiative (Intan), Food Entrepreneur Initiative (Insan) and Hardcore Poverty Eradication programmes.

Economy Deputy Minister Datuk

Hanifah Hajar Taib said under IPR-Intan, 517 out of 3,628 approved participants had successfully generated sales revenue in the first cycle.

She said programme participants were able to earn between RM2,000 and RM6,000 monthly.

"IPR-Intan participants receive a

monthly pre-harvest allowance of RM500 and the majority have managed to earn over RM1,700," she said during the question-and-answer session in the Dewan Negara yesterday.

She was replying to a question regarding the number of IPR

participants by category and those who have exceeded the RM1,700 income threshold.

Hanifah said 374 participants have benefitted from the IPR-Insan pilot programme, achieving average daily sales ranging from RM90 to RM400. — Bernama

EPF move for foreign workers expected to benefit economy

KUALA LUMPUR: Employees Provident Fund (EPF) contributions from foreign workers will benefit Malaysia's economy in the long term as employers may favour hiring more local talent as costs increase, said Malaysian Employers Federation president Datuk Syed Hussain Syed Husman.

He said while operational costs would be higher, the move is expected to foster sustainable business practices among local industries.

He added that industries such as manufacturing, construction and plantations, which rely heavily on foreign workers, may explore alternatives such as automation and a greater focus on local talent.

"The additional cost will affect competitiveness and some businesses will pass the cost on to

While costs may increase for employers, long-term effects would enhance worker welfare and boost talent retention

consumers. Otherwise, they will face tighter profit margins on already thin margins."

He also said the government's imposition of EPF contributions presents an opportunity for employers to hire more local talent as the cost of employing foreign workers rises, Bernama reported.

Syed Hussain said employers will need to update payroll systems and ensure compliance with EPF regulations, which could add administrative complexity, particularly for companies with

large numbers of foreign workers.

He added that the issue of locals being unwilling to take certain jobs needs to be addressed urgently to resolve labour shortages.

Syed Hussain suggested employers enhance and provide training programmes for locals in industries that rely heavily on foreign labour to improve their employability.

The private sector has lauded the 2% EPF contribution by employers and foreign workers, introduced this month, as it is expected to improve

worker retention and build loyalty. Sorento Capital executive director Jayden J.K. Loo said the move would provide long-term savings and financial security to foreign workers, and lead to better financial stability.

"This may lead to higher job satisfaction and lower turnover rates, reducing hiring and training costs for employers.

"However, the impact on productivity will depend on various factors, including work conditions, wages and overall employee engagement strategies," he said.

"While the contribution is a positive step, other incentives and workplace improvements would still be necessary to drive significant productivity gains," said Loo, whose company offers bathroom and kitchen solutions and Italian-designed sanitaryware for home and commercial use.

Meanwhile, FGV Holdings Bhd (FGV) CEO Fakhruddin Othman said the 2% contribution is an employer's responsibility to enhance workforce welfare while ensuring fair and ethical treatment for all employees, both local and migrant.

He said while the move would naturally increase operational costs, FGV — which employs a substantial number of foreign workers, particularly in its plantation sector — remains committed to complying with government regulations and will take proactive measures to ensure a smooth transition.

"We view this as part of our broader commitment to fostering sustainable business practices, reinforcing our dedication to long-term industry resilience," he said.

Analysts have said Malaysia's approach aligns with several countries that have mandatory pension and compulsory savings schemes to support foreign worker retirement, such as Canada, Japan, Singapore and Hong Kong.



Syed Hussain said the government's imposition of EPF contributions presents an opportunity for employers to hire more local talent as the cost of employing foreign workers rises. — SYED AZAHAR SYED OSMAN/THESUN

Department to help young voters make informed decisions

MUAR: The Community Communications Department (J-Kom) will play a role in educating young voters, particularly those casting their ballots for the first time in the upcoming elections, to make well-informed decisions and avoid electing unsuitable leaders who could affect the country's political landscape.

Its director-general Datuk Ismail Yusop said as the department overseeing the country's political landscape, J-Kom will continue its role in educating voters on the history and

formation of the Federal Constitution.

He said this approach would help young voters make informed decisions and avoid being influenced by agendas that could be harmful to them and the country in the future.

"J-Kom will travel nationwide, conducting various activities and programmes to highlight the importance of the country's history and Constitution. We offer engagement training, forums, courses and seminars to ensure a

deeper understanding reaches the community.

"We also offer training modules on the national system, covering topics such as the meaning of constitutional monarchy, the role of the Constitution, the ideology behind the *Rukun Negara* and the significance of the Malaysia Madani framework," he said.

He was speaking after officiating at the Southern Zone Ihya Ramadan event at Masjid Sulaimaniah in Parit Pinang Seribu on Tuesday night.

Ismail also expressed hope that all parties, especially parents, would work alongside J-Kom in educating young voters about the Constitution.

"In the last general election, our country experienced political uncertainty. While young voters have the right to support any party, they must understand the reasoning and balance behind their choices.

"Don't be overly influenced by social media or driven by sentiment. This is about the country's future, not

just choosing a head prefect at school."

He also cautioned that choosing national leaders requires careful consideration and responsibility rather than being driven by emotions or unverified information on social media.

"Now is the time to equip young voters with knowledge and an understanding of the country's history. In a democracy, everyone has the right to choose their leader, but the one elected should bring benefits to the people." — Bernama



Mounting bazaar waste triggers environmental risks

▶ Rotting food at landfills emits dangerous levels of methane that contributes to climate change, produces leachate that contaminates groundwater: Academic

BY KIRTINEE RAMESH
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: A mounting waste crisis at local bazaars is not only overwhelming landfills but also accelerating climate change, as rotting food releases methane, a greenhouse gas 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Malaysia generates about 17,000 tonnes of food waste daily, with that number surging by an additional 3,000 tonnes during Ramadan, according to the Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Corporation.

Experts warn that much of this waste ends up in landfills without proper treatment, emitting dangerous levels of methane into the atmosphere.

Universiti Teknologi Mara School of Civil Engineering assoc prof Dr Marfiah Ab Wahid cautioned that methane emissions from decomposing organic waste are a significant contributor to climate change, trapping heat far more effectively than carbon dioxide.

"This isn't just about overflowing landfills, it's about accelerating global warming.

"Methane is a major driver of climate change, and as more waste piles up, the problem will only get worse," she said.

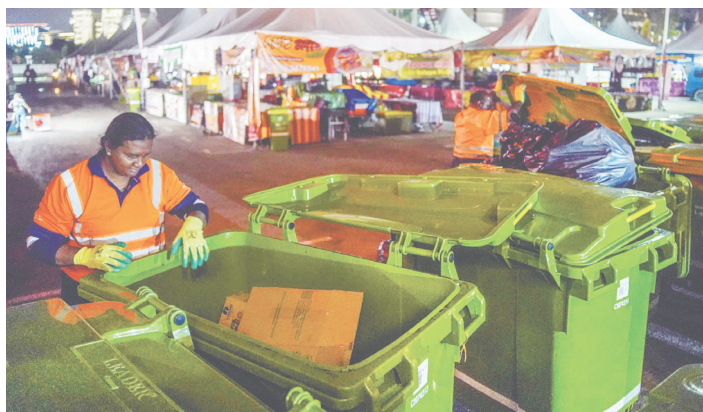
The environmental risks extend beyond the atmosphere. Marfiah warned that decomposing food waste produces leachate, a toxic liquid that seeps into the soil and contaminates groundwater.

The resulting pollution can trigger eutrophication, a process that depletes oxygen in water bodies, suffocating aquatic life and threatening human water sources.

She added that improper waste management fosters pest infestations, raising public health concerns.

"Accumulated waste attracts pests and rodents, increasing the risk of diseases like dysentery and cholera.

"Blocked drainage systems from waste buildup can also lead to severe urban flooding,"



Marfiah said excessive landfill waste also releases other toxic gases, such as ammonia, further exacerbating air pollution and respiratory health risks. — ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN

Beyond methane emissions, excessive landfill waste releases other toxic gases, including ammonia and hydrogen sulfide, further exacerbating air pollution and respiratory health risks.

Marfiah underscored the urgent need for intervention, outlining waste management strategies that could curb methane emissions at the source.

She emphasised that local authorities must prioritise source separation, enforce regulations on single-use plastics, and encourage responsible waste disposal at bazaars.

"Vendors and visitors must separate food waste from recyclables, and municipal councils should provide labeled bins while incorporating waste management guidelines into rental agreements," she said.

She also urged authorities to reduce reliance on single-use plastics by implementing clear regulations or offering incentives for biodegradable packaging.

Additionally, she said better portion control and inventory management among vendors could prevent food overproduction and spoilage, reducing waste generation.

To mitigate methane emissions, Marfiah proposed municipal composting initiatives that divert organic waste from landfills, turning it into fertiliser instead of allowing it to rot and release methane.

"Food donation systems could also prevent edible food from becoming waste while

supporting underprivileged communities."

Public awareness campaigns, she stressed, are essential to educate bazaar visitors on sustainability and climate-friendly waste practices.

Malaysia's waste management framework falls under several laws, including the Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Act 2007 (Act 672), the Streets, Drainage and Building Act 1974 (Act 133), and the Local Government Act 1976 (Act 171).

However, enforcement remains inconsistent.

Marfiah noted that the Housing and Local Government Ministry is considering introducing a Littering Act to address waste mismanagement more effectively.

"If such an Act is implemented, first-time offenders could receive a warning. Repeat violations may lead to penalties, including the possibility of being blacklisted," she said.

To encourage long-term sustainability, she proposed initiatives such as reduced stall fees for vendors using biodegradable packaging, a deposit-return system where customers receive refunds for returning reusable containers, and a Green Vendor Certification to recognise businesses adopting environmentally responsible practices.

"Waste management isn't just about keeping our streets clean. It's about preventing a climate disaster. By taking action now, we can significantly cut methane emissions and create a cleaner, more sustainable future for all."

Dept aims to reach target of 0.7 unity index this year

TUMPAT: The National Unity and Integration Department is confident that the National Unity Index (IPNas) value can reach 0.7 this year.

Its director-general Datuk Che Roslan Che Daud said the third IPNas study would be carried out by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Institute of Ethnic Studies.

"The first IPNas study in 2018 recorded a score of 0.567, which increased to 0.629 in 2022.

"For this third study, we are optimistic that IPNas can reach 0.7 as targeted, based on the programmes planned throughout this year," Che Roslan said after participating as a panellist in the Community Unity and Security Dialogue titled "Unity and Peace: Keys to a Safe Community" at Kampung Baru Pasir Pekan here on Tuesday.

Other panellists were Tumpat police chief ACP Mohd Khairi Shafie and Kelantan National Anti-Drug Agency assistant director Zainal Abidin Mamat.

The dialogue was moderated by Universiti Malaysia Kelantan Centre for Peace and Human Wellbeing Studies director Dr Noor Hisham Md Nawi.

Che Roslan said the foundation of the IPNas development includes social deficits related to social class, religion, education and language.

"For this year, more than 20,000 programmes involving 8,529 neighbourhood watch areas nationwide are required to implement at least eight community-based programmes.

"With more programmes and social interactions with the community, government policies and initiatives can be effectively communicated while also countering negative perceptions that could undermine national unity," he said.

According to the IPNas measurement scale, 0.0 to 0.24 is classified as weak, 0.25 to 0.49 as low, 0.50 to 0.74 as moderate, and 0.75 to 1.00 as high. — Bernama

RM245,000 to upgrade eight welfare centres

TAPAH: The Perak government, in collaboration with the Malaysia Cooperative Societies Commission, has allocated RM245,000 to upgrade the infrastructure of eight welfare centres across the state, including orphanages and *tahfiz* schools.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad said the funding aims to improve the safety and comfort of children in the institutions.

"We hope that cooperatives sponsoring such initiative will continue their charitable work in the future," he said after launching the "Dari Mata Turun Ke Hati" charity event on Tuesday.

The funds will benefit Pertubuhan Kebajikan Anak Yatim Dan Miskin Ar-Ridwani in Ipoh (RM45,500); Pertubuhan Badan Kebajikan Anak-Anak Yatim Darul Aitam in Temoh, Tapah (RM29,500) and Pertubuhan Badan Kebajikan Anak-Anak Yatim Darussalam in Ipoh (RM36,000).

Other recipients are Pertubuhan Kebajikan Anak Yatim Dan Miskin Dahikmah in Gopeng (RM30,000), Pertubuhan Kebajikan Anak Yatim Tasawwur Islam Perak in Semanggol (RM30,000), Yayasan Anak Yatim Darussakinah in Teluk Intan (RM18,000), Pertubuhan Kebajikan Anak-Anak Yatim Dan Warga Miskin Bait Al-Amin in Parit (RM26,000) and Badan Khidmat Islam Perak (RM30,000). — Bernama

N. Sembilan beefing up livestock industry

SEREMBAN: The Negeri Sembilan government is actively strengthening the livestock industry to increase the self-sufficiency rate of local meat through collaboration with the Veterinary Services Department and related agencies, said Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun.

He said as such, several key initiatives have been drawn up, including the development of an integrated dairy farm in Gemas, and large-scale livestock projects that are expected to increase meat supply by 15% by 2030.

"Studies are also being conducted to expand the use of modern livestock technology, such as feedlot systems and data analytics, to maximise productivity while attracting more agro-entrepreneurs and young people to venture into livestock farming.

"I am confident that with special incentives,

skills training, micro-financing schemes and support from related agencies in utilising the latest technology, the livestock industry will continue to grow and reduce our dependence on imported meat," he said after officiating at the "Mantai Rayo 2025" programme here on Tuesday.

The event was also attended by senior exco and state Agriculture, Food Security and Cost of Living Action Committee chairman Datuk Seri Jalaluddin Alias.

Aminuddin added that the programme has been expanded to all 36 state constituencies from March 26 to March 28, involving the supply of 30 to 50 cows or 3,600kg of beef, with selling prices ranging from RM30 to RM36 per kg.

"This year's concept is somewhat different from previous years, as this year, state

assemblies will lead the programme's implementation in their respective seats and coordinate the sale of fresh beef so that residents can buy at reasonable prices," he said.

He added that items such as rice, cooking oil and eggs would also be distributed to 100 underprivileged families in each state constituency.

Aminuddin, who is also Port Dickson MP, described Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's recent announcement to focus on 10 projects in Negeri Sembilan as highly anticipated, which will further accelerate the state's development.

Anwar, in a Facebook post two days ago, asked the Economy Ministry to give special attention to 10 priority project proposals in Negeri Sembilan. — Bernama

Elderly man to stand trial over slapping incident

➤ Court orders accused to appoint lawyer, enter defence in relation to alleged assault on youth for eating in public

JOHOR BAHRU: A senior citizen has claimed trial to a fresh charge related to slapping a non-Muslim man for eating in public during Ramadan.

Bernama reported that Abdul Razak Ismail, 65, pleaded not guilty after the charge was read out in the Johor Bahru Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The charge, framed under Section 323 of the Penal Code, carries up to one year's jail, a fine not exceeding RM2,000, or both upon conviction.

Abdul Razak had earlier pleaded guilty to a charge of voluntarily causing hurt to Elijah Ling Zhao Zhong at 3.45pm on Sunday.

The victim, who is also the complainant, said he was slapped by the accused and the results of his medical examination found that there was a bruise on his right cheek.

However, after the facts of the case were read out, Abdul Razak did not admit the facts, saying they were not true.

This resulted in Magistrate A. Shaarmini rejecting Abdul Razak's guilty plea and ordering that the case proceed to trial.

Magistrate: Since you do not admit the facts of the case, I hereby reject your guilty plea and you have to appoint a lawyer to enter your defence.

Abdul Razak: Then, I will just plead guilty. I have a wife to support.

Magistrate: Encik Abdul Razak, the court cannot accept a conditional guilty plea, such as "I do not admit the facts of the case exactly but I want to plead guilty because I have a responsibility". I will set a mention date since you do not admit the facts of the case, for you to appoint a lawyer.

Before the mention date was set, DPP Nur Fatimah Mohd Nizam told the court that the prosecution had received instructions for the accused to be granted a discharge not amounting to an acquittal (DNAA), and for the case to be referred to the AGC.

The AGC later said a DNAA was necessary as there was a technical issue earlier, adding that it has been resolved and the accused has been slapped with a fresh charge.

North Johor Bahru police chief ACP



Abdul Razak at the Johor Bahru Magistrate's Court yesterday. — BERNAMAPIC

Balveer Singh Mahindar Singh confirmed that police received a report from the 21-year-old complainant at 9pm on Sunday.

Balveer was quoted as saying the complainant, who was eating at the time, claimed that he was slapped twice on the right

cheek by an unknown man after being asked about his religion and asked to show his MyKad.

The incident was widely spread on social media through two videos lasting 32 seconds and 44 seconds.

Three killed in five-vehicle crash

ALOR SETAR: Three people were killed while three others were injured in a collision involving five vehicles at Km58.4 of the North-South Expressway (northbound) yesterday.

Pendang district police chief Supt Rodzi Abu Hassan said the 3.20am incident involved a car, three lorries and a pickup truck.

"Preliminary investigations revealed that the 27-year-old car driver, accompanied by three passengers aged between 26 and 32, were heading from Pendang to Jitra.

"The driver was in the right lane as the left lane was closed for repair work. The driver lost control while trying to avoid a lorry parked in the right lane without proper supervision by its 35-year-old driver."

The car then grazed two other lorries parked in the left lane.

"A pickup truck carrying four individuals failed to brake in time and crashed into the car and the lorries. The car passengers died at the scene due to (severe injuries) while the driver sustained injuries.

Rodzi said investigations found that the crash was caused by the lorry driver stopping in the right lane without warning signs or supervision.

He added that the lorry driver has yet to come forward to file a report and the case is being investigated under Section 41(1) of the Road Transport Act 1987. — Bernama

Ex-PM returns to MACC for questioning

PUTRAJAYA: Former prime minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob returned to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) headquarters yesterday for further questioning in an ongoing corruption and money laundering investigation.

The Bera MP arrived at 9.57am to assist in the probe.

The investigation focuses on allegations of misappropriation, involving the expenditure and procurement of funds for the promotion and publicity of the Keluarga Malaysia programme during his tenure as prime minister from August 2021 to November 2022.

The case is being investigated under the MACC Act 2009 and the Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001.

On Monday, MACC chief commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki said new investigation files have been opened, following fresh findings.

He added that Ismail Sabri is a suspect in the probe, following the discovery of about RM170 million in various currencies and 16kg of gold bars in a safe house during an MACC raid. — Bernama

Malaysian cycling legend dies, aged 84

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian sports lost another icon when cycling legend Saharudin Jaffar died on Tuesday.

His eldest son Suhaimi, 55, said: "My father went for his usual dialysis treatment at around 9am or 10am but upon reaching (the centre), he fainted. The nurse immediately called for an ambulance to take him to the Shah Alam Hospital.

"When the doctor arrived, he said my father's heart had stopped. Efforts to revive him were unsuccessful and my father was pronounced dead at 2.17pm."

Suhaimi said the death of his father, who made history by bagging Malaysia's first gold medal in cycling at the 1965 Southeast Asian Peninsular Games held here, had a profound impact, especially since tomorrow would have marked his parents' 58th wedding anniversary, Bernama reported.

Saharudin will be laid to rest at the Muslim cemetery in Section 21, Shah Alam.

Court axes bid to reinstate RM86 million fine on Grab

PUTRAJAYA: The Court of Appeal yesterday dismissed an appeal by the Malaysian Competition Commission (MyCC) to reinstate its RM86.77 million proposed fine against Grab Inc and two of its subsidiaries over alleged anti-competitive practices.

A panel comprising justices Datuk S. Nanthan Balan, Datuk Lim Chong Fong and Datuk Ahmad Kamal Md Shahid delivered the unanimous decision and ordered MyCC to pay RM50,000 in legal costs.

In reading the court's decision, Lim said there were no merits in the appeal.

He said there was no internal remedial procedure available to Grab, Grabcar Sdn Bhd and Mytekis Sdn Bhd to appeal against the proposed decision.

He also said the High Court judge did not err in his ruling that the investigation carried

out by MyCC against the companies was tainted with procedural impropriety.

Lim added that there was no evidence to show that MyCC had notified the companies about the investigation into a 2019 complaint, depriving them of the opportunity to understand the specific allegations against them.

On July 6, 2023, Grab, Grabcar Sdn Bhd and Mytekis Sdn Bhd obtained a *certiorari* order from the High Court, quashing MyCC's proposed fine and leading MyCC to appeal the decision.

The case began when the three companies filed a judicial review in December 2019 to challenge MyCC's proposed fine for alleged violations of the Competition Act 2010, specifically restrictive clauses imposed on their drivers.

In February 2020, the Kuala Lumpur High Court dismissed the application as it deemed the move premature, given that the proposed decision was not final yet.

However, Grab appealed and in April 2021, the appellate court allowed the appeal, granting leave for a judicial review and remitting the case to the High Court for a full hearing.

In 2022, the Federal Court dismissed MyCC's application to obtain leave to appeal against the court's decision, paving the way for the High Court to conduct a substantive hearing on the judicial review later that year.

In yesterday's proceedings, MyCC was represented by lawyers Tan Sri Tommy Thomas and Mervyn W.S. Lai while a legal team led by Datuk Malik Imtiaz Sarwar represented the companies. — Bernama

Fasting done right sheds pounds, heals digestion

➤ Nutritionist shares tips for healthy Ramadan with balanced meals, fruits and vegetables

KUALA LUMPUR: As Ramadan enters its third week, those fasting may find themselves more accustomed to the routine of abstaining from food and drink for over 13 hours each day.

Hunger pangs diminish, thirst becomes manageable, and some may even notice their clothes have become loose, reported Bernama.

Fasting has the potential to promote weight loss and improve overall health, but experts caution that this is only true if done correctly, through balanced meals at *sahur* and *iftar*.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Centre of Community Health Studies nutritionist Prof Dr Ruzita Abd Talib said it was important to adopt healthy eating habits for effective weight loss during Ramadan.

"Avoid high-calorie foods, fast food and ultra-processed items high in salt, trans fats, artificial sweeteners, colouring and flavouring. Coupled with physical activities, this approach can aid in weight loss," she said, adding that high-calorie foods provide incomplete nutrients and can make one feel more thirsty during fasting.

Ruzita said prolonged fasting triggers a higher rate of fat burning, as the body utilises stored fat more effectively.

"When we go without food and drink for 14 hours, this enhances the fat-burning process."

She added that apart from weight loss, fasting also promotes digestive health by allowing the stomach and intestines to rest and recover.

"Normally after eating, the digestive system processes food into nutrients for the body. By fasting, the stomach

and intestines get a much needed break from their continuous work."

However, Ruzita warned against extreme fasting, such as abstaining from food and water for over 20 hours, as this can lead to digestive and health issues.

"Prolonged fasting can increase hydrochloric acid in the stomach. Although it aids digestion, drastic reductions in food intake may disrupt the digestive system, causing heartburn, gastritis, ulcers, constipation and other stomach discomforts."

She also said skipping *sahur* increases the risks.

"*Sahur* is vital for providing the energy needed to fast throughout the day. Skipping it can lead to low blood sugar levels, causing dizziness, nausea or fainting, and dehydration."

Ruzita advised against overeating at *iftar*, and recommended a focus on hydration and simple, nutritious meals.

"The key is to control your appetite. Prioritise plain water and limit sugary treats to avoid consuming excess calories."

"Your meal should include fruits such as watermelon, papaya and oranges, and vegetables to ensure sufficient fibre, vitamins and minerals for overall health and satiety."

She recommended following Malaysia's Healthy Plate concept - balancing meals with one-quarter protein, one-quarter carbohydrates and half consisting of vegetables and fruits.

"This ensures a balanced diet and aids in healthy weight loss throughout the fasting month," she added.



FOLLOW **theSun** ON YOUTUBE
/theSunMedia



Cousins keep family business alive

ALOR GAJAH: Age is no obstacle to Muhammad Najmi Amzairy, 18, from Melaka Pindah to continue his late father's *bahulu* (egg sponge cake) business.

Determined to carry on the family trade, Najmi decided to

make the 20-year-old business his main source of income after completing secondary school earlier this year.

When his father died in 2021 due to a stroke, Najmi's cousin, Arif Fathilah Othman, 28, took charge

of the business. Today, the two work hand in hand to preserve the family's heritage, Bernama reported.

"My late father made a living selling *bahulu* to support me and my younger sister. I feel I should keep it going."

"Letting the business go would be a waste, especially since we have everything we need in the workshop and have learnt all the skills from my dad."

The two recently received a visit from State Health, Human Resources and Unity Committee chairman Datuk Ngwe Hee Sem, who spent about an hour at the workshop.

Ngwe, who is also Machap Jaya assemblyman, pledged to assist the young entrepreneurs by providing new equipment, such as an industrial mixer and baking ovens.

Najmi said it is a particularly busy time during Ramadan, as demand doubles ahead of Aidilfitri.

"We price our *bahulu* at RM17 for 50 pieces to keep it affordable and help villagers earn extra income by selling them."

"I am grateful that we are still able to run this business, although we sometimes struggle with issues such as lack of capital, ingredient shortages and rising costs."

He said at present they only offer the original flavour, but there are plans to introduce new flavours, such as coffee, *pandan* and strawberry.

Meanwhile, Arif said initially he helped with the business after school but eventually it became a full-time job.

"Every day, Najmi and I handle the production process, from preparing the ingredients, which includes eggs, sugar and flour, to mixing the batter, baking and packaging."

"We produce around 1,000 pieces of *bahulu* daily. Crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside, our *bahulu* is from a family recipe passed down through generations."



Ngwe (right) recently visited the *bahulu* workshop and pledged to assist Arif and Najmi by providing new equipment, such as an industrial mixer and baking ovens. - BERNAMAPIC

ENJOY A SEAMLESS READING EXPERIENCE.

Read our iPaper at <https://www.thesun.my/>



Or download **theSun** app
on the AppStore or Google Play

Available on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play

EXPLORE IT ON
AppGallery

Indonesia rights groups oppose military law revision

➤ Amendments address concerns, says govt

JAKARTA: Rights groups in Indonesia yesterday urged parliament to reject contentious revisions of military laws, saying they would take the archipelago back to an era of military domination and create legal uncertainty.

Indonesia's parliament is set to pass the law today in a plenary council after the house committee overseeing military affairs approved the changes, which will allow armed forces personnel to hold more civilian posts.

Rights groups and student organisations called for protests outside the parliament.

Rights group Legal Aid Institute said the revision would pull Indonesia back 30 years to an era where the late strongman Suharto used the military to dominate civilian affairs and crush dissent.

"The revision is a legislative crime that threatens Indonesians and the future of democracy," said Arif Maulana, deputy chair of the institute.

President Prabowo Subianto, a former special forces commander and Suharto's former son-in-law, has expanded the armed forces' role since taking office in October.

The government defends the Bill saying it incorporated concerns and watered it down by stipulating that military officers must first resign before being placed in most civilian roles.

A lawmaker from the opposition Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, Nico Siahaan, said the government added more agencies where active soldiers could be appointed, including the state secretariat, Attorney General's Office, as well as the counter-terrorism and narcotics agencies.

Active soldiers in the Attorney General Office would affect transparency of legal processes involving military personnel, Arif said, adding that there was a risk of armed forces using violence in civilian roles.

Allowing the military to be more involved in civilian affairs could also lead to abuse of power, human rights violations, and impunity, said Usman Hamid of Amnesty International Indonesia.

Budi Djiwandono, the deputy chief of committee overseeing the Military Law Bill, said the government would ensure that it upholds civil supremacy.

Djiwandono, who is also Prabowo's nephew, said that no active military personnel would be placed in state-owned companies, dismissing concerns they would be involved in business.

The opposition party urged all parties to monitor the implementation of the law to ensure no further expansion of military roles, Siahaan said.

Military officers can already serve in 10 government agencies including the Defence Ministry.

The Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence, or Kontras, rejected the latest amendment to the Military Bill.

"The discussion of the revision has been rushed, with minimal public participation and a lack of transparency in the drafting process," it said in a joint statement with Amnesty and the Indonesia Legal Aid Foundation.

It also claimed activists have faced intimidation for opposing the amendment.

Prabowo has rehabilitated his image despite allegations of rights abuses under Suharto's rule including ordering the abductions of activists.

Remodelling himself as a grandfatherly figure, Prabowo won over voters last year and took office as president of the world's third-biggest democracy.

According to Kontras, 23 democracy activists were kidnapped between 1997 and 1998, some of whom were never found.

Prabowo was discharged from the military over the abductions but denied the allegations and was never charged. - Reuters/AFP

Vietnam to slash provinces

HANOI: Vietnam is planning to reduce the number of provinces by half and slash commune-level authorities by up to 70%, further expanding a streamlining drive that aims to cut billions of dollars from state budgets.

The cost-cutting measures have already seen the number of government ministries and agencies chopped from 30 to 22, and one in five public sector jobs will be cut over the next five years.

On Tuesday, a statement on the government's website cited Interior Minister Pham Thi Thanh Tra as saying the merging and reduction of provinces is scheduled before August.

The plan "would reduce the number of provincial-level administrative units by about 50% and reduce the number of grassroots-level administrative units by about 60-70%", the statement said.

Vietnam is divided into 63 major cities and provinces, under which there are around 700 administrative units at the district level and more than 10,000 at the communal level.

The government announced earlier that district-level authorities would be eliminated.

Almost two million people worked in the public sector as of 2022, according to the government, which announced this year that 100,000 people would be made redundant or offered early retirement as part of the bureaucratic reforms.

Tra said so far more than 22,000 jobs had been cut, according to state-controlled news site VNEexpress.

This is a "real revolution in the entire political system", she was quoted as saying.

It is unclear if there will be further job cuts as part of the provincial mergers, or which provinces will be affected.

Vietnam's top leader To Lam, who last year became Communist Party general secretary following the death of his predecessor, has said that state agencies should not be "safe havens for weak officials".

"If we want to have a healthy body, sometimes we must take bitter medicine and endure pain to remove tumours," Lam said in December.

However, there are fears the bureaucratic reforms could cause short-term chaos. - AFP

Dhaka arrests Rohingya leader

DHAKA: A Rohingya leader who directed attacks against Myanmar security forces which precipitated a humanitarian catastrophe was arrested on Tuesday in Bangladesh.

Ata Ullah, 48, first surfaced nearly a decade ago as the charismatic leader of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), an outfit formed to wage an insurgency against the minority's persecution in Myanmar.

Their attacks on police posts in 2017 sparked brutal reprisals that eventually sent around 750,000 Rohingya fleeing for their lives into squalid relief camps in Bangladesh.

The leader was arrested alongside five associates by Rapid Action Battalion personnel on the outskirts of Dhaka, while another four of his associates were arrested in the central district of Mymensingh, police said.

Ata Ullah was believed to have ordered the 2017 attacks and first came to public attention soon after in videos posted online, where he was seen flanked by masked gunmen and vowing to liberate the Rohingya from "dehumanised oppression".

ARSA has been accused of killings, abductions and torture in the refugee camps and the group's leader has been accused of ordering the murder of civic leaders who dared to speak out against the group.

He has also been accused of involvement in the murder of a Bangladeshi military intelligence officer.

Tuesday's arrest came hours after a regional rights group said at least 65 Rohingya had been killed last year in clashes between rival groups competing for influence in refugee camps.

Ata Ullah's outfit, its chief rival the Rohingya Solidarity Organisation and other groups have for years waged a deadly battle for control of the camps.

Fortify Rights documented 65 deaths last year along with dozens of assaults, abductions and acts of extortion blamed on "militant and criminal groups" in the camps. - AFP



COUNTING THE COST ... Protesters wearing paper cut-outs shaped like jelly fish hold a rally in front of the Chinese consulate in Manila yesterday, calling on the government to file a case against China at the Court of Justice as environmental reparations for its alleged illegal activities in the South China Sea. - AFP/PPIC

Myanmar relief camps receive last WFP aid

MYITKYINA: Distraught Myanmar relief camp dwellers received final handouts from the World Food Programme yesterday as the UN agency begins halting aid to a million people in the country because funding has dried up.

President Donald Trump's slashing of the US aid budget has contributed to "critical funding shortfalls" for WFP, forcing it to make sweeping cuts in Myanmar.

"I pray every night that this news is not true," said Byar Mee, who on Tuesday received the last of her monthly payouts worth US\$50 (RM221), which she uses to feed her family of five.

"I pray to God that the donors are blessed and are able to help us again," she told AFP in a camp outside the northeastern city of Myitkyina. "Please help us and pity us."

Since the military toppled a civilian

government in 2021, Myanmar has been in the grip of a conflict that has killed thousands, displaced millions and pushed the poverty rate up to 50%.

Because of cuts, WFP says it will only serve around 35,000 people in April - a fraction of the 15 million people unable to meet their daily food needs.

One person in need, Zi Yay Tar, has been displaced from his home by landmines and fighting for more than a year.

His family of seven have scraped by alongside Byar Mee's in the relief camp run by the Waingmaw Lisu Baptist Association in Kachin state, 40km from the border with China.

"We are struggling because we don't have any other income. The World Food Programme was our biggest hope," Yay Tar said. - AFP

Singapore military gets Oracle boost

SINGAPORE: Oracle said yesterday it would provide Singapore's defence technology arm with "isolated" cloud computing and AI services, in the company's first such deal in Southeast Asia.

Southeast Asian governments are frequent targets of cyber espionage campaigns and are facing escalating supply chain attacks, according to security researchers.

Under the deal, the US firm will provide Singapore's armed forces and Defence Ministry with an "air-gapped" isolated cloud computing infrastructure - meaning that it will be cut off from the internet and connected instead to classified networks via encrypted devices.

"We're bringing our generative AI tools across the air gaps and into those isolated environments," said Oracle Global Defence Chief Technology Officer Rand Waldron.

He highlighted the technology includes AI data and imagery capabilities, including the ability for the AI to analyse video streams for faces, licences or details of cars.

Oracle declined to comment on the size of the deal.

Oracle has ramped up activities in Southeast Asia. It announced it planned to invest more than US\$6.5 billion (RM28.8 billion) to set up a cloud region in Malaysia in October. - Reuters



STARBUCKS®

Supreme Court chief rebukes US president

► Use normal appellate review, Trump told

WASHINGTON: Donald Trump's rumbling conflict with the judiciary burst into open confrontation on Tuesday as Supreme Court Justice John Roberts issued a rare public rebuke of a US president over his call for the impeachment of a federal judge.

"For more than two centuries, it has been established that impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision," Roberts said in a brief statement.

"The normal appellate review process exists for that purpose."

Roberts' extraordinary rebuke of the president came after Trump called for the impeachment of District Judge James Boasberg, who ordered the suspension over the weekend of deportation flights of alleged illegal migrants.

The White House has been sharply critical

of district courts that have blocked some of the president's executive actions.

However, this was the first time Trump has personally called for a judge's impeachment since he took office in January.

Brandon Gill, a Republican lawmaker from Texas, announced on X that he had introduced articles of impeachment in the House against Boasberg, whom he described as a "radical activist judge".

Following Roberts' rare statement, Trump said in another post: "If a president doesn't have the right to throw murderers, and other criminals, out of our country ... then our country is in very big trouble, and destined to fail!"

Federal judges are nominated by the president for life and can only be removed by being impeached by the House of Representatives for "high crimes or misdemeanours" and convicted by the Senate.

Impeachment of federal judges is exceedingly rare and the last time a judge was removed by Congress was in 2010.

Carl Tobias, a University of Richmond law

professor, described Roberts' intervention as "extremely rare" and recalled that the chief justice made similar remarks after Trump criticised the rulings of federal judges during his first term.

Boasberg ordered a suspension on Saturday to the deportation flights taking alleged members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua to El Salvador.

The White House invoked little-used wartime legislation known as the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 as legal justification for the move.

However, no evidence has been made public to confirm the deportees were gang members or even in the country illegally.

Boasberg held a hearing on Monday on whether the White House had deliberately ignored his orders by carrying out the flights.

Justice Department lawyers told the judge the more than 200 Venezuelan migrants had already left the United States when he issued a written order barring their departure.

Boasberg no longer had jurisdiction once the planes had left US airspace, they said. - AFP

Protect film, TV from AI, pleads Hollywood

LOS ANGELES: Hundreds of Hollywood stars including Ben Stiller, Cate Blanchett and Cynthia Erivo have urged the White House to protect film, TV and music copyrights against big tech and artificial intelligence.

An open letter – signed by over 400 actors, directors and artists – hits back against tech giants like Google and OpenAI, who say their AI models must be allowed to train on copyrighted work or risk being left behind by Chinese rivals.

But "weakening copyright protections" and allowing tech giants to "exploit America's creative and knowledge industries" would threaten "the world's most vibrant creative economy," says the Hollywood letter.

The US entertainment industry supports over 2.3 million jobs that generate some US\$230 billion (RM1 trillion) in annual wages, as well as "providing the foundation for American influence and soft power abroad," it says.

The intervention comes after President Donald Trump in January signed an executive order committing to remove "unnecessary government control" of AI and boost "America's global AI dominance".

The White House invited companies and other interested parties to submit suggestions.

Google and OpenAI said they must be allowed to train their AI models on the widest possible range of copyrighted content, warning that rival countries could otherwise gain a dangerous advantage.

If Chinese developers "have unfettered access to data and American companies are left without fair use access, the race for AI is effectively over", wrote OpenAI, noting China's rapid progress with models like DeepSeek.

The Hollywood counter-letter was first sent to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy last week.

Organisers said they are continuing to gather signatures. - AFP

Judge blocks Musk from more cuts

WASHINGTON: A federal judge on Tuesday blocked Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) from taking more steps to shut down the US Agency for International Development (USAID), saying the efforts likely violated the US Constitution.

In a preliminary ruling, US district judge Theodore Chuang in Maryland ordered Musk and the agency he spearheads to restore access to USAID's computer systems for its direct and contract employees, including those placed on leave.

The plaintiffs claimed in their Feb 13 lawsuit that Musk seized control of USAID and effectively acted as an officer of the United States, violating the Constitution's requirement that such officers be nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

They said Musk and DOGE overstepped the authority of the executive branch of government by effectively gutting an agency established by Congress.

Chuang, who was appointed by Democratic president Barack Obama, agreed that Musk and DOGE "likely violated the US Constitution and these actions harmed not only plaintiffs but also the public interest".

Musk and DOGE argued in court filings that Musk's role is strictly as an adviser to Trump, and agency officials, not DOGE, were responsible for the actions challenged by the plaintiffs.

Chuang found that Musk and DOGE had effectively exercised direct control over the agency.

He did not block the mass terminations of USAID contracts and personnel, which have ended much of the agency's operations worldwide, because while those terminations likely violate the Constitution, they had been approved by government officials. - Reuters



Williams gives a thumbs up onboard the recovery ship. - REUTERS/PIC

Safe return for stranded astronauts

WASHINGTON: After an unexpected nine-month stay in space, a pair of NASA astronauts finally returned to Earth on Tuesday, concluding a mission that captured global attention and became a political flashpoint.

A SpaceX Crew Dragon spaceship carrying Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams – alongside fellow American Nick Hague and Russian cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov – streaked through the atmosphere before deploying parachutes for a splashdown off the Florida coast.

Ground teams erupted in cheers as the spacecraft named *Freedom* bobbed steadily on the waves beneath a clear, sunny sky.

"What a ride – I see a capsule full of grins," said Hague.

As fast boats raced to the capsule for initial safety checks – an unlikely escort arrived in the form of a playful pod of dolphins.

Soon after, a larger recovery vessel hoisted *Freedom* aboard. Teams opened the hatch, and one by one, the astronauts were helped out onto mobility aids, waving and flashing thumbs-up signs.

Next, they will be flown by helicopter to Houston, where they will be able to meet their families in another day or two, and begin a physical rehabilitation programme.

"Promise made, promise kept," the White House posted on X, repeating a claim that President Donald Trump's administration had accelerated the recovery timeline.

The quartet left the International Space

Station on Sunday, beginning their 17-hour journey home after final farewells and hugs with the remaining crew.

Wilmore and Williams, both ex-navy pilots and veterans of two prior space missions, flew to the orbital lab in June last year, on what was supposed to be a days-long roundtrip to test out Boeing's *Starliner* on its first crewed flight.

However, propulsion issues rendered the spacecraft unfit for their return, forcing it to return empty.

They were subsequently reassigned to NASA's SpaceX Crew-9 mission, which arrived at the ISS last September with a crew of two, rather than the usual four, to accommodate the pair, who had become widely referred to as the "stranded" astronauts. - AFP

Maersk denies shipping arms to Israel during conflict

COPENHAGEN: Maersk on Tuesday denied shipping arms or ammunition to Israel during its war in Gaza, in response to a shareholder proposal at its annual general meeting but acknowledged shipping military-related cargo.

"Maersk has a strict policy of not shipping weapons or ammunitions into any active conflict zone," CEO Vincent Clerc told shareholders.

The proposal to ban Maersk from shipping arms to Israel was put forward by Danish shareholder group Kritiske Aktionærer.

Activist group Eko in a separate proposal called for Maersk to enact greater transparency in its human rights processes, particularly focusing on high-risk areas, including arms shipments.

"We are fully compliant with all applicable laws," said Clerc, adding that Maersk acts in accordance with UN guiding principles on business and human rights and OECD guidelines on responsible business conduct.

UN experts have called on countries to impose sanctions and an arms embargo on Israel, arguing that Israel's military campaign in Gaza amounted to genocide.

Maersk ships cargo to Israel for US government agencies with its US subsidiary Maersk Line Limited.

Both shareholder proposals were dismissed by shareholders. The family-owned holding company Maersk Holding owns 41.5% of the shares and 54.5% of the votes in the Danish company.

Investigative media outlet *Danwatch* and Danish tabloid *Ekstra Bladet* have reported bills of lading from Maersk, which showed it had shipped armoured combat vehicles and other military hardware to Israel.

Clerc said Maersk does transport military related cargo, albeit in accordance with all laws.

"When we draw a line between what we accept to transport and what we don't, it's done after a very careful assessment and considering recommendations and regulations. We realise that our line may not coincide with the wishes of everybody," said Clerc.

Denmark, where Maersk is headquartered, does not have an arms embargo and has not imposed any restrictions on sending weapons to Israel. – Reuters



Palestinians fleeing their homes in Rafah after Israel's military issued evacuation orders on Tuesday. – REUTERS/SPIC

Hamas has not closed door on talks, says official

► 'No need for new agreements'

CAIRO: Hamas has not shut the door on negotiations, an official from the group said yesterday, after Israel launched its most intense bombardment of Gaza since a Jan 19 ceasefire.

"Hamas has not closed the door on negotiations but we insist there is no need for new agreements," Taher al-Nunu told AFP on the phone from Cairo, also calling for Israel to be forced to implement the ceasefire.

"There is no need for new agreements in light of the existing agreement signed by all parties," he said.

Under the ceasefire deal drafted under former US president Joe Biden's administration, a second phase of the truce should have begun early this month.

The agreement stipulated that Israeli forces should withdraw from Gaza and that a more lasting ceasefire should take effect during a second phase.

"We have no conditions, but we demand that the occupation be compelled to immediately halt its aggression and war of extermination, and begin the second phase of negotiations," Nunu said.

He called on the international community to "take urgent action" to end the war, while accusing Israel of "violating the ceasefire agreement it signed".

Determined to force Hamas to agree to the release of more hostages, Israel on Tuesday launched the biggest and deadliest wave of air strikes since the truce took effect.

The truce agreement brokered by Qatar, the United States and Egypt took effect more than 15 months into the war.

According to the Health Ministry in Gaza, Israel's strikes on Tuesday killed more than 400 people, making it one of the deadliest days in Gaza in the entire war.

The Israeli military said it struck a Hamas site in northern Gaza, where they detected preparations for firing into Israeli territory.

Israeli naval vessels attacked several boats it said were intended to carry out attacks by

Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Palestinians said an Israeli drone fired at several fishing boats near Gaza City, setting several of them ablaze.

The Israeli army yesterday dropped leaflets in Beit Hanoun and Khan Younis in the northern and southern Gaza Strip, ordering residents to evacuate their homes warning them they were in "dangerous combat zones".

"Staying in the shelters or the current tent put your lives and that of your family members in danger, evacuate immediately," read a leaflet dropped in Beit Hanoun.

Israel and Hamas accuse each other of breaching the truce, which had broadly held since January and offered respite for the 2.3 million inhabitants of Gaza, which has been reduced to rubble.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he ordered strikes because Hamas had rejected proposals to secure a ceasefire extension.

Hamas, which still holds 59 hostages, accused Israel of jeopardising efforts by mediators to negotiate a permanent deal to end the fighting. – AFP/Reuters

BRIEFS

TURKIYE DETAINS MAIN ERDOGAN RIVAL

ISTANBUL: Turkish authorities detained President Tayyip Erdogan's main political rival yesterday on charges of corruption and aiding a terrorist group, in what the main opposition party called "a coup attempt against our next president". Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, of the Republican People's Party (CHP), faces two separate investigations that also include charges of leading a crime organisation, bribery and tender rigging. CHP was poised to name him its challenger to Erdogan. Imamoglu said he would not give up and would continue standing straight in the face of pressure. – Reuters

SIX DEAD, 40 MISSING IN MIGRANT SHIPWRECK

ROME: Six people died and 40 are missing after a migrant shipwreck in the Mediterranean, the United Nations said yesterday, with Italian media reporting the boat went down off the island of Lampedusa. Italy's coastguard pulled 10 people to safety off the tiny rocky outcrop of Lampedusa. Those rescued said there had been 56 people on board when it left but only six bodies, all male, were recovered from the area. The migrants were from the Ivory Coast, Mali, Gambia and Cameroon. – AFP

Russia, Ukraine report air attacks after pause call

MOSCOW: Russia and Ukraine accused each other yesterday of launching air attacks that struck civilian targets including infrastructure, just hours after President Vladimir Putin told President Donald Trump he would pause attacks on Ukraine's energy system.

In their call on Tuesday, Putin declined to endorse a full 30-day ceasefire sought by Trump and previously accepted by Ukraine. Putin said he would agree to a limited pause in attacks on energy infrastructure, which was then accepted by Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Both sides described scores of drone attacks. Ukrainian regional authorities said homes had been hit in the northeastern Sumsy region and the region surrounding the capital, and attacks had hit the power system supplying railway services in the south.

Russian authorities said an oil terminal was

hit in southern Russia, causing a fire.

In Sumsy, regional authorities said Russian drone attacks also damaged two hospitals, causing no injuries but forcing the evacuation of patients and hospital staff.

In Kyiv region, authorities said a 60-year-old man was injured. Most of the damage near the capital was in the Bucha district, where police said airstrikes destroyed or damaged 18 houses, 20 flats, 19 cars, two shops and a cafe.

Ukraine also reported Russian strikes on the city of Sloviansk near the front line around the time of the phone call on Tuesday, which left part of the city without power.

Zelensky said Russia launched more than 40 drones against Ukraine in the hours following the call between Trump and Putin. The Ukrainian military said Russia launched 145 drones. Air defences shot down 72 of them and 56 were lost.

Russia's Defence Ministry said its units destroyed 57 Ukrainian drones, 35 of them over the border Kursk region.

The ministry reports only how many drones were destroyed, not how many were launched by Ukraine.

Authorities in the southern Russian region of Krasnodar said yesterday a Ukrainian drone attack sparked a small fire at an oil depot near the village of Kavkazskaya.

SHOT news in Russia posted a video of blazes at night at an industrial area, describing it as an important facility for transporting oil exports by rail and pipeline. Reuters could not independently verify the report.

Russia's aviation watchdog Rosaviatsia said flights were suspended for a few hours on Tuesday from airports in Kazan, Nizhny Novgorod and Nizhnepetropavlovsk to "ensure air safety". – Reuters

COMMENT by Naufal Fauzi

Strengthen Asean's digital economy

ASEAN'S digital economy stands at an inflection point. Its ascent – driven by investment, competition and cross-border trade – has transformed commerce, empowered over 20 million micro, small and medium enterprises, and redefined consumer access.

This achievement was not incidental; it was the result of deliberate policy choices that prioritised openness, fostered competition and incentivised innovation. That foundation, once a source of strength, now faces pressures that could erode Asean's competitive edge.

Across the region, governments are implementing foreign ownership limits, data localisation mandates and tax structures designed to fortify domestic interests. While intended to provide economic security, these measures risk fragmenting a system that has been Asean's economic engine.

When 80% of the region's e-commerce growth is fuelled by cross-border trade, restrictions do not reinforce resilience; they introduce inefficiencies that weaken competitiveness. Protectionist policies, however well-intended, do not shield economies – they isolate them.

The consequences of this policy drift are already visible. In markets where restrictive measures have been imposed, the cost of doing business has risen, making goods less affordable and limiting consumer choice.

Regulatory uncertainty discourages investment while compliance barriers hinder regional commerce. More than 60% of Asean's online sellers rely on cross-border transactions to sustain their businesses. Disrupting this flow

will not merely slow growth; it will erase economic opportunity.

By 2025, Asean is projected to see US\$100 billion (RM443 billion) in cross-border e-commerce transactions. If market fragmentation continues, this potential will not be realised. The region will not pause to recover; it will fall behind.

Economic stability is underpinned not just by regulation but also by the predictability of policy. Businesses require environments in which they can plan, scale and innovate. E-commerce platforms, logistics providers and digital payment systems depend on clarity to make long-term investment decisions.

Uncoordinated policy changes create friction across supply chains, elevate operational costs and undermine investor confidence. Effective governance does not impose barriers; it cultivates competition and ensures that Asean remains a destination for capital, talent and innovation. These challenges are unfolding against a shifting geopolitical landscape.

The intensification of the US-China technological competition, evolving trade alliances and the emergence of digital protectionism in key global markets all present risks that Asean cannot afford to overlook.

The region's ability to chart its own path will depend on the policies it adopts now. The push

for digital sovereignty must be carefully calibrated to ensure that it does not translate into economic fragmentation.

While Asean nations must safeguard their digital assets, they must also resist the temptation of isolationist policies that could diminish their relevance in global supply chains. The choice is not between regulation and openness but between strategic engagement and decline.

Asean's position as a digital hub will be determined by its ability to integrate into the global economy while preserving the autonomy to set its standards and priorities.

The region has long recognised that economic integration is its greatest strength. The Asean economic community and the Asean Digital Master Plan 2025 offer a framework for a cohesive and dynamic digital economy. However, frameworks require commitment, and integration cannot be achieved through rhetoric alone.

Policy coherence across member states, a commitment to enabling cross-border data flows and regulatory stability, are prerequisites for sustained growth.

Infrastructure investments must align with these principles, ensuring that digital connectivity is not just expanded but optimised for economic expansion.

Industry collaboration must be strengthened, ensuring that governments and

businesses shape policies that promote technological advancement. History does not favour those who retreat from competition.

Asean's digital economy was built on the principles of openness and market-driven growth. If those principles are abandoned, the region will not only stagnate but relinquish its position in the global digital order.

Restrictive policies do not insulate economies; they accelerate decline by deterring investment and limiting innovation. Therefore, the path forward is clear – regulatory stability, market openness and policies that inspire confidence in Asean's future.

Malaysia has recognised this imperative. By prioritising a regulatory framework that fosters investment, strengthening digital infrastructure and engaging with industry leaders, the country is positioning itself at the forefront of Asean's digital transformation. This approach will affirm that economic resilience is achieved by creating conditions where businesses can thrive. Moreover, as Malaysia assumes the Asean chairmanship, it has a pivotal opportunity to shape the region's digital trajectory.

In conclusion, Asean's digital future will be determined by strategic resolve. The forces that once propelled the region's ascent must not be abandoned in the face of rising protectionism.

The choices made now will not merely shape Asean's digital trajectory – they will define its role in the global order.

Naufal Fauzi is an associate director at Vero Advocacy's Malaysia office, a regional public policy consulting firm. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

"Asean's digital economy was built on the principles of openness and market-driven growth. If those principles are abandoned, the region will not only stagnate but relinquish its position in the global digital order."

theSun

"SUBSCRIBE NOW"

Finding the best newspaper subscription deal is no longer an arduous task.
Subscribe now to theSun, delivered to your doorstep.

Stay informed **7 days** a week starting from **1st April 2025**
with the latest news and trends

Get daily local, world, entertainment & sports stories in 32 Full Colour pages

only
RM1
per copy

1-year subscription at normal price RM361* (361 issues)

☐ + RM70 administration fee to get **2nd year free** *Special offer only valid until 30th April 2025

☐ 1-year subscription (361 issues) for only RM300* (Normal price RM361)

☐ 6-month subscription (180 issues) for only RM160* (Normal price RM180)

PERSONAL PARTICULARS

Name: _____ NRIC: _____

Race: ☐ Malay ☐ Chinese ☐ Indian ☐ Others

Profession: _____

Commencement date: _____

Delivery Address: ☐ Residence ☐ Office

Postcode: _____ State: _____

Tel: _____ Mobile No: _____

E-mail: _____

DETAILS OF CURRENT NEWS VENDOR (IF ANY)

Vendor name: _____

Contact no: _____

For your convenience, you may call or send in your subscription particulars via any of the following:

Tel: KL/PJ 03-7781 4000, 03-7784 6688 (9.30am - 5pm, Monday to Friday)

Whatsapp No: +6018-292 9936

Post: P.O. Box 179, Jalan Sultan, 46720 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan

Attn: Subscription

Email: subscribe@thesundaily.com

*Terms & Conditions apply

Important note: SMCSB reserves the right to revise the price at any time without prior notice.



SCAN TO SUBSCRIBE

**BEST
VALUE**

*Not inclusive of
vendor service charge

Pay to Maybank (Account number 508177700420). Account name : SUN MEDIA CORPORATION SDN BHD.

Enclosed is my payment of RM _____ payable to SUN MEDIA CORPORATION SDN BHD.
(Please WhatsApp your bank-in slip to 0182929936 or email to subscribe@thesundaily.com)

Nursing shortage needs a quick fix

COMMENT
By Zainudin Rozali

THE nursing shortage in Malaysia has become a critical issue, with projections indicating that by 2030, the deficit could reach nearly 60%, as highlighted by Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad in May 2024.

This shortfall presents serious challenges to the healthcare system, affecting patient care quality, increasing workloads for existing staff and potentially hindering the country's ability to meet growing healthcare demands.

Despite various efforts to expand the nursing workforce, Malaysia continues to struggle with high resignation rates and inability to retain experienced nurses.

To understand the severity of this crisis, we need to examine the historical context, root causes, impact and potential solutions.

Historical context

Malaysia has been struggling with nursing shortages for decades. In the early 2000s, the government took significant steps to increase the nursing workforce, largely by boosting the number of nursing graduates.

According to a review by T. Barnett (2010), Malaysia more than doubled its nursing workforce over the past decade through an increase in domestic graduates. However, despite these efforts, the problem persists due to rising demands in healthcare services and workforce attrition.

The country currently has a nurse-to-population ratio of only 3.6 per 1,000 people, far below the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) average of 9.2 per 1,000. This puts Malaysia at a significant disadvantage compared with its regional neighbours, with nursing staff strength estimated to be 2.5 times lower.

The Malaysian Health Ministry has struggled to fill these vacancies, leading to increased workloads for remaining staff, burnout and further resignations. The situation has been exacerbated by a mass exodus of nurses from public healthcare institutions as many leave in search of better opportunities abroad.

Root causes

Several key factors contribute to the ongoing nursing shortage in Malaysia:

➤ Migration for better pay and conditions

One of the primary causes is the migration of nurses to countries that offer better salaries and working conditions. For example, Singapore offers salaries that are nearly double that of Malaysia, along with housing allowances and career advancement opportunities. Similarly, nurses in Saudi Arabia and Dubai earn significantly more, which are often tax-free.

In Malaysia, a nurse with over 10 years of



Nurses play a crucial role in ensuring quality patient care. – BERNAMAPIC

experience earns an average basic salary of RM2,600, with total monthly earnings including allowances reaching around RM3,800. In contrast, nurses in Saudi Arabia with similar experiences earn between RM10,000 and RM16,000 per month tax-free. This stark pay disparity makes migration an attractive option for many nurses seeking financial stability.

➤ Poor working conditions and high workloads

Public hospitals in Malaysia are frequently overcrowded, placing immense pressure on nurses. Many are required to work long hours, including night shifts, weekends and public holidays, without adequate compensation or rest. The shortage of staff further increases the burden on the workforce, leading to high levels of burnout and job dissatisfaction.

Additionally, nurses often lack access to modern medical equipment and adequate support staff. They are frequently expected to handle administrative duties alongside their clinical responsibilities, further increasing their workload.

The recent introduction of a 45-hour work week has not significantly alleviated the pressure on nurses, as understaffing continues to be a major issue.

➤ Limited career growth and professional development

Another significant factor is the lack of career advancement opportunities within Malaysia's healthcare system. Many nurses feel that promotion prospects are limited, and that specialisation or further education does not lead to substantial salary increases or improved working conditions. This lack of professional growth discourages nurses from remaining in the public sector, prompting them to seek opportunities elsewhere.

➤ Rising resignation rates and job insecurity

The number of nursing vacancies has steadily

increased over the past five years, from 2,106 in 2020 to 6,896 in 2023 (OECD).

Many nurses were initially hired on short-term contracts during the Covid-19 pandemic but as the crisis subsided, contract renewals were reduced.

Without permanent positions, these nurses lack job security, structured career progression and benefits such as pensions and housing allowances.

The uncertainty of their employment status led many to resign and seek better opportunities in private hospitals or overseas.

Impact on healthcare

The consequences of Malaysia's nursing shortage are severe and far-reaching:

➤ Decline in patient-care quality

With fewer nurses available, the quality of patient care is significantly compromised. Overworked nurses have less time to attend to each patient, leading to delays in treatment, increased medical errors and reduced patient satisfaction. In critical care settings, such shortages can result in life-threatening situations.

➤ Increased workload and burnout

As resignations continue, the remaining workforce is forced to take on additional responsibilities. This results in high levels of exhaustion, stress and burnout, which further contribute to resignation rates.

Nurses working overtime without adequate rest experience declining job performance and morale.

➤ Longer waiting times and overcrowding

Staff shortages have led to longer patient waiting times and overcrowded emergency departments. Hospitals struggle to manage admissions efficiently, impacting the overall healthcare delivery system and placing additional strain on medical personnel.

Urgent solutions

To prevent further deterioration of Malaysia's healthcare system, immediate interventions are necessary:

➤ Increasing salaries and benefits

To retain nurses and reduce migration, the government must offer competitive salaries and additional benefits. Salary adjustments should reflect the rising cost of living, and incentives such as housing allowances, transport subsidies and overtime pay should be provided.

➤ Improving working conditions

Hospitals must invest in better infrastructure, ensure access to modern medical equipment and reduce administrative burdens on nurses. Staffing levels should be optimised to prevent overworking and mandated rest periods should be enforced.

➤ Expanding training and career development opportunities

The government should allocate more resources for nursing education and create clear career advancement pathways. Specialisation opportunities should be incentivised, with higher salaries and improved working conditions to encourage nurses to pursue professional development.

➤ Strengthening retention strategies

The Health Ministry should implement policies that encourage nurses to stay in the public sector, such as offering long-term contracts, structured career progression plans and mentorship programmes. A supportive work environment that prioritises staff well-being is essential for retaining skilled nurses.

➤ Enhancing public-private partnerships

Collaboration between the public and private healthcare sectors is crucial in addressing the nursing shortage.

The private sector can contribute by funding nursing education while public hospitals can focus on structured career pathways to retain experienced nurses.

Malaysia's nursing shortage is a crisis that demands immediate and sustained action. Rising resignation rates, high vacancies and deteriorating working conditions are putting immense strain on the healthcare system. Without urgent interventions, Malaysia will continue to lose its skilled nursing workforce.

As the foundation of the healthcare system, nurses play a crucial role in ensuring quality patient care. Their well-being directly impacts healthcare outcomes, making it imperative for policymakers, healthcare institutions and the government to implement sustainable solutions.

Addressing this crisis now is not just necessary, it is an urgent responsibility.

Ensuring that Malaysia's nurses are valued, supported and retained is the only way to secure the future of the nation's healthcare system before it is too late.

Zainudin Rozali is the dean at the Faculty of Nursing, UN College, Kuala Lumpur.
Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

How young Malaysians can avoid financial pitfalls

LETTERS
letters@thesundaily.com

MANY young adults in their 30s and 40s are facing financial difficulties due to various factors.

Some struggle to make ends meet because of reckless spending, peer pressure and living beyond their means.

A lack of self-discipline in spending, prioritising wants over needs and poor financial management are among the most common causes.

Additionally, limited financial literacy, combined with costly lifestyle choices, has pushed many young individuals into financial hardship.

Credit cards have enabled young people to spend beyond their means, resulting in them accumulating debt.

Spending habits have shifted – while people once spent only what they could afford, many

today rely on borrowed money without hesitation.

The young adults must be discerning and responsible in their use of credit cards and other borrowings.

Credit card debt has been identified as a leading factor contributing to financial struggles and even bankruptcy among young people.

Late credit card payments and high interest rates can quickly trap them in a cycle of debt.

Young adults need to understand that a credit card is a payment tool for convenience and not a means to spend money they do not have. They should make purchases only when necessary, and not to keep up with appearances.

In today's materialistic society, many individuals buy things they do not need with money they do not have, just to impress others they barely know.

A smarter approach is to earn before you spend – not the other way around.

Credit cards should not be easily accessible to

everyone, and the minimum income requirement for owning one should be increased.

Additionally, individuals should be limited to a single credit card to prevent excessive debt accumulation.

Many young couples also spend lavishly on extravagant weddings, lavish honeymoons and costly overseas trips, starting their marriage in debt. Loans come with interest, and juggling multiple repayments can quickly become overwhelming, increasing the risk of financial instability and even bankruptcy.

Young adults should practise prudent spending and start saving. They need to be equipped with financial management skills to effectively handle their finances.

Malaysians facing bankruptcy should seek guidance from the Credit Counselling and Debt Management Agency to find viable solutions and prevent prolonged financial distress.

With the rising cost of living, young Malaysians

must manage their finances wisely by creating a monthly budget and ensuring they live within their means.

They should identify their fixed expenses, such as car and housing loans, as well as variable expenses like utilities, fuel, repairs and medical bills.

Discipline and financial maturity are essential in managing income.

Financial literacy will equip young adults with the knowledge to understand the value of money, the importance of budgeting and saving, and the need to avoid unnecessary expenditures. It is the key to preventing bankruptcy among young individuals.

Many financial struggles can be avoided if they make spending decisions based on logic rather than emotions.

Samuel Yesuiah
Seremban

RM100m redevelopment for Alamanda Shopping Centre

➤ First major overhaul for landmark mall in Putrajaya since its establishment in 2004

PUTRAJAYA: Alamanda Shopping Centre, managed by Suria KLCC Sdn Bhd, unveiled its transformative redevelopment backed by a RM100 million investment from Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim who officiated the event highlighted its significance as a cornerstone of Putrajaya's retail and lifestyle landscape.

As a cherished landmark in Putrajaya, he said Alamanda's redevelopment marks a step forward for the city, creating a vibrant hub for both the local community and visitors.

Anwar also said that the collaboration between Putrajaya Holdings and the government, which has introduced the country's first Kiosk Sentuhan Madani at Alamanda, enabled the public to conduct digital transactions with selected government departments beyond working hours.

The ceremony was also attended by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa.

The redevelopment, which commenced on June 20, 2023, marks the first major overhaul since the mall's establishment in 2004.

At the heart of this redevelopment is the all-new Escape Putrajaya at the Esplanade, a 151,548 sq ft outdoor adventure park created in partnership with Sim Leisure Group Ltd. Designed to bring together adventure and nature, it promises an exhilarating experience for families and friends.

Further enhancing Alamanda's entertainment offerings, the upgrade includes a family-friendly 10 hall TGV Cinemas and an expanded U-Bowl X bowling centre with 26 lanes.

The transformation also introduces a 27% increase in net lettable area (NLA) of 199,000 sq ft (including Escape Putrajaya). In line with Alamanda's tagline "Easy Vibrant Shopping,"



From left: Izwan Hasli, Zaliha, Anwar, Putrajaya Holdings chairman Datuk Kamil Khalid Ariff and Perbadanan Putrajaya president Datuk Fadlun Mak Ujud at the launch.

the mall welcomes a dynamic mix of brands with 29 new stores and counting.

The new tenant mix has a well-balanced shopping and leisure experience tailored to Putrajaya's evolving demographics.

Alamanda now boasts a sophisticated new look with sleek marble flooring, glass balustrades, and stainless-steel handrails. Meanwhile, the new Plaza and facade complement Alamanda's new landscape, seamlessly connecting visitors to new retail offerings.

Outside, a 60,000 sq ft landscape features lush lawns overlooking the lake, planter boxes with built-in seating filled with native plant species, and a deck crafted from sustainable materials.

Alamanda's new Esplanade features high-volume low-speed (HVLS) fans for optimal climate control, offering a comfortable outdoor dining experience while overlooking the fun activities at Escape Putrajaya.

To accommodate increased visitor traffic, car park traffic flow has been optimised, ensuring a smooth and seamless shopping

experience for all.

Putrajaya Holdings Sdn Bhd CEO Datuk Izwan Hasli Mohd Ibrahim said, "More than 30 years ago, Putrajaya Holdings has envisioned and developed Putrajaya not just through infrastructure but by creating spaces that enrich its communities. Alamanda's rejuvenation is a timely step forward into a more purpose-driven development, one that fosters growth and delivers long-term value to the community residing in Putrajaya and beyond."

Suria KLCC Sdn Bhd CEO Francis Tan said, "Alamanda Shopping Centre is much more than just a retail space; it is an iconic community landmark where families, friends, and neighbours come together. This redevelopment elevates Alamanda into a vibrant lifestyle destination, blending modern retail, dining, and entertainment with thoughtfully designed spaces that cater to the diverse needs of Putrajaya's residents and visitors. With these exciting additions, Alamanda is poised to set a new benchmark in 'retailtainment'."

OCR Group expands presence in Essential, Luxury Living segments

PETALING JAYA: OCR Group Bhd, an integrated real estate company specialising in property development and project management, continues to strengthen its presence in both the Essential Living and Luxury Living segments with two key milestones: the official launch of the Kyra Collection – Residensi Akasia (Phase 1) in U9 Shah Alam.

This marks a key step in providing quality affordable housing, while the successful vacant possession of Isola KLCC highlights OCR's commitment to excellence in luxury high-rise development in central Kuala Lumpur.

Recognising the growing demand for quality yet affordable homes, OCR launched Kyra, a new development in Shah Alam with a total of 2,892 apartment units spanning 4 phases. For an accessible price of RM288,000 for Phase 1, Kyra is an ideal choice for first-time buyers and young families, aligning with the government's initiative to promote homeownership.

The strong market response to Kyra, with registrations surpassing 100% through Lembaga Perumahan dan Hartanah Selangor, far exceeded initial expectations.

In the Luxury Living segment, OCR obtained Certificate of Completion and Compliance for Isola KLCC on Feb 12. This luxury development, near Kuala Lumpur's Golden Triangle, offers premium urban living with modern designs and high-end amenities.

Group managing director Billy Ong Kah Hoe said: "The successful launch of Kyra and the completion of Isola KLCC reflect OCR's versatility in delivering homes that cater to different market segments. We remain committed to providing Malaysians with well-designed, high-quality homes, whether through affordable housing projects or premium urban residences."

The group is also focusing on the launch of D'Templer Hilltop Residences in Q2'25, further strengthening its pipeline of Urban Living developments.

Gagasan Nadi Cergas FY24 net profit more than doubles to RM5.7m

PETALING JAYA: Construction group Gagasan Nadi Cergas Bhd posted a net profit of RM5.7 million in the financial year ended Dec 31, 2024 (FY24), marking a 134.5% increase from RM2.4 million in the previous year.

The improved profitability was achieved despite FY24 revenue declining 17.4% to RM262.8 million from RM318.3 million previously. The lower revenue was primarily attributed to lower contributions from the property development segment following the completion of Antara Residence and Selindung Daun Ulu Yam in 2023.

The higher net profit was supported by the completion of legacy construction projects that had previously been affected by high material costs.

For the fourth quarter ending Dec 31, 2024, the group reported RM72.2 million in revenue, down 31.4% from the same period last year, due to the timing of revenue recognition in the property development segment. Subsequently, the group recorded a profit after tax of RM1.1 million, compared to a loss after tax of RM0.1 million previously.

The group is currently developing nearly 7,000 units of Rumah Idaman affordable homes in both Bukit Jelutong and Kwasa Damansara, along with the Idaman Amani affordable housing project in City of Elmina, representing a total GDV of RM1.8 billion. Idaman Bukit Jelutong is near completion with targeted handover to purchasers by July 2025.

Lagenda Properties annual sales hit record RM1.13b

KUALA LUMPUR: Lagenda Properties Bhd, an affordable housing and integrated township developer, reported a 24% increase in net profit for the fourth quarter ended Dec 31, 2024 (Q4'24), reaching RM46.09 million compared to RM37.22 million in the same quarter last year.

This growth was driven by higher contributions from new sales and construction progress of active phases.

Quarterly revenue decreased by 2.4% to RM233.9 million from RM239.65 million in the same quarter last year, due to early construction stages of newly launched projects such as La'Indera Phase 1A (Kuantan, Pahang), Puncak Warisan Phase 1 (Kota Tinggi, Johor) and Lagenda Suria Phases 1A and 1B (Mersing, Johor).

Earnings per share (EPS) rose to 5.52 sen from 4.42 sen in the corresponding quarter last year, reflecting a growth of 24%. For FY24, the group's net profit soared by 24.6% to RM184.6 million from RM148.11 million in the previous

year, as annual revenue expanded by 18.4% to RM988.77 million from RM834.87 million previously.

In a statement accompanying the results, the group reported RM265.6 million in sales for Q4'24, with full-year confirmed sales totalling RM1.13 billion, which is the highest annual sales in the group's history, underscoring its strong market position. The group also reported unbilled sales of RM896.3 million and total bookings of RM473.4 million. As of the end of the financial year, the group's landbank stood at 5,063 acres with a GDV of RM13 billion, bolstering its long-term development pipeline.

Lagenda Aman, Lagenda Teluk Intan Phase 3A in Perak, and Darulaman Lagenda Phase 2 and 3A in Kedah, emerged as significant revenue drivers for the group in the fourth quarter. The group also completed Darulaman Lagenda Phase 1 during the quarter. Meanwhile, the newly launched projects in the fourth quarter La'Indera Phase 1A in Kuantan,

Pahang and Lagenda Ardea Phase 2A in Ulu Bernam, Selangor have seen positive market reception.

Managing director Datuk Jimmy Doh said that their outlook for 2025 remains positive as they actively pursue growth opportunities in the sector, aiming for more than 30% increase in total sales to ensure sustainable, long-term growth.

"We are thrilled to expand our large-scale affordable housing presence in Johor with the upcoming launch in Kulai, solidifying our commitment to becoming Malaysia's preferred developer of affordable homes," he added.

Lagenda's board of directors has declared a single-tier second interim dividend of 3.50 sen per ordinary share, totalling RM29.31 million, payable on May 20. This brings the total dividend for Lagenda's shareholders for FY24 to 6.50 sen per ordinary share, amounting to RM54.43 million. With a net profit of RM184.6 million for FY24, the dividend payout ratio is 29.5%.



AWS fuels Malaysia's **startup growth** with advanced technology

BY AIMIE SHAZRIE
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: Amazon Web Services (AWS) is strengthening Malaysia's startup ecosystem by equipping businesses with the latest cloud technology, advanced artificial intelligence (AI) solutions and tailored strategic support programmes to drive innovation and growth.

AWS country general manager Pete Murray said AWS is also fostering a collaborative ecosystem by working closely with government agencies, venture capital firms and local accelerators.

In reaffirming the company's commitment to helping Malaysian startups scale efficiently through its advanced digital infrastructure and tailored initiatives, Murray said domestic startups are increasingly turning to AWS's cloud solutions to optimise operations, enhance security,

Partnerships with government agencies, venture capital firms and local accelerators provide networking opportunities and investment access

and accelerate product development.

"The scalability of AWS services allows emerging businesses to manage costs effectively while gaining access to high-performance computing, machine learning tools, and automation capabilities that were previously out of reach," he told *SunBiz*.

Through initiatives such as AWS Activate, Murray said, startups can benefit from credits, technical training and mentorship, giving startups the resources needed to compete in the global market. "Our AI and data

analytics tools also enable businesses to gain deeper insights into customer behaviour, improve decision-making, and develop innovative digital products."

Further, Murray highlighted that partnerships are helping to create a supportive environment for startups, providing not just technological solutions but also networking opportunities and investment access.

He said as Malaysia's digital economy continues to grow, AWS is playing a crucial role in enabling businesses to navigate challenges such as cybersecurity threats, regu-

latory compliance, and digital transformation. "With AWS's cloud security and compliance frameworks, startups can confidently build and scale their operations while ensuring data protection."

Murray said cost optimisation is a key advantage for Malaysian startups leveraging AWS's cloud solutions.

"By adopting AWS's pay-as-you-go model, businesses can scale their resources based on demand, avoiding large upfront infrastructure costs. This flexible pricing structure allows startups to allocate their budgets efficiently, ensuring they only pay for the computing power, storage, and services they use. Additionally, AWS's cost management tools, such as AWS Cost Explorer and AWS Budgets, provide businesses with real-time insights to track and control expenses, preventing unnecessary spending."

Beyond infrastructure savings, Murray said, AWS helps startups reduce operational costs through automation and AI-driven efficiencies.

"Services like AWS Lambda eliminate the need for dedicated servers, while AI-powered analytics streamline decision-making and customer engagement. By optimising workflows and minimising manual processes, startups can focus on innovation and growth without being burdened by excessive IT expenses. This cost-effective approach enables emerging businesses to remain agile and competitive in an increasingly digital economy," he explained.

With ongoing investments in Malaysia's startup ecosystem, AWS is driving further innovation and economic growth in the country, Murray said. "By equipping entrepreneurs with world-class technology and expertise, AWS is positioning Malaysia as a thriving hub for tech-driven businesses in Southeast Asia."

Meanwhile, stock content provider 123RF is making significant strides in AI-powered solutions, aiming to revolutionise the creative

industry through AWS's advanced tech.

Chief technology officer Phoebe Liew said the company, which has long provided high-quality stock images, is enhancing its platform with cutting-edge AI tools to empower creatives and businesses.

"One of the most developments in 123RF's roadmap is the ability to transform static images into videos."

"We plan to integrate with Amazon's Nova Reels, allowing users to generate dynamic video content from existing stock images with just a prompt. This advancement aligns with 123RF's mission to streamline content creation, making high-quality visuals more accessible and efficient," she told *SunBiz*.

Liew said the company's next step is for its images, as they want to allow users to make them come alive.

"We can use an image that we have on our stock content, put in a prompt, and that image will become a video. We are planning to integrate with Nova Reels to enable our customers to enjoy this feature," she said.

Liew stressed that the development is part of a broader initiative to leverage AI for simplifying design processes.

"123RF has already introduced AI-powered tools such as Nova and Canvas, which allow users to generate professional-quality images through simple text prompts. By lowering the barrier to entry for content creation, these tools enable businesses, marketers, and creatives to produce engaging visuals without requiring specialised expertise."

Beyond image transformation, Liew said 123RF's partnership with AWS has led to improvements in search accuracy and operational efficiency.

"The company employs AI-driven vector embeddings stored in Amazon OpenSearch, ensuring more precise and relevant search results for users. AWS's scalable infrastructure has also enhanced site stability and reduced downtime, contributing to a seamless user experience," she added.



Liew (left) says 123RF is enhancing its platform with cutting-edge AI tools and Murray says AWS is fostering a collaborative ecosystem for startups in Malaysia.

MAA: Auto sector TIV in February surges 31% month-on-month

KUALA LUMPUR: Passenger vehicle production in February 2025 reached 58,606 units, reflecting a 7% decrease from the 62,788 units recorded in February 2024.

According to the Malaysian Automotive Association (MAA), commercial vehicle production saw a sharper 20% drop, with 2,939 units produced compared to 3,676 units in the same month last year.

For the year-to-date period, total vehicle production reached 118,444

units, reflecting a 17% decrease from the 143,516 units produced during the same period in 2024.

Touching on sales performance, MAA noted that passenger vehicle sales in February 2025 remained stable at 60,189 units, a slight increase from 60,144 units in February 2024.



MAA logo

However, commercial vehicle sales dropped by 24%, with 3,717 units sold compared to 4,873 units last year.

Overall, total vehicle sales for February 2025 amounted to 63,906 units, a 2% decline from 65,017 units in February 2024.

Year-to-date sales reached 113,056 units, down 14% from 131,938 units recorded during the same period in 2024.

On market performance, MAA reported that February 2025 total industry volume (TIV) saw a strong recovery, increasing 31% from January 2025's 48,732 units.

MAA said this growth was mainly driven by market stabilisation following the setbacks experienced in January 2025.

On outlook for this month, MAA said the TIV is expected to be higher than February 2025, driven by several factors.

The include increased demand as customers rush to receive their vehicles before the Hari Raya holidays and companies clearing stocks before the financial year-end on March 31.

MAA noted that March has historically been a high-sales month in the automotive industry.



A REFRESHING RETREAT
NEAR KUALA LUMPUR
colmartropical.com.my



'Impact on car sales will be temporary'

► Experts say RON95 subsidy rationalisation will likely have short-term dampening effect, but market will eventually adjust

BY AIMIE SHAZRIE
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia's impending move to rationalise the price subsidy for RON95 petrol could dampen car sales but the impact is likely to be temporary as vehicle ownership remains a necessity, particularly outside urban areas, economists say.

The government has been working towards a targeted fuel subsidy system as part of efforts to reduce fiscal strain and ensure subsidies benefit lower-income groups.

Currently, RON95 petrol is still subsidised while the diesel subsidy has been partially removed, but under the new framework, only eligible groups (primarily lower-income households) will continue to receive benefits.

With fuel making up a sizeable portion of household budgets,

economists believe that changes to subsidy policies could influence consumer sentiment and car-buying decisions.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said while initial reactions may include a slowdown in purchases, Malaysians are likely to adapt over time, with some shifting towards fuel-efficient and hybrid vehicles.

"Higher fuel prices would incentivise buyers to consider electric vehicles, especially as they gain popularity now," he told *SunBiz*.

Afzanizam noted that petrol accounts for 5.5% of the Consumer Price Index, compared to just 0.2% for diesel, indicating that fuel costs weigh significantly on household budgets.

"Given this, any changes in fuel subsidies could influence consumer

sentiment and spending patterns."

While there may be some short-term impact, Afzanizam said, demand for personal vehicles will persist, as car ownership remains essential to many Malaysians.

Malaysia's automotive industry has seen record-breaking sales, with total industry volume (TIV) hitting an all-time high of 816,747 units in 2023.

However, analysts forecast a decline in 2025, as CIMB Securities predicts a 7% drop in TIV and the Malaysian Automotive Association projects a milder 4.5% decrease.

Afzanizam noted that even at the projected 780,000 units, sales would still be well above the pre-pandemic average of 612,116 units between 2010 and 2019. "This suggests that the market is not shrinking dramatically but rather normalising after an exceptional post-pandemic surge," he explained.

MAA president Mohd Shamsor Mohd Zain also downplayed concerns about a sharp decline in vehicle sales, saying that the subsidy removal is unlikely to cause major disruptions.

"Diesel-powered vehicles make up only about 4% of total industry

volume so the impact will be limited. The market also offers diverse powertrain options, including hybrids and EVs, which provide consumers with alternatives," he said.

Beyond subsidies, other economic factors could also influence car-buying patterns.

"While Bank Negara Malaysia is expected to maintain its Overnight Policy Rate, some buyers may adopt a 'wait-and-see' approach before making purchasing decisions," Afzanizam said, noting that interest rates, inflation, and global economic trends, too, will play a role.

Putra Business School MBA programme director Professor Dr Ahmed Razman Abdul Latif believes that the impact of subsidy cuts will vary by vehicle type.

"Since 85% of RON95 users will continue receiving subsidies, the majority of drivers may not feel a major burden. Instead, EVs could see increased demand due to road tax exemptions next year," he said.

Razman pointed out that the upcoming open market value excise duty revision in 2025 may drive a surge in purchases this year,

especially for completely knocked down models expected to become more expensive next year.

He said vehicle financing and loan approvals are unlikely to be significantly affected by the subsidy restructuring. "Broader economic factors like inflation and GDP growth will have a greater influence on overall demand," he noted.

Analysts agreed that Malaysia's automotive sector is sensitive to shifts in fuel prices, as they affect both consumer preferences and vehicle ownership costs.

However, with fuel-efficient cars and EVs gaining traction, industry players are closely watching how policy changes, tax incentives, and consumer behaviour might reshape Malaysia's car market in the coming years.

Despite the anticipated correction in sales figures, Afzanizam remains optimistic that demand for cars will persist, albeit with some shifts in consumer preferences. "The Malaysian market is resilient. While there may be some adjustment in demand, the overall appetite for personal vehicles is unlikely to fade," he said.

Fibromat signs underwriting deal with M&A Securities

PETALING JAYA: Fibromat (M) Bhd has signed an underwriting agreement with M&A Securities Sdn Bhd for its initial public offering (IPO) on the ACE Market of Bursa Malaysia.

M&A Securities will underwrite 18.6 million new shares made available to the Malaysian public and eligible parties under pink form allocations.

Fibromat managing director and CEO Ng Kian Boon said the signing of the underwriting agreement with M&A Securities not only reinforces their confidence but also marks a step forward in its transfer from the LEAP Market to become an ACE Market-listed company.

"This comes at an opportune time as we are ready to take advantage of the vast opportunities and vibrancy in Malaysia's infrastructure construction and property development industry."

"Our group's geotechnical solutions are used in a diverse range of project types, such as projects for residential and commercial development, infrastructure development, land reclamation, road construction, railway construction, soil stabilisation, landscaping, and river and coastal protection," he said in a statement.

M&A Securities is Fibromat's principal adviser, sponsor, sole underwriter and sole placement agent for the company's listing transfer from the LEAP Market to the ACE Market.

Fibromat was listed on the LEAP Market on May 30, 2019. The group is involved in geotechnical solutions for erosion control and ground improvement, as well as sediment control, filtration, and containment lining.

Fibromat's IPO involves a public issue of 32.3 million new shares (13% of its enlarged share capital) and the sale of 24.8 million existing shares (10%).

Of the new shares, 12.4 million are open to the Malaysian public, 6.2 million are allocated to eligible parties under pink form allocations, and 13.7 million will be privately placed with Bumiputera investors approved by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

The offer for sale comprises 17.4 million and 7.4 million existing shares will be allocated by way of private placement to identified



Ng (third from left) and M&A Equity Holdings managing director Datuk Bill Tan, representing M&A Securities, displaying the signed document.

Bumiputera investors approved by MITI and to selected investors, respectively.

Fibromat targets to list its entire enlarged issued share capital of 248.3 million ordinary shares on the ACE Market by the second quarter of the year.

Proceeds from the IPO have been earmarked for the purchase of machinery and working capital to facilitate the anticipated growth in the group's operations, according to the company's draft prospectus. The balance will be used to defray listing expenses.

Fibromat has recorded strong financial growth over the last few years, with revenue increasing from RM45.8 million in financial year ended Dec 31, 2021 (FY21) to RM75.5 million in FY24 and profit after tax growing from RM5.8 million in FY21 to RM10 million in FY24, while gross profit margins improved from 25.8% to 27.4%.

Ng said, "Since the commencement of our business in 1999, we have successfully grown

and evolved from a geosynthetics and erosion control-based manufacturing company to a group that provides geotechnical solutions comprising design, manufacturing and installation of geotechnical solutions using geosynthetics, erosion control and biomass products, as well as trading of geosynthetics and erosion control products."

As of Dec 31, 2024, the group had 40 ongoing projects with a total contract value of RM178.7 million, out of which RM51.7 million remained unbilled.

"With 25 years of experience in the geotechnical solutions industry in Malaysia, our group has developed in-depth understanding and knowledge of local project requirements, industry standards and regulations, and ground and soil conditions throughout Malaysia. This experience has been critical in helping our group secure more projects as well as product orders for the ongoing expansion," Ng said.

Edotco, DNB and Lada team up to make Langkawi 5G-enabled digital tourism hub

KUALA LUMPUR: Edotco Malaysia and Digital Nasional Bhd (DNB) have collaborated with the Langkawi Development Authority (Lada) to transform Langkawi into Malaysia's first 5G-enabled digital tourism hub.

In a joint statement yesterday, they said the initiative marks a significant leap in Malaysia's digital transformation, leveraging next-generation connectivity to revolutionise tourism experiences, smart infrastructure, and economic opportunities on the island.

"As part of this initiative, Edotco and DNB will work closely with Lada to ensure that 5G infrastructure deployment aligns with the island's tourism and economic goals. High-speed connectivity will be expanded across key tourism hotspots, including Langkawi Sky Bridge, geosites, Pantai Cenang, and major hotels," according to the statement.

To drive industry adoption, Edotco, DNB, and Lada will host the first industry workshop in Langkawi next month. The workshop will bring together hotel operators, tour agencies, technology providers, and local businesses to explore how 5G-powered solutions can redefine the tourism sector.

Edotco director of Malaysia business Gayan Koralage said digital infrastructure is only one aspect of a successful transformation.

In this transformation, Edotco and DNB will jointly focus on fostering innovation and industry engagement.

"The workshop with Lada will set the foundation for a long-term digital transformation strategy in Langkawi."

"We aim to empower businesses to tap into new revenue streams through digital innovations such as smart hotel management systems, contactless services, and artificial intelligence-driven customer insights," he said.

According to the statement, the partnership will span over two years, with the first six months focused on executing a proof of concept to validate key 5G-enabled solutions. The remaining 18 months will focus on expanding the initiative with more advanced use cases. — Bernama

Can Malaysia close the cybersecurity gap?

► Expanding talent, enforcing regulations and raising awareness key to handling online threats, says expert

BY JOHN GILBERT
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Cybersecurity is a continuous battle, and even the most advanced nations such as the US, still have significant gaps.

In fact, the US is facing a major shortfall in cybersecurity professionals, with nearly 300,000 unfilled positions — something its own National Security Agency (NSA) considers a national threat.

The situation highlights a key measure of cybersecurity maturity, which is the availability of trained professionals.

Malaysia, like many countries, faces a similar challenge. While some universities offer cybersecurity programmes, the number of graduates remains too low to meet growing threats.

Full Armour Corporation founder and CEO Danny Kim, a global cybersecurity expert, said the shortage of trained experts is one of the biggest gaps that must be addressed.

Kim, who was in Kuala Lumpur recently under the invitation of the Asian Institute of Insurance to train C-Suite personnel of insurance companies, also highlighted another critical area, which is policy and regulation.

"The US has already enacted strict laws that mandate companies to report cybersecurity breaches, with penalties for non-compliance.

"This level of enforcement ensures greater transparency and accountability. Malaysia is beginning to follow suit, with efforts to introduce regulations requiring incident reporting and even cybersecurity training at the board level.

"These are positive steps, but more comprehensive policies are needed," he told SunBiz.

He said corporate preparedness is also a crucial factor. Many businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), lack the expertise to detect, respond to, and mitigate cyberattacks.

"Ransomware incidents, for instance, have targeted Malaysian businesses multiple times, often because companies do not have the necessary defences in place.

With a shortage of cybersecurity experts, AI-driven solutions are becoming crucial, particularly for small and mid-sized businesses, says Kim.

"Even when breaches are identified, organisations may struggle to understand how they occurred — making them vulnerable to repeated attacks.

"Ultimately, Malaysia has made progress, but it must continue strengthening its cybersecurity framework.

"Expanding the talent pipeline, enforcing stricter regulations, and improving corporate awareness are essential to ensuring the nation is well-prepared to handle evolving cyber threats," Kim said matter-of-factly.

Elaborating further, Kim said ransomware attacks can be mitigated with proper cybersecurity measures.

"One of the most effective defences is a strong data back-up system. Since ransomware typically works by locking access to a company's data and demanding payment to restore it, securing backups allows businesses to recover without giving in to demands.

"While there may still be some data loss, a well-maintained backup system significantly reduces the impact," he said.

He also said many ransomware attacks succeed because companies leave vulnerabilities open.

"A lack of employee cybersecurity training, weak security policies, and poor compliance measures create opportunities for attackers.

Businesses often focus on operations and growth while overlooking cybersecurity best practices, which are now critical rather than optional," he said.

Kim said in many cases, organisations may not even be aware they have been breached.

A ransomware attack, while damaging, at least makes the intrusion known. The greater risk is when attackers gain access to sensitive data without detection, leading to devastating long-term consequences.

Strengthening cybersecurity frameworks, implementing regular security audits, and ensuring staff are trained in threat prevention are essential steps to reducing ransomware risks, Kim said.

He said with a shortage of cybersecurity experts, artificial intelligence (AI)-driven solutions are becoming essential, especially for small- and mid-sized businesses.

"AI can capture expert knowledge, analyse networks, detect threats, and provide real-time security recommendations — functions that typically require a skilled security team.

"As cybercriminals use AI to scale attacks, companies must integrate AI into their defences.

"These solutions offer a cost-effective scalable and reliable alternative, ensuring businesses stay protected in an increasingly complex threat landscape," Kim said.



The group is pursuing the 2GW LSS5 quota and the 2GW LSS5+ expansion, along with projects under the NEM 3.0 and Neda programs. — **SOLARVEST WEBSITE**

Solarvest set to harness Malaysia's RE potential

KUALA LUMPUR: Solarvest Holdings Bhd is well positioned to capitalise on emerging opportunities in the Malaysia renewable energy (RE) sector by leveraging on its strong market share in solar energy.

Maybank Investment Bank Bhd (Maybank IB) noted that the group is actively pursuing the two-gigawatt (GW) Fifth Large Scale Solar (LSS5) quota jobs and the upcoming 2GW LSS5+ expansion, in addition to securing projects under net energy metering (NEM) 3.0 and the new enhanced dispatch arrangement (Neda) programmes.

"This latest job win will lift Solarvest's outstanding order book to RM1.3 billion, with related revenue recognition expected to remain strong through the financial years 2026 and 2027 estimates. We make no change to our forecasts as this job win forms part of our order book win assumptions of RM1 billion in FY26," it said in a note yesterday.

Year to date, Maybank IB noted that Solarvest has secured RM947 million in new projects.

Based on past engineering, procurement, construction, and commissioning (EPCC) margins, it said the contract could contribute an estimated RM40-60 million in gross profit, assuming a gross profit margin of 10-15%. "We remain upbeat on Solarvest's prospects in growing its order book and asset base amid strong demand for RE over the medium to longer term," it added.

Solarvest is a leading clean energy expert with a multi-national presence across in eight Asia-Pacific countries. — Bernama

EDUCATION

FOCUS 2025

Education matters remain an important component of Malaysian society. Today the landscape is fast paced with new exciting developments in technology such as AI, coding, virtual reality, and cybersecurity, leading the way for changes in curriculum development. To showcase the latest and most updated content, we invite you join us in 2025, and be part of our Education Focus!

theSun
Malaysian Paper
www.thesun.my

Contact us now for special deals on digital, video and print advertising.

03-7784 6688

advertise@thesundaily.com



Indonesia **eases** buyback policy after stocks plunge

➤ Central bank conducts 'bold' intervention to stabilise rupiah

JAKARTA: Indonesia's financial services regulator has allowed listed companies to buy back their stocks without shareholders' approval, while the central bank conducted "bold" currency intervention to calm markets, officials said yesterday.

The moves came after the main stock index fell as much as 7.1% on Tuesday, pressured by concerns over the government's policy, fiscal position and growth prospects.

The index recovered by around 1% as of 0430 GMT (12.30pm in Malaysia) yesterday after the announcement.

The rupiah, however, extended losses, falling by as much as 0.7%, despite intervention by Bank Indonesia (BI).

The currency was hit by spillover impact from Tuesday's drop in the stock market as well as global factors including US trade policy, expectations around the Federal Reserve's meeting this week and tensions in the Middle East, BI director of monetary and securities asset management Fitra Jusdiman told Reuters.

"BI has and will continue anticipatory, mitigatory responses to ensure stability in the rupiah exchange rate, maintain FX supply-demand, including by intervening in a bold and measured way," he said.

The financial regulator's new buyback rules are effective for six months and are intended to shore up market confidence, said Inarno Djajadi, chief regulator for the capital market at the Indonesia Financial Services Authority.

"We hope to give a positive signal that companies have good fundamentals, to provide market confidence to investors as well as give flexibility to listed companies to conduct corporate actions to reduce share volatility," Inarno told a press conference.

Satria Sambijantoro, head of research at Bahana Securities, said cash-rich companies whose share prices are undervalued may opt to use the opportunity to reduce public holdings.

In past episodes of stock market plunges, state companies were among those which conducted buybacks to prevent further falls.



Two men watching share prices at the Indonesia Stock Exchange in Jakarta. — AFPIC

State-controlled banks last month announced plans for buybacks.

Iman Rachman, chief executive of the Indonesia Stock Exchange, said Tuesday's index drop has not affected the pipeline for initial public offerings.

BI is due to hold a press conference on its monetary policy review this week.

Most economists polled by Reuters expect BI to keep rates unchanged to prioritise rupiah stability, although a significant minority expected a 25-bp rate cut.

"Moves in local financial markets ... create a headache for the central bank," said Capital Economic's chief emerging markets analyst William Jackson.

"While low inflation and slower economic growth should set the stage for another interest rate cut... concerns about the currency ... may prompt it to act more cautiously and leave rates unchanged."

Analysts said the market selloff was triggered by several factors.

Those include an increase in the state's role in Southeast Asia's largest economy under President Prabowo Subianto, management of state companies, the set up of

new sovereign wealth fund Danantara, rising risk of fiscal deterioration and speculation over the resignation of respected Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, which she has since denied.

Of particular concern to investors was a government plan to have the military play a wider role in state institutions, which could allow armed forces personnel to serve in more civilian positions, said head of Indonesia research at Macquarie Capital Ari Jahja.

Parliament is set to pass contentious revisions to the military law today.

Appearing alongside financial regulators at yesterday's press conference, lawmaker Budi Djiwandono said no active military personnel would be placed in state-owned companies.

Budi is deputy head of the parliamentary committee overseeing the deliberation of the military law revisions and Prabowo's nephew.

Foreign investors, who make up around 40% of Indonesia's stock market participants, recorded net sales of around 2.49 trillion rupiah (RM668 million) on Tuesday. — Reuters

Japan automakers warn of US tariff impact

TOKYO: Japan's top automakers said yesterday they may be forced to cut production if US President Donald Trump goes ahead with his planned tariffs on vehicle imports.

The auto industry is a huge pillar of the Japanese economy, with about 10% of jobs there connected to the sector.

Masanori Katayama, chairman of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA), warned of the impact of US trade protectionism at a Tokyo press conference.

"We are concerned that the additional 25% tariff on automobiles, currently being considered by the Trump administration, if applied to exporters from Japan, Mexico and Canada, would have a negative impact overall on the economies of the US and Japan."

"If it happens, considerable production adjustments" may occur, said Katayama, who is also chief executive of truck producer Isuzu Motors.

Vehicles accounted for roughly a third of Japan's ¥21.3 trillion (RM630 billion) of US-bound exports in 2024.

Ministers have been lobbying their US counterparts to secure tariff exemptions for Japanese goods like steel and vehicles, but so far these requests have been denied.

Annually, Japanese automakers export around 1.37 million vehicles to the United States — down from a peak of 3.43 million vehicles in 1986, Katayama said at the press conference also attended by executives from Toyota, Honda and other major industry players.

Katayama also said international economic "uncertainty" was making investment decisions more difficult.

JAMA groups Japan's 14 top automakers and motorcycle producers. — AFP

Thai economic recovery more uneven: Central bank

BANGKOK: Thailand's economy was seen growing slightly more than 2.5% this year, less than earlier expected, minutes of the Bank of Thailand (BOT) Feb 26 monetary policy meeting showed yesterday, with its economic recovery becoming more uneven.

At the meeting, the BOT's monetary policy committee voted 6-1 to cut the one-day repurchase rate by 25 basis points to 2%.

One member voted to maintain the rate.

The surprise quarter-point rate cut followed a hold in December and a similar reduction in October.

The bank saw economic growth at 2.9% in December.

The committee said growth could be lower than previously anticipated, with higher risks going forward, according to the minutes, and that the majority of members considered lowering rates to ease credit conditions and with 2% providing sufficient policy space.

Thailand's household debt stood at 16.34 trillion baht (RM21 trillion) at the end of September 2024, or equivalent to 89% of gross domestic product, among the highest levels in Asia.

The government sees household debt as significant constraint on consumption and growth.

"Economic recovery became more uneven across sectors," the central bank minutes said, with tourism and exports expanding.

"Conversely, manufacturing sectors facing structural challenges, especially the automotive-related and real estate industries, showed further deterioration."

The committee agreed that the slowdown in the Thai economy was "driven by structural factors, which required supply-side restructuring policies". — Reuters

No guidance yet on Grab, GoTo merger plans, says Singapore competition watchdog

SINGAPORE: The Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore has not received notification from ride and delivery companies Grab or GoTo on a proposed merger, it said yesterday.

The commission said that it is aware of media reports regarding a possible merger between the two companies, and that the parties should seek legal advice on whether any proposed merger complies with competition laws in Singapore.

"CCCS is open to engaging with the parties via our merger notification and pre-notification discussion processes," it said in an e-mailed statement to Reuters.

Singapore-headquartered Grab, which is backed by Uber, and its smaller Indonesian

rival GoTo, have reportedly engaged in several rounds of talks over a potential merger.

GoTo reiterated yesterday that there was no agreement with any party about a potential transaction after Bloomberg News reported this week that Grab had begun due diligence to take over GoTo.

If combined, Grab and GoTo would hold a market share of almost 90% in Singapore and more than 91% in Indonesia in the ride-hailing sector, according to Euromonitor International.

The competition watchdog in 2018 fined Grab and Uber a combined S\$13 million (RM43 million) after Grab failed to notify it of its merger with Uber, which substantially

reduced competition in Singapore.

Last year, Grab called off its proposed acquisition of Singapore's third-largest taxi operator Trans-cab.

The commission said it can impose penalties of up to 10% of the turnover of a company's business in Singapore for each year of infringement, up to a maximum of three years, if a company is found to have breached competition laws.

"Directions can be made under the law to remedy, mitigate or eliminate the adverse effects arising from the merger, including unwinding the merger," it said.

Where necessary, the CCCS could impose interim measures to preserve market competition, it added. — Reuters

India's antitrust officers raid global media giants

► Investigation into alleged price fixing coincides with popular IPL cricket tournament

NEW DELHI: India's antitrust officers grilled media executives and seized data in an investigation into price fixing by global advertising agencies GroupM, Interpublic, Publicis and Dentsu, with raids continuing well past midnight into a second day yesterday, people familiar with the matter said.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) raids began on Tuesday morning at around 10 locations in the strictest enforcement action ever against media agencies and a group of the nation's top broadcasters, just before the start of the popular IPL cricket tournament, the biggest sporting event for advertisers in India.

Top officials at the Indian office of GroupM were not allowed to go home overnight and the raid was still continuing yesterday, with evidence from mobile phones being cloned, two people with direct knowledge said.

Raids at Indian offices of US-based Interpublic's IPG Mediabrands unit, Japan's Dentsu and top broadcasters industry group IBDF ended early yesterday, nearly 24 hours after they started, people familiar with the matter said.

At the New Delhi IBDF office raid, CCI inspectors reviewed e-mails related to advertising dealings of the group, which represents billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance-Disney joint

venture and Sony, said the first source.

France's Publicis Groupe office was also raided on Tuesday and the operation continued well past midnight, though it was not clear if it has ended, said another source familiar with the operation.

GroupM, owned by Britain's WPP, did not respond to Reuters queries.

WPP in 2023 said it had a 45% media market share in India, with 45 of the top 50 advertisers as clients.

Interpublic's IPG Mediabrands unit, Publicis, Dentsu and IBDF did not respond to Reuters queries.

The raids come amid major shifts in India's ad landscape following a US\$8.5 billion (RM38 billion) merger between Walt Disney and Reliance's India media assets, which is estimated to have a 40% share of the ad market in TV and streaming segments.

The media agencies compete in

India, the world's eighth-biggest ad market, where revenues of US\$18.5 billion last year are set to grow 9.4% in 2025, GroupM estimates.

In a case started last year, the CCI is investigating allegations that broadcasters and media agencies were colluding on prices and discounts of ad rates.

The raids were carried out in New Delhi, Mumbai and Gurugram, Reuters has reported.

The watchdog does not provide details of price collusion cases, or make its investigations public, and the case is likely to drag on for months before a conclusion is reached.

If found guilty, the media agencies may be liable to pay a penalty amounting to up to three times their profit for each year during which the collusion took place, or 10% of their turnover for each year of wrongdoing, whichever is higher. – Reuters

Swiss lawmakers back tighter banking rules

ZURICH: Swiss lawmakers on Tuesday backed a report recommending tightening the rules on banking and reinforcing the supervisory authority, almost two years after Credit Suisse imploded.

Switzerland's second-biggest bank was among 30 international banks deemed too big to fail due to their importance in the global banking architecture.

But the collapse of three US regional lenders in March 2023 left Credit Suisse looking like the weakest link in the chain and its share price plunged more than 30% on March 15 that year.

The Swiss government, the central bank and the Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA) then strangled the country's biggest bank UBS into a US\$3.25 billion takeover announced on March 19, before the markets reopened the following day.

The government feared Credit Suisse would have quickly defaulted and triggered a global banking crisis that would also have shredded Switzerland's valuable reputation for sound banking.

A parliamentary committee conducted an extensive investigation into how the Swiss authorities handled the crisis.

Lawmakers on Tuesday adopted all the committee's proposals, notably on bonuses, capital, and FINMA's powers. – AFP

IndiGo plans big increase in international route seats

MUMBAI: Indian airline IndiGo plans to significantly increase the number of seats it allocates for international flights by fiscal year 2030 to secure greater market share.

The no-frills airline expects to increase its international capacity share, or the proportion of its total available seat kilometres for international routes, to 40% from 28% currently, it said in an investor presentation yesterday.

The airline reached its current capacity share in seven years, from 14% in 2018.

The airline currently flies to 40 international destinations, and has about 19% share of India's international flight market, according to the latest data from the country's aviation regulator.

IndiGo's push beyond the domestic market, where it commands a nearly 60% share, comes at a time when Indian carriers are racing to keep pace with surging demand for both domestic and international air travel, despite aircraft supply constraints.

The company had in January said it plans to boost its international operations, which currently account for 10% of revenue according to its December-quarter update. – Reuters



A security guard standing outside the CCI headquarters in New Delhi. – REUTERS/PIIC

German MPs approve fiscal 'bazooka' for defence, infrastructure

BERLIN: German lawmakers gave the green light on Tuesday for a colossal spending boost for defence and infrastructure pushed by chancellor-in-waiting Friedrich Merz amid deep fears in Europe over the future strength of the transatlantic alliance.

The unprecedented fiscal package – dubbed “XXL-sized” and a cash “bazooka” by German media – could pave the way for more than €1 trillion in spending over the next decade in Europe's top economy.

The historic Parliament vote signalled a

radical departure for a country famously reluctant to take on large state debt – or to spend heavily on the armed forces, given its dark World War II history.

Merz, who is expected to become Germany's next chancellor after his CDU/CSU alliance won last month's elections, argued that dramatic steps are needed at a time of geopolitical turmoil sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

European countries have been further unsettled by US President Donald Trump's outreach to Russia and signals of an uncertain

commitment to Nato and Europe's defence.

Speaking to Parliament, Merz cited Russia's “war of aggression against Europe” and said the funding boost would spell “the first major step towards a new European defence community”.

Merz's centre-right alliance and their likely future coalition partners, the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) of outgoing Chancellor Olaf Scholz, have hammered out the package over recent weeks.

The plan would exempt defence spending above 1% of GDP from Germany's strict debt

rules and set up a €500 billion (RM2.4 trillion) fund for infrastructure investments over 12 years.

After heated debate in Parliament – where the plan was opposed by the far right, far left and a small liberal party – it cleared the two-thirds majority needed and passed by a margin of 513 to 207 votes.

It still requires approval by the upper house tomorrow, but the likely future governing partners have voiced confidence it will also clear the final hurdle. – AFP

Nvidia showcases new tech at AI 'Super Bowl'

➤ CEO promotes universal benefits of the technology, saying 'everyone is a winner'

SAN JOSE: Nvidia chief Jensen Huang on Tuesday showcased cutting-edge chips for artificial intelligence and new applications for the technology, shrugging off talk of China's DeepSeek disrupting the market and dangers from US President Donald Trump's trade wars.

Huang gave a hotly anticipated keynote presentation at Nvidia's annual developers conference that packed the SAP Center in the Silicon Valley city of San Jose, home of the Sharks NHL hockey team.

Billing the event as an AI "Super Bowl," the Taiwan-born tech titan was greeted by an audience of more than 20,000 who sat through his two-hour-plus address announcing the company's latest updates.

"The difference is that everyone is a winner at this Super Bowl," he said, promoting the universal benefits of AI technology.

Huang used the annual speech to unveil developments and tie-ups at the company he co-founded more than three decades ago. Nvidia has seen stratospheric growth, with the AI frenzy stemming largely from the company's core product – graphics processing units (GPUs).

Huang spotlighted the updates to Nvidia's latest Blackwell line of GPUs, as well as new hardware and software for robotics and telecommunications.

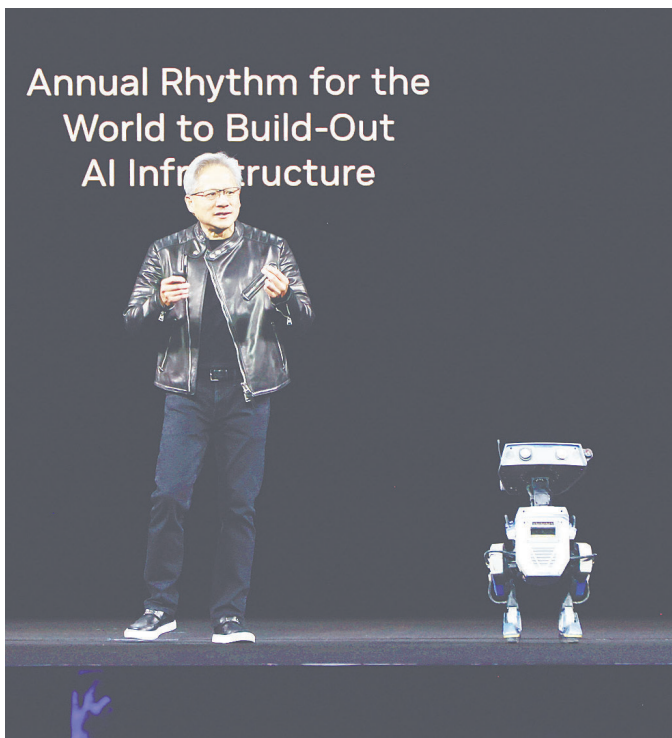
The announcements included a partnership with General Motors focused on developing driverless vehicles that would feature an Nvidia-made, in-vehicle computing system that can deliver up to 1,000 trillion operations per second.

He also unveiled a telecoms project, involving T-Mobile and Cisco Systems, where Nvidia will help create AI-ready hardware for wireless 6G networks, the successor to today's 5G.

The AI boom has propelled Nvidia stock prices to historic levels, though it saw a steep sell-off earlier this year triggered by the sudden success of DeepSeek and the instability of Trump's tariff battles with key trading partners.

Trump has threatened to slap extra tariffs on imports of computer chips to the United States, which will heap pressure on Nvidia's business, which depends on imported components mainly from Taiwan.

High-end versions of Nvidia's chips face



Huang delivering the keynote presentation at for the Nvidia GPU Technology Conference in San Jose. – REUTERS/SPIC

US export restrictions to the major market of China, part of Washington's efforts to slow its Asian adversary's advancement in the strategic technology.

Against those headwinds, Nvidia stock, one of the most traded on Wall Street, is down more than 17% since Trump took office and the release of DeepSeek, an AI model, in January.

China-based DeepSeek shook up the world of generative artificial intelligence with the debut of a low-cost, high-performance model that challenges the hegemony of OpenAI and other big-spending behemoths.

Several countries have questioned DeepSeek's handling of data and believe that the secretive company may be subject to the control of the Chinese government.

Nvidia high-end GPUs are in hot demand by tech giants building data centers to power artificial intelligence, and some say a low-cost option could weaken the Silicon Valley chip star's business.

But Nvidia and others argue that cheaper AI models will spur their wider expansion, increasing the needs for computing and Nvidia's technology.

"In essence, Nvidia's chips remain the new oil or gold in this world for the tech ecosystem as there is only one chip in the world fueling this AI foundation ... and it's Nvidia," said Dan Ives of Wedbush Securities.

Riding the AI wave, Nvidia has ramped up production of its top-of-the-line Blackwell processors for powering AI, logging billions in sales in just months. – AFP

US music industry posts 100 million paid streaming users

NEW YORK: The US music industry passed 100 million paid streaming subscriptions for the first time in 2024, according to the latest report from the Recording Industry Association of America released on Tuesday.

The US industry's total revenue last year increased 3% to US\$17.7 billion (RM78.4 billion) retail, the report said, up US\$500 million from 2023.

Paid subscription services accounted for 79% of streaming revenues, and almost two-thirds of total revenues.

Yet streaming growth has slowed over the past five years – in 2024, it increased by less than four million subscriptions, compared to the jump from 2020 to 2021, when it spiked by almost nine million – a trend that has pushed music companies to seek growth elsewhere.

Universal, for example, has been touting a "Streaming 2.0" vision focusing on avenues like selling products to superfans.

Music revenues meanwhile fell 2% to US\$1.8 billion on ad-supported, on-demand services – examples include YouTube, Facebook and Spotify's ad-supported version.

Indie darling vinyl posted its 18th straight year of growth, and accounts for nearly 75% of physical format revenues that total US\$2 billion, the RIAA said.

For the third year in a row, vinyl albums outsold compact discs, selling 44 million versus 33 million respectively.

Vinyl's popularity has grown steadily in recent years, fuelled by collectors and fans nostalgic for the warm crackle that emanates from Side A and Side B. – AFP

Trump purges Democrats from Federal Trade Commission

SAN FRANCISCO: The only two Democrats on the US Federal Trade Commission have been fired by President Donald Trump, the White House said, opening the door for the Republican to appoint loyalists at the independent regulatory agency.

The FTC's primary function is to protect the US public against deceptive or unfair business practices.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a White House official confirmed that FTC commissioners Alvaro Bedoya and Rebecca Kelly Slaughter were dismissed.

The FTC consists of five commissioners, typically representing both major political parties.

"The president just illegally fired me," Bedoya wrote in a post on X, formerly Twitter.

"This is corruption plain and simple."

Bedoya vowed in an X post to "see the president in court" over the dismissal.

Layoffs of federal workers have been rampant since Trump took office in January and established a "Department of Government Efficiency" headed by billionaire Elon Musk, a senior adviser and key financial backer of the Republican's campaign.

"The FTC is an independent agency founded 111 years ago to fight fraudsters and monopolists," Bedoya said in a post.

"Now, the president wants the FTC to be a lapdog for his golfing buddies."

Under Trump and former president Joe Biden, the FTC has taken on Apple, Amazon, Google, and Facebook parent Meta over how they wield market power.

In an interview with Fox Business last month, newly appointed FTC chairman Andrew Ferguson confirmed that ongoing cases against Amazon and Meta would proceed, emphasising his commitment to "holding Big Tech's feet to the fire". – AFP

US to produce tariff 'number' for countries on April 2

WASHINGTON: Washington is expected to present US trading partners on April 2 with a number representing their tariff and other barriers, as it unveils reciprocal levies tailored to each country, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Tuesday.

President Donald Trump has promised reciprocal duties – on both US allies and competitors alike – from April 2, though his administration has yet to release the exact details of the plan.

"What's going to happen on April 2 – each country will receive a number that we believe represents their tariffs," Bessent told Fox Business.

"We are going to go to them and say, look,

here's where we think the tariff levels are, non-tariff barriers, currency manipulation, unfair funding, labor suppression," he added on *Mornings With Maria*.

With just over two weeks until April 2, he did not say whether those calculations would be complete for all nations by the deadline, but left open the door to some avoiding reciprocal tariffs on that date.

If countries stop their practices, Bessent said "we will not put up the tariff wall".

Some duties "may not have to go on because a deal is pre-negotiated," he said, or because countries swiftly approach Washington for talks once they receive their number.

Trump said on Monday on social media that

April 2 would be "Liberation Day for America," promising to "start taking back some of the vast wealth that has been taken from us".

The president's tariff plans and the uncertainty surrounding them have shaken markets in recent weeks, fanning fears that an economic ebb could be in the cards.

But Bessent told Fox Business that he saw "no reason we need to have a recession," saying "the underlying economy is healthy".

Bessent also said on Tuesday that the Treasury is working with Congress on further outbound investment rules.

"We will make sure that our outbound investment doesn't turn around and get used against us." – AFP

MARKET ROUND-UP: MARCH 19

Bursa Trade Statistic

Source: Bursa Malaysia, Inter-Pacific Research

19 MAR 2025

Participation

Retail (14.50%)

Net (in RM mil.)

+67.08

Bought (in RM mil.)

429.62

Sold (in RM mil.)

362.54

Institution (38.88%)

Net (in RM mil.)

+417.15

Bought (in RM mil.)

1271.39

Sold (in RM mil.)

854.24

Foreign (46.62%)

Net (in RM mil.)

-484.23

Bought (in RM mil.)

1032.27

Sold (in RM mil.)

1516.50

Preliminary status (Excluding Trade Amendments) | Final data, refer to Bursa website



Need Some Ideas?

Our Monthly Trader's Talk will be held
Every 1st Monday of the Month
Live webinar with Q&A

SUNBIZ presents a summary of the day's trading activity on Bursa Malaysia and other markets in an easy to digest format.

Sources: Bursa Malaysia, Bernama, shareinvestor.com and websites

DISCLAIMER: The data and reports are provided as a service to investors. Sun Media Corporation Sdn Bhd shall not be liable or responsible for any consequences resulting from usage of the information.

Bursa Indices

INDEX	CHANGE
FBMEMAS	11,364.06 -60.42
FBMKLCI	1,517.66 -10.15
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	475.46 -2.34
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	154.77 -0.29
CONSTRUCTION	254.43 -5.74
FINANCIAL SERVICES	18,612.44 -183.70
ENERGY	740.39 +5.03
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	476.85 +0.53
HEALTH CARE	1,899.92 +12.18
TRANSPORTATION	1,008.15 -4.87
PROPERTY	993.77 -3.14
PLANTATION	7,437.37 +21.12
FBMSHA	11,058.79 -25.21
FBMACE	4,711.49 +20.34
TECHNOLOGY	49.75 +0.21
TURNOVER: 2.923 bil	VALUE: RM2.732 bil

Bursa ends lower on lack of buying catalysts

BURSA Malaysia's benchmark index ended yesterday broadly lower, driven primarily by selling in construction and banking sectors, while healthcare stocks saw some buying interest, an analyst said.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd's vice-president of equity research Thong Pak Leng said the FBM KLCI finished in the red due to a lack of buying catalysts.

He noted that key regional indices settled mixed as investor sentiment was influenced by rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

At 5pm, the FBM KLCI weakened by 10.15 points, or 0.66%, to 1,517.66 from Monday's close of 1,527.81.

Meanwhile, Thong said the market stayed alert to potential tariff escalations as Donald Trump reiterated his threats of reciprocal trade measures set for early April, alongside ongoing talks for a US-mediated peace agreement between Russia and Ukraine.

UOB Kay Hian Wealth Advisors Sdn Bhd head of investment research Mohd Sedek Jantan said the decline on Wall Street on Tuesday was largely driven by investor caution ahead of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting, as market participants awaited its outcome.

Heavyweights, Maybank fell six sen to RM10.36, and CIMB slipped 32 sen to RM6.93. Public Bank and Tenaga were flat at RM4.54 and RM13.56 respectively, while IHH Healthcare was one sen higher at RM7.10.

As for the active stocks, Sapura Energy was flat at 4.5 sen, Pertama Digital added six sen to 17 sen, Sedania gained 3.5 sen to 12.5 sen, and NationGate improved two sen to RM1.37.

However, UJ Corporation lost 19 sen, falling to RM1.93. — Bernama

Top 20 Actives

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-CWCF	0.105	+0.035	+50.00	1,880,821
HSI-CWCO	0.160	+0.045	+39.13	1,281,868
SAPNRG	0.045	-	-	1,266,919
HSI-PWD2	0.050	-0.015	-23.08	1,245,456
HSI-PWD6	0.115	-0.025	-17.86	998,681
HSI-PWD1	0.145	-0.045	-23.68	851,488
PERTAMA	0.170	+0.060	+54.55	809,938
IJM	1.930	-0.190	-8.96	661,676
HSI-PWD7	0.160	-0.045	-21.95	625,018
CIMB	6.930	-0.320	-4.41	595,158
HSI-CWCM	0.335	+0.065	+24.07	429,736
HSI-CWEJ	0.275	+0.040	+17.02	374,091
HSI-PWFO	0.265	-0.060	-18.46	371,923
GAMUDA	3.980	-0.100	-2.45	309,253
MYEG	0.940	-0.101	-1.05	299,199
INNATURE	0.215	+0.050	+30.30	266,779
NATGATE	1.370	+0.020	+1.48	257,248
SEDANIA	0.125	+0.035	+38.89	241,786
YTL	2.000	+0.020	+1.01	237,735
HSI-CWED	0.195	+0.035	+21.88	236,827



Top 20 Gainers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-CWA9	0.900	+0.315	50
HSI-CWEM	0.680	+0.270	35
ALLIANZ	18.360	+0.260	461
XIAOMI-C34	1.260	+0.260	127
HSI-CWCI	1.300	+0.240	25
HSI-CWA6	0.880	+0.215	99
HSI-CWCO	1.480	+0.210	80
GESHEN	4.500	+0.200	125
KLK	21.360	+0.200	5,614
HSI-CWCU	1.230	+0.180	450
PETGAS	16.920	+0.180	13,505
HSI-CWCN	1.140	+0.160	70
HSI-CWC2	1.230	+0.150	70
CHINAETF-MYR	5.750	+0.150	329
HSI-CWCC	0.540	+0.145	1,399
HSI-CWCK	1.130	+0.140	210
HSI-CWEG	1.310	+0.140	180
KEYFIELD	2.180	+0.130	46,562
HSI-CWC6	0.855	+0.125	95,298
HSI-CWCS	0.795	+0.125	122

Top 20 Gainers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
HIBISCS-C71	0.045	+125.00	500
99SMART-C0	0.010	+100.00	187
JIANKUN-WB	0.010	+100.00	12,079
UWC-C8	0.010	+100.00	1,002
ALIBABA-C44	0.250	+66.67	100
HARTA-C2N	0.025	+66.67	10
HSI-CWEM	0.680	+65.85	35
HIBISCS-C74	0.105	+61.54	285
PERTAMA	0.170	+54.55	809,938
BAIDU-C3	0.100	+53.85	30,559
HSI-CWA9	0.900	+53.85	50
AIM-WA	0.015	+50.00	2,500
BAIDU-C4	0.225	+50.00	224
BINACOM-WA	0.015	+50.00	2,671
HSI-CWCF	0.105	+50.00	1,880,821
KEYFIELD-CA	0.015	+50.00	1
OMESTI-WC	0.015	+50.00	1,473
IJM-HA	0.125	+47.06	3,524
HSI-CWCG	0.235	+46.88	21,574
BYD-C33	0.360	+44.00	933

World Stocks/Commodities

INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE (%)
DJIA [US]	41,581.31	-260.32	-0.62
S&P 500 [US]	5,614.66	-60.46	-1.07
NASDAQ [US]	17,504.12	-304.54	-1.71
NYSE [US]	19,421.58	-73.13	-0.38
EURO STOXX 50 [EUR]	5,478.88	-6.13	-0.11
FTSE 100 [UK]	8,675.76	-29.47	-0.34
DAX [GER]	23,284.16	-96.54	-0.41
NIKKEI 225 [JPN]	37,751.88	-93.54	-0.25
TOPIX INDEX [JPN]	2,795.96	12.4	0.45
HANG SENG INDEX [HK]	24,771.14	30.57	0.12
CSI 300 [CHN]	4,010.17	2.45	0.06
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	189.78	1.94	1.03
SHANGHAI SE COM [CHN]	3,426.43	-3.33	-0.1
KOSPI INDEX [SK]	2,628.62	16.28	0.62
SENSEX INDEX [IND]	75,538.88	237.62	0.32
ASX 200 [AUS]	7,828.25	-32.16	-0.41
ALL ORDINARIES INDX [AUS]	8,055.27	-34.64	-0.43
FBM KLCI	1,517.66	-10.15	-0.66
STRAITS TIMES INDEX [S'PORE]	3,907.05	12.08	0.31
WTI [US\$/BBL]	66.31	-0.59	-0.88
BRENT [US\$/BBL]	69.99	-0.57	-0.81
GOLD [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	3,035.10	-5.7	-0.19
SILVER [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	34.34	-0.48	-1.39
PLATINUM [US\$/T OZ]	991.39	-12.5	-1.25
COPPER [COMEX] [US CENTS/LB.]	504.15	2.5	0.5
COPPER 3MO [LME] [US\$/MT]	9,904.50	43	0.44
CORN [US CENTS/BU.]	458	-0.75	-0.16
WHEAT [US CENTS/BU.]	565.5	0.5	0.09
SOYBEAN OIL [CBOT] [US CENTS/LB.]	42.45	-0.09	-0.21
COCOA [ICE] [US\$/MT]	8,021.00	194	2.48
RUBBER [S'PORE] [US CENTS/KG]	194.6	-1.2	-0.61

As at 5pm, Mar 19

Top 20 Losers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [RM]	VOLUME ('00)
NESTLE	63.560	-1.260	3,813
BLDPLNT	10.200	-0.640	1,566
PANAMY	14.160	-0.420	289
MPI	17.600	-0.400	1,018
CIMB	6.930	-0.320	595,158
HEIM	26.680	-0.200	1,858
IJM	1.930	-0.190	661,676
LPI	13.320	-0.180	3,534
XOX-PA	0.120	-0.170	3
ATECH	3.060	-0.130	2,625
TIMECOM	4.720	-0.130	9,398
INARI-C3G	0.075	-0.125	8,048
CARLSBG	18.120	-0.120	1,276
HLFG	17.460	-0.120	1,731
HSI-PWFB	0.370	-0.120	1,060
HTPADU	2.540	-0.110	3,400
HSI-PWFA	0.540	-0.110	4,607
MFCB	4.110	-0.110	11,184
UCHITEC	3.400	-0.110	7,665
HSI-PWFF	0.540	-0.105	96,527

Top 20 Losers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING [RM]	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
NDX-HJ	0.015	-76.92	2,908
99SMART-CG	0.010	-75.00	12,222
SLVEST-CJ	0.015	-72.73	388
SNTORIA	0.005	-66.67	18,515
INARI-C3G	0.075	-62.50	8,048
CIMB-C1P	0.010	-60.00	113,479
JPG-CH	0.060	-60.00	60
XOX-PA	0.120	-58.62	3
ATECH-CL	0.065	-58.67	8,000
PBBANK-CIQ	0.070	-53.33	1,135
99SMART-CN	0.005	-50.00	1,080
GENM-C3B	0.005	-50.00	6,400
HSI-PWDP	0.010	-50.00	100
HSI-PWDS	0.005	-50.00	23,940
IJM-C96	0.005	-50.00	2,902
MNC-WC	0.005	-50.00	332
OCR-WE	0.005	-50.00	19,847
SKPRES-WB	0.005	-50.00	1,000
CIMB-CIX	0.020	-42.86	19,486
IJM-C97	0.020	-42.86	17,890

MARKETS/FROM THE BROKERS

SUNBIZ presents extracts of a selection of commentaries and research reports received from stockbrokers on counters that could be of interest to investors.

Compiled by SunBiz Team

DISCLAIMER: The information is extracted from stockbrokers' commentaries and research reports and do not represent the views or opinions of Sun Media Corporation Sdn Bhd. It is not a solicitation, recommendation or an offer to buy or sell the equities featured. Sun Media Corporation shall not be liable or responsible for any consequences resulting from usage of the information.

YTL among early adopters of Nvidia Blackwell Ultra

KUALA LUMPUR: YTL AI Cloud, a subsidiary of YTL Power International Bhd and an Nvidia Cloud Partner, will be among the first to adopt the latest Nvidia Blackwell Ultra instances as it strengthens its collaboration with Nvidia.

YTL Power managing director Datuk Seri Yeoh Seok Hong said the company has made tremendous progress over the past year and is poised to offer powerful AI cloud computing to the region when its first Blackwell clusters come onstream, expected in July this year.

"Our collaboration with Nvidia means that we are able to make available the latest AI platforms and solutions to Asia, ensuring that the region continues to stay abreast of the latest technological developments as we continue to move into an increasingly AI-powered world," he said in a statement.

The Nvidia Blackwell Ultra platform will be deployed from the YTL Green Data Centre Campus, a solar-powered 500MW data center facility in Johor.

The YTL Green Data Centre Campus is also home to the first supercomputer in Malaysia to deploy the Nvidia GB200 Grace Blackwell Superchip on Nvidia DGX Cloud.

Currently under construction, YTL Power expects to launch their first Nvidia GB200 NVL72-based instances early in the third quarter of the year, becoming one of the first cloud service providers to make the NVIDIA Blackwell platform available in Asia Pacific.

Blackwell Ultra includes the Nvidia GB300 NVL72 rack-scale solution and the Nvidia HGX B300 NVL 16 system. The Nvidia GB300 NVL72 connects 72 Blackwell Ultra GPUs and 36 Arm-based Nvidia Grace CPUs in a rack-scale design, acting as a single massive GPU built for test-time scaling.

Ringgit rises against dollar ahead of Fed guidance

THE ringgit closed firmer against the US dollar yesterday, gaining 0.24% to 4.4330/4400 from Monday's close of 4.4450/4490, amid cautious sentiment ahead of the outcome of the US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said market sentiments remained guarded ahead of FOMC meeting outcome later yesterday.

"While the Fed Funds Rate (FFR) is likely to be kept steady, the guidance from the US Federal Reserve (Fed) is extremely crucial in setting the tone for the currency market," he told Bernama.

He added that the projection by the US Fed on the interest rate would be closely monitored, with market expectations going for two to three rate cuts this year.

Overall, markets are on edge as uncertainties in both the economic and geopolitical landscapes continue to grow.

Meanwhile, the ringgit traded higher against a basket of major currencies.

It increased against the euro to 4.8324/8400 from 4.8455/8499 at Monday's close, improved against the British pound to 5.7496/7587 from 5.7576/7628, and rose against the Japanese yen to 2.9595/9643 from 2.9896/9925 previously.

The local note also strengthened against Asean currencies.

It edged up against the Singapore dollar to 3.3251/3306 from 3.3351/3383 at the close on Monday and advanced against the Thai baht to 13.1778/2056 from 13.2213/2391.

The ringgit inched up against the Indonesian rupiah to 268.1/268.7 from 270.9/271.2 previously and was marginally higher versus the Philippine peso at 7.74/7.75 from 7.76/7.77 on Monday.

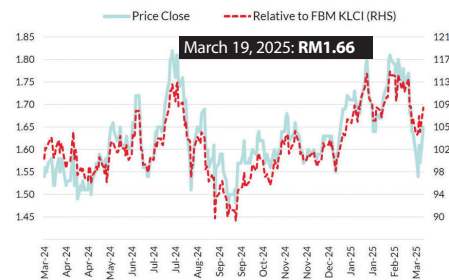
Exchange Rates

FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 Australian Dollar	2.8770	2.7610	2.7450
1 Brunei Dollar	3.3760	3.2790	3.2710
1 Canadian Dollar	3.1400	3.0560	3.0440
1 Euro	4.9250	4.7670	4.7470
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.6250	2.5290	2.5130
1 Singapore Dollar	3.3760	3.2790	3.2710
1 Sterling Pound	5.8520	5.6670	5.6470
1 Swiss Franc	5.1610	4.9440	4.9290
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.7790	3.5190	3.3190
100 Danish Krone	67.6900	62.2900	62.0900
100 Hongkong Dollar	58.5000	55.5900	55.3900
100 Indian Rupee	5.2800	4.9600	4.7600
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0282	0.0255	0.0205
100 Japanese Yen	3.0140	2.9180	2.9080
100 Norwegian Krone	43.6900	40.1900	39.9900
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.6300	1.5300	1.3300
100 Philippine Peso	7.9700	7.5100	7.3100
100 Saudi Riyal	121.2500	115.1100	114.9100
100 South Africa Rand	25.7100	23.2200	23.0200
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.5600	1.4300	1.2300
100 Swedish Krona	46.1200	42.0100	41.8100
100 Thai Baht	13.9700	12.3900	11.9900
1 US Dollar	4.4980	4.3640	4.3540
100 UAE Dirham	123.9000	117.4800	117.2800
100 Qatar Riyal	124.7600	118.4400	118.2400
100 New Taiwan Dollar	14.7000	N/A	N/A
100 Chinese Renminbi	62.6000	59.9600	59.9600

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

Solarvest Holdings Bhd

Buy. Target price: RM2.00



Source: Bloomberg

SOLARVEST'S subsidiary Atlantic Blue has secured its first LSS5 EPCC contract, winning the EPCC works for a 500MWac plant at Bukit Selambau, Kedah. The contract, awarded by TNB Kuala Muda Solar (TKMS), a wholly owned subsidiary of Tenaga Nasional, is valued at RM401 million. It has a relatively smaller per-MW value, as it is not a full turnkey contract. The scope includes engineering, procurement of all equipment for all solar facilities except for major equipment (Solar PV panel, inverter, combiner box and mounting structure), construction, and commissioning of the solar facility.

With this contract, we estimate that Solarvest's orderbook will increase to RM1.1-1.2 billion, reflecting a 25-36% rise from the RM877 million reported in Q3'25 (March). The company has guided GPM to remain in line with utility-scale projects at 10-15%. Construction is set to begin in 2H'26, with completion targeted for July 31, 2027. As a result, the majority of revenue contribution is anticipated in FY27. We expect the group's orderbook to remain solid, supported by the ongoing LSS5 and LSS5+ programmes, as well as the anticipated LSS6. Together, these initiatives could generate >6GW of EPCC opportunities.

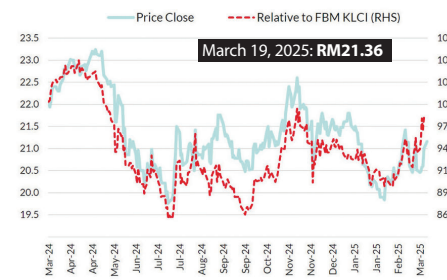
We are maintaining our earnings estimates for now, as this contract is in line with our orderbook replenishment assumptions of RM900 million for LSS5. However, we note the potential upside to FY26-27 earnings, given the announcement of LSS5+, where plant commercialisation is also expected in CY27.

Downside risks include lower-than-expected contract wins, unexpected changes in project costs, and a lack of progress in its overseas ventures.

BUY with RM2.00 TP. – RHB Research, March 19

Kuala Lumpur Kepong Bhd

Buy. Target price: RM25.40



Source: Bloomberg

KLK'S YTD-4M'25 FFB growth is down 1% YoY, mainly due to heavy rainfall across all regions. Management guided that the weather condition persisted in February (negative growth MoM), but remains hopeful of positive FFB growth for FY25 once weather normalises (albeit lower than its budgeted 10-12% growth target) – driven by Indonesia (production rose almost 100% QoQ in Q1'25). As such, we trim our FFB growth assumptions to 4-7% (from 6-8%) for FY25-27.

KLK's Q1'25 downstream margin narrowed to -0.4%, mainly from losses at its refinery sub-segment. Moving forward, management noted that there may not be a significant recovery for the refinery sub-segment in FY25, given the intensely competitive environment. The oleochemical unit, however, is anticipated to bolster the performance of the division, driven by stronger margins and sales volume recovery in Europe.

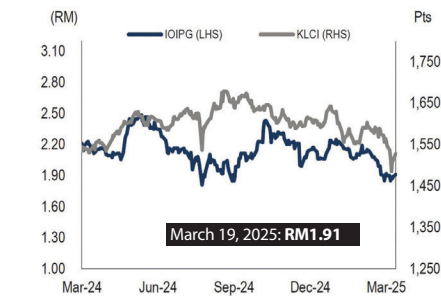
KLK's 2,500 acres of land in Kulai, Johor has been earmarked for an industrial park development, and it is currently in the midst of locking in potential JV partners. KLK would be able to benefit from land sale gains and property development profits once this JV is formed. Meanwhile, its Bandar Seri Coalfields Retail Mall is now 40% built and will be fully completed by Q2'26, with an NLA of 337k sq ft. It has a RM200-250 million GDV target for FY25, for the property division.

We raise FY25 earnings by 10.7%, but trim FY26-27 net profit by 3.4% and 8.1% after imputing lower unit costs and higher property contributions, offset by lower FFB growth and lower downstream margins.

BUY with RM25.40 TP. – RHB Research, March 19

IOI Properties Group Bhd

Buy. Target price: RM4.05



Source: HLIB Research

IOI IOI City Mall opened Phase 1 in Nov 2014 with a NLA of 1.5 million sq ft. In Aug 2022, Phase 2 added 1 million sq ft, bringing its total NLA to 2.5 million sq ft, making it the largest mall in Malaysia, surpassing 1 Utama's 2 million sq ft. Recently, IOI City Mall achieved yet another milestone as the mall with the most solar panels in Malaysia. It has successfully installed 15,757 solar modules, covering 354k sq ft of rooftop space, which is roughly equivalent to the size of four football fields.

The installed panels have a lifespan of around 30 years. All of the electricity generated by the solar panels are consumed by the mall during daytime, with no excess electricity sold to TNB. The estimated electricity generated by the rooftop panels from Phase 1 and 2 are 369 MWh/month and 446 MWh/month respectively. On the other hand, the estimated electricity consumption by the mall is approximately 10,000 MWh/month. Hence, around 8.2% of the mall power consumption are powered by its solar rooftop.

Based on 30-year lifespan and a total capex of RM18 million, the capex per month based on a straight-line basis works out to be RM50k. In contrast, if the solar-generated electricity (815 MWh per month) were instead sourced from TNB, we estimate that it would incur a monthly cost of RM502.2k. This calculation is based on an effective tariff rate of 61.62 sen/kWh, which includes (i) a base tariff of 45.62 sen/kWh (effective 1 July 2025, up from 39.95 sen/kWh currently); and (ii) an ICPT surcharge assumption of 16 sen/kWh. As a result, the rooftop solar installation delivers electricity cost savings of approximately RM452k per month, amounting to RM5.4 million annually.

BUY with RM4.05 TP. – HLIB Research, March 19



the Sun **LYFE**

THURSDAY | MAR 20, 2025

Editorial
T: 03-7784 6688
F: 03-7785 2625
E: lifestyle@thesundaily.com

Advertising
T: 03-7784 8888
E: advertise@thesundaily.com

WEEKLY **FOCUS**

MONDAY

Technology and
social media

TUESDAY

Travel
and leisure

WEDNESDAY

Fashion
and beauty

THURSDAY

Home
and living

FRIDAY

Food
and beverage

Smart, efficient living

**From energy saving to
delicate washing - P22**



- 123RF/PIC

INSIDE

p23

Getting better
audio at home

p24

K-drama with
unique premise

p25

Companion's
dark comedy

p26

Babymonster
coming to KL



SMART and efficient home solutions not only save time and energy but also enhance overall well-being by ensuring optimised living spaces.

Investing in the right home products can lead to long-term benefits, from reduced energy consumption to improved health and greater convenience.

Here are four new products designed to improve your home experience:

Xiaomi Mijia Air Conditioner Pro Eco

Xiaomi has introduced the Mijia Air Conditioner Pro Eco, bringing artificial intelligence (AI)-powered cooling and energy efficiency to Malaysian homes.

With a five-star energy efficiency rating and a CSPF of 5.97, this product integrates an AI energy-saving mode that adapts cooling strategies based on environmental conditions.

The 30-second fast cooling feature ensures rapid temperature adjustment, while turbo mode provides instant cooling when needed. The comfort wind system, designed with swing blades and micro-holes, delivers a gentle and even airflow.

Smart home integration is a key highlight. Through the Xiaomi Home app, users can control temperature settings remotely, track energy usage and customise sleep patterns. AI in favourite mode learns user preferences to create a personalised cooling experience.

With built-in OTA updates, the Mijia Air Conditioner Pro Eco continues to improve its performance through upgraded algorithms and intelligent fault diagnostics. Additionally, its self-cleaning function ensures hassle-free maintenance, with automatic filter alerts for optimal air quality.

LG Dualcool AI air conditioner

LG Electronics has launched the latest Dualcool AI air conditioner, integrating AI core-tech to enhance energy efficiency, comfort and air quality.

Powered by AI Dual Inverter, the air conditioner detects ambient temperature and intelligently adjusts settings for consistent cooling.

The AI air mode features a human-detecting sensor that tracks movement and learns usage patterns via the ThinQ app, optimising airflow based on real-time needs. For nighttime comfort, Sleep Timer+ analyses sleep patterns to maintain an optimal



Xiaomi's smart, energy-efficient air conditioner with AI-powered cooling and seamless smart home integration.

Innovative home solutions

➤ Products designed to make life more convenient

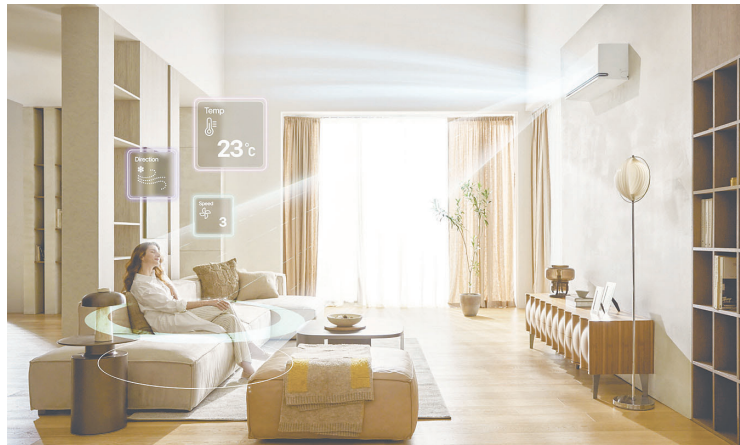
temperature with minimal noise. The Dual Vane system and Soft Air function further enhance airflow control.

The Dualcool AI air also prioritises energy efficiency. AI kW Manager allows users to set and monitor energy consumption, while the window open detection and human-detecting sensor automatically switch to energy-saving mode when the room is unoccupied.

Clean air is another key focus. The all cleaning mode, activated through the ThinQ app, performs a full maintenance cycle, including Freeze Cleaning and Auto Clean+. The Plasmaster Ionizer++ eliminates bacteria, ensuring a healthier indoor environment.

Revor & Novaya Latex

Malaysia's luxury latex mattress brand Revor has partnered with Belgium's Novaya Latex, the world's largest latex bedding manufacturer, to bring world-class natural latex mattresses to Malaysia. As demand



LG's intelligent air conditioner with AI-driven comfort, energy efficiency and air purification.

for premium sleep solutions grows, this collaboration aims to bridge the gap between quality, durability and affordability.

The collaboration introduces innovations such as the Nano Sense Spring mattress, featuring a seven-zone latex core and a latex-encapsulated pocket spring design for spinal alignment and pressure relief.

The Anatomic Sprung Core,

available in four firmness levels, optimises support for key areas such as the shoulders, loins and pelvis. Additionally, Black Diamond-infused latex enhances thermal comfort and overnight recovery.

These mattresses are eco-friendly and free from synthetic materials. They are now available at bedding megastore Mattress Premium Outlet (MPO). MPO's

Dark Room allows visitors to test mattresses in a sleep-friendly environment.

Electrolux UltimateCare

Electrolux has expanded its UltimateCare laundry series, introducing a washing machine and dryer range designed for delicate fabrics. Engineered for Malaysian households, this new range ensures gentle yet effective cleaning while preserving fabric integrity.

With a full-load wash cycle completed in just 45 minutes, the UltimateCare range delivers convenience without compromising care. The Hijab & Batik Care programme protects delicate textiles, while the Hygienic Care wash at 40°C provides soft vapour cleaning for everyday wear and baby clothes.

Additionally, the Sanitise Program, verified by Swissatest, uses steam at over 60°C to eliminate bacteria and viruses. The eco-friendly design ensures minimal water and energy consumption, reinforcing Electrolux's commitment to sustainability.

To mark the launch, Electrolux has partnered with the *hijab* brand Tudunggruffe ahead of the Hari Raya celebrations.



Explore world-class Belgian latex mattresses for better sleep quality.

The new Electrolux UltimateCare laundry range.



BY R.BALA

LAPTOPS, desktops and smart phones have become technological marvels. They are now ubiquitous throughout society, able to do a million and one things.

Accordingly, many rely on them for audio-visual entertainment. But are they up to scratch when it comes to audio quality? Yes, they will produce sound for sure but is it good enough?

This is where digital-to-analogue converters (DACs) come into play. Even though most modern devices, such as smartphones, computers and some audio components, have built-in DACs, there are several reasons why audiophiles and enthusiasts choose to use a standalone (external) DAC:

➔ **Sound quality**

The DACs built into devices are often rudimentary and merely designed to get the job done. In contrast, standalone DACs, especially high-end models, employ superior components, advanced circuitry and more robust power supplies. This results in better sound quality, improved dynamic range, lower noise floor and more accurate conversion of the digital signal to analogue. So, it has the potential to elevate the entire listening or viewing experience.

➔ **Purpose-built for one reason**

Standalone DACs are designed solely for audio conversion, whereas the built-in DACs are multi-purpose and may be influenced by other components or processes running on the device. A dedicated DAC can focus solely on the conversion process, leading to better performance.

➔ **Noise reduction**

In many electronics, the internal audio path (from the source to the built-in DAC) can introduce noise, interference or quality degradation. By using an external DAC, you bypass the internal audio circuitry, potentially improving sound quality.

➔ **Allows for upgrades**

A standalone unit will allow for easy upgrades when budgets permit.



Flexibility and ease of upgrade are among the advantages of having a dedicated DAC. – PIC FROM FACEBOOK @WEISSENGINEERING

Digital-to-analogue converters – why you need one

➔ Standalone DACs can provide greater audio clarity, accuracy, noise reduction



High-end DACs, such as this Naim Audio model, promise better audio quality. – PIC FROM FACEBOOK @DAC

Instead of having to replace the entire device, standalone units can be easily swapped out for even better audio quality.

➔ **Easy, flexible connectivity**

Standalone DACs often offer a wider range of input and output connections, such as coaxial, optical, USB and balanced outputs, allowing

for greater flexibility in connecting to various sources and amplifiers or headphones.

➔ **Support for high-resolution audio**
Many external DACs can handle high-resolution audio formats (example DSD, 24-bit/192kHz) that built-in DACs may not support or struggle with.

➔ **Extras**

Many standalone DACs come with additional features, such as headphone amplifiers, volume controls or even equalisation options, providing a more

comprehensive and customisable audio experience.

In short, if you want the best audio, keep saving those pennies for a dedicated DAC.

Lotus's, Coca-Cola team up for Ramadan CSR to help families in need

THIS Ramadan, Lotus's Malaysia has launched a month-long #KitakanJiran donation drive in partnership with Coca-Cola Refreshments Malaysia to support 200 vulnerable Muslim families through local mosques.

These families are set to receive Lotus's fresh whole chicken and RM250 worth of staple commodities

to enable them to fast comfortably and have nutritious meals through the season.

Volunteers from both companies delivered the first batch of aid on the tenth day of Ramadan to the congregation of Masjid Sembilang Seberang Jaya and will do the same for communities in Rawang, Bandar



Volunteers from Lotus's Malaysia and Coca-Cola packing food boxes for families in need.



Volunteers at Masjid Sembilang Seberang Jaya deliver the first batch of aid.

Puteri Bangi and Kota Bharu in the following weeks.

"The opportunity to do good never fails to bring people together. This donation drive will help provide our volunteers and business partners a united sense of purpose and fulfilment, especially during Ramadan," said Lotus's Malaysia communication and sustainability head Hanim Hamdan.

Using its nationwide network, Lotus's Malaysia is committed to helping communities in 40 locations this Ramadan. The total value for fresh whole chicken, staple commodities, beverages, confectionery and sauces to be donated is estimated to be RM250,000.

"Around 220 volunteers will go around the country to hand over alms to Muslim communities and their

local mosques for over 16,000 people in need and their families. Ramadan is a great month of giving," Hanim said.

As in previous years, Lotus's Malaysia will hold its Ramadan cookout. About 600 freshly cooked hot meals will be prepared by Lotus's Malaysia, with support from volunteers from its long-time charity partner Food Aid Foundation and brand partners, for those in need.



Fresh reset

➤ Different take on love, new beginnings

BY THASHINE SELVAKUMARAN

A new K-drama addition featuring big stars is set to captivate viewers with its refreshing take on love and second chances.

The Divorce Insurance brings

together a stellar cast, including Lee Dong-wook, Lee Da-hee, Lee Joo-bin and Lee Kwang-soo in a story that explores the complexities of relationships through the lens of an unconventional insurance policy.

At first glance, *The Divorce Insurance* might seem like just another romantic comedy, but its premise is refreshingly unconventional. The series follows Noh Ki-jun (Dong-wook), a skilled actuary who has been through three divorces. Understanding the emotional and financial toll that comes with separation, he develops a unique insurance policy to help people navigate the unpredictable nature of divorce.

Dong-wook's takes on the role of Noh Ki-jun, an insurance actuary in the innovation product development team.



The drama is a pure office romantic-comedy.

Joining him in this bold venture is Kang Han-deul (Joo-bin), an underwriter who redefines her life post-divorce. An Jeon-man (Kwang-soo), a cautious risk surveyor stepping out of his comfort zone and Jeon Na-rae (Da-hee), a sharp-witted financial mathematician who wasted no time ending her marriage after realising her values did not align with her ex-husband's.

To learn more about their characters and insights, *theSun* had an interview with the cast.

What makes the series stand out?

The series offers a fresh perspective on life after divorce — one that is not just about heartbreak but also about growth and new beginnings. Lee Jo-been, who plays Kang Han-deul, believes this is what sets *The Divorce Insurance* apart.

"Divorce, by nature, is provocative and extreme. It is a deeply painful process where people hurt themselves and others, but it can also be a new beginning, opening the door to happiness. In the series, I chose to focus more on life after divorce than on the process itself. I hope viewers find courage through the drama and live the rest of their lives in a way that celebrates what is to come."

Da-hee echoed this sentiment: "Rather than seeing it solely as a story about divorce, I hope viewers can enjoy it as a romantic comedy. It is also about self-discovery and the new relationships that form along the way and I would love for audiences to experience that journey."

Preparing for roles

Since divorce is the central theme of this drama, the cast took different approaches to prepare for their characters.

Dong-wook focused on making his character likable despite his complicated history.

"Ki-jun is an actuary who creates insurance plans. He has been married three times, divorced all three times. Because of this, he understands deeply the impact of divorce on a person's life, which is why he comes up with the idea of creating divorce insurance. Since the series is a romantic comedy, I focused on making Ki-jun a lovable character."

Meanwhile, Jo-bin conducted research to understand the emotions tied to divorce.

"Since I have not personally experienced either marriage or divorce, I watched various series and movies on the topic for reference, and also interviewed people around me who had gone through it."

For Kwang-soo, bringing his character to life was all about closely studying the script.

"I prepared for my role primarily by studying the script, as it vividly brings my character to life through his lines and detailed descriptions. I also discussed how to bring my character to life with the director a lot before and after filming."

Da-hee, on the other hand, sought advice from those around her.

"Since I am not married, divorce is not something I can personally relate to, which made certain aspects of the

role challenging. However, I prepared by seeking advice from those around me."

What makes the characters interesting?

Each cast member brings something unique to their role, creating a dynamic and engaging ensemble.

Jo-bin sees her character Han-deul as someone who finds strength in optimism.

"Han-deul tries to maintain a positive outlook even when surrounded by negativity, and she remains calm when emotions run high. Her patience reflects persistence, and her prudence makes her reliable. It is her charm to be unwaveringly kind and never give up on people, even within the confines of a professional relationship. At times, her quirky yet serious nature even makes her endearing."

For Kwang-soo, it was Jeon-man's dry personality that stood out.

"Personally, I found Jeon-man's dry demeanor quite charming. I believe viewers will enjoy watching him gradually grow and transform as he works with his colleagues at Plus General Insurance to develop a divorce insurance product."

Da-hee highlighted the chemistry between her character and Ki-jun, along with the team dynamics.

"Viewers will enjoy watching the dynamic between my character and Ki-jun, as well as her teamwork with the Plus General Insurance TF team."

Different side of Kwang-soo

Known for his impeccable comedic timing, Kwang-soo's role in *The Divorce Insurance* balances comedy and drama.

"Jeon-man is serious about everything, cold and independent. There are some comic elements that come with Jeon-man's coldness that add to his charm, so I think viewers will be able to see various sides of the character."

At its core, this series is about handling life's unpredictability.

With its heartfelt storytelling and well-crafted characters, the series offers a refreshing and uplifting take on second chances and is sure to break the mold of traditional rom-coms.

The Divorce Insurance premieres on Prime Video on March 31.



The series will premiere on March 31.

TV SHOW REVIEW



Cast:
Sophie Thatcher,
Jack Quaid,
Lukas Gage,
Megan Suri,
Rupert Friend

Director:
Drew Hancock

E-VALUE **8**
ACTING **7**
PLOT **5**

Quaid's Josh (left) could be a parody of lonely modern men. — **PIC FROM WARNER BROS PICTURES**

BY MARK MATHEN VICTOR

FILM studios still seem happy with handing off the final cut of their movies to trailer houses that love to spoil twists that would be best enjoyed by watching the film. Unfortunately, *Companion* is a victim of this.

Against an almost diabetic, sappy love song, *Companion* opens with Iris (Sophie Thatcher) recalling the moment she first met the love of her life Josh (Jack Quaid) in a supermarket.

She claims she was happiest during two moments in her life. As he fumbles his first words to her before triggering an avalanche of oranges from a counter, Iris says the first was when she met Josh and the second was when she killed him.

It is the perfect setup to a dark comedy with shades of romance. Eventually, the couple arrives at a remote cabin for a gathering with friends that would go

Twisted *Companion*

► Quaid, Thatcher star in techno-dark comedy with romantic elements

technologically awry.

This film should be watched without knowing its twists beforehand. Drew Hancock's *Companion* only reveals its big surprise around 30 minutes into the film, which means Warner Bros Pictures threw the filmmaker and his movie under the bus by disclosing the twist in marketing content.

That said, the film is still entertaining as Thatcher continues to make her mark as a "scream queen," with her role in *Companion* vaguely similar to last year's *Heretic*. Her role in this film is meatier, as

she has to embody the duality that Iris requires.

Similarly, Quaid is also good, as he continues to pick film roles playing a scumbag – as though to balance his goody two-shoes character in *The Boys*, which he is more known for.

Without spoiling anything, the film's central premise involves technology but *Companion* does not have much to say about the morality of what it presents to the audience.

It has brief moments of extreme unease, such as when one of Josh's acquaintances,

Sergey – played by Rupert Friend with an intentionally bad Russian accent – forces himself on Iris and she fights back.

There are other moments similar to this, like Josh's uncomfortable incel rant about being a "nice guy", his relationship and views of women and so on, but *Companion* quickly glosses over these in exchange for bursts of comedy and/or violence.

Unfortunately, there is nothing to *Companion*'s exoskeleton beyond a layer of skin made of the lead performances and humour.

Companion is available on Prime Video.

Late singer's final tracks to be released on Record Store Day

BY R.BALA

A four track EP by the late singer Marianne Faithfull joins an exclusive list of releases for Record Store Day on April 12.

Titled *Burning Moonlight*, the tracks were inspired by Faithfull's first two solo albums. The eponymous debut was more pop-oriented while *Come My Way* is a folkier reflection of her artistic persona. Incredibly, both LPs were released on the same day on April 15, 1965 – quite a brave commercial move, even back then.

Side one contains the title track as well as *Love Is*, which showcases her pop sensibilities. Side two of the EP contains a rendition of a traditional folk song *Three Kinsmen Bold* alongside a new version of a Faithfull staple *She Moved Thru the Fair*.

Faithfull passed on at the age of 78 on Jan 30, which led to the delay in the EP's release. It had been slated to drop in

February but it is aptly now part of the Record Store Day exclusives. The EP is Faithfull's first release since the album *She Walks in Beauty* with Warren Ellis, released in 2021.

Faithfull's son Nicholas Dunbar said in a statement: "As we grieve (her) loss, we are pleased to announce the release of these songs which she worked on during the year before her death. (She) lived to create and perform music – it was her driving force and she never stopped. Right up until the end, she was looking forward to this release which now completes and celebrates her remarkable artistic career."

Record Store Day was conceived in 2007 as an annual event to help independent music stores face the challenges of the digital era. Artists and record labels announce exclusive limited edition vinyl pressings with the aim of getting punters to visit and support local neighbourhood music emporiums.



Faithfull's final record is a reflection of her past work. — **PICS FROM FACEBOOK @MARIANNEFAITHFULL**



The British singer, actress and model is known for a long and storied musical career dating back to the 60s.



Wolf Howl Harmony comprises (from left) Suzuki, Hiroto, Ryoji and Ghee.

Wolf Howl Harmony drops debut album

RISING Japanese group Wolf Howl Harmony has emerged into the spotlight, releasing its first studio album *Wolf*.

Capturing the essence of each member, the album showcases its determination, aspirations and journey of coming together to seize a chance at stardom.

The group's recent track *Bakuon* highlights its rebellious spirit and determination to rise above, serving as an anthem of confidence and defiance.

Its evolution is further showcased through the album's two special editions, the Live Edition and the Member Produce Edition.

The Live Edition features footage from its Neo Exile Special Live 2024, whereas the Member Produce Edition reveals the members' different personalities.

Fans can get them in striking packaging, with the Live Edition housed in a can case and the Member Produce Edition in a paper case, making it an essential addition for fans and collectors alike.

Formed in 2022, the group comprises members Ghee, Hiroto, Ryoji and Suzuki.

All of them were finalists of the Japanese entertainment company LDH's iCON Z Dreams For Children audition in 2022, which saw around 48,000 participants.

Upon formation, the group settled on its name as it reflects the idea that the members' intertwined life stories brought them together like lone wolves.



Youngohm (left) and VannDa worked together for *Smoke Up*.

VannDa releases *Treyvisai* trilogy

CAMBODIAN rapper VannDa has started the release of his trilogy of mini-albums entitled *Treyvisai*, translates to "the compass", with the first released last Friday, titled *Treyvisai I: The Search For Light*. The album contains high-energy tracks such as *Out of My Mind*, *Me, My Flow & I* and *Fishing*.

The lead track *Smoke Up* features a collaboration with Thai rapper Youngohm, marking a significant moment in Southeast Asian hip-hop, showcasing the synergy between two of the region's biggest rappers blending their unique styles.

"When VannDa reached out, it felt like the perfect fit. I have followed his career and really respect what he has built. *Smoke Up* was a natural collaboration," said Youngohm.

Tomorrow, the second mini-album *Treyvisai II: Burn Like the Sun* will drop. A notable collaboration on this mini-album is Laotian singer Thinlamphone on *Lovesick Blue*. The final instalment, *Treyvisai III: The Return to Sovannaphum* will arrive on May 1.

After the final mini-album, VannDa will headline *Treyvisai Legacy Concert* on May 3 and *Treyvisai Sovannaphum Concert* on May 17.



Babymonster is a multinational girl group under YG Entertainment.

Babymonster to perform in Kuala Lumpur

BABYMONSTER, shortened as Baemon, is set to bring its 2025 1st World Tour Hello Monsters to Kuala Lumpur on June 21 at Axiata Arena.

The septet, known for its dynamic performances, will hold its first arena-sized concert in the city, delivering a show with a powerful stage presence.

Consisting of Ruka, Pharita, Asa, Ahyeon, Rami, Rora and Chiquita, Babymonster, under YG Entertainment, is a multinational lineup from Korea, Thailand and Japan.

The group debuted on April 1 last year with its first EP *Babymons7er*,

➤ K-pop girl group will play at Axiata Arena on June 21

following the singles *Batter Up* and *Stuck In The Middle*.

With the band's combined vocal, rap and performance skills, the outfit has earned the title "monster rookie", captivating fans worldwide.

Fans can expect a high-energy setlist featuring its biggest hits, stunning visuals and an immersive stage production. Live Nation members can secure tickets during the presale today. General ticket sales open tomorrow.

The tour, which began in January, has already made its way through major US cities, including Newark and Los Angeles, following the opening leg in Seoul.

As part of its global expansion, the group will also perform in Singapore, Hong Kong, Ho Chi Minh, Bangkok, Jakarta and Taipei. Babymonster has expressed excitement on connecting with fans across different regions and delivering an unforgettable concert experience.

GenBlue plans to meet fans in Malaysia



GenBlue has now become the first girl group from Taiwan to enter the South Korean physical album market with the EP.

GENBLUE, the dynamic girl group from Taiwan, is taking K-pop by storm with the release of its first Korean EP *Act Like That*, which also involves a promotional tour across Asia, including Malaysia, in the pipeline.

Comprising Xxin, Ayeon, Yuan, Lili, Ayako and Nico, Genblue has now become the first girl group from Taiwan to enter the South Korean physical album market with this release.

The EP comes with four tracks ranging from catchy to soothing, namely *Act Like That*, *Oh!*, *Slow Down* and *Feel Like Spring*. Since its release, it has been making rounds online, especially the music video of *Act Like That*, which features a one-take choreography and a showcase of its bold yet bubbly side.

Formed under Taiwan-based label Ten Entertainment, GenBlue rose to prominence on the reality show *Next Girlz* in 2023. The group's name, a combination of "Generation" and "Blue", symbolises the vibrancy of a new era and the endless ocean.

After training with top-tier instructors from JYP, YG, SM and Hybe, Genblue made history as the first girl group from Taiwan to debut in Korea with its single *Cococo* in 2024, followed by a K-Pop Rookie Award win at the Korean Culture and Entertainment Awards.

The group has been making its mark in Korea with music show performances, album signing events, flashmobs, exclusive pop-up stores and photo booth collaborations.

To record the album, the Mandarin-speaking members dedicated themselves to learning Korean. All of them have also been improving their English for better interactions with international fans.

"This album is a reflection of GenBlue's essence and we dedicate it to our fans as a token of appreciation for their support," GenBlue leader Xxin shared.

GenBlue has hinted at the possibility of a special fan event, if the music video of *Act Like That* surpasses 30 million views.



Others

Discover The Super Power of Magnum 4D Barcode System :

3 Important keys to boost your winning results.

Click to join :
www.4dpodium.com
012-2392775

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF SB EQUITY SDN. BHD. 199201009602 (241105-M) (In Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act 2016, that a Final Meeting of the Company will be held at SOHO Suites @ KLCC, Block A2, Level 32-3A, No. 20, Jalan Perak, 50450 Kuala Lumpur on 21 April 2025 at 10.00 a.m. for the following purposes:

AGENDA:

1. To receive and consider the Liquidator's Statement of Accounts and Report showing how the winding up has been conducted and to receive any explanation thereon.
2. To consider, and if thought fit, pass the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:-
"That the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator shall be kept by the Liquidator for a period of three (3) months from the date of the Final Meeting and that thereafter such books, accounts and documents may be destroyed by the Liquidator."

Dated this 30 March 2025

Chong Ai Ling
Liquidator

Note:

The Member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy (or in the case of a corporation, to appoint a representative) to attend and vote in his place. The Form of Proxy may be obtained from the office of the Liquidator located at SOHO Suites @ KLCC, Block A2, Level 32-3A, No. 20, Jalan Perak, 50450 Kuala Lumpur. The appointment of a proxy must be lodged at the Liquidators' office at least forty eight (48) hours before the meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF SENI INSPIRASI SDN. BHD. 199501009540 (141999-D) (In Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act 2016, that a Final Meeting of the Company will be held at SOHO Suites @ KLCC, Block A2, Level 32-3A, No. 20, Jalan Perak, 50450 Kuala Lumpur on 21 April 2025 at 10.00 a.m. for the following purposes:

AGENDA:

1. To receive and consider the Liquidator's Statement of Accounts and Report showing how the winding up has been conducted and to receive any explanation thereon.
2. To consider, and if thought fit, pass the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:-
"That the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator shall be kept by the Liquidator for a period of three (3) months from the date of the Final Meeting and that thereafter such books, accounts and documents may be destroyed by the Liquidator."

Dated this 20 March 2025

Chong Ai Ling
Liquidator

Note:

The Member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy (or in the case of a corporation, to appoint a representative) to attend and vote in his place. The Form of Proxy may be obtained from the office of the Liquidator located at SOHO Suites @ KLCC, Block A2, Level 32-3A, No. 20, Jalan Perak, 50450 Kuala Lumpur. The appointment of a proxy must be lodged at the Liquidators' office at least forty eight (48) hours before the meeting.

theSun WE ARE HIRING!

HR & ADMIN POSITIONS : (Executive/Senior/Assistant Manager)

Job Description

- Maintain HR records, including employee files, salaries and benefits information.
- Handle employee attendance records, payroll and claims.
- Handle employee relations and resolve any workplace conflicts or issues.
- Provide HR support and guidance to managers and employees.
- Ensure compliance with all employment laws and regulations.
- Stay updated on changes in work legislation and industry standards.
- Handle employee training and development programmes.
- Manage employee benefits programmes and ensure compliance with regulations.
- Stay updated on current industry trends and best practices in HR management.
- For Senior/Assistant Manager – with supervisor skills.
- Handle recruitment matters.
- Experience in payroll system would be advantageous.
- Handle General Admin and other HR duties.

Requirements

- Diploma/Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management or related field.
- Executive: 1+ years of experience in HR & Admin or related field.
- Senior: 3+ years of experience in HR & Admin or related field.
- Asst Manager: 5+ years of experience in HR & Admin or related field.
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply for Assistant Executive post.
- Basic HR knowledge and proficiency in Microsoft Office.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.

SAFETY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE (Executive)

Job Description

- Perform routine and preventive maintenance on factory & office building systems, including HVAC, electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems.
- Conduct regular inspections of the factory & office building to identify and address maintenance issues.
- Respond promptly to maintenance requests and ensure timely resolution.
- Maintain accurate records of maintenance activities, including work orders, inspections and repairs.
- Ensure all maintenance activities comply with relevant health, safety and environmental regulations.
- Coordinate with external contractors and vendors for specialised maintenance and repair works.
- Monitor and optimise energy usage to improve efficiency and reduce costs.
- Assist in preparation and management of maintenance budget.
- Assist in any ad-hoc operations and admin tasks assigned by Management from time to time.

Requirements

- Diploma/Degree in Building or Facilities Management, Safety & Health or related field.
- Additional certificate: Electrical Chargeman, preferably A4 or minimum A1 would be an added advantage.
- Minimum of one year of experience in Building Maintenance or Safety & Health.
- Adequate technical knowledge of building systems (HVAC, electrical, plumbing etc).
- Excellent problem-solving and troubleshooting skills.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Able to work flexi hours.
- Able to handle urgent and last-minute job request.

Send in your CV with your photo via email to: thesun.hr2@gmail.com
(Closing Date: March 31, 2025)

322 Notices

SALE BY TENDER

Offers are hereby invited to tender on "as is where is" basis with the other terms and conditions imposed therein for the following assets situated at Lebuh Bandar 4, Bandar Baru Kulim, Kulim, Kedah.

No.	Particular of Title	Land Use as per title	Land Area (sq. meters)
1.	GRN 127761 Lot No. 845, Section 44	"Tapak Kompleks Membeli Belah"	8,241

Offeror(s) are advised to perform his owned inspection and viewing of the assets at their own arrangement. Tender Form must reach the Liquidator's office on or before **12 Noon on 10th April 2025** in seal envelope stated "TENDER SK001/01/25/KYY". A deposit of 10% of the tender price by way of bank draft shall be enclosed together with the Tender Form and will only be returned if the tender is not successful. Tender Form in softcopy can be purchased at **RM 100.00** per set from the liquidator's office. Any queries and questions can be addressed to Ms. Chan May Fang at +6012-4553727.

Liquidator

KOMPLEK SERI KULIM SDN BHD (In Liquidation)
c/o Moores Rowland Insolvency Services PLT
33B, Jalan Pahang, 10400 Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia

302 Jobs

theSun
Malaysian Paper

WE ARE HIRING

1 MEDIA SALES Executive/Specialist

Job Description

- Building and sustaining strong working relationship with advertising agencies and clients.
- New business development and business retention.
- Conceptualise, plan and execute creative and innovative marketing campaigns to enhance brand visibility and engagement.
- Create, develop and continuously improve marketing material, presentations and proposals that showcase our products/services effectively.

Requirements

- SPM level with at least two years of experience.
- Diploma or Bachelor's degree in business, marketing or other related fields.
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply, training will be provided.
- Good communication, presentation, problem-solving and organisational skills.
- Passionate in client servicing.
- Possess own transport and willing to travel.
- Able to start work immediately.

Office based in Petaling Jaya (Five-day week)

2 MEDIA SALES Representative/Agent (Freelance)

Requirement

- Minimum one year sales experience in classified ad, print and digital advertising.
- Those without sales experience but with media advertising knowledge may also apply.
- Attractive commission package and incentives.
- Able to start immediately.
- Central, Northern, Southern, East Coast and Sabah/Sarawak.

Send in your CV with your photo via email to : thesun.hr2@gmail.com

322 Notices

NOTICE BENEFICIAL CLAIM OVER KOMPLEK SERI KULIM

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA IN ALOR SETAR IN THE STATE OF KEDAH DARUL AMAN, MALAYSIA COMPANIES (WINDING UP) NO: 28-36-2007

In the matter of the Companies Act, 1965
And
In the matter of KOMPLEK SERI KULIM SDN BHD (264927-V) (In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to any claimants who have interests in 60 shop lot units located at Komplek Seri Kulim ("the said Properties") erected on a (1) piece of land held under title Geran No. 127761 Lot No. 845 (Formerly known as PT 1593) Section 44, Town and District Kulim, Kedah, the particulars of which are append below:-

Ground Floor (Unit No.) – total 32 units
5, 6, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55
First Floor (Unit No.) – total 20 units
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 20, 22, 25, 26, 34, 42, 45, 51, 53, 56,
Second Floor (Unit No.) – total 8 units
35, 36, 37, 47, 48, 49, 51, 58

TAKE NOTICE that anyone who have any claim over the said Properties is required to prove one's claim of beneficial ownership at one's own cost, unless the Court otherwise orders, by submitting a certified true copy of each of all supporting documents such as but not limited to the sale and purchase agreement(s), loan agreement(s), copy of NRIC (individual), Form(s) 9, 13, 24 and 49 (corporation), official receipts issued by the Developer for any payment(s), made by the Claimant and/or any other relevant documents. Such supporting documents must be received by the Liquidators on or before 20.04.2025 at the following address:

The Liquidator
KOMPLEK SERI KULIM SDN BHD
c/o Moores Rowland Insolvency Services PLT
33B, Jalan Pahang, 10400 Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia

Tel no. 04 227 4111
Mobile no. 012-4553727

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if no claim over the said Properties received by the Liquidator on or before 20.04.2025 the Liquidator reserve his right to dispose/vest the said Properties without further notice after 20.04.2025.

Dated this 20.03.2025

Khor Yong Yong
Liquidator

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF SMELTER ASIA SDN. BHD. 200201020403 (588066-W) (In Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act 2016, that a Final Meeting of the Company will be held at SOHO Suites @ KLCC, Block A2, Level 32-3A, No. 20, Jalan Perak, 50450 Kuala Lumpur on 21 April 2025 at 10.00 a.m. for the following purposes:

AGENDA:

1. To receive and consider the Liquidator's Statement of Accounts and Report showing how the winding up has been conducted and to receive any explanation thereon.
2. To consider, and if thought fit, pass the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:-
"That the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator shall be kept by the Liquidator for a period of three (3) months from the date of the Final Meeting and that thereafter such books, accounts and documents may be destroyed by the Liquidator."

Dated this 20 March 2025

Chong Ai Ling
Liquidator

Note:

The Member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy (or in the case of a corporation, to appoint a representative) to attend and vote in his place. The Form of Proxy may be obtained from the office of the Liquidator located at SOHO Suites @ KLCC, Block A2, Level 32-3A, No. 20, Jalan Perak, 50450 Kuala Lumpur. The appointment of a proxy must be lodged at the Liquidators' office at least forty eight (48) hours before the meeting.

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI SEREMBAN
DALAM NEGERI SEMBILAN DARUL KHUSUS, MALAYSIA
NO. PENGUNDILAN SYARIAH: MA-280C-15-03/2025

Dalam perkara Sekyen 465 (1) (e) Akta Syarikat 2016, peruntukan-peruntukan dalam Akta Syarikat 2016 dan Kaedah-Kaedah (Penggunaan) Syarikat 1972

DAN

Dalam perkara Terra Zano SDN Bhd. (No. Syarikat: 199701020719 (436216-P))

ANTARA

PERBADANAN USAHAHAN NASIONAL BERNAD (NO. SYARIAH: 199101010745 (221067-V))

PEMPETISYEN

TERRA ZONE SDN. BHD.

(NO. SYARIAH: 199701020719 (436216-P))

RESPONDEN

ILAN PETISIYEN

NOTIS adalah dengan ini diberi bahawa Petisyen Pengalangan Syarikat yang dinamakan di atas oleh Mahkamah Tinggi di Seremban adalah pada 10th Mac 2025 diumumkan kepada Mahkamah tersebut oleh Perbadanan Usahawan Nasional Berhad. Dan bahawa Petisyen tersebut adalah untuk didengar di hadapan Mahkamah Tinggi Insolvency yang berang di Seremban pada hari Isnin, 28th April 2025 pada pukul 9:00 pagi dan mana-mana pemegang atau penyumbang syarikat tersebut yang ingin menyokong atau menentang pembiutan perintah ke atas Petisyen tersebut boleh hadir pada masa pendengaran oleh beliau sendiri atau Peguamcaranya untuk tujuan itu dan sedial Petisyen akan diberikan kepada mana-mana Pemegang atau penyumbang Syarikat tersebut yang memertuakan oleh penandatangani di bawah ("undersigned") atas pembayaran caj terkawal untuk yang sama.

Alamat Pempetisyen adalah di Tingkat 7, Blok 18, Plaza Sentral, Jalan Stesen Sentral 5, Kuala Lumpur Sentral, 50470 Kuala Lumpur

Peguamcara Pempetisyen ialah Tetuan Kama & Wan, yang beralamat di 5-1-1, Jalan Medan PB 4A, Seksyen 9, 43600 Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor Darul Ehsan.

Peguamcara bagi Pempetisyen

NOTA: Mana-mana orang yang berhasrat untuk hadir pada pendengaran Petisyen tersebut hendaklah menyampaikan atau menghantar melalui pos kepada Tetuan Kama & Wan yang dinamakan di atas, notis bertulis tentang hasratnya tersebut demikian. Notis itu mesti mengandungi nama dan alamat orang itu, atau, jika firma, nama dan alamat firma itu dan mesti diandatangani oleh orang atau firma itu atau Peguamcaranya (jika ada) dan mesti disampaikan, atau (jika dipos, mesti dihantar melalui pos) dalam masa yang mencukupi untuk sampai kepada yang dinamakan di atas tidak lewat pada pukul 12:00 tengah hari 25 April 2025.

Ikan Petisyen ini difailkan oleh Tetuan Kama & Wan, Peguamcara & Peguambela bagi pihak Pempetisyen yang mempunyai alamat untuk penyempurnaan di No. 5-1-1, Jalan Medan PB 4A, Seksyen 9, 43600 Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor Darul Ehsan. (Tel: 03 89221485) (E-mel: wan.kamawan@gmail.com)

izab sebanyak **RM 465,000.00 (RINGGIT LIMA RIBU SAHAJA)** dan kepada syarat-syarat terminat hendaklah menandatangani 10% dari jumlah atas nama **OCBC BANK (MALAYSIA) BERHAD**

**AKAN MENJUAL
LELONG**
Bada Hari Selasa, 15 April 2013

Thailand aims for F1 street race in 2028

THAILAND'S Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra met Formula One chief Stefano Domenicali on Tuesday and said the government would commission a feasibility study into hosting a Grand Prix on a Bangkok street circuit from 2028.

Thailand has an FIA accredited track in Buriram in the northeast of the country, which currently hosts a round of the MotoGP motorcycling world championships, but the proposal is for a street race in the kingdom's capital.

"We had the opportunity to discuss the opportunity of Thailand to host the Formula 1 race, which is a great sport with a worldwide following," the Thai Prime Minister posted on X after the meeting with Domenicali at Government House.

"The government confirmed that it will study this joint investment, including the study of the

race route, the investment budget, and the value for Thailand to receive from hosting the race."

Paetongtarn said she thought hosting a race would be an opportunity to upgrade Bangkok's infrastructure – the city's roads are notoriously clogged – and attract more tourists from abroad, particularly visitors in the "high-end" market.

"I believe that all Thai people will benefit from organising this event, whether it is large-scale infrastructure investment, job creation, new income generation, and importing new technologies and innovations," she added.

Formula One chief executive Domenicali also posted a statement on X, describing the plans for a Bangkok race as "impressive." "I am looking forward to continuing our discussions in the weeks and months ahead," the Italian added. – Reuters



McLaren's Lando Norris. – REUTERS/SPIC

Norris eyes China success

... as first F1 sprint beckons in Shanghai

EARLY championship leader Lando Norris knows he will face a new series of challenges at this weekend's Chinese Grand Prix, including the first sprint race of the season.

Warm and dry weather is forecast for Saturday's sprint and Sunday's second grand prix of the year on the 5.451km Shanghai International Circuit, where long turns and heavy braking zones are notoriously punishing on tyres.

The conditions will be a marked contrast to last weekend's wet and wild season-opener in Melbourne, a race run almost entirely on intermediate wet tyres and punctuated by long stints under the safety car.

McLaren's Norris survived a late slither onto gravel, damaging his car's floor, before holding off a charging Max Verstappen to take the chequered flag.

It is a fast turnaround to China, where teams will have just 60 minutes of practice on Friday morning to fine-tune their set-ups before the afternoon's sprint qualifying shootout.

The 19-lap sprint race is on Saturday morning before grand prix qualifying later the same day. Sunday sees the main race over 56 laps.

Norris finished a distant second behind Verstappen's Red Bull when Formula One returned to China last April after a five-year absence, but the Englishman is now the man to beat.

"I'm confident that when we go to China we can be very strong because we were strong there last year with not a very good car," Norris said after his Melbourne victory.

Verstappen's success in Shanghai a year ago was his fourth in five races as he dominated the early season before going on to win his fourth world championship.

But in Australia on Sunday Verstappen was easily dropped by the McLarens once Oscar

Piastri passed him for second place.

Verstappen was at one stage 16 seconds adrift before a Piastri spin and a safety car gave him a late chance to pressure Norris.

"We only have a few days before we are in China so not sure how much we will be able to find and turn around," said the Dutchman, who is seeking a fifth consecutive world title, a feat only previously achieved by Michael Schumacher.

Verstappen also won the sprint in China last year, blasting past Lewis Hamilton in a Mercedes.

Now with Ferrari, Hamilton's debut for the Italian team saw the seven-time world champion berate a car that was "a lot worse" than he thought it would be as he came home 10th.

Hamilton and teammate Charles Leclerc were also compromised by being left out too long by the team on slicks when rain returned.

Both know they are already playing catch-up.

"McLaren and Red Bull had serious pace so there's work to do, but we'll dig deep," said Hamilton. "I'm looking forward to getting back in the car in China."

Leclerc conceded: "We are disappointed but it's good to know we'll be back in the car in just a few days in China. It's a continuous process of improvement."

Mercedes won six times in China from 2012 to 2019 and had an encouraging start in Melbourne, where George Russell was third and Kimi Antonelli fourth on his debut.

Antonelli was by far the best of the six full-season rookies, with Haas's Oliver Bearman the only other to finish.

Isack Hadjar was distraught after crashing his RB on the formation lap while Alpine's Jack Doohan hit the wall on the first lap.

Gabriel Bortoletto's Sauber and Liam Lawson's RB on Sunday retired after 45 and 46 of the 58 laps respectively. – AFP

NOTIS JUALAN SECARA LELONG AWAM
Akta Pemegang Pajak-Gadai(611)1972

Sandaran-sandaran yang tidak difebus Pemegang Pajak Gadai yang tersebut dibawah ini yang merupakan sandaran-sandaran itu telah di-gadikan dalam tempoh seperti di bawah Akan Di-jual Dengan Lelong Umum Di The YMCA of Penang, No 211 Macalister Road, 10400 Georgetown, Penang. Pada Hari 7th April 2025, Waktu 9.30am.

NEGERI PULAU PINANG

No. NAMA PAJAK GADAI
ALAMAT PAJAK GADAI

- Pajak Gadai Sheng Lon (Bayan Baru) Sdn Bhd**
54 Jalan Tengah, Taman Sri Tunas, 11950 Bayan Lepas, Penang.
- Pajak Gadai Sheng Lon Sdn Bhd (Jelutong)**
124 Jalan Jelutong, 11600 Georgetown, Penang.
- Pajak Gadai Sheng Lon Sdn Bhd (Bukit Jambul)**
882 Jalan Tun Dr Awang, 11900 Bukit Jambul, Penang.
- MCG Pawnshop Sdn Bhd**
2952 Jalan Perai, Taman Inderawasih, 13600 Seberang Perai, Penang.
- Pajak Gadai Wangmax Sdn Bhd**
500 Jalan Dato Keramat, 10460 Penang.
- Pajak Gadai Wangmax Fettes Sdn Bhd**
16 Jalan Fettes, 11200 Tanjung Tokong, Penang.
- Pajak Gadai Wangmax Farlim Sdn Bhd**
63 Jalan Pisang Embun, 11500 Farlim, Penang.
- Pajak Gadai Cheng Chang Sdn Bhd**
8 Jalan Penanti 1, Taman Penanti, 14000 Bukit Mertajam, Penang.
- MCG Pawnshop (Nibong Tebal) Sdn Bhd**
34 Jalan Besar, Taman Merbah, 14300 Nibong Tebal, Penang

Sandaran-sandaran tersebut boleh diperiksa dengan Pemegang Pajak Gadai berkenaan diatas pada 20th March 2025 sehingga 26th March 2025, pukul 10.00 pagi sehingga 4.00 Petang sebelum tempoh jalan lelong itu.

Nooh Boon Hoi
Licensed Auctioneer
Peielong Berlesen

PERISTYHARAN JUALAN
DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYSIA DI SUNGAI PETANI
PERMOHONAN UNTUK PERAKSANAAN NO. KB-38-1092-10/2024

Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 256 dan 257 Kanun Tanah Negara, 1965

Dan

Dalam perkara mengenai Gadaian Persewaan NO. 13736/2013 bertarikh: 21/06/2013 ke atas semua bahagian tanah yang digedang di bawah Hakmilik Sementara NO. K.S.(D) 119751, PT 95544, Mukim Bandar Sungai Petani, Daerah Kuala Muda, Kedah

Dan

Dalam perkara mengenai Aturan 83 Kaedah-Kaedah Mahkamah, 2012

ANTARA
Public Islamic Bank Berhad (No. Syarikat : 14328-V) ...PLAINTIFF

DAN
Mohd Azwan Bin Zakkyudin (No. Kad Pengenalan : 820920145725) ...DEFENDANT

Menurut Perintah Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia di SUNGAI PETANI mengenai Perintah Jualan dan Perintah bertarikh 22 Ogos 2024 dan 19 Februari 2025, adalah dengan ini dipaparkan bahawa Timbalan Pendaftar/Pendong Keran Pendaftar Pualat Operasi e-Lelong di Kuantan

AKAN MELAJUJAL SECARA LELONG AWAM
Pada Hari Selasa, 9 April 2025, Pada Jam 9.00 pagi.
SECARA ELEKTRONIK DI LAMAN WEB e-LELONG, PUSAT OPERASI e-LELONG, KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KUANTAN, PAHANG DARUL MAJUMUR

NOTA: Bakal pembeli adalah dinasihatkan agar membuat carian Hakmilik secara rasmi di Pejabat Tanah dan pemeriksa semua tanggungan, bebanan serta mengenai panti, dengan lesen hak hartanah tersebut sebelum jualan lelong dijalankan.

Sila layari https://lelong.hakmilik.gov.my/bidweb

BUTIR-BUTIR HAKMILIK:
No. Hakmilik : Hakmilik Sementara NO. H.S.(D): 119751
No. Lot : PT 95544
Mukim / Daerah / Negeri : Bandar Sungai Petani / Kuala Muda / Kedah
Pegangan : Hakmilik Kekal
No. Petak/No. Tingkat/
No. Bangunan
Kekusutan Tanah : 1:392.4330000000000000 kaki persegi
121.0000000000000000 meter persegi

Pemilik Berdaftar
Syarat Nyata
1. Tanah yang terkandung dalam hakmilik ini hendaklah digunakan sebagai tapak satu bangunan untuk kediaman (Rumah Teres Kos Rendah) sahaja.
2. Tidak
3. Charged to Public Islamic Bank Berhad, 14328-V vide Presentation No. 13736/2013. PA No. 27/2009 and registered on 2 July 2015.
4. Number Perserahan : 6076/2009 Lot Untuk Orang
Malayu diaftarkan pada 10 Ogos 2009

Kawasan Rizab
Kawast

LOKASI DAN PERIHAL HARTANAH :
Hartanah tersebut adalah **An Intermediate unit single-storey low cost terraced house** yang beralamat pos di No. 3905, Lorong Astana 15/5, Bandar Seri Astana, 08000, Sungai Petani, Kedah.

HARISA RIZAB :
Hartanah tersebut akan dijual atas "sepertimana sedia ada" tertakluk kepada satu harga riziab sebanyak **RM 200,000.00 (RINGGIT MALAYSIA DUA RATUS RIBU SAKJAJA)** dan kepada syarat-syarat jualan yang dipaparkan. Pembida yang berminat hendaklah mendepositkan 10% daripada harga riziab dalam bentuk Bank Draft di atas nama **PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD 1. MAKLAK BAKERAJA** sebelum tarikh lelong awam. Baki harga belian hendaklah dibayar oleh pembeli yang berjaya kepada **PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD** dalam tempoh seratus dua puluh (20) hari dari tarikh jualan. Untuk buti-butir selanjutnya, sila berhubung dengan:-

Firma Guaman : **WONG-CHOI & MOHD NOR**
Alamat : **NO. 27, 1ST & 2ND FLOOR,**
JALAN MAJU JAYA
PUSAT PERHAGIAAN MAJU JAYA, 14000, PG, MY
04-5398555
04-5398555
No. Telefon :
No. Fax :
No. Rujukan : **WCIN(SM)/PIBB(SF)-HL/2024-22/MAZ(RS/J)**

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF IDAMAN KENCANA SDN. BHD. 199301007295 (262032-9) (In Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act 2016, that a Final Meeting of the Company will be held at SOHO Suites @ KLCC, Block A2, Level 32-3A, No. 20, Jalan Perak, 50450 Kuala Lumpur on 21 April 2025 at 10.00 a.m. for the following purposes:

AGENDA:

- To receive and consider the Liquidator's Statement of Accounts and Report showing how the winding up has been conducted and to receive any explanation thereon.
- To consider, and if thought fit, pass the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:-
"That the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator shall be kept by the Liquidator for a period of three (3) months from the date of the Final Meeting and that thereafter such books, accounts and documents may be destroyed by the Liquidator."

Dated this 30 March 2025

Chong Ai Ling
Liquidator

Note:

The Member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy (or in the case of a corporation, to appoint a representative) to attend and vote in his place. The Form of Proxy may be obtained from the office of the Liquidator located at SOHO Suites @ KLCC, Block A2, Level 32-3A, No. 20 Jalan Perak, 50450 Kuala Lumpur. The appointment of a proxy must be lodged at the Liquidators' office at least forty eight (48) hours before the meeting.

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF BH MANAGEMENT SDN. BHD. 198501014218 (144675-1) (In Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act 2016, that a Final Meeting of the Company will be held at SOHO Suites @ KLCC, Block A2, Level 32-3A, No. 20, Jalan Perak, 50450 Kuala Lumpur on 21 April 2025 at 10.00 a.m. for the following purposes:

AGENDA:

- To receive and consider the Liquidator's Statement of Accounts and Report showing how the winding up has been conducted and to receive any explanation thereon.
- To consider, and if thought fit, pass the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:-
"That the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator shall be kept by the Liquidator for a period of three (3) months from the date of the Final Meeting and that thereafter such books, accounts and documents may be destroyed by the Liquidator."

Dated this 20 March 2025

Chong Ai Ling
Liquidator

Note:

The Member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy (or in the case of a corporation, to appoint a representative) to attend and vote in his place. The Form of Proxy may be obtained from the office of the Liquidator located at SOHO Suites @ KLCC, Block A2, Level 32-3A, No. 20 Jalan Perak, 50450 Kuala Lumpur. The appointment of a proxy must be lodged at the Liquidators' office at least forty eight (48) hours before the meeting.

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF MASYHUR KLASIK SDN. BHD. 200401022940 (684448-X) (In Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act 2016, that a Final Meeting of the Company will be held at SOHO Suites @ KLCC, Block A2, Level 32-3A, No. 20, Jalan Perak, 50450 Kuala Lumpur on 21 April 2025 at 10.00 a.m. for the following purposes:

AGENDA:

- To receive and consider the Liquidator's Statement of Accounts and Report showing how the winding up has been conducted and to receive any explanation thereon.
- To consider, and if thought fit, pass the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:-
"That the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator shall be kept by the Liquidator for a period of three (3) months from the date of the Final Meeting and that thereafter such books, accounts and documents may be destroyed by the Liquidator."

Dated this 20 March 2025

Chong Ai Ling
Liquidator

Note:

The Member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy (or in the case of a corporation, to appoint a representative) to attend and vote in his place. The Form of Proxy may be obtained from the office of the Liquidator located at SOHO Suites @ KLCC, Block A2, Level 32-3A, No. 20 Jalan Perak, 50450 Kuala Lumpur. The appointment of a proxy must be lodged at the Liquidators' office at least forty eight (48) hours before the meeting.

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF MELATI PERTINIS SDN. BHD. 201601015568 (1186499-P) (In Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act 2016, that a Final Meeting of the Company will be held at SOHO Suites @ KLCC, Block A2, Level 32-3A, No. 20, Jalan Perak, 50450 Kuala Lumpur on 21 April 2025 at 10.00 a.m. for the following purposes:

AGENDA:

- To receive and consider the Liquidator's Statement of Accounts and Report showing how the winding up has been conducted and to receive any explanation thereon.
- To consider, and if thought fit, pass the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:-
"That the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator shall be kept by the Liquidator for a period of three (3) months from the date of the Final Meeting and that thereafter such books, accounts and documents may be destroyed by the Liquidator."

Dated this 20 March 2025

Chong Ai Ling
Liquidator

Note:

The Member entitled to attend and vote at the meeting may appoint a proxy (or in the case of a corporation, to appoint a representative) to attend and vote in his place. The Form of Proxy may be obtained from the office of the Liquidator located at SOHO Suites @ KLCC, Block A2, Level 32-3A, No. 20 Jalan Perak, 50450 Kuala Lumpur. The appointment of a proxy must be lodged at the Liquidators' office at least forty eight (48) hours before the meeting.

Reds under spotlight

Carragher highlights five signings Liverpool need to make after Champions League, Carabao Cup failure

BY LUKE BAKER

JAMIE CARRAGHER has revealed the "five or six players" he believes Liverpool need to bring in this summer after a week that saw their trophy ambitions end in two competitions.

The Reds suffered heartbreak in the Champions League last 16 as they endured a penalty shootout

defeat to Paris Saint-Germain in midweek before slipping to a limp 2-1 loss to Newcastle in the Carabao Cup final on Sunday.

They also lost to Championship strugglers Plymouth Argyle in the FA Cup earlier this season, although they are well-placed to brilliantly win the Premier League title as they sit 12 points clear at the top with nine games to play.

And while a League title would make it a hugely successful first season under Arne Slot, Liverpool legend Carragher admits the squad still needs improving in a number of key positions to sustain success.

"I'm excited to see

where Arne Slot will take Liverpool because it looks like they're going to win the League, but there are still so many areas to improve," said Carragher, speaking on *The Overlap Fan Debate*.

"He needs a centreback as back-up

to the two that we have, he'll need a right-back with Trent Alexander-Arnold likely to leave.

"I think he needs a centre midfielder to replace Endo, someone younger and that he trusts, a centre-forward to play and a left-winger.

"There are at least five or six players he needs to get in - three to go straight in the team and three to be strong back-ups."

Liverpool's squad is more streamlined than many of their rivals, with Slot have only regularly relied on 15 or 16 players across the course of the season.

Last year they made just one signing of note, Federico Chiesa from Juventus, and he has struggled with injuries and lack of match fitness for large parts of the campaign - although he did score in the Carabao Cup final to set up a grandstand finale.

And Carragher believes the smaller squad has been something of a double-edged sword for the Reds.

"You can look at it two ways," he explained. "You can say that it's come back to bite them on the backside, with the Champions League and this

cup final.

"But does that put Liverpool in the position that we are as well? Are the other squad players as good?"

"I don't think he (Slot) has any time for four or five players in that squad, and the fact that he didn't change players at home to Southampton between the PSG games - against one of the worst teams ever in the Premier League - I can accept that this season as this isn't really his squad, but next season I'm sure he'll bring players in.

"He'll have to trust his squad more because he'll need to get further in the Champions League, and he can't accept a performance like that in a cup final." - The Independent



Mauricio Pochettino.
- REUTERS/SPIC

Pochettino 'would like' Tottenham return

BY JAMIE BRAIDWOOD

MAURICIO POCHETTINO has revealed he wants to return to Tottenham at some stage in the future.

Pochettino was sacked by Tottenham in 2019 after leading Spurs to the Champions League final and three top-three finishes in a row in the Premier League.

He is considered to be the club's greatest modern day manager but is under contract with the United States through to the 2026 World Cup, a tournament they will host.

The Argentine has worked at Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea since leaving Spurs but revealed he still maintains a positive relationship with chairman Daniel Levy.

Tottenham are currently 14th in the Premier League under Ange Postecoglou and are heading for their lowest finish since 2008.

And Pochettino, 53, told *Sky Sports* that he can see himself returning to Spurs "one day".

"When I left the club I always remember one interview I said I would like one day to come back to

Tottenham," Pochettino told *Sky Sports*.

"And that is of course... I am in the USA, I am not going to no, I'm not going to talk about that.

"But what I said then still after six years or five years, I still feel in my heart that, yes, I would like one day to come back. We see the timing, like Daniel said."

Pochettino said still holds conversations with Spurs chairman Levy six years on from leaving the club and maintains a positive personal relationship.

"He is always there and he's going to be there," Pochettino said. "It's another thing to take professional decisions.

"It's true after nearly six years with all that we lived together, it was tough because of all the ups and downs and emotional things that we lived.

"I've seen always it's difficult in football that that doesn't affect all this type of situation in your relationship. For us, we split very well.

"One thing was professional, another personal and now, like the day after we left Tottenham, we keep always a very, very good relationship." - The Independent

TOTO SPORTS TOTO RESULTS

DRAW NO: 5941/2025 DATE: 19/03/2025 (WED)
STM LOTTERY SDN. BHD.
196901000090 (84202)

TOTO 4D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

1st Prize	4306
2nd Prize	8492
3rd Prize	3110

Special		Consolation	
5350	1764	3175	2183
3396	3271	6458	9251
3969	6062	1619	3759
8882	7273	4079	1078
6238	1364	5483	3860

4D JACKPOT

Jackpot 1 **RM 8,480,373.43**

4306	8492	8492	4306
4306	3110	3110	4306
8492	3110	3110	8492

Jackpot 2 **RM 151,834.76**

Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

4D Zodiac

1st Prize	4306	+	
2nd Prize	8492	+	
3rd Prize	3110	+	TIGER
4th Prize	Special Prize	+	
5th Prize	Consolation Prize	+	
6th Prize	Any 4D drawn number	+	

TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

5D	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	6TH
7 1 3 1 1	7 1 3 1 1	7 6 1 5 8	3 3 8 5 9	1 3 1 1	3 1 1	1 1

6D	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH
6 3 8 4 6 3	6 3 8 4 6	6 3 8 4	6 3 8	6 3	

6D	1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH
6 3 8 4 6 3	6 3 8 4 6	6 3 8 4	6 3 8	6 3	

TOTO GAMES GIVES YOU MORE WINNING CHANCES!

SUPREME 7/69 6 15 21 26 49 53

Jackpot **RM 27,020,642.80**

POWER 7/69 20 28 30 34 36 50

Jackpot **RM 10,211,118.28**

STAR 7/69 23 25 35 37 43 47 + 9

Jackpot 1 **RM 4,395,442.34**

Jackpot 2 **RM 100,000.00**

Toto 4D Jackpot 2
RM 145,596

Toto 4D Jackpot 2 (i-System)
RM 10,477

won on 16/03/2025!

Visit www.sportstoto.com.my for e-Results and more info.



WINNING NUMBERS

PAYMENT GUARANTEED IN FULL

Draw Date: 19/03/25 (Wed) Draw No: 5888/25 Venue: WISMA GENTING, KL

1+3D SUPER1+3D

1st Prize	3316
2nd Prize	0418
3rd Prize	4814

Starters		Consolation	
5617	0457	6257	3339
0728	2019	1725	3276
1596	5157	4856	6790
1560	9272	5383	1560
2965	9398	0022	9376

1+3D Jackpot

Jackpot 1	RM 8,773,586.00
-----------	-----------------

3316 + 0418	0418 + 3316
3316 + 4814	4814 + 3316
0418 + 4814	4814 + 0418

Jackpot 2 **RM 117,512.80**

Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of 10 Starter Prizes.

3+3D Bonus

1st Prize	Bonus	1st Prize Bonus
423 316 +	RAT	RM 380,000.00
2nd Prize	Bonus	2nd Prize Bonus
640 418 +	DRAGON	RM 802,611.00
3rd Prize	Bonus	3rd Prize Bonus
354 814 +	DRAGON	RM 1,871,506.00

Starters		Consolation	
175 617	460 457	996 257	303 339
250 728	762 019	311 725	273 276
751 596	715 157	554 856	776 790
471 560	029 272	675 383	971 560
802 965	289 398	010 022	349 376

3D

1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
316	418	814

3D Jackpot

Jackpot	RM 922,285.50
---------	---------------

316 + 418 + 814	418 + 814 + 316
316 + 814 + 418	814 + 316 + 418
418 + 316 + 814	814 + 418 + 316

Winning combination matches the Top 3 Prizes in any order.

HSSB 1+3D J1, J2 and 3+3D 2nd Prize Bonus won on 16/3/25!

The Community Chest is an independent, not-for-profit, non-governmental charitable organisation which supports education for the sole benefit of the Malaysian community and is primarily funded by the profits of Da Ma Cai.

Pan Malaysian Pools Sdn. Bhd. (171698-9) www.damacai.com.my
dmcGO play anywhere: www.dmcGO.com.my or call 03-2333 2000

Bowling Congress all praise for Tun Ameerul

THE Malaysian Tenpin Bowling Congress (MTBC) have praised Tun Ameerul Luqman Al-Hakim Tun Hasnul Azam for paying his own way to compete in the United States and making history by becoming the first Malaysian to win a title at the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) Tour in Reno, Nevada on Monday.

MTBC secretary-general Maradona Chok said that, for the past two years, they have not provided any sponsorship to national bowlers to compete in the PBA and Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) due to several factors that had been mutually agreed upon.

"(Firstly) The PBA and PBWA are professional tours, and secondly, sending a team of around 20 players would be very costly. So, the agreement between the MTBC and the National Sports Council (NSC) is that we are limited to competing as a team in Asia.

"So, the programme with the NSC is solely in Asia, and for anything outside of Asia, the MTBC have been allowed to permit players to compete on their own," he told reporters when met at the Sunway Megalanes in Petaling Jaya yesterday.

Meanwhile, MTBC president Datuk Mohd Najeeb Abdullah said they would review the sponsorship given by the Youth and Sports Ministry through the NSC to help or sponsor bowlers for future tournaments.

This, Mohd Najeeb feels is because the PBW and PWBA tournaments are the best platform for national bowlers to face tough competition and gain valuable exposure as many of the world's top stars usually compete in these events.

"These tournaments offer stronger competition because all the best players are there. So, I think that in the future, our team will consider (competing) if there are sponsors and not just rely on the NSC... but we must also look for sponsors.

"For example, before going to the PBA, I had the chance to meet Tun Ameerul and his teammates and they each forked out over RM30,000 to stay there (in the US) for nearly a month," he said.

Tun Ameerul, 25, was crowned the PBA Chameleon champion after defeating American Kevin McCune 269-227 in the stepladder final at the National Bowling Stadium in Reno. — Bernama

'Sell if you must'

THE new management of the Kuala Lumpur Football Association (KLFA) has been advised to take an open approach by relinquishing ownership of Kuala Lumpur (KL) City FC to interested parties if they can no longer afford to cover the team's operating costs.

Former KLFA president Khalid Abdul Samad said the team's future should not be gambled with just because of the financial constraints faced by the new management in ensuring that The City Boys remain competitive in the Super League.

Khalid Samad, who wants to see KL City remain in the Super League, suggests that the team be sold immediately since there are parties who had previously paid a deposit of

RM1.53 million.

"(I) suggest that the KL City football team be sold as soon as possible, there are parties who have paid RM1.53 million as a deposit. So, go ahead, let go of the burden if you can't bear it.

"Don't let it be that because of your inability, you take KL City to the (lower tier) Premier League or (worse still) out of the Super League.

"At least give to the parties who are willing to buy... let it go, let others who are capable, willing and determined to keep KL City at the highest level in the league," he told a media conference on the future of KL City in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Earlier this month, new KLFA president Syed Yazid Syed Omar, who is also the KL City chairman, was reported to have said that the

Former KLFA president questions cash-strapped management of City Boys

club might pull out from the Super League next season and opt to play in the lower league to settle the outstanding debts of the previous management.

Following that report, the 2021 Malaysia Cup champions released a statement emphasising their commitment to retain their status as an elite club in the Super League.

The statement also stressed that the decision regarding the team's future would only be made through an official board of directors meeting with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

KL City, the 2022 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Cup runners-up, are currently sixth in the Super League standings with 28 points from 21 matches. — Bernama

Muhammad Hafiz gearing up for tough fight



Muhammad Hafiz Zainuddin during a practice session. — BERNAMAPIC

NATIONAL bowler Muhammad Hafiz Zainuddin is ready for a fierce battle — not only against his rivals but also against himself — as he looks to defend his title at the 2025 Malaysian International Open.

The 43rd edition of the bowling championships will be held at the Sunway Megalanes in Petaling Jaya from April 7-20.

Muhammad Hafiz said that, just like the other bowlers, he is also training intensely to work on his weaknesses as he intends to compete on the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) Tour in two years.

The national bowler secured his first international title of 2025 by winning the 11th Dubai International Bowling Tournament in the open division at the Dubai International Bowling Centre, Al Mamzar, UAE, last month.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Tenpin Bowling Congress (MTBC) president Datuk Mohd Najeeb Abdullah said that 43 national keglers will be competing in the 2025 Malaysian International Open, with bowlers from 14 other countries expected to take part as well.

Seven countries — Singapore, Sweden, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Thailand, Macau and Kuwait — have confirmed

their participation.

The tournament also received a massive boost with the confirmed attendance of three international professional bowlers — Danielle McEwan (the United States), Maria Jose Rodriguez (Colombia) and Pontus Anderson (Sweden).

"For us (MTBC), this tournament is extremely important because we have the Asian Youth Championships and the Asian Para Championships coming up in August," Mohd Najeeb said.

The tournament, which is recognised by the International Bowling Federation (IBF) and the Asian Bowling Federation (ABF), offers total prize money of RM450,550, covering 10 separate divisions, ranging from junior to senior categories for those aged 50 and above.

The men's Open category offers a cash prize of RM50,000 while the women's Open division offers RM30,000, making it one of the biggest tournaments in Asia.

For the record, Malaysia have won the men's and women's titles for two consecutive years, with Mohd Rafiq Ismail and Lavinia Kho emerging victorious in 2023, followed by Muhammad Hafiz and Gillian Lim last year. — Bernama

National Stadium pitch ready for M'sia Cup final

THE condition of the Bukit Jalil National Stadium (SNBJ) pitch is ready to stage the 2024-2025 Malaysia Cup final on April 12.

An inspection by Bernama yesterday found that maintenance work such as grass mowing is underway, while the field is now a sea of healthy green which has been trimmed with a "checkerboard" look.

Stadium Malaysia Corporation (PSM) chief executive officer Ilyas Jamil said the stadium is ready for the prestigious cup final between Johor Darul Ta'zim (JDT) and Pahang FC.

He also confirmed that the hybrid grass change not be carried out and will continue

to use zeon zoysia grass instead.

"For now, we are maintaining the zeon zoysia grass, because it is in good condition, and we do not want to disturb it.

"If we make any changes, it will take a long time and we also need time to adapt," he told reporters at a PSM press conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Ilyas also said that so far, only one concert will be held at SNBJ this year, which is in May.

"In the future, there may be other concerts held, but no heavy structures will be allowed on the field, and the stadium will only be closed for 48 hours," he said.

Earlier, Ilyas also announced new charges for parking lots at Kuala Lumpur Sports City (KLSC) which are cheaper after being approved by the Policy Committee of the Ministry of Youth and Sports (KBS).

He said that the charge during the absence of an event will be as low as RM2 for the first three hours and RM5 for more than five hours.

"This decision was made after taking into account the public's complaints regarding the previous charging rates which were more expensive and uneven according to the event," he said. — Bernama

Magnum Corporation Sdn Bhd (8272-D)
Winning Results
Full payment guaranteed

Draw No: 178/25 Date: 19/03/2025

4D Classic

1st Prize	8679
2nd Prize	1350
3rd Prize	2940

SPECIAL	CONSOLATION
7802 6842	1460 6196
1915 5844	8728 5365
6635 4085	8198 2621
9205 2091	7141 2966
7529 1667	6031 5366

4D Jackpot

Jackpot 1 RM24,532,980.41

PARTIALLY WON

8679 + 1350	8679 + 2940
1350 + 8679	1350 + 2940
2940 + 8679	2940 + 1350

Jackpot 2 RM459,961.05

PARTIALLY WON

Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

Play smarter. Get rewarded with MyMagnum 4D app!

Magnum Life

1	6	8	11	17	24	29	36
---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----

5 12

Grand Prize
RM1,000 EVERY DAY for 20 years

2nd Prize
RM1,000 EVERY DAY for 100 days

Jackpot Gold

Jackpot 1 RM12,555,548.65

Jackpot 1 - Group 1 + Golden Number

Jackpot 2 RM209,414.42

Jackpot 2 - Group 2 + Golden Number

GROUP 1	7 9 5 0 4 0
GROUP 2	79504 OR 95040
GROUP 3	7950 OR 5040
GROUP 4	795 OR 040
GROUP 5	79 OR 40
	OR 50
GOLDEN NUMBER	16

All jackpot amounts stated above are for this Draw. Subject to T&Cs of the Scheme. Please visit to www.magnum4d.my for more info. THE BIGGER PLAY IS TO PLAY RESPONSIBLY.



All to play for

Five talking points on Nations League, World Cup qualifiers in Europe

INTERNATIONAL football gets underway in Europe for the first time in 2025 as the Nations League moves into the quarterfinals stage and the continent's 2026 World Cup qualifying campaign gets underway.

Nations League promotion/relegation playoffs are also on the cards in a week where all the European big guns are in action.

Here's five talking points ahead of the action:

Spain title defence gets serious

Spain face the Netherlands tomorrow (3.45am Malaysian time) in the Nations League quarterfinal, with Luis de la Fuente's side looking to win their third-straight title after success in the 2023 edition of the competition and their stunning European Championship victory last year.

Euro 2024 break-out stars Lamine Yamal and Nico Williams, as well as Dani Olmo and Alvaro Morata are in the squad which will play a two-legged tie against the Netherlands with a semifinal berth awaiting the winners.

Denmark take on Portugal and France face Croatia (both 3.45am) in the last eight as well for this first edition of the expanded Nations League final phase.

Battle of the host

Germany and Italy clash in the other quarterfinal, with the winner not only advancing to the last four but also confirming their status as hosts of the Nations League finals.

Germany travel to Euro 2020 winners Italy for the first leg at Milan's San Siro tomorrow (3.45am), before the reverse

fixture takes place three days later in the Westfalenstadion in Dortmund.

The four-team final tournament begins with the semifinals on June 4-5. The final is scheduled for June 8.

Tuchel debut

England begin their journey to reach the 2026 World Cup with a new manager at the helm following the appointment of former Bayern Munich, Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea boss Thomas Tuchel.

The German will be under no illusions that his reign will ultimately be judged by

success in major tournaments as England seek to win their first silverware since the 1966 World Cup.

"Exciting and a bit surreal," Tuchel said last week of becoming the first German to lead England.

"It's a big honour and I'm very proud of it. I'm very well aware of it, I will make sure that I earn my rights to be in this place."

Tuchel will make his debut on Saturday (3.45am) when Albania travel to Wembley, before Latvia visit London next Tuesday.

Start of the end for Deschamps

One coach whose achievements Tuchel will

doubtless be desperate to replicate is outgoing France coach Didier Deschamps, who announced in January he would be stepping down from his role after the 2026 World Cup in North America.

The captain of France's first World Cup-winning side in 1998 took over as coach in 2012 and masterminded his country's second triumph in football's biggest tournament six years later.

"All good things come to an end, and you also need to

know when to stop," Deschamps said in January.

"It has been 12 years, and it will have been 14, which is fine. I have done my time, and I still have time left."

Fittingly, Deschamps will begin the end of his reign as France boss against Croatia tomorrow (3.45am) in the Nations League quarterfinals – the same side he defeated in the 2018 World Cup final.

Courtois returns from wilderness

Real Madrid's Thibaut Courtois was included in the Belgium squad last week for the first time since going into self-imposed exile following a dispute with then coach Domenico Tedesco in summer 2023.

But following the appointment of Rudi Garcia as Belgium boss in January, the 32-year-old opened himself up to a return from the international wilderness.

Ahead of Courtois' inclusion, Koen Casteels – Belgium's No. 1 in his absence – announced he was "no longer available for the national team" and stated that other squad members were also not pleased with the Madrid man's expected return.

Belgium will defend their place in League A in a two-legged tie against Ukraine tomorrow and next Monday (both 3.45am). – AFP



Lamine Yamal



Thibaut Courtois



Norris eyes China success

Story on page 29



Pochettino 'would like' Tottenham return

Story on page 30