



Septuagenarian 'cookie gourmet' spreading sweet joy

Traditional Malay treats specialist uses eggless ingredients to make *halal* products suitable for vegetarians.

Report on
page 6



With 398 high-rise buildings exceeding 150m, Malaysia is ranked fourth behind China, the United States and the United Arab Emirates for the number of such skyscrapers.
— ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THE SUN

Report on
page 4

Concern over impact risks from tremors in regional countries

Quakes in Sabah and along Peninsular Malaysia fault lines suggest country now sits in low to moderate seismic zone: Expert

Renewed interest in piezoelectric energy generation option

Specialist says technology scientifically proven, but usage limited only to low power applications.

Report on
page 5

Tariff shield for hospitals

While US move likely to push up costs, govt expected to absorb much of financial burden affecting public medical facilities: Academic

Report on
page 2



Selangor Sultan warns against offering fake haj packages

SHAH ALAM: The Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah has reminded Muslims not to exploit others by offering fake haj packages for personal gain.

Sultan Sharafuddin said such acts are taken seriously by the government, and Islam strictly prohibits cheating, with those involved in such wrongdoing subject to divine punishment.

His Royal Highness also advised the public to use services provided by Lembaga Tabung Haji (TH) instead of unverified travel agencies that could potentially scam pilgrims and jeopardise their pilgrimage.

"I hope there will be no more cases of haj pilgrims being deceived by unlicensed agents in the future," he said in his royal address at the Selangor-level Haj Premier Course

1446H yesterday.

Also present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari.

Sultan Sharafuddin urged Selangor pilgrims to focus on their worship while in the Holy Land and avoid participating in any protests or demonstrations.

"I have been informed that Malaysian pilgrims, including those from Selangor, are among the most disciplined and compliant with the regulations set by the Saudi Arabian government.

"I hope all of you will continue to uphold self-discipline and maintain the good name of Selangor and Malaysia while in the Holy Land."

He advised pilgrims to take care of

their health, as the haj requires physical endurance, and to seek medical attention if needed.

"Let me also remind all pilgrims to comply with the laws set by both the Malaysian and Saudi Arabian governments so that we may remain safe and free from any issue."

Sultan Sharafuddin also presented haj essentials to representatives from each district in Selangor. — Bernama

Admissions to residential schools to be streamlined

LENGGONG: The admission system for Maktab Rendah Sains Mara (MRSM) and fully residential schools will be streamlined starting with the January intake to prevent overlapping offers, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

He said students would still be able to apply to both institutions, but each applicant would only receive one offer.

"At present, applicants, especially those applying to both institutions, can end up receiving two offers.

"Usually, MRSM issues its offer letter first, but when a student later receives an offer from a residential school, he often switches his choice. To address this, I will propose a streamlined admission process."

Ahmad Zahid, who is also Rural and Regional Development minister, was speaking after attending the Wacana Aspirasi programme at MRSM here yesterday.

Also present was Mara chairman Datuk Dr Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki.

Ahmad Zahid said he has also been appointed as Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Committee chairman, tasked with ensuring that fully residential schools, including MRSM, prioritise STEM education.

"This is part of our efforts to nurture more professionals in science, technology, engineering and other professional fields, in preparation for Malaysia's transition into a high-income and developed nation."

He added that there is zero tolerance for bullying in MRSM, and any student found guilty of such misconduct would be expelled. — Bernama

Govt shield against US tariffs for public health institutions

➤ While rate increases likely to push up cost of essential medical imports, govt expected to absorb much of financial burden, says professor

■ BY DEEPALAKSHMI MANICKAM
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PETALING JAYA: The ripple effects of United States (US) tariffs on Chinese goods may soon reach Malaysian public hospitals. But for now, patients, especially those from lower-income groups, are expected to be shielded from significant cost increases.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia public health medicine specialist Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh said while the tariffs are likely to push up the cost of essential medical imports, the government is expected to absorb much of the financial burden.

"It's possible purchase prices will rise. But as this is government-funded, the bulk of it will be subsidised by state funds," she told *theSun*.

She said while the public healthcare sector is partially insulated, patients may eventually have to bear part of the cost for certain treatments or medications.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad has said the cost of



Sharifa said despite growing operational pressures, public healthcare remains affordable compared with private options. — AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN

imported drugs and medical devices would increase if tariffs impact the active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) or key components used in their production.

He added that local pharmaceutical companies may face steeper costs as global competition for raw materials intensifies.

"Local generics producers could see higher procurement costs for API due to increased demand from US pharmaceutical suppliers."

Sharifa highlighted that cardiac-related procedures may be particularly affected, given Malaysia's rising number of cardiovascular disease (CVD) cases.

"With CVD cases on the rise, treatment costs could escalate. Procedures like stenting may become more expensive, and patients might face higher out-of-pocket expenses."

She said despite growing operational pressures, public healthcare remains affordable compared with private options.

"Generally, a visit to a private GP costs around RM50 to RM70. At government clinics, it's still only RM1."

She added that major surgeries in public hospitals typically range between RM200 and RM400, while daily hospitalisation fees remain between RM10 and RM30.

Amid ongoing global trade tensions and potential supply chain disruptions, Malaysia's healthcare system remains reliant on imported drugs and medical devices, often at a steep cost.

"The drugs and devices are reliable but expensive. It would be wise for Malaysia to manufacture locally or source from more affordable countries such as India

or China.

"The low-income group will likely be protected. Higher-income groups, however, may face fee hikes or co-payment schemes."

To ensure resilience, Sharifa emphasised the need to diversify supply chains and boost investment in primary healthcare and traditional complementary medicine.

She said reforms are already in motion, including efforts to strengthen primary care and introduce a new healthcare financing model.

"This includes social health insurance, combined with private health insurance for higher-income, self-paying groups."

She said while some price hikes are already visible in the private sector, the public system has so far seen only limited impact.

Chinese president's visit places M'sia firmly on global stage: PM

■ BY KIRTINEE RAMESH
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PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has expressed Malaysia's appreciation to Chinese President Xi Jinping for placing the nation firmly on the global stage through his recent state visit.

In a post on his Facebook page, Anwar highlighted the significance of

Xi's visit amid rising global uncertainties, describing it as a concerted effort to forge stronger bilateral ties.

"China is not here to exert pressure, but to deepen ties that have existed for centuries while exploring new opportunities to reinforce our friendship.

"Malaysia, for its part, will do all it can to advance this shared

commitment on behalf of the broader Asian and Asean family, in the pursuit of regional strength and stability."

President Xi arrived in Malaysia on April 15 at the invitation of His Majesty the King of Malaysia Sultan Ibrahim.

Xi's first official visit 12 years ago saw the elevation of Malaysia-China relations to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership level.

His meeting with Anwar at the Seri

Perdana Complex saw discussions on a wide range of topics, including bilateral ties, regional development and international cooperation.

Thirty-one MoUs, agreements and notes between Malaysia and China were also exchanged, signalling renewed momentum and expanded collaboration across multiple sectors.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations on May 31, 1974,

Malaysia and China have maintained a resilient partnership.

China has been Malaysia's largest trading partner since 2009. In 2024, bilateral trade reached RM484.12 billion, representing 16.8% of Malaysia's total global trade.

Xi's visit to Southeast Asia has been viewed as part of Beijing's efforts to position itself as a reliable alternative to the US amid ongoing trade tensions.

Tabung Haji, govt to jointly combat haj package fraud

SHAH ALAM: Lembaga Tabung Haji will collaborate closely with the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission and the police to combat fraudulent haj packages.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar said the initiative targets online content and advertisements promoting such packages that mislead Muslims intending to perform the pilgrimage.

He said instructions had also been issued to Tabung Haji group managing director and chief executive officer Datuk Syed Hamadah Syed Othman to pay closer attention to the cases.

"I urge all prospective pilgrims, whether for haj or umrah, to verify the legitimacy of their travel agents."

"For umrah, the Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry has a system that lists accredited agents."

"As for haj, we have 37 licensed haj supervisors accredited by Tabung Haji. The public must check these details to avoid being deceived," he said when met after the conclusion of the Selangor-level Premier Haj course here yesterday.

Earlier, the Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah in his address at the ceremony, reminded Muslims not to exploit one another by offering fraudulent haj packages for profit. He also urged the government to take the matter seriously, Bernama reported.

Commenting on Selangor's haj pilgrims for the year 1446H (Islamic calendar), Mohd Na'im said 8,338 pilgrims from the state are expected to perform the pilgrimage this year.

PKR leader calls for fair process in party elections

KUALA LUMPUR: A transparent and fair 2025 PKR election process is the foundation of its strength as a reformist party, said Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad.

Nik Nazmi, who failed to retain his Setiawangsa division chief post in the party division-level election today, said there were several issues that deserved to be raised, and he would use the appropriate party channels and processes to voice them.

"I would like to extend my utmost thanks to all supporters, machinery and party members who participated alongside us."

"We will allow the appeal process to proceed according to the regulations and avenues set by the party," he said in a post on X on Saturday.

Nik Nazmi, who is Setiawangsa MP and PKR vice-president, lost the division chief contest to his challenger, actor-director Datuk Afdlin Shauki.

Afdlin secured 631 votes against Nik Nazmi's 563 votes. — Bernama

'Workforce mental, physical resilience key to growth'

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia's future growth depends on the physical and mental resilience of its workforce, said Human Resources Minister Steven Sim Chee Keong.

Speaking at the Social Security Organisation (Socso) Run and Ride 2025 event in Putrajaya, Sim emphasised that national progress is made possible by the unwavering dedication of workers across all sectors, including security, defence and both public and private services.

"Nothing is stopping you from continuing to serve the nation, religion and homeland. What truly hinders Malaysia from becoming a great nation, especially in

Focus on preventive healthcare necessary as rising non-communicable diseases among workers cost country RM64.2 billion annually in economic losses, says minister

today's volatile world, isn't the strength of global powers such as the United States or China. It's whether we, Malaysians, have the resilience to overcome challenges."

The event, attended by thousands, celebrated national unity and spirit. Also present were Socso Board

chairman Datuk Seri Subahan Kamal and Socso CEO Datuk Seri Dr Mohammed Azman Aziz Mohammed.

Sim also voiced concern over the sharp increase in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among Socso contributors. He revealed that in 2023,

an average of 80 individuals a day were diagnosed with NCDs.

Based on Socso's internal data, about 2.3 million Malaysian adults are affected by three major NCDs — diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity — all of which are largely preventable through healthier lifestyle choices.

"The figures should serve as a wake-up call. If we want to build a strong and productive workforce, we must take health seriously."

He warned that NCDs pose a serious threat to workforce productivity and the nation's economic sustainability. Between 2022 and 2024 alone, the number of Socso contributors diagnosed with NCDs surged by 26.5%, Bernama reported.

Citing a Health Ministry report, Sim said Malaysia suffers annual economic losses of up to RM64.2 billion or 4.2% of its GDP due to NCDs, primarily through healthcare costs and reduced worker productivity.

To address this, Socso introduced the Health Screening Programme in 2013, which has since benefited over 900,000 individuals. Data from the programme in 2023 and 2024 revealed that among the 270,000 workers aged 40 and above, 19.4% were found to have diabetes, 19.6% had high blood pressure, 59.7% had excessive cholesterol levels and 59.3 per cent (around 160,100 people) were obese.

This year's Socso Run and Ride marked its eighth edition and made history with over 10,000 participants. The event also served as the curtain-raiser for the upcoming MYFutureJobs Career Carnival @ Labour Day 2025, to be held from April 28 to May 1 at Axiata Arena in Bukit Jalil.



The eighth edition of the Socso Run and Ride event made history yesterday when over 10,000 participants turned up for the race in Putrajaya. — BERNAMAPIC

Sex education should not be taboo topic: Minister

LUNDU: Malaysia must stop treating sex education as an afterthought and instead adopt a serious, all-round approach involving schools, parents and key government agencies, said Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri.

She said it should no longer be a taboo topic but recognised as a vital tool in shaping values and protecting children, especially in today's digital age.

"It is in the school curriculum, but its content is limited and often not emphasised. This must be addressed immediately," she said after opening

the Malaysia Madani statehood seminar yesterday.

theSun had previously reported that sex education remains a sensitive and often overlooked issue, particularly when it involves children with disabilities.

Educators and activists have highlighted the need for inclusive, accessible programmes that empower such individuals. Among them was Johor Disabled Children Charitable and Cares Organisation president Mohd Yahya Haidrus, who stressed the urgency of tailored sex education for special needs children.

"A structured, accessible curriculum can help them recognise inappropriate behaviour, understand consent, practise hygiene and build safe, respectful relationships."

Bernama reported that while laws such as the Sexual Offences Against Children Act 2017, Child Act 2001 and Persons with Disabilities Act 2008 exist, enforcement remains a challenge.

Nancy said the matter had been raised at the highest levels, including during a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with various ministries and agencies.

She also called for a collaborative

approach, especially involving parents, to teach children about values and personal safety.

"This is about the safety and well-being of our children, and we're actively seeking the most effective and comprehensive ways to tackle it."

Nancy added that parenting programmes would be updated to help parents speak openly and safely with their children.

Recently in Kelantan, a police officer who was checking his 14-year-old daughter's phone was shocked to find sexually suggestive messages exchanged with a teenage boy.

Fahmi retains Lembah Pantai division chief post

KUALA LUMPUR: PKR information chief Datuk Fahmi Fadzil has retained the Lembah Pantai division chief post after winning uncontested in the PKR 2025 divisional elections on Saturday.

The result was announced through PKR 2025 Election website at <https://pemilihan.keadilanrakyat.org>,

which also hosted simultaneous elections for the party's Women's and Youth wings.

Fahmi, who is also communications minister and Lembah Pantai MP, retained the position for a second consecutive term from 2025 to 2028, Bernama reported.

The division deputy chief and vice chief posts were also won uncontested by Abdullah Izhar Mohamed Yusof and Chan Phooi Lai respectively.

On March 17, Fahmi said no nomination papers were submitted to contest the position before the nomination period closed. He also

confirmed that he will contest a seat in the Central Leadership Council (MPP) election in May.

Meanwhile, Datuk Azman Abidin, political secretary to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, retained his Bandar Tun Razak division chief post unopposed.

In Pahang, another political secretary, Datuk Ahmad Farhan Fauzi, won uncontested for Indera Mahkota.

The second phase divisional elections is until April 20 while the MPP, central women's leadership council and central youth leadership council elections will be on May 24.



Concern over potential impact of regional earthquakes

► Many of nation's 398 high-rise buildings over 150m tall may not be adequately designed to withstand tremors, says expert

■ BY HARITH KAMAL
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PETALING JAYA: With 398 high-rise buildings over 150m tall in Malaysia, experts are raising concerns that many of these structures may not be adequately designed to withstand the increasing threat of regional earthquakes.

According to the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, Malaysia, now in fourth place, trails China, the United States and the United Arab Emirates in the number of skyscrapers exceeding 150m.

Although the country has long been regarded as low-risk for seismic activity, structural engineers argue that this perception is outdated, especially as tremors from nearby countries such as Indonesia and Myanmar grow more frequent and intense.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia structural earthquake engineering expert Prof Dr Azlan Adnan said tremors in Sabah and along fault lines in Peninsular Malaysia indicate that the country now lies in a low to moderate seismic zone.

"With the growing number of high-rise buildings, particularly in urban areas like Kuala Lumpur and Penang, the potential

impact of even distant earthquakes becomes a real concern."

Azlan pointed out that newer public buildings in Malaysia, constructed after it adopted in 2017 Eurocode 8 (European standard for seismic-resistant design), are generally better equipped.

However, many older and privately developed high-rises remain vulnerable to significant seismic risks.

"One of the key issues is inconsistent enforcement. Eurocode 8 offers a strong framework, but it's often overlooked unless required by authorities or foreign consultants."

"Some developers still cut corners. Without strict enforcement, seismic safety becomes a matter of individual discretion."

He warned that buildings constructed on soft soil, common in parts of the Klang Valley, are particularly at risk, as tremors from major quakes in Indonesia or Myanmar can be amplified in such conditions.

The recent earthquake in Myanmar, which caused tremors as far away as Bangkok, has reignited concerns about Malaysia's exposure to regional seismic activity.

Azlan said retrofitting vulnerable buildings is not only possible but necessary, especially for hospitals, schools and densely occupied residential towers.

"It's technically feasible, but the cost and complexity often discourage building owners."

"What we need is a nationwide assessment and retrofitting programme to identify and strengthen these at-risk structures."

Universiti Malaya senior lecturer Assoc Prof Dr Tan Chee Ghuan echoed similar concerns, particularly regarding high-rises built before seismic design became standard practice.

"There's no official definition of a high-rise

in our building codes, but once a building exceeds 10 storeys or around 35m, it starts to respond differently to forces."

"At those heights, wind and seismic loads become dominant, and with soft soil conditions in places like the Klang Valley, the shaking can be much worse," said Tan, who is also a structural earthquake engineering expert.

He said seismic waves from distant earthquakes can travel over 1,000km and still cause significant shaking due to soil amplification.

"While landmark towers like KLCC Twin Towers, Merdeka 118 and The Exchange 106 were designed with seismic forces in mind, many typical residential towers were not. They may withstand wind, but earthquakes are a different issue."

Tan underscored the urgent need to retrofit older buildings, noting that many were constructed before seismic considerations were included in the design process.

He added that while effective materials such as reinforced concrete jackets, steel bracing and fibre-reinforced polymer composites are available, their use in Malaysia remains limited to specialised or large-scale projects.

"Cost is part of the challenge, but perception is another. Too many still believe Malaysia is immune to earthquakes. That mindset has to change."

Azlan added that true resilience goes beyond engineering.

"Earthquake preparedness isn't just about concrete and steel, it's about people, planning, and systems working together. Taking action now will not only reduce risks in the future but also build a safer, more resilient Malaysia."

Charcoal factory penalised for causing pollution

ALOR SETAR: An Equipment Operation Detention action has been taken against a factory producing charcoal using coconut shells in the Kubang Pasu district by the Kedah Environment Department, said its director Sharifah Zakiah Syed Sahab.

She said the action was taken under Section 38 (1)(a) of the Environmental Quality Act (EQA) 1974 following a complaint received last Friday regarding air pollution caused by the factory.

"Our investigation found the complaint to be valid. The factory was penalised for operating without a chimney unit and air pollution control equipment during its coconut shell burning process," she said in a statement yesterday.

She added that the action could not be taken immediately on the day of the inspection as the equipment was still hot, posing a risk to enforcement officers.

She said the factory has since been ordered to halt operations to allow immediate corrective measures and the installation of proper pollution control systems.

"A notice under Sections 31 and 37 of the Environmental Quality Act 1974 has been issued to the factory, requiring immediate repair and maintenance work to be carried out. The factory will only be permitted to resume operations once the department is satisfied with the corrective actions taken."

She urged the public to call the department's toll-free line at 1-800-88-2727, email aduan_kadoe.gov.my, or lodge a report at aduan.doe.gov.my/report about any activity being carried out that may harm the environment. — Bernama

RM110,000 donation for Kinabalu Journalism Awards

KOTA KINABALU: The Sabah state government has donated RM110,000 for this year's Kinabalu Journalism Awards, an increase from the RM100,000 last year.

Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor presented the donation to Sabah Journalists Association (SJA) at a Hari Raya Aidilfitri event with the media at Dewan Bankuasi, Menara Kinabalu on Saturday, Bernama reported.

The Chief Minister's Department media and communications director Datuk Lucy Irene Yong said the event was specially hosted by the chief minister for media practitioners as the state government valued the role and cooperation of the media which has continued to support and assist in reporting government programmes.

The event was also attended by Assistant Minister to the Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Ruslan Muharam, Tourism, Culture and Environment Assistant Minister Datuk Joniston Bangkuai, state Information director Puan Jainisah Mohd Noor, Malaysian Broadcasting Department Sabah director Mohd Yusni Mohamed Ali and SJA president Mariah Doksil.



FUN ACTIVITY...
Children taking part in a colouring workshop on the sidelines of the Matta Fair held at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre in Kuala Lumpur.
— ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

Rantau Panjang residents want flood mitigation project expedited

PASIR MAS: Residents and traders in Rantau Panjang have expressed hope that the flood mitigation project in the area will be expedited, as the risk of recurring annual floods continues to disrupt local socio-economic stability.

Mohd Aiman Muhamad Yusof, 22, from Kampung Cabang Bagus said the project should be a priority, especially in the context of climate resilience and disaster management.

"This area is affected almost every year during the monsoon season. A long-term solution is urgently needed to minimise damage

to public assets and private property."

He said coordination between federal and state agencies must be prioritised to avoid delays caused by policy differences or political considerations.

"Swift implementation will not only safeguard lives and property, but also reduce the government's dependency on post-disaster relief funding each year."

"If this project is realised, government spending can be redirected to other sectors with wider development impact."

Darul Hisham Mat Noor, 52, from Kampung

Gual Mesa said the project must be guided by long-term risk projections and the area's development potential.

"We face high water levels three to four times a year. This must be addressed systematically."

He added that ongoing flood risks have eroded investor confidence and pose challenges to long-term development planning in the border town.

Food trader Muhamad Kharimi Arif said floods directly affect business operations in Rantau Panjang town.

"This town is a vital economic hub in

Kelantan, especially in the wholesale and retail sectors. Without proper infrastructure like flood mitigation systems, we cannot maximise its economic potential."

He expressed hope that the project would not be delayed by technical or administrative issues as any postponement would continue to burden all stakeholders.

On April 12, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the federal government has decided to expedite flood mitigation projects in Kelantan to address the state's perennial flooding problem. — Bernama

Renewed focus on piezoelectric option

➤ Generating power from everyday motion such as footsteps viable, but only for small scale applications: Expert

BY HARITH KAMAL
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PETALING JAYA: A video circulating online claims that Japan is using subway foot traffic to generate electricity through piezoelectric tiles, allegedly powering lights and other systems in high-traffic transit hubs such as Shibuya Station.

While the authenticity of the video remains unverified, the concept it promotes – generating energy from human movement – is based on real and scientifically proven technology.

Xiamen University Malaysia New Energy Science and Engineering head of programme Assoc Prof Dr Gan Wee Chen told *theSun* the concept, known as piezoelectric energy, is not new but is attracting renewed attention as countries, including Malaysia, explore sustainable energy solutions amid rapid urbanisation and growing climate concerns.

"Piezoelectricity is a phenomenon in which certain materials, such as quartz crystals, specific ceramics or polymers, generate an electric charge when they are mechanically stressed," he said.

"In simpler terms, when pressure, vibration or force is applied to these materials, they produce electricity. The effect also works in reverse, when these materials change shape when exposed to electric fields."

He said this dual property has long been employed in devices such as microphones, sensors and ultrasound machines. More recently, researchers have started exploring how piezoelectric materials could harvest renewable energy from everyday actions such as footsteps.

Gan, who specialises in piezoelectric energy conversion, added that while the concept holds

promise, its practical use is likely limited to specific, small-scale applications.

"Piezoelectric energy harvesters are best suited for powering low-energy devices, especially in the field of the Internet of Things (IoT).

"These include small sensors embedded in buildings, wearables or distributed networks that monitor the environment or structural integrity."

On whether Malaysia could benefit from using piezoelectric tiles in busy places such as train stations, Gan said the energy generated from footsteps is very low and only enough to power tiny devices, not big systems such as lighting for the premises.

However, he said it could be useful for small, battery-free sensors that power themselves, adding that the technology could be used in places with low energy needs, such as sensors on bridges, buildings or farms.

"These could be powered by vibrations or pressure changes, offering sustainable energy for monitoring purposes without needing conventional electricity."

"In such cases, piezoelectric technology could help reduce maintenance costs and enable remote monitoring in hard-to-reach areas."

Gan said there are still several challenges slowing down the wider use of piezoelectric systems in Malaysia, starting with cost.

"The materials and manufacturing processes needed to make efficient piezoelectric devices are still expensive, especially when compared with more developed renewable options such as solar."

"Solar panels can produce much more energy, and Malaysia's tropical climate offers steady sunlight,



Gan said the energy generated from footsteps is very low and only enough to power small devices, not big systems such as lighting for premises. – ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

making it a more practical choice for high-energy needs."

He said efficiency is another concern, explaining that piezoelectric devices perform best in environments where consistent mechanical stress is present.

"Malaysia's unpredictable weather, high humidity and inconsistent foot traffic patterns may affect energy output."

"Retrofitting existing infrastructure to incorporate these systems would also be costly and complex."

Despite these hurdles, Gan said piezoelectric technology could complement other energy sources in specific applications, such as smart traffic systems.

"On smart highways, piezoelectric energy could be used to power low-energy IoT devices such as traffic sensors or emergency alert systems, especially at night or during overcast weather when solar power

isn't available.

"In addition, it could also be used for foot traffic monitoring and understanding areas of high foot traffic for placement of advertising boards to increase consumer (visibility)," he said.

Gan also said piezoelectric systems may find a niche in smaller urban developments or remote rural areas where access to electricity is limited.

While the technology is unlikely to replace solar or wind as Malaysia's primary sources of renewable energy, Gan said it could still play a valuable supporting role.

"When applied strategically and where appropriate, piezoelectric energy could contribute to Malaysia's shift towards a more sustainable future."

"As with any emerging technology, the key is to understand where it works best and where it doesn't."

Police to probe shooting case over parang incident

SHAH ALAM: Police are investigating an incident involving a security guard who allegedly fired a shot at a man wielding a *parang* at a restaurant in Banting on Saturday.

Kuala Langat police chief Supt Mohd Akmalrizal Radzi said police were informed of the incident at about 3.30pm by an individual who reported that a man was brandishing a *parang* at healthcare workers.

"Earlier at about 12pm, police had received a call from a separate individual to report that his younger sibling was behaving aggressively at their home in the Banting area."

"Following the report, the Kuala Langat district police headquarters operations room deployed personnel and took the local man to the Banting Hospital for treatment before the *parang* incident occurred later in the afternoon," he said in a statement yesterday.

Earlier, a video on social media showed a man in a frenzy while brandishing a *parang* at several healthcare workers before a security guard at the scene discharged a shot from a shotgun. – Bernama

Man killed by falling tree

KOTA BHARU: A man was killed by a falling tree at Kampung Kuala Semerak in Pasir Puteh on Saturday.

District police chief Supt Zaizul Rizal Zakaria said a report was received from the Cherang Ruku police station at about 3pm.

"A police team found the victim's body lying under the fallen tree. There were no criminal elements," he said.

Individuals with information on the case are urged to contact Sgt Zukiman Ismail at 018-365 0449. – Bernama

Woman driver in UiTM fatal crash claims trial

KUALA TERENGGANU: A woman driver has pleaded not guilty to a charge of attempting to murder a Dungun Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) student in October last year.

Norizan Ismail, 50, made the plea before Judge Datuk Hassan Abdul Ghani after the charge was read out by an interpreter at the High Court here yesterday.

According to the charge, the mother of three children is alleged to have committed the act at 7.35pm

on Oct 9, 2024 at Jalan Pantai opposite the university, under Section 307(1) of the Penal Code.

If convicted, the accused could be jailed for up to 10 years and fined, and if the act causes injury, then she could be jailed for a maximum of 20 years.

In the incident, Muhammad Ammar Danish Mohamad Ridhuan, who was 20 years old at the time, was injured after being hit from behind by the accused who was driving a

sports utility vehicle while he was riding a motorcycle.

The incident caused the deaths of three friends who were with him – Muhammad Akmal Md Tukirin, 25, Ku Adib Aizad Ku Azmi, 20, and Khairil Anwar Jamaludin, 20.

The case was handled by DPP Mohd Khairuddin Idris while the accused was represented by lawyer Mohd Shahir Mat Jusoh.

The court set May 20 for submission of trial documents.

On March 2, Norizan had pleaded not guilty to three charges under Section 302 of the same law for committing murder by causing the deaths of Muhammad Akmal, Ku Adib Aizad and Khairil Anwar.

The case, which has received nationwide attention, will proceed after the court ruled that Norizan is fit to stand trial based on a psychiatric examination report obtained from the Permai Hospital in Johor. – Bernama

UUM student crushed while waiting to board bus

ALOR SETAR: A Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) female student died on Saturday after being crushed in an incident involving two buses in front of a bus stop.

Manarina Hasya Muhamad Karim, 22, was confirmed dead after being treated for almost 10 hours at the Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital, said Kubang Pasu district police chief

Supt Mohd Radzi Abdul Rahim.

The student was queuing to board a bus that had stopped at the bus stop when it was hit from behind by another bus.

"The impact caused the front bus to hit a metal railing that crushed the victim, who was walking in queue to board the bus."

"The victim, from Johor Bahru,

was sent to the hospital before being confirmed dead while being treated," he said in a statement, adding that the case was being investigated under Section 41(1) of the Road Transport Act 1987.

UUM deputy vice-chancellor (student affairs and alumni) Prof Dr Ahmad Martadha Mohamed posted a condolence message to the family

of the student on Facebook.

"Following the incident involving the campus shuttle bus, the university is waiting for a complete report from the UUM security department and has contacted police about the matter. Police are conducting a full investigation and a complete report will follow," he added. – Bernama

'Cookie specialist' spreading sweet joy

➤ Use of traditional recipes with *halal* and eggless ingredients makes products also suitable for vegetarians

KUALA LUMPUR: Traditional Malay and modern cookies baked by 73-year-old Ratha Sivalingam have won the hearts of Malaysians from all backgrounds for over 30 years.

Using original Malay recipes, the Kuala Lumpur-born baker has mastered the art of maintaining the texture and flavour of the heritage treats, with her use of *halal*, eggless ingredients making the products also suitable for vegetarians.

For the mother of two, baking is more than just offering delicious treats. It's about rekindling childhood memories through classic and modern cookie varieties.

Her love and talent in baking have made her a "bridge of unity," fostering friendships across



Ratha said her secret to making good cookies is sincerity and love for the craft.
— BERNAMAPIC

communities while expanding her customer base.

"My interest in baking began by chance during a two-year stay in the United States. My son asked me to bring food for a Boy Scout event, so I bought a ready-made cake and decorated it myself," Ratha shared with Bernama.

"My passion grew from there. After returning to Malaysia, I started baking seriously and opened a shop with a friend. The business attracted regular customers, especially during festive seasons such as Aidilfitri, Chinese New Year, Deepavali and Christmas," she said.

Although the shop in Kepong has since closed, she continues operating from home.

On the secret to her lasting popularity, Ratha said it boils down to sincerity and love for the craft.

"I take orders anytime, but demand usually spikes during festive periods. I also make cookies based on customer requests. Eggless cookies, for example, are highly popular.

"I've noticed that the Indian and Chinese communities prefer vegetarian cookies. That's why I chose to make cookies and cakes that are not only *halal* for the Malay community but also suitable for vegetarians," she added.

Among her bestsellers are pineapple tarts, which make up over 80% of orders. Other popular varieties include mixed fruit cookies, chocolate chip cookies and butter cookies.

For Fatimah Sofian Sagor, 26, the taste of Ratha's cookies immediately won her over.

"My friend Shashi Kumar (Ratha's son) brought some cookies to the office. They were so delicious, almost like something my mother would make. When I asked who made them, he told me it was his mother. I was so surprised by how good they were, and I immediately placed an order to send some to my mother and relatives for Hari Raya," Fatimah said.

Initiative to transform housewives to entrepreneurs

TAPAH: To provide better lives for their families, three housewives from the Ayer Kuning constituency have ventured into business.

Their dreams are becoming a reality, thanks to community development programmes organised by the National Information Dissemination Centre in Ayer Kuning.

Food vendor Nurul Hidayah Abd Rahim, 38, said her participation in training programmes over the past year has transformed her life from

a housewife into a thriving food business owner.

Nurul Hidayah said she has effectively applied the knowledge gained from classes on business management, marketing techniques, profit and loss calculations, and utilising social media to promote her business.

"Last year, I started by selling just *nasi lemak*, fried noodles and soup noodles. Now, I have nearly 20 items, which include spiced fried chicken, *bakso* and *laksa*," she said, adding that

she now employs three workers.

She said promotion activities by the centre and involvement in community events also helped introduce her food to new customers.

"The centre in our neighbourhood has simplified family management. Now, housewives have the opportunity to contribute to the household economy," she added.

Small-scale bread seller Nurfarahin Bakar, 35, joined the programme in December to expand

her culinary knowledge and creativity.

"I've always wanted to run a business and learn to make pastries, but my responsibilities as a housewife held me back. The centre provided me the opportunity, as the classes are very flexible and fit into my free time," she said.

For Sur'aatun Shazaa Shafaruddin, 39, participating in the programme has not only been a new experience but also allowed her to generate income. — Bernama

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Alarm bells in Indonesia over rising military role

Prabowo dismisses public outrage

JAKARTA: Greater military influence in government, reporters under threat and a stuttering economy – President Prabowo Subianto's first six months in power have triggered alarm bells for activists worried about a return to the country's authoritarian roots.

Indonesia's parliament amended a law last month allowing active-duty military personnel to work in 14 state institutions, up from 10, including the attorney general's office, which rights groups say could weaken legal checks on military abuse.

The decision has critics anxious that the world's third-largest democracy could hark back to the days of dictator Suharto.

"The government does not realise that Indonesia has a collective trauma over (Suharto's) authoritarian New Order

government," said Hussein Ahmad, deputy director of rights group Imparsial.

After Prabowo appointed representatives to kickstart discussions of the law in parliament in February, former president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said it used to be "taboo" for military personnel to enter politics.

"It was one of the doctrines that we issued back then ... If you want to do politics, resign," he told a meeting.

Presidential spokesman Hasan Nasbi denied that the new law would push Indonesia back to Suharto's era.

"This law limits the role to 14 sectors that need the skills and expertise relevant to (military) training," he said.

After his October inauguration, Prabowo paraded his Cabinet in military fatigues at a retreat.

In November, his defence minister, also a former general accused of abuses under Suharto, announced that 100 battalions would be set up to enforce the government's agenda.

And Prabowo has also faced backlash in recent months for slashing budgets, as Indonesia's flailing economy is further hit by a plummeting rupiah and see-sawing markets.

Adding to worries is a regulation issued last month allowing police to monitor foreign journalists and researchers.

It gives the police the authority to provide a permission letter when reporting from "certain locations" – though a spokesperson later said the letter was "not mandatory".

But the regulation could still spook reporters working on sensitive topics, said Human Rights Watch's Andreas Harsono.

"Journalism always goes hand-in-hand with democracy," he said.

"If journalism is suppressed, the freedom of speech is suppressed, democracy will be paralysed."

The country's press flourished after the fall of Suharto, but reporters have in recent weeks raised fears of an environment of intimidation.

Journalist Francisca Christy Rosana, who was doxxed in recent

weeks, said they got the message loud and clear.

"This terror was not just aimed at intimidating but silencing and stopping our work."

Thousands across Indonesia last month protested against the new law, carrying posters that called for the military to "return to barracks".

Dismissing the public's outrage over the military's potential dual role in government as "nonsense", Prabowo said he respected the people's right to protest.

But if the demonstrations "create chaos and unrest, in my opinion this is against the national interest," he said earlier this month.

Andrie Yunus of KontraS, the commission for missing persons and victims of violence, said the demonstrations are "the tip of the iceberg".

"Civilians are fed up with the entry of militarism into civilian affairs," he said, warning that the path to a military regime "is open".

"We consider the passing of the (military law) to be an attempt to open Pandora's box." – AFP

JAPANESE WARSHIPS DOCK IN CAMBODIA

PHNOM PENH: Two Japanese warships made a port call at Cambodia's Chinese-renovated naval base on Saturday, the Japanese embassy said, the first vessels to dock at the site that has raised concerns in Washington. Media access to the base was restricted on Saturday when the *Bungo* and *Etajima* from the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force made a port call. "We are glad to witness the visit to the renovated Ream Naval Base. It is a historically significant event. We are aware that Cambodia has been willing to open the base to all countries," the embassy said in a statement. Cambodia has long been one of China's staunchest allies in Southeast Asia, and Beijing has extended its influence over Phnom Penh in recent years. – AFP

SEOUL GROUNDS MOST MILITARY AIRCRAFT

SEOUL: The South Korean Air Force has grounded nearly all of its aircraft after a KA-1 light attack aircraft accidentally released two gun pods and empty fuel tanks last week. On Friday, the aircraft taking part in nighttime drills over Pyeongchang, about 125km east of Seoul, jettisoned the parts in a mountainous area. No casualties or property damage have been reported. In response, the air force has decided to impose flight restrictions on all of its aircraft, excluding those that conduct reconnaissance operations or are on emergency standby, until tomorrow. The move is expected to affect the Freedom Flag air exercise under way since Thursday. – Bernama

11 killed in Delhi building collapse

NEW DELHI: At least 11 people, including three children, were killed in New Delhi on Saturday after a residential building collapsed on the outskirts of the Indian capital.

The incident happened in the early hours in the northeastern district of the city that mostly houses migrant workers, with rescue teams digging through the rubble throughout the day.

Eleven people were pronounced dead, NDTV channel reported, though 11 others were rescued and taken to hospital. Five were still undergoing treatment, the network said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was "saddened by the loss of lives".

"Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon," Modi said.

President Droupadi Murmu said "the deaths of many people including women and children is very sad".

The cause of the collapse was not immediately known.

Delhi Chief Minister Kapil Mishra blamed corruption in the municipal government, run by a rival political party, for such building collapses, saying on X: "Construction of such illegal buildings is going on in full swing."

"Survey of all these illegal buildings is necessary, strict action is required." News reports said that the four-storey building "came crashing down like a stack of cards".

Building collapses are frequent in India, and illegal structures, often home to migrant workers, are common in big cities. – AFP



SERENE VOICES ... Filipino children dressed as angels sing during Easter Sunday mass in Apalit, Pampanga. – REUTERSPIC

Group of 200 Karen individuals flee to Thailand

BANGKOK: Around 200 Karen people fled fighting in Myanmar and crossed the border into Thailand, Thai border officials said on Saturday.

Fighting has been raging in Myanmar's eastern Karen state, which borders Thailand, with militias battling the military government that seized power in a 2021 coup.

Four years of conflict across Myanmar have spurred mass displacement, driving tens of

thousands across the border into Thailand.

About 200 Karen people fled to the kingdom on Friday and Saturday due to bombing and civil unrest a few kilometres from the border on the Myanmar side, said Major General Maitree Chupreecha, commander of the Thai military's Naresuan Force border unit.

They were frightened by drone bombing targeting military troops,

he said, leading some to cross the Moei border river to Tak province.

"Approximately 200 people ... started to arrive yesterday afternoon," he said.

Those who crossed are being held in a temporary shelter by the Ratchamanu Task Force, he said, which was confirmed by a post on the Thai Army unit's Facebook page.

Maitree said there could be more people crossing into Thailand and

that authorities intended to repatriate them when security improves.

The government and opposition groups declared a ceasefire to ease relief efforts after a 7.7-magnitude quake hit central Myanmar on March 28, killing more than 3,700 people.

However, Myanmar residents said there has been fighting in towns on a highway leading to the Thai border town of Mae Sot. – AFP



Oldest active astronaut returns to Earth on birthday

WASHINGTON: Cake, gifts and a low-key family celebration may be how many senior citizens picture their 70th birthday.

But NASA's oldest serving astronaut Don Pettit became a septuagenarian while hurtling towards the Earth in a spacecraft to wrap up a seven-month mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

A Soyuz capsule carrying the American and two Russian cosmonauts landed in Kazakhstan yesterday, the day of Pettit's milestone birthday.

"Today at 0420 Moscow time (9.20am in Malaysia), the Soyuz MS-26 landing craft with Alexei Ovchinin, Ivan Vagner and Donald (Don) Pettit aboard landed near the Kazakh town of Zhezkazgan," said Russia's space agency Roscosmos.

Spending 220 days in space, Pettit and his

crewmates Ovchinin and Vagner orbited the Earth 3,520 times and completed a journey of 93.3 million miles over the course of their mission.

It was the fourth spaceflight for Pettit, who has logged more than 18 months in orbit throughout his 29-year career.

The trio touched down in a remote area southeast of Kazakhstan after undocking from the space station just over three hours earlier.

Nasa images of the landing showed the small capsule parachuting down to Earth with the sunrise as a backdrop.

The astronauts gave thumbs-up gestures as rescuers carried them from the spacecraft to an inflatable medical tent.

Despite looking a little worse for wear as he was pulled from the vessel, Pettit was "doing well

and in the range of what is expected for him following return to Earth," Nasa said.

He was then set to fly to the Kazakh city of Karaganda before boarding a Nasa plane to the agency's Johnson Space Center in Texas.

The astronauts spent their time on the ISS researching areas such as water sanitisation technology, plant growth and fire behaviour in microgravity, Nasa said.

The trio's seven-month trip was just short of the nine months that Nasa astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams unexpectedly spent stuck on the orbital lab after the spacecraft they were testing suffered technical issues.

Space is one of the final areas of US-Russia cooperation amid an almost complete breakdown in relations between Moscow and Washington over the Ukraine conflict. – AFP

Six drowning deaths as huge waves hit Australian coast

SYDNEY: A fisherman died after being swept off rocks near Sydney yesterday, stretching the Easter weekend death toll of drownings to six as huge waves battered Australia's east coast.

Emergency services winched two people from the surf at Wattamolla Beach, but one of them couldn't be revived, New South Wales Police said.

The pair had been fishing when swept off rocks on the outskirts of southern Sydney.

The second person, a 14-year-old boy, was in a stable condition in hospital.

It continued a run of fatalities over the holiday weekend, with the search continuing for two other people still missing in the surf since Friday: one off Sydney and one off Melbourne.

Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) issued a warning on Thursday that strong swells would create hazardous surf conditions along the coasts of New South Wales and Victoria.

Three people drowned on Friday in New South Wales, while a woman died and a man went missing after they were swept into the sea near Melbourne.

On Saturday, when swells were as high as 3.5m in some places, a fisherman was swept to his death off rocks in southern New South Wales.

SLSA had released data before the weekend showing 630 people had died at beaches without an active lifesaving service over the last 10 years.

Chief executive Adam Weir advised patrolled beaches should be prioritised for safety.

"We know that Aussies and visitors to our country like to go off the beaten track to enjoy camping, fishing and other coastal activities," Weir said.

"But these coastal locations can present dangers, some that you can see and some that you can't, which is why we have some simple advice: Stop, Look, Stay Alive." – AFP

Tractors join Turkiye opposition protest

➤ Disgruntled political parties call for early elections

ISTANBUL: Around 100 tractors blocked roads in central Turkiye on Saturday as their drivers joined the latest anti-government protest called by the main opposition CHP.

The rally in the central town of Yozgat took place exactly a month after the arrest of Istanbul's popular opposition mayor, Ekrem Imamoglu, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's biggest political rival.

That detention sparked Turkiye's worst street protests in a decade and prompted a sharp crackdown by the authorities who detained nearly 2,000 people.

Although the initial mass demonstrations tailed off, the government has failed to stamp out the unrest, with ongoing protests by university and high school students, and CHP leader Ozgur Ozel calling for weekly rallies.

Wearing a flat cap, Ozel drove a tractor into Yozgat on Saturday at the head of a long convoy where several thousand flag-waving protesters had rallied in this deeply conservative farming heartland that has long backed Erdogan's AKP and its nationalist allies.

"Government, resign!" they chanted in footage posted online by several opposition news outlets.

"I warn the authorities who see the people of Yozgat as ants and are trying to crush them: we will not let you crush these hard-working farmers!" Ozel told the crowd.

"The 'despised farmer' and the villager who is ignored will demand an accounting, starting here in Yozgat! The nation's future will be saved by determination and resolve. It's not ... those who fear the ballot box who will win, but the people!" he later wrote on X.

The jailed mayor's wife Dilek Imamoglu said



CHP leader Ozel (left) leads a convoy of tractors into Yozgat, central Turkiye. – AFP/PIIC

people wanted change.

"The workers, farmers, students, women and men who are building our future ... have said 'enough is enough' in Yozgat today. Millions want a country ruled by justice and law that is united!" she said on X.

Last month, around a dozen local farmers were fined for staging a tractor protest over Imamoglu's arrest and the government's roundup of young protesters which has sparked widespread anger.

"The government is putting pressure on students but the future of Turkiye is the

students, right?" said one of the tractor drivers, without giving his name.

"We came here to support each other, we can't afford anything because of hunger and thirst ... Our government should stop being partisan and deal with people's hunger," he said.

At the rally, organisers read out a letter from Imamoglu urging support for the opposition's call for early elections.

"If the government were to call early elections today, the economy would get back on track," he wrote in a direct appeal to those who voted for Erdogan's AKP. – AFP

Lady Gaga keeps cool after microphone glitch

LOS ANGELES: Lady Gaga expertly handled a technical glitch during her performance at the Coachella pop festival in Southern California on Friday.

As video recordings show, her headset microphone failed during her second song, *Abracadabra*.

The 39-year-old continued singing and carried on with the choreography of the song, which involved many dancers, without

hesitation. In the middle of the performance, she swapped the faulty headset for a conventional handheld microphone. Later in her performance, she returned to using a headset.

Sitting at the piano, she later apologised for the glitch. The singer explained that her microphone had broken.

"I'm sorry my mic was broken for a second. At least you know I sing live," she said with a laugh.

"I guess all we can do is our best, and I'm

certainly giving you my best tonight."

The Coachella concerts traditionally take place over two consecutive weekends near the desert city of Indio. The line-up is almost identical on both dates.

Lady Gaga had already performed the previous weekend. The programme also listed the rock band Green Day and the rappers Post Malone and Travis Scott as other headliners. – Bernama

Man with US\$2m cash held at airport

LUSAKA: Zambian customs officials said on Saturday they had arrested an Indian national who had attempted to smuggle more than US\$2 million (RM8.8 million) in cash and gold worth US\$500,000 through the country's main airport.

The 27-year-old was on his way to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates when his attempt was thwarted by a multi-agency team at the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport, the Drug Enforcement Commission (DEC) said.

He was intercepted with US\$2,320,000 in cash and seven pieces of what they suspected to be gold valued at US\$500,000, the agency said in a statement.

Images shared by Zambian media showed stacks of US\$100 bills held together with rubber bands. The money was packed into a black bag, which was then placed inside a larger polypropylene suitcase.

"Those involved in transnational organised crimes that the long arm of the law will catch up with them soon," DEC said.

The southern African country has abundant reserves of minerals, including copper and gold. But its economy is impoverished and more than 60% of the population lives in poverty, according to the World Bank.

In 2023, five Egyptians were arrested in Zambia with a plane carrying weapons, 127kg of gold and US\$5.7 million in cash.

They were released after prosecutors dropped espionage charges against them. – AFP

Father of US hostage hopeful son still alive

NEW YORK: The father of a US-Israeli hostage held in Gaza said on Saturday he remains hopeful his 21-year-old son was still alive after Hamas said it could not account for his status.

Adi Alexander, whose son Edan was serving in the Israeli army when he was captured on Oct 7, 2023, called on the United States to engage in direct talks to free the remaining hostages.

"I think we should engage with them directly and see what can be done about my son, four American dead hostages and everybody else," the father said.

"It seems like the negotiations are stalled, everything is stuck and we are kind of back to a year ago. It's really concerning."

Hamas had previously agreed to release Edan Alexander, believed to be the last surviving American hostage held by the group, as well as the bodies of four other Americans.

The armed wing of Hamas said on Saturday it did not know the fate of Alexander, after noting that the guard holding him was killed.

Hamas abducted Edan Alexander when he was 19.

Edan, who holds dual nationality, grew up in New Jersey. His father said his son was an "all-American kid, great athlete ..., such a loving, loving boy" who found himself in "the wrong place, wrong time".

He said if he could speak to his son now, he would tell him, "Just believe. You know, nobody forgot about you. Definitely not your parents, and everybody is fighting for your release on the highest level." – Reuters

Gaza talks pace frustrates chief negotiator

Qatar committed to negotiations

DOHA: Qatar's chief negotiator voiced frustration over talks for a truce in Gaza in an interview, a month after Israel resumed its strikes on the Palestinian territory and another round of negotiations ended without a deal.

"We're definitely frustrated by the slowness, sometimes, of the process in the negotiation. This is an urgent matter. There are lives at stake here if this military operation continues day by day," Mohammed Al-Khulaifi said on Friday.

Qatar, with the United States and Egypt, brokered a truce in Gaza

between Israel and Hamas which came into force on Jan 19 and largely halted over a year of war.

The initial phase of the truce ended in early March, with the two sides unable to agree on the next steps.

Hamas has insisted that negotiations be held for a second phase to the truce, leading to a permanent end to the war, as outlined in the January framework.

Israel, which had called for an extension to the opening phase, resumed air and ground attacks across the Gaza Strip on March 18 after earlier halting the entry of aid.

Late on Thursday, Hamas signalled it would not accept Israel's newest proposal for a 45-day ceasefire. Israel had wanted the release of 10 living hostages.

"We've been working continuously to try to bring the parties together and revive the agreement that has been endorsed by the two sides," the Qatari minister of state said.

"And we will remain committed to this, in spite of the difficulties."

During the long mediation process, Qatar has been the target of criticism from Israel and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

At least two of Netanyahu's aides are suspected of receiving payments from the Qatari government to promote Doha's interests in Israel, prompting an Israeli criminal probe. Qatar has dismissed the attacks as a "smear campaign".

Earlier in March, an investigation by Israel's domestic

security agency attributed funds from the Gulf state to an increase in Hamas' military strength before the Oct 7 attack. Qatar has rebuffed the accusation as "false".

"We've been receiving those types of criticism and negative comments since the early times of our involvement," Al-Khulaifi said.

"Critiques without any context, such as the ones that we keep hearing from Netanyahu, are often just noise."

Al-Khulaifi rejected recent remarks from Netanyahu to Daystar channel that Qatar had promoted "anti-Americanism and anti-Zionism" on US college campuses.

"His claims about Qatar's educational partnerships have been repeatedly disproven. Everything we do is transparent." – AFP

BRIEFS

TURKIYE SPY CHIEF MEETS HAMAS LEADERS

ISTANBUL: Turkish intelligence chief Ibrahim Kalin met Hamas leaders in Turkiye on Saturday for talks about how to deliver aid to Gaza. He reassured them of support and said Ankara would oppose any effort to occupy or annex further Palestinian territory. Hamas said its leaders had stressed their willingness to "immediately reach a prisoner exchange agreement in return for a ceasefire", Israeli withdrawal, the start of reconstruction and the lifting of Israel's blockade. It also expressed a desire to see "the implementation of the Egyptian proposal to establish a special committee to govern the Gaza Strip, composed of independents and competent national figures". – AFP

PUTIN ATTENDS EASTER SERVICE

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin and Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin attended an Easter service led by the head of Russia's Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill. Hours after declaring a unilateral Easter ceasefire that Kyiv said was just words as fighting continued, Putin and Sobyanin stood in Moscow's main church, the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, while Kirill led a procession. Holding a thin red candle and donning a dark suit, white shirt and a red tie as in years past, the Russian leader crossed himself several times. The traditionally sung service starts late on Saturday and lasts into the early hours of Sunday. Putin always attends services during major church holidays. – Reuters



A missile strikes a tent camp sheltering displaced people in Khan Younis on Saturday. – REUTERS/SPIC

Israel restricts access to key church

ISTANBUL: Israeli authorities on Saturday blocked Christian worshippers' access to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

Israeli police erected military checkpoints on roads leading to the church in the Old City, checking IDs and denying entry to many young people, Wafa news agency reported.

Israeli authorities barred thousands of Christians from the occupied West Bank from entering Jerusalem, enforcing strict permit requirements for both Muslim and Christian Palestinians.

Church sources told Wafa that only 6,000 permits were issued to West Bank Christians this year, despite the community numbering around 50,000 across the Palestinian territories.

In a statement by the Higher Presidential Committee for Church Affairs in Palestine, chaired by PLO Executive Committee member Ramzi Khouri, the committee strongly condemned "the Israeli occupation authorities for imposing sweeping restrictions on Christian worshippers and foreign pilgrims in

occupied Jerusalem".

Most notably, Israeli authorities denied entry to the Apostolic Delegate and Vatican Ambassador to Palestine Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana, an act that violates diplomatic protocols and international conventions.

The committee "cited reports from human rights organisations documenting physical assaults and arbitrary arrests of worshippers, including local Jerusalemite Christians".

Calling for urgent international

action, the committee appealed to the United Nations, global human rights bodies, churches and Christian institutions to intervene.

"The international community must not remain silent in the face of these discriminatory and repressive measures. Freedom of worship in Jerusalem must be upheld for Palestinian Christians and Muslims."

Despite the limitations, Christian pilgrims continue to travel annually to Jerusalem for observances at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. – Bernama



COMMENT by Dr Syafizal Shahrudin

Who are we in the age of AI?

WHO we are at work is deeply tied to how we see ourselves. Our identity is shaped by what we do, where we work, and how well we perform.

These factors influence our job satisfaction, motivation, and overall well-being. When we feel aligned with our work, we thrive. But when our professional identity is challenged, we risk losing our sense of purpose.

Today, the creative industry is undergoing a transformation driven by artificial intelligence (AI), automation, and digital collaboration tools.

For designers, artists, and creative professionals, these changes redefine how work is done and what it means to be a creative expert.

Whether you are a graphic designer, architect, or UX/UI specialist, the question remains: "How do you maintain your creative identity when machines can generate designs, edit videos, and compose music?"

AI tools like MidJourney, DALL-E, Adobe Firefly, Runway ML, and Canva's AI-powered design features can now generate logos, website layouts, and 3D models in seconds.

This technology offers efficiency, handling repetitive tasks so that designers can focus on bigger ideas. However, it also shifts their role from creators to curators, raising fundamental questions about identity.

Traditionally, creative professionals have taken pride in originality and craftsmanship. But when AI can produce near-instant results, some may ask: "Am I still the artist, or just someone refining what the machine generates?" This shift can be unsettling, especially in an industry where individuality has always been a marker of success.

At the same time, digital collaboration tools like Figma, Miro, and Adobe Creative Cloud have changed how teams work together. Designers, developers, and clients can now collaborate in real time, making the creative process more dynamic. While this improves efficiency, it also

blurs the boundaries of expertise.

Previously, designers led the creative process, blending aesthetics with functionality. Now, with multiple stakeholders weighing in, they must navigate competing opinions and justify their decisions more than ever. Some may feel their expertise is being diluted, reduced to executing rather than envisioning.

This shift affects how designers perceive their own value. If an organisation prioritises collective decision-making over individual creativity, professionals may struggle to see their contributions as unique or essential. When work is defined by consensus rather than creative vision, does the designer still have authority, or are they simply another voice in the crowd?

How can creative professionals embrace these changes while preserving their sense of identity? The key lies in redefining their roles.

For those working with AI, the focus should shift from execution to creative strategy. AI may handle the technical aspects, but human designers provide vision, meaning, and refinement.

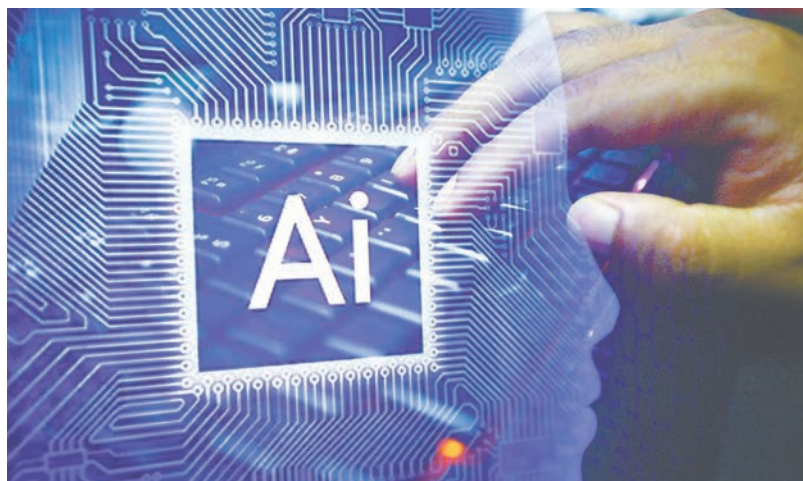
Rather than competing with AI, professionals should guide its use, ensuring that technology enhances creativity rather than replacing it. Organisations must also recognise that true innovation is not just about speed, but about depth and originality.

In collaborative environments, designers need to establish themselves as creative integrators.

While teamwork is valuable, their expertise should remain central in balancing aesthetics, functionality, and user needs. Companies can support this by giving designers a clear leadership role, ensuring their voice is not lost in the crowd.

The architects in my research illustrate this balance. Instead of resisting change, they adapted by expanding their roles beyond traditional architectural services.

Rather than being confined to rigid professional boundaries, they embraced diverse identities,



The future of creativity is not about choosing between humans and machines but about finding ways to let technology enhance humanity. – ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THE SUN

"Instead of seeing AI as a threat, we should harness it as a tool that amplifies human ingenuity."

voluntarily taking on non-architectural scopes of work to maintain their influence.

This flexibility not only reinforced their presence in projects but also ensured that their creative vision was upheld until completion. By broadening their contributions rather than retreating from change, they sustained their professional identity in a shifting landscape.

Likewise, creative professionals today must adopt a sustainable mindset, integrating AI and digital tools without compromising their artistic integrity. The ability to evolve without losing one's core values is what will distinguish those who thrive from those who struggle to adapt.

As we navigate the Gen AI era, it is worth reflecting on what truly defines us in our work. Is it what we do, the skills we master, or the outputs we deliver? In my research, I have observed a growing emphasis on performance-based identity, where

success is measured by efficiency rather than creativity. But is this shift sustainable?

Perhaps the answer lies in redefining creativity itself. Instead of seeing AI as a threat, we should harness it as a tool that amplifies human ingenuity. The future of creativity is not about choosing between humans and machines but about finding ways to let technology enhance humanity.

As AI continues to reshape industries, we must ask ourselves: How can we use these tools to enrich our work rather than diminish it? And how do we ensure that our professional identity remains a source of pride, purpose, and fulfilment in this new era?

Dr Syafizal Shahrudin is a senior lecturer at the School of Housing, Building and Planning, Universiti Sains Malaysia. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

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Starting afresh with retirement

RETIREMENT is a milestone that looms for every worker, whether it arrives at 60, 70, or beyond.

It's a phase as inevitable as it is transformative, yet it often arrives with a mix of anticipation and unease. A former colleague of mine worked tirelessly until nearly 80, his mind sharp and his passion for challenges undimmed.

He saw every obstacle as a chance to grow. But when a family tragedy struck, followed swiftly by an incurable diagnosis, his vast earnings could not buy back time.

"I'll drop dead the day I stop working," he used to say, and though he faces his illness with no regrets, his story shook me. It prompted a deep reflection on what retirement truly means – not an end, but an invitation to reimagine life.

Retirement is not a curtain falling; it's a stage awaiting a new act. The secret to a vibrant post-career life lies not in chasing bucket lists, often little more than scripts to answer curious onlookers, but in releasing habits that no longer serve us.

In letting go, we uncover a rhythm that hums with vitality and purpose.

Meet Wahid, whose journey after retirement offers a roadmap for this transformation, which some of us can associate with.

Wahid's first lesson was his body's quiet rebellion. After decades of early alarms and crowded commutes, he sank into his armchair, believing endless rest was his reward. But inactivity was a thief. Muscles weakened, joints creaked, balance faltered. The couch was no sanctuary, it was a trap.

So, Wahid began to move, not with

the vigour of youth but with gentle intention. Mornings became walks through his neighbourhood, sunlight filtering through trees, birdsong filling the air.

He tried *tai chi*, chuckling through wobbly poses with newfound friends. Even lifting spice jars in his kitchen became a small act of defiance against time. His body, he realised, was not a relic to mourn but a partner to cherish.

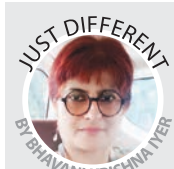
Retirement severed the daily threads of connection – office banter, shared lunches, the hum of human presence. Days stretched silent, and loneliness settled like a heavy fog, as harmful as any vice.

But Wahid discovered that connection didn't require grandeur. It blossomed in small moments: weekly teas with an old colleague, their laughter warming the café; a Quran study group where debates sparked joy; and volunteering at the mosque, where sorting donations wove him back into the community. Loneliness wasn't his fate, it was a call to reach out.

Sleep, too, demanded care. For years, Wahid had treated it as a luxury, stolen by late-night worries or early meetings. In retirement, he saw its sacred role mending his body, sharpening his mind, steadying his heart. Yet erratic bedtimes and glowing screens disrupted his rest.

So, he crafted a ritual with rosehip tea, a darkened room, a consistent bedtime like a lighthouse guiding him to shore. Sleep wasn't an afterthought but was his foundation.

Wahid's kitchen became a reason for endless transformation. Decades of rushed meals, greasy takeaways, skipped lunches had dulled his palate



"Retirement isn't the end of your story, it could be the dawn of a stunning new success you never knew you could be."

and health. Now, he wandered morning markets, marvelling at fresh green *kangkung* and bright red chillies.

He roasted vegetables, drizzled them with sesame oil, savoured almonds and dark chocolate. Eating well wasn't a chore but was a love letter to the life he still craved.

Wahid stopped dodging the doctor. Annual check-ups, once dismissed as formalities, became his shield. A routine blood test caught a whisper of trouble, addressed before it roared.

Cholesterol and blood sugar weren't just numbers, they were signposts for a longer journey. Ignoring them was reckless while embracing them was empowerment.

Old grudges like a friend's betrayal and a family slight clung like damp leaves, stealing Wahid's peace. He learned to let go, not with grand gestures but in quiet moments, imagining each hurt dissolving like mist. Forgiveness wasn't for other. It was his liberation, a lightness that let him smile freely.

Money required care, too. Retirement savings weren't infinite, and small indulgences like the daily *teh tarik* and unused subscriptions nibbled at his security.

Budgeting wasn't about scarcity; it was about stretching resources to match his dreams. Tracking spending and finding joy in simple pleasures ensured his future stayed bright.

Technology, once an adversary, became a bridge. Smartphones baffled Wahid, apps tested his patience, but he refused to be left behind. A community centre tech class opened doors which enabled him to do video calls with distant

grandchildren, and to online lectures that sparked curiosity. Learning wasn't just for the young, it was his lifeline to the world.

Above all, Wahid rejected the notion that his purpose had faded. Retirement wasn't a retreat but an empty slate. He mentored young entrepreneurs at his old cooperative, their ambition rekindling his own.

He wrote stories of his *kampung* childhood, pages that might outlive him. He planted a garden, each seed a promise to the future. Purpose wasn't a job; it was the spark of showing up.

As spring bloomed in his garden, Wahid stood taller, his hibiscus thriving, his tea warm in his hands. "I didn't retire from life," he said, eyes bright. "I retired to it."

The years after 60 aren't about decline, they are about choice. By letting go of stillness, solitude, grudges, and doubts, Wahid found a rhythm that felt like home.

If you are standing at this threshold, the habits you shed aren't losses, rather, they're keys to a life that glows. Retirement isn't the end of your story, it could be the dawn of a stunning new success you never knew you could be.

Step forward. Move, connect, forgive, dream. The stage is yours, start with a scribble and it will turn out to be a masterpiece.

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Trump – Modern Stupor Mundi wannabe

BY ERIC S. MARGOLIS

PRESIDENT Donald Trump wants to be a modern Stupor Mundi or wonder of the world. The last Stupor Mundi was the celebrated German Holy Roman Emperor and crusader, Frederick II, known as Barbarossa.

It appears that Trump seems determined to become the most important and commented upon person on earth. So far, he has succeeded brilliantly. So far, that is.

As of this writing, Trump's tariff crusade has become a debacle, making him and the US the objects of hatred and fury around the planet – except for farm regions in the US and among Israel's supporters.

Now even the farmers in the Dakotas are mad as hornets at the president from Queens, New York for wrecking the soya bean market with new tariffs.

To many professional money men, it appears that Trump's Russian roulette with tariffs threatens to bring a serious recession or worse.

One of America's smartest, most successful money managers, Ray Dalio, just warned that Trump's on-again, off-again tariff proclamations and other economic policies threaten an eventual global meltdown.

Dalio is a noted financial pessimist but we are unwise to

ignore his jeremiads now that America is up to its ears in too much debt.

As a historian, my mind goes quickly back to another financial miracle-worker, the infamous Scot, John Philip Law. He was a gambler who somehow convinced the bankrupt French king Louis XIV to replace gold coins with new paper money.

Law created a paper company, the Mississippi Company, that was supposed to mine vast caches of gold. Law became the richest man in Europe.

In 1720, Law's company collapsed when it was unable to pay out gold for paper money. He fled to Venice.

French state finances have never been the same since. Two other major get-rich-fast financial scams followed: the South Sea Island fraud and the great Tulip disaster.

We may be seeing a modern version of the Great Mississippi financial fiasco as scoundrels get their hands on the levers of state finance. Trump's goals in his tariff *jiha*d may be legit – to make America very rich for a short while before the rest of the world gangs up on the unloved US.

But Trump's methodology has been calamitous. He and his minions have ignited a worldwide panic, damaged US allies, enraged much of the globe and caused massive damage to world finance



and business. And for what? To make Trump the Stupor Mundi of the moment. Ego on steroids.

What all this betokens is the opening salvo of a coming US-China war. The 17th and 18th century trade wars offer ample evidence of how trade rivalries lead

to wars. We are doing it again. We are wildly unwise to revert to the mercantilism of past eras during the nuclear age.

Even at the very end of his life, King Louis XIV knew his warlike and mercantilist policies were wrong. He urged his successor, Louis XV, to

eschew expensive wars and to study peace. Young Louis followed this excellent advice and devoted himself to conquests of the *boudoir*.

Eric S. Margolis is a syndicated columnist. Comments: letters@thesunday.com

Takaful Ikhlas General announces record RM6.3m surplus distribution

PETALING JAYA: Takaful Ikhlas General Bhd, a subsidiary of MNRB Holdings Bhd, recently announced a record-breaking surplus distribution of RM6.3 million for the financial year ended March 31, 2024.

This marks the highest surplus payout in the company's history, benefiting about 1.1 million eligible participants.

The surplus, generated from the company's Participants' Risk Fund, reflects Takaful Ikhlas General's strong financial performance and prudent risk management.

Datuk Rudy Rodzila Che Lamin, interim president and group CEO of MNRB Holdings, and president and CEO of Takaful Ikhlas General, said: "This achievement underscores our commitment to financial resilience and responsible risk management. More importantly, it enables us to give back to our valued participants, who have placed their trust in us. Their continued support motivates us to continuously enhance our services, ensuring they receive reliable and accessible protection."

By distributing this surplus, he added, they are not just fulfilling their commitment but also reinforcing the fundamental values of takaful – transparency, fairness and mutual support.

"We remain steadfast in our mission to provide high-quality financial protection while upholding the values of fairness and shared prosperity," Rudy Rodzila said.

Allianz Life rolls out investment-linked plan with medical rider

PETALING JAYA: Allianz Life Insurance Malaysia Bhd has unveiled a next-generation investment-linked plan, Allianz AssuredLink, with medical rider HealthAssured, designed to offer Malaysians enhanced medical protection and greater financial security.

"At Allianz Life, we continuously innovate to meet our customers' evolving healthcare needs. With Allianz AssuredLink and HealthAssured, we are introducing a medical plan that offers extensive coverage and added value so Malaysians can focus on their health and medical without the burden of financial uncertainty," Allianz Life CEO Charles Ong said.

HealthAssured incorporates new features such as welcome benefits – which allow customers to enjoy a 20% discount on the cost of insurance (COI) at sign-up.

Meanwhile, customers get to enjoy the 20% COI discount with no-claim benefit as long as no claim was made during the review period.

Also, customers can choose between 5% or 15% co-insurance based on their financial needs. In addition, signing up during the Assured Booster Campaign, which runs until April 30, gives customers exclusive benefits.

With these perks, customers gain extra medical coverage at no additional cost.

Boost Bank and CGC Digital collaborate to support MSMEs

➤ Digital lender readies RM130 million financing, partner provides guarantee cover

PETALING JAYA: Boost Bank, the nation's first home-grown digital bank has partnered with CGC Digital, a fintech subsidiary of Credit Guarantee Corporation Malaysia Bhd, to enhance support for eligible underserved micro, small and medium enterprises across Malaysia.

Under this partnership, a total of RM130 million has been earmarked for Boost Bank's financing solutions

in the form of a term loan facility and a revolving credit facility.

CGC Digital will provide CGC's guarantee cover through bundling with Boost Bank's MSME financing solutions to strengthen MSME access to finance. This offering aims to reach out to thousands of MSMEs and bridge the critical financing gap these businesses face, while enabling them to enhance operations and capitalise on

growth opportunities.

Boost Bank's term loan financing offers MSMEs a convenient application process with minimal documentation required for loan amounts from RM50,000.

The facility features a financing tenure of up to 36 months with no early settlement fees, facilitating effective cash flow management by borrowers. Businesses also enjoy flexible repayment options to be more in sync with their cash flow needs without incurring any penalty.

The revolving credit financing offers MSMEs flexibility to manage their cash flow and rise to business

opportunities with ease with its swift financing disbursement feature, which enables businesses to receive funds in as fast as two working days upon approval of the loan.

Boost Bank CEO Fozia Amanulla said, "At Boost Bank, we understand the unique needs of MSMEs and the critical role financing plays in their growth. In line with our mission to drive financial inclusion and growth for underserved communities, we are committed to providing a platform that opens doors to growth, empowering businesses to overcome challenges and achieve success."

"This partnership with CGC Digital strengthens our ability to offer seamless, fast, and accessible financing solutions, empowering MSMEs to overcome challenges and seize growth opportunities. We will continue to innovate transformative offerings that will elevate the MSME landscape in Malaysia."

Meanwhile, CGC Digital CEO Yushida Husin remarked that Boost Bank is their first digital bank partner, marking a significant milestone in their journey towards facilitating access to financing with digital-first partners.

By collaborating with Boost Bank, he said, they can offer seamless, efficient, and accessible financial products that cater to the unique needs of MSMEs.

"This partnership is a significant step forward in our mission to support underserved MSMEs by providing them with the financing they need to succeed. It also aligns perfectly with the purpose for which CGC Digital was established – collaborating with digital-first partners."

"We are excited about the potential this partnership holds and are eager to explore further collaborations with other digital-first players in the industry."

"Our goal is to continuously enhance our offerings, ensuring that we remain at the forefront of financial innovation," she added.



Fozia (left) and Yushida at a ceremony to mark the collaboration between Boost Bank and CGC Digital to empower MSMEs with RM130 million in financing.

Affin Bank to distribute Halogen Shariah Defensive Bitcoin Fund

PETALING JAYA: Halogen Capital, Malaysia's first licensed digital asset fund manager, recently signed an agreement with Affin Bank Bhd on the distribution of the Halogen Shariah Defensive Bitcoin Fund, which has an integrated capital preservation strategy.

The fund aims to provide high net-worth individuals and institutional investors with a low-risk and secure pathway to harness the growth potential of Bitcoin.

The fund will employ a buy-and-hold strategy that is a combination of low-risk Islamic deposits and high-growth active asset, Bitcoin. This approach ensures the portfolio value is safeguarded from significant

market volatility, providing investors with both stability and potential upside.

"The Halogen Shariah Defensive Bitcoin Fund is redefining how high net worth and institutional investors approach digital asset investments in Malaysia," said Halogen Capital founder and CEO Hann Liew. "By combining Bitcoin's high-growth potential with a capital preservation strategy, we are providing a solution that is both innovative and practical."

He added: "In volatile markets, this fund acts accordingly, ensuring investors can confidently navigate downturns without compromising on long-term returns, in which we recognise the need for investors to

access high-growth opportunities in the digital asset market without experiencing significant capital loss and maintaining syariah compliance."

Through its distribution of the fund on behalf of Halogen Capital, Affin Bank is looking to introduce a risk-managed alternative for investors, bridging the gap between traditional financial principles and the dynamic digital asset market. The fund serves as an ideal solution for investors looking to diversify their portfolios with innovative yet secure investment options.

Affin Bank Group community banking executive director Mohammad Fairuz Mohd Radi said, "We are delighted to introduce an innovative investment

strategy that synergises Bitcoin with Islamic deposits, offering our customers a secure gateway to the digital asset landscape. This initiative underscores our unwavering commitment to delivering cutting-edge solutions while aligning seamlessly with the strategic pillars of the Affin Axelerate 2028 Plan – unrivalled customer service, digital leadership and responsible banking with impact."

The fund is a close-ended wholesale fund open to sophisticated investors only. Investors are expected to have a short-medium term horizon of two years. The initial minimum investment is RM10,000 with an initial sales charge of up to 2% and annual management fee of 1%.



EcoNiLi Battery New Energy invests RM80m in third facility

► CEO says future looks bright, company ramps up expansion plans amid growing EV adoption in Malaysia

■ BY HAYATUN RAZAK
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysia-based EcoNiLi Battery New Energy Sdn Bhd, the largest lithium-ion battery recycler in Asean, is investing RM80 million in a third facility focused on remanufacturing and repurposing batteries.

CEO Datuk Jayden Goh (*pic*) said it is ramping up expansion plans this year amid growing electric vehicle (EV) adoption in Malaysia.

"We are seeing an increase in the number of EVs on Malaysian roads, and the government is actively pushing for greater adoption. As a result, we will soon have a large volume of batteries waiting to be recycled," he told *SunBiz* in an exclusive interview.

Furthermore, Goh said, battery recycling demand is expected to surge in five to seven years as lithium-ion batteries from EVs and production scrap accumulate.

"Currently, there are three battery makers in Malaysia operating near full capacity, and we expect even more lithium-ion batteries to enter

the recycling pipeline soon. The future looks bright, it's just a matter of time," he added.

As part of its expansion, Goh said, EcoNiLi is developing a "circular economy valley" to recover precious metals from used batteries.

"Malaysia lacks local mineral resources, so we must source them through secondary applications. In the future, having a large supply of these materials will support our goal of establishing domestic battery production."

Despite short-term challenges, including a slowdown in EV demand and fluctuating battery metal prices, Goh remains optimistic about long-term growth particularly in battery recycling volumes.

"At the moment, battery value and metal prices are unstable due to the drop in global EV demand, which indirectly affects battery material prices. The entire battery ecosystem has faced challenges over the past two years, and this year will be no different. But as an entrepreneur, you have to stay optimistic and keep scaling the business," he said.

Goh said the company has already

broken even in terms of profitability, so scaling up is a priority.

"We are currently in the process of completing our Series A fundraise and will continue to seek funding from both local and international investors."

In addition to that, he said EcoNiLi plans to list on Nasdaq within three years to attract global investors and talent.

"We will raise more funding in the capital market. Whether it's for overseas or Malaysia. To scale our next project because we have a few expansion plan. We have our upcoming phase two, which we are already securing land from Perak itself 43-acre industrial land."

Goh said EcoNiLi is targeting at least 20% profit growth this year, but with a successful fundraising, the company could even achieve 30% to 40% growth. Scaling a business of this size requires significant working capital."

EcoNiLi serves global clients such as LG, Tesla and Honda, as well as battery recyclers worldwide that lack refinery capabilities.

"Setting up a refinery is highly complex, requiring significant expertise and investment. We source



recycling materials from global battery collection companies and battery recyclers to process them further," Goh said.

However, he highlighted that Malaysia lags behind China, India, and South Korea in battery recycling policies.

"Malaysia is still in its early stages, with unclear policies, ongoing R&D and trial-and-error efforts."

He said EcoNiLi is willing to work alongside the government to advocate for clear policies that support the industry's growth.

"This is a new industry with no clear guidelines or regulatory framework. We are adapting to the evolving landscape while positioning ourselves as a key player in the sector. Over time, this will allow us to influence industry standards."

Goh believes Malaysia still has time to become a major industry player, leveraging its cost advantages over countries such as South Korea, Singapore and Japan.

"Our costs are significantly lower than those in developed countries. Capital expenditure (capex) is also lower, making us a cost-effective alternative."

Comparing Malaysia with India,

Goh noted that the Indian government has introduced incentives and a policy framework that have accelerated industry growth. "Today, India has over 50 companies in battery recycling and related industries. They recognised its importance early on and acted swiftly."

Goh pointed out that China's battery recycling sector has also grown exponentially.

"In 2014, China had 500 battery recycling companies. Today, there are 120,000, with over 200 listed companies. This shows the industry's rapid growth potential."

"Korea already has four listed battery recycling companies. If we work closely with the government, we can fast-track our own listing and expand much faster," he added.

Goh stressed that battery recycling is a crucial industry, and discarded batteries should never end up in landfills.

"People now understand the value of used batteries. The battery ecosystem can generate national benefits, creating jobs, attracting investment, and positioning Malaysia as a global supplier of recycled materials."

He pointed out that recycled battery materials can be sold worldwide, not just to China, but also the US and Europe.

"This is a critical raw material needed for future battery production. Without recycling, we would be overly reliant on mining," Goh said.

Stellantis and partner Leapmotor to start EV assembly in Malaysia

■ BY AIMIE SHAZRIE
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PETALING JAYA: An initial investment of €5 million (RM25 million) has set the stage for European carmaker Stellantis and joint venture partner Leapmotor of China to begin electric vehicle (EV) assembly in Malaysia.

Stellantis Asean managing director Isaac Yeo said this marks a significant milestone in the region's push for electrification.

"The local production, which will take place at Stellantis' existing manufacturing facility in Gurun, Kedah, represents Leapmotor's first step into Malaysian localisation and strengthens

Stellantis' strategy to anchor its EV growth in the Asean region.

"The initiative, backed by an initial investment of RM25 million, will take place at Stellantis' established manufacturing facility in Gurun, Kedah," he said at a press conference on assembly of Leapmotor vehicles in Malaysia on Friday.

The strategic move not only signals Leapmotor's entry into production in Malaysia, but also positions the country at the forefront of the electric mobility revolution in the Asean region, Yeo said.

"By leveraging Stellantis' global manufacturing scale and Leapmotor's innovative new energy vehicle (NEV) technologies, the two companies are jointly advancing a vision for accessible, high-quality EVs tailored for Southeast Asia."

"With demand for EVs rising rapidly across Asean, the local assembly project in Malaysia represents both a commercial opportunity and a statement of intent to lead in sustainable mobility," he noted.

Stellantis India and Asia-Pacific chief operating officer Ashwani Muppasani said the milestone marks

more than the start of local assembly – it marks the next chapter in Stellantis' electrification journey across Asean.

"By combining Leapmotor's EV innovation and success with Stellantis' regional expertise and global scale, we are laying the foundation for an accessible, sustainable future of mobility right here in Malaysia and across Southeast Asia," he remarked.

Ashwani said the Gurun plant, which has been a core manufacturing base for Stellantis in the region, was selected for its strategic location and well-established automotive infrastructure.

"The plant has undergone enhancements to accommodate EV production, starting with the Leapmotor C10 model. Local assembly of this model is expected to begin by the end of 2025, with plans for further expansion aligned with regional market demand," he added.

Ashwani highlighted the plant's evolving role in the company's regional strategy.

"The Gurun plant has become a cornerstone of Stellantis' manufacturing presence in the region. We have proactively enhanced its capabilities to support EV assembly, and we are

proud that Leapmotor will be the first locally assembled electric vehicle to emerge from this plant," he said.

Beyond manufacturing, he added, the collaboration is expected to generate broader economic benefits including industrial growth, technology transfer, and enhanced co-operation between Malaysia and China.

Leapmotor founder, chairman and CEO Zhu Jiangming said the initiative supports Malaysia's broader economic objectives during its 2025 Asean chairmanship, positioning the country as a regional leader in clean energy development and sustainable transport.

He described the project as a key milestone in the company's global expansion.

"The localised assembly project in Malaysia will accelerate Leapmotor's global strategic expansion. We look forward to working with Stellantis Group to bring new technology and vitality to the transformation of Malaysia's automotive industry, and to set a benchmark and model for opening up the entire Southeast Asian market for Leapmotor."



Leapmotor International CEO and Stellantis China chief operating officer Xin Tianshu (left) and Ashwani during the signing ceremony.

EcoFirst, Johor agency in pact to enhance agri innovation

PETALING JAYA: EcoFirst Consolidated Bhd, a property-based company with a diversified portfolio in development, investment and management, through wholly owned subsidiary EcoFirst Opal Sdn Bhd, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Johor Biotechnology and Biodiversity Corporation (JBBC).

The MoU establishes a collaborative framework under the Johor Agricultural Research and Development Centre, aimed at enhancing innovation in agricultural research, smart farming technologies, biotechnology applications and sustainable farming practices. This initiative marks a forward-looking step for EcoFirst as the group expands its contribution beyond the property sector, in support of Johor's vision for a thriving, technology-led agricultural ecosystem.

JBBC, a statutory body under the Johor Biotechnology and Biodiversity Enactment 2006, plays a pivotal role in advancing the state's bioeconomy and ecological initiatives. Through this collaboration, JBBC seeks to catalyse synergy between the public sector, academia and private industry; empowering the agricultural sector with knowledge, research and commercial innovation.

Under the five-year MoU, both parties will cooperate on knowledge-sharing platforms, commercialisation of agri-based technologies, development of training programmes and talent pipelines, and the establishment of technology demonstration centres. While non-binding, the MoU reflects a shared commitment to accelerating innovation through impactful public-private partnerships.

US tariff pause to buoy trade and manufacturing in near term: CIMB Investment

KUALA LUMPUR: Front-loading activities are expected to support trade and manufacturing in the near term amid the United States' tariff pause, CIMB Investment Bank Bhd said.

In a note on Saturday, it said the 90-day suspension of differential tariffs offers a brief reprieve for non-retaliating countries such as Malaysia.

During this period, trade activity – led by exports of manufactured goods – is likely to be buoyed by accelerated shipments while trade negotiations with the US are under way.

"Nonetheless, Malaysia's growth outlook is clouded by global headwinds such as US trade policy uncertainties and escalating US-China trade tensions. The growth momentum may still lose steam as trade uncertainties hamper capital spending and hiring plans," it added.

Thus, CIMB Investment Bank maintained its full-year gross domestic product growth projection for Malaysia at 4%, reflecting risks of external demand weakness and adverse spillover to the domestic economy. – Bernama

Tripartite deal to build industrial park in Negeri

➤ EcoWorld, SD Guthrie and NS Corp form special purpose vehicle for RM2.95b project in Malaysia Vision Valley 2.0

PETALING JAYA: A tripartite agreement has been signed to transform 1,195 acres of prime land in Bukit Pelandok, Negeri Sembilan, into an integrated industrial park.

The alliance sets the wheels into motion for the development of Parcel C within Malaysia Vision Valley 2.0 (MVV 2.0), the primary economic corridor on the west of Peninsular Malaysia.

Eco World Development Group Bhd (EcoWorld), SD Guthrie Bhd and NS Corporation (NS Corp) are partners in the collaboration through Eco Business Park 7 Sdn Bhd (EBP 7), a special purpose vehicle set up for the development.

EcoWorld will hold 55% of EBP 7, while SD Guthrie Land Ventures Sdn Bhd, a wholly owned subsidiary of SD Guthrie, will hold a 30% stake. The remaining 15% will be held by NS Corp, a state agency of Negeri Sembilan.

EBP 7 will leverage the synergies of the three entities – SD Guthrie's strategically located land within MVV 2.0, EcoWorld's expertise and experience in successful industrial park developments and NS Corp's role as the state-appointed coordinator and custodian of the MVV 2.0 master plan.

The new industrial park has an estimated gross development value (GDV) of RM2.95 billion and forms part of a larger initiative to advance



From left: Chang, EcoWorld founder Tan Sri Abdul Rashid Abdul Manaf, Negeri Sembilan State Secretary Datuk Mohd Zafir Ibrahim, SD Guthrie chairman Tan Sri Nik Norzrul Thani, NS Corp CEO Norazhar Musa and Mohamad Helmy at the signing ceremony.

sustainable development in Negeri Sembilan. The project aims to attract local and foreign investments, create high-value jobs and drive the state's economic growth agenda.

MVV 2.0, launched in December 2018, comprises six parcels of development areas within about 380,000 acres across Seremban and Port Dickson districts, and is designed to complement the growth of Greater Kuala Lumpur.

The industrial park, to be named Eco Business Park VII, is to be developed over nine years. It will feature industrial lots, ready-built factories and commercial properties tailored to high-growth sectors, including those in the aerospace, electrical and electronics, logistics, and biotechnology industries.

It will also offer access to a proposed Nilai Labu Expressway that will connect the area to key infrastructure and logistics hubs such as Kuala Lumpur International Airport, Port Klang, Nilai and the wider west coast corridor via the PLUS

Expressway, offering connectivity and logistical advantages that are conducive for business growth.

"This partnership reflects the strong synergy between the public and private sectors in driving sustainable development in Negeri Sembilan. It is well aligned with the national agenda outlined under New Industrial Master Plan 2030 and the National Energy Transition Roadmap, thereby further reinforcing the state government's commitment in strengthening investment landscape and economic growth, positioning Negeri Sembilan as a potential leading industrial hub in Malaysia," said Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Aminuddin Harun who is also NS Corp's chairman.

"In the face of current global economic challenges and uncertainties in international trade, it is crucial that we strengthen our domestic economy. By focusing on high-value industries, we not only stand to attract quality investments, but also creating more high-skilled job

opportunities in Malaysia, particularly in Negeri Sembilan," he added.

SD Guthrie group managing director Datuk Helmy Othman Basha said this collaboration is another pivotal step to unlock the significant value of its strategically located landbank.

"In developing industrial parks as one of our new business verticals, SD Guthrie is continuing our approach of collaborating with more experienced partners in this sector to strengthen our own footprint. We are also delighted to be able to contribute to the long-term development of Negeri Sembilan and the national agenda."

EcoWorld president and CEO Datuk Chang Khim Wah said, "At EcoWorld, we firmly believe that partnerships are the cornerstone of sustainable growth. It is through meaningful collaboration – bringing together complementary strengths, shared values, and a common vision – that we are able to do more, go further, and build better."

Carlsberg Group CEO says Malaysia a 'strategic stronghold market'

PETALING JAYA: Carlsberg Group CEO Jacob Aarup-Andersen has described Malaysia as a "strategic stronghold market" of the brewer.

Despite a challenging environment, Carlsberg Malaysia delivered solid growth in revenue and net profit for the financial year ended Dec 31, 2024. It reported a 5.1% increase in revenue to RM2.4 billion and a 3% growth in net profit to RM337.1 million.

"Asia remains a region with volume and value growth opportunities, and we will continue to accelerate growth in Asia," Aarup-Andersen said during a recent trip to Malaysia.

"I am pleased with our solid performance in Malaysia, where we have seen strong growth for both the Carlsberg and 1664 brands. Malaysia was a key contributor to our overall performance last year, with strong growth in earnings and a continued focus on premium-



Carlsberg Malaysia managing director Stefano Cini (left) and Aarup-Andersen.

sation and innovation."

At the heart of Carlsberg Group's long-term vision is a deep commitment to sustainability – not just as a business imperative, but as a shared

responsibility to the planet and future generations. Carlsberg Group remains focused on embedding sustainability into every aspect of its operations, strategy, and leadership

mindset globally through the group's 'Together Towards ZERO and Beyond' ESG programme, a core pillar of the Accelerate SAIL strategy.

"We have a broader duty as corporate citizens and as human beings on this planet to own this agenda. My stewardship of the company as the CEO requires me to look at the resilience of the company and making sure that it is also resilient and relevant in decades from now," said Aarup-Andersen, who was recently invited as a speaker at the National Climate Governance Summit 2025.

"A winning team" – that is how Aarup-Andersen described the Carlsberg Malaysia team. "Keep doing what you do well as a team, keep pushing ahead with that challenger mindset, and continue innovating and pushing the boundaries, while fostering a strong growth culture," he said.



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SCAN ME

Malaysia's trade resilient, March exports rise to RM137.3b

Imports slip, balance in surplus for 59th consecutive month – amount of RM24.7b

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia's trade performance in March 2025 reflected resilience with a steady increase in exports, while a decline in imports highlighted challenges amid broader economic uncertainties.

Total trade experienced a year-on-year (y-o-y) growth of 2.2% to RM249.9 billion, attributable to a steady growth in exports (+6.8% or RM8.7 billion) to RM137.3 billion. However, imports experienced a decrease by 2.8% or RM3.3 billion to RM112.6 billion.

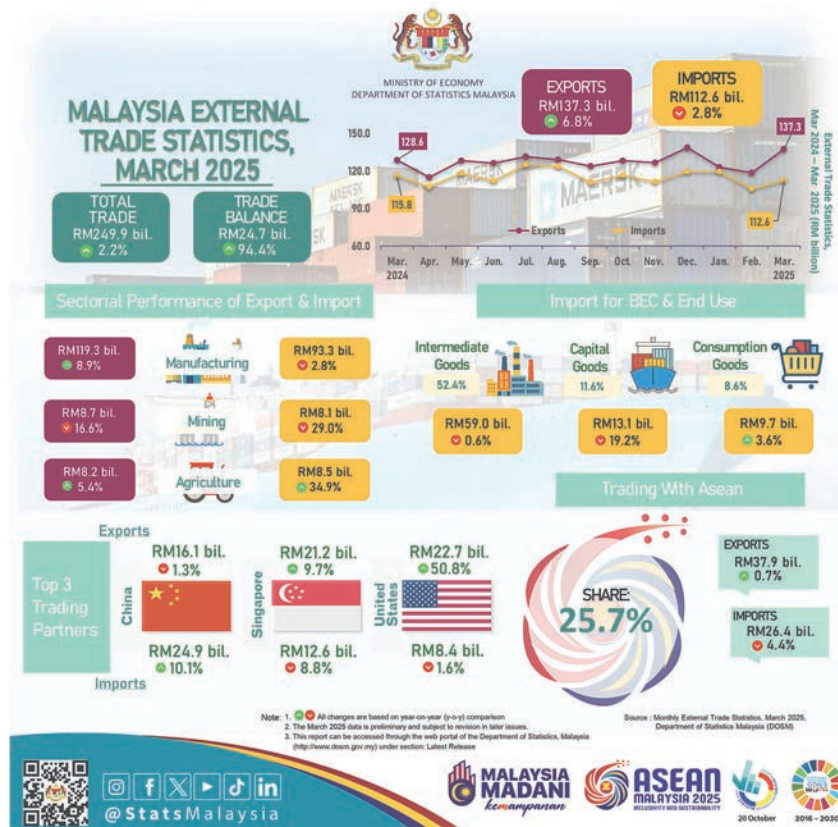
The trade balance demonstrated stronger performance, with the surplus rising by 94.4% to RM24.7 billion in March, the Department of Statistics Malaysia said in its monthly external trade statistics report. It marked the 59th consecutive month of surplus since May 2020.

Chief Statistician Malaysia Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin said Malaysia's export growth in March was driven by increases in both domestic exports and re-exports. Domestic exports, which accounted for 80% of total exports, rose by 5.6% to RM109.9 billion, while re-exports, making up 20% of total exports, expanded by 12.1% to RM27.4 billion compared to March 2024.

Month-on-month, March 2025 demonstrated growth over February 2025, with exports, imports, total trade up by 16.1%, 6.6%, 11.6%, respectively, and the trade balance surged 96%.

In terms of commodity group, 113 out of 257 export groups showed an increase while 137 out of 260 import groups showed a decrease compared to the same month of the previous year.

Mohd Uzir said higher exports were attributable mainly to the United States (+RM7.6 billion), followed by Hong Kong (+RM1.9 billion), Singapore (+RM1.9 billion), Taiwan (+RM1.6 billion), the European Union (+RM1 billion), the



Philippines (+RM498.7 million) and South Africa (+RM339 million).

Nevertheless, sluggish imports were mainly contributed by shipments from Taiwan (-RM1.7 billion), followed by India (-RM1.5 billion), the United Arab Emirates (-RM1.3 billion), Singapore (-RM1.2 billion), Australia (-RM799.9 million), Thailand (-RM715.2 million) and Qatar (-RM544.9 million).

Commenting further on exports, Mohd Uzir said the increase was reflecting the rise in electrical &

electronic products (+RM12.5 billion); machinery, equipment & parts (+RM785.3 million); condensates & other petroleum oil (+RM619.1 million); processed food (+RM542.7 million); other manufactures (+RM524.1 million); and palm oil-based manufactured products (+RM512 million).

Meanwhile, the drop in imports was mainly attributed to petroleum products (-RM6.6 billion); crude petroleum (-RM1.7 billion); manufactures of metal (-RM1 billion); other mining (-RM1 billion); iron &

steel products (-RM846.3 million); and liquefied natural gas (-RM592.8 million).

As for performance for the first quarter of 2025, total trade, exports, imports and trade surplus increased compared to the same period last year. The encouraging economic performance led to a 3.6% rise in total trade, aligning with the increase in exports (+4.4%) and imports (+2.8%).

The trade surplus amounted to RM41 billion, an increase of 20.1% compared to the same period in 2024.

Call for stronger collaboration to unlock oil palm biomass utilisation

KUALA LUMPUR: Industry stakeholders have urged stronger collaboration and more coherent policy direction to accelerate the use of oil palm biomass in supporting Malaysia's low-carbon goals.

The call was made during the 5th International Oil Palm Biomass Conference 2025, held on April 14-15. The conference brought together researchers, policymakers and industry players to discuss pathways for sustainable biomass utilisation.

Chemical engineer Hong Wai Onn from the Research Institute for Sustainable Excellence and Leadership, who was one of the panellists at the conference, highlighted the underutilisation of oil palm biomass and stressed the need for better coordination among stakeholders.

"The oil palm industry produces over 100 million tonnes of dry biomass annually – including trunks, fronds, empty fruit bunches and palm kernel shells – which are often treated as waste but hold significant untapped potential," he said.

Hong proposed a collaborative ecosystem with four key players: government agencies, sustainability standard owners, technology providers, and biomass producers and valorisers.

"To truly transform the industry, we need synergy across these four pillars, with governments providing clear policy direction and funding support, standard owners encouraging carbon footprint reductions, technology providers offering cost-effective solutions, and producers and valorisers committing to sustainability standards and ensuring stable supply and demand," he explained.

The panel also tackled policy gaps and regulatory bottlenecks that hinder effective biomass utilisation.

Hong recommended the establishment of an interministerial biomass task force to align priorities across key sectors such as agriculture, energy, environment, industry, and science and technology. He also proposed joint funding mechanisms and shared key performance indicators to improve cross-agency cooperation. – Bernama

Robust trading in issues over Hang Seng Index, YTL Power and Genting

WARRANTS WATCH

TRADING activity on the local warrants market in the third week of April remained robust with overall turnover increasing by 22.3% week-on-week (w-o-w) to RM641.1 million.

The increase was primarily driven by a further uptick in turnover for warrants over the Hang Seng Index (HSI), which rose 34.6% to RM562.2 million, despite the holiday-shortened trading week in Hong Kong due to the Good Friday holiday.

HSI futures kicked off the week in positive territory, surging 2.7%, following some tariff rollbacks over imports of Chinese electronics. However, the futures drifted lower on

Wednesday for the first time in six days on the back of US-China trade war concerns despite the Chinese economy growing by 5.4% in the first quarter, exceeding Bloomberg's estimates. On the last trading day of the week, the futures rebounded 0.9% amid hopes of stimulus measures from China, ending the week 2.1% higher.

The moves led to active trading in mostly the call warrants with HSI-CWC4, HSI-CWEP and HSI-CWEI topping the leaderboard with up to 888.6 million, 502.6 million and 379.3 million units changing hands. Meanwhile, the put warrants HSI-PWD2 and HSI-PWFK were the most actively traded put warrants by volume traded for the week at 607.6 million and 522.5 million units.

Furthermore, warrants over the Hang Seng Tech Index (HSTECH) saw a significant increase in trading activity, surging 160.7%, logging a total turnover of RM10.8 million. HSTECH-C24 and HSTECH-C22 were the most actively traded HSTECH warrants, recording 24.5 million and 11.6 million units changing hands. The HSTECH futures closed 0.3% lower for the week.

As for local issues, trading in warrants over YTL Power International (YTLPOWR) remained robust, registering a total turnover of RM5.4 million and contributing 10.4% of the total turnover for warrants over Malaysian shares as its share price surged 6.7% w-o-w to close at RM3.20; top traded YTLPOWR warrants include YTLPOWR-C76 and YTLPOWR-C77.

Top GENTING warrants by volume traded:

Warrant name	Volume (mil)	Issuer	Exercise level	Expiry date
GENTING-C3M	17.5	Kenanga	RM4.08	8 Dec 2025
GENTING-C2N	9.5	Macquarie	RM3.28	30 Sep 2025
GENTING-C3Q	8.4	Macquarie	RM3.80	30 Sep 2025
GENTING-C3P	4.9	Maybank	RM3.60	30 Sep 2025
GENTING-C3L	1.7	Maybank	RM4.00	25 Jun 2025

Further warrants over Genting Bhd were also on investors' radar as the underlying rose 0.9% w-o-w.

To view the full list of structured warrants available on Bursa Malaysia, visit malaysiawarrants.com.my.

Provided for Malaysian residents' information only. This commentary has

not been reviewed by the Securities Commission Malaysia. It is not an offer or recommendation to trade and is not research material.

Past performance is not indicative of future performance. You should make your own assessment and seek professional advice. The warrants will not be offered to any US persons.

Boeing jet returns to Seattle from China, victim of Trump's tariff war

SEATTLE: A Boeing jet intended for use by a Chinese airline landed back at the planemaker's American production hub yesterday, a victim of the tit-for-tat bilateral tariffs launched by President Donald Trump in his global trade offensive.

The 737 MAX, which was meant for China's Xiamen Airlines, landed at Seattle's Boeing Field at 6.11pm (9.11am in Malaysia), according to a Reuters witness.

It was painted with Xiamen livery.

The jet, which made refueling stops in Guam and Hawaii on its 8,000km return journey, was one of several 737 MAX jets waiting at Boeing's Zhoushan completion centre for final work and delivery to a Chinese carrier.

Trump this month raised baseline tariffs on Chinese imports to 145%.

In retaliation, China has imposed a 125% tariff on US goods.

A Chinese airline taking delivery of a Boeing jet could be crippled by the tariffs, given that a new 737 MAX has a market value of around US\$55 million (RM243 million), according to IBA, an aviation consultancy.

It is not clear which party made the decision for the aircraft to return to the US.

Boeing did not immediately respond to request for comment while



The Boeing 737 MAX plane arrives at King County International Airport in Seattle after returning from China. — REUTERS/PIC

Xiamen did not respond to request for comment.

The return of the 737 MAX, Boeing's best-selling model, is the latest sign of disruption to new aircraft deliveries

from a breakdown in the aerospace industry's decades-old duty-free status.

The tariff war and apparent U-turn over deliveries comes as Boeing has

been recovering from an almost five-year import freeze on 737 MAX jets and a previous round of trade tensions.

Confusion over changing tariffs

could leave many aircraft deliveries in limbo, with some airline CEOs saying they would defer delivery of planes rather than pay duties, analysts say. — Reuters

Japan seeks 'fairness' in currency talks with US

► Tokyo mulls relaxing auto safety rules for imports: Report

TOKYO: Japan will emphasise "fairness" in any discussions with the US on exchange rates, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said yesterday, as bilateral trade talks grab global attention in President Donald Trump's tariff offensive.

Ishiba, in a talk show on public broadcaster NHK, indicated Tokyo could buy more US energy and suggested flexibility on American accusations of non-tariff barriers to the Japanese automobile market.

Trump — who unexpectedly joined the first round of US-Japan talks on Wednesday and touted "big progress" — has indicated he wants the negotiations to include his accusations that Tokyo intentionally weakens its currency to give its exporters an unfair advantage.

Ishiba said specific discussions on currency policy will be made between Finance Minister Katsunobu Kato and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.

"We'll have to deal with this issue from the standpoint of fairness," Ishiba said, when asked how Japan would respond if the US asked for cooperation in boosting the yen.

He did not elaborate.

Japan, which denies manipulating the yen, has over the years typically fought to keep a strong yen from hurting its export-reliant economy, but it last intervened in the foreign-exchange market last year to boost its currency.

Kato plans to visit Washington this week for a meeting of the Group of 20 finance chiefs on the sidelines of the spring meeting of the International Monetary Fund.

He is widely expected to meet Bessent for bilateral trade talks.

Some analysts say Japan could use its huge US Treasury holdings — the largest in the world at over US\$1 trillion (RM4.4 trillion) — as trade leverage, but Kato this month ruled out using them as a bargaining tool.

"This is something that's based on trust between the two sides, global economic stability, as well as the two countries' economic stability," Ishiba said when asked whether Japan would refer to its US debt holdings during the talks.

Trump has hit Japan with 24% tariffs on its exports to the US although, like most of

Trump's levies, they have been paused until early July.

A 10% universal rate remains in place, as does a 25% duty on cars, a mainstay of Japan's export-reliant economy.

Nikkei Asia reported yesterday that Japan is considering relaxing auto safety rules for imports as part of its tariff negotiations with the US.

Washington has long complained that Japanese safety rules are a non-tariff barrier, while Japan and many experts say Detroit automakers do not make cars suited to Japan's roads and drivers.

Asked about such accusations, Ishiba said there were differences in US and Japanese traffic and safety rules that must be taken into account.

"But we also need to ensure we're not told our (safety) rules are unfair."

He signalled a readiness to pledge bigger Japanese investment in the US, particularly in the area of energy.

"As for liquefied natural gas, Australia is the biggest exporter to Japan. I believe the US is in fourth place. It's possible we could have this increase. The question is whether the US can deliver (energy) stably." — Reuters

India central banker warns of dwindling money market liquidity

MUMBAI: India's call money market faces risks of dwindling liquidity, posing challenges for monetary policy transmission, its central bank chief said.

Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra expressed concern about "asymmetries which arise on occasions between different money market rates — the rate at which RBI provides liquidity, the call money rate, the market repo rate and TREPS (tri-party repo dealing system) rate".

Banks — the entities with sole access to the RBI's liquidity facilities, the call money market and the repo markets — must be proactive to ensure that the central bank's liquidity measures are "promptly and seamlessly" transmitted to the broader market, Malhotra said in a speech at a conference in India on Friday that was uploaded to the RBI website on Saturday.

The call money rate is an overnight interest rate at which banks and other financial institutions lend and borrow from each other.

When the RBI cuts interest rates or injects liquidity, it can push down the call money rate, transmitting the central bank's policy move to the system.

Surplus liquidity in India's has averaged 1.7 trillion rupees (RM88 billion) a day this month, reversing a four-month deficit, as the RBI stepped up its liquidity infusions to support growth.

The governor also called for deepening of India's government securities market and improving liquidity and pricing by increasing participation from various stakeholders.

He said there is also a need for more proactive management of risks by different stakeholders in the derivatives market, enhancing market depth, increasing the diversity of views and fostering greater competition and efficiency. — Reuters

Foreign investors increase Chinese bond holdings by 270 billion yuan

SHANGHAI: Foreign institutions have increased holdings in China's onshore bonds by more than 270 billion yuan (RM163 billion) so far this year, highlighting the appeal of the world's second-biggest bond market, the official Xinhua news agency reported on Saturday.

Foreign institutional holdings in Chinese bonds totalled 4.5 trillion yuan as of April 15, Xinhua reported, citing central bank data.

But foreigners account for just around 2.4% of China's bond market, suggesting a big potential to grow, according to the article.

The People's Bank of China will unswervingly promote bond market opening, and attract more foreign investors, as ties deepen between regions such as the Middle East, Latin America, Europe and Africa, Xinhua said.

China's efforts to lure foreign investment comes as US President Donald Trump's global tariffs threaten to dent investor confidence in American assets.

Prices of US Treasuries and the dollar index are down sharply in recent weeks, driven by concerns about recession and growing grievance against Trump's tariff and diplomatic policies. — Reuters

'US chip curbs on China could backfire'

► Analysts say restrictions fuelling innovation at Chinese firms

SAN FRANCISCO: As Donald Trump's administration attempts to choke off exports of strategically important computer chips to China, experts say the effort might well backfire, fuelling innovation at Chinese firms that could help them seize the world semiconductor market.

"What's actually happening is that the US government right now is handing China a big win as it tries to get their own chip business going," said Jack Gold, principal analyst at J.Gold associates.

"Once they're competitive, they'll start selling around the world and people will buy their chips."

When that happens, he added, it will be difficult for US chip makers to reclaim lost market share.

Silicon Valley semiconductor star Nvidia and its US rival Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) expect big financial hits from new US licensing requirements for semiconductors exported to China, they notified regulators this week.

Nvidia expects the new rules to cost it US\$5.5 billion (RM24 billion), while AMD forecast it could sap as much as US\$800 million from the company's bottom line, according to filings with the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Administration officials told Nvidia it must obtain licences to export its H20 chips to China because of concerns they may be used in supercomputers there, the company said.

The United States had already restricted exports to China, the world's biggest buyer of chips, of Nvidia's most sophisticated graphics processing units (GPUs), designed to power top-end artificial intelligence models.

Nvidia essentially developed the H20 chip for the Chinese market, aiming to maximise performance while meeting previous US export rules, but the new licensing requirements pose a roadblock, according to Gold.

For AMD, the new US export control measure applies to its MI308 GPUs, which are designed for high-performance applications like gaming and artificial intelligence, it said in a filing.

It noted that there is no guarantee licences for sales to China will be granted.

Independent tech analyst Rob Enderle predicted Chinese chip makers – likely led by the huge

Huawei corporation – will ramp up efforts to snatch the lead in the market.

"It's going to be a godsend for China as they spin up their own microprocessor business," Enderle said of the tightened US export rules.

"This will be a really quick way to hand over US leadership in microprocessors and GPUs."

The Chinese government has ample resources and motivation to bolster its chip industry, according to Gold.

He said while Trump might think he can "bully people" to achieve his objectives, "the worldwide economy is not like that."

Instead, Trump's tariffs have alienated allies, increasing their incentive to turn to China for chips, the analyst said.

"Across the board, this is going to create real problems for American companies competitively," Enderle said.

"Companies located overseas are suddenly going to be in much better shape to compete."

Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang has said publicly that the AI chip powerhouse can comply with the new US requirements without sacrificing technological progress, adding that nothing will stop the global advancement of artificial intelligence.

"Nvidia is one of the most important pieces in this (US) chess game with China," Wedbush global head of technology research Dan Ives said in a note to investors.

"The Trump administration knows there is one chip and company fuelling the AI Revolution and it's Nvidia," he said, and so it placed "a 'Do Not Enter' sign in front of China" to slow its progress.

Ives warned, however, that the chip wars are not over.

He expects "more punches to be thrown by both sides". – AFP



Ford vehicles are seen on a lot at a dealership in Austin, Texas. – AFP/PPIC

Ford 'adjusts' some exports due to tariffs

NEW YORK: Citing the US-China trade conflict, Ford said last week it has "adjusted" its exports to the country, where the American auto giant operates manufacturing jointly with local partners.

"We have adjusted exports from the US to China in light of the current tariffs," Ford told AFP without specifying the models affected.

The American auto giant halted Michigan-made shipments of the F-150 Raptor, Mustang and Bronco sport utility vehicles, according to a *Wall Street Journal* report.

Also affected was the Lincoln Navigator, which is built in the

southern US state of Kentucky, the newspaper said.

Over the last decade, Ford has sold around 240,000 vehicles in China exported from the United States.

But volumes fell sharply in 2024 to around 5,500.

Despite pulling back on many other tariffs, President Donald Trump has stuck firm to US duties on Chinese goods and raised them to 145%.

In turn, China has increased tariffs on US exports, including cars, to 125%.

Overall, Ford sold 442,000 vehicles – made in the United States and elsewhere – in China in 2024, comprising 1.6% of the market,

according to the carmaker's latest annual report.

The US company operates a number of manufacturing joint ventures in China with Chinese companies, producing vehicles under both the Ford and Lincoln brands.

Some of Ford's production in China is exported to other markets. One of these vehicles, the Lincoln Nautilus, is now subject to hefty US tariffs, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

Ford's Chinese ventures resulted in 2024 operating profits of around US\$900 million, Ford vice-chairman John Lawler said last week at a financial conference. – AFP

Beijing envoy to Washington calls for end to trade war

WASHINGTON: China's ambassador to the United States, Xie Feng, has urged Washington to seek common ground with Beijing and pursue peaceful coexistence while warning that China stood ready to retaliate in the escalating trade war.

Speaking at a public event in Washington on Saturday, details of which were posted on the Chinese embassy's website, Xie said tariffs would devastate the global economy and drew a parallel between the Great Depression and tariffs imposed by the US in 1930.

Referring to concepts in traditional Chinese medicine like the need to balance the opposing forces of yin and yang, Xie said harmony should guide relations between the world's two largest economies.

"A good traditional Chinese medicine recipe usually combines many different ingredients which reinforce one another and creates the best medical effect."

"Likewise, the earth is big enough to accommodate both China and the US," he said.

"We should pursue peaceful coexistence rather than collide

head-on, and help each other succeed rather than get caught in a lose-lose scenario."

The trade war has all but frozen the mammoth trade between the world's two largest economies with tariffs over 100% in each direction and a suite of trade, investment and cultural restrictions.

China's top shipbuilding association on Saturday attacked a US plan to apply port fees on China-linked ships.

While Japan, Taiwan and others are already in talks or preparing to negotiate with Washington over President Donald Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs, there is currently no high-level dialogue planned with China.

Trump said on Friday the US is having good conversations privately with China amid the two countries' trade war.

"By the way, we have nice conversations going with China," he told reporters.

"It's, like, really very good."

He did not offer additional details. China has said the US should show respect before any talks can take place. – Reuters

Taiwan short-selling curbs extended again

TAIPEI: Taiwan's top financial regulator said on Saturday it would extend temporary curbs on the short-selling of shares to help ensure stock market stability, and did not give an end date for when the restrictions might be lifted.

The curbs were first imposed on April 6 after the United States imposed sweeping import tariffs, prompting global market turmoil. Initially imposed for one week, they were then extended for a further week.

In a statement, Taiwan's Financial Supervisory Commission said the curbs would continue, without

saying when they might end.

US tariff policy and the outcome of negotiations with other countries are still highly uncertain, and there will continue to be "fluctuations" on global stock markets, it added.

If there are significant changes on the market, the regulator said it would "adjust the relevant measures accordingly to maintain market stability and investors' interests".

It did not elaborate.

Short sellers borrow shares they expect to fall, aiming to repay the loan for less later to pocket the difference. – Reuters



DHL to suspend global shipments of over US\$800 to Americans

BEIJING: DHL Express, a division of Germany's Deutsche Post, said it would suspend global business-to-consumer shipments worth over US\$800 (RM3,527) to individuals in the United States from April 21, as US customs regulatory changes have lengthened clearance.

The notice on the company website was not dated, but its metadata showed it was compiled on Saturday.

DHL blamed the halt on new US customs rules which require formal entry processing on all shipments worth over US\$800. The minimum had been US\$2,500 until a change on April 5.

DHL said business-to-business shipments would not be suspended but could face delays.

Shipments under US\$800 to either businesses or consumers were not affected by the changes.

The move is a temporary measure, the company said in its statement.

DHL said last week in response to Reuters questions that it would continue to process shipments from Hong Kong to the United States "in accordance with the applicable customs rules and regulations" and would "work with our customers to help them understand and adapt to the changes that are planned for May 2". - Reuters

S. Korea officials to hold trade talks in Washington this week

SEOUL: South Korea and the United States will hold trade consultations this week in Washington at the suggestion of the United States, Seoul's Trade Ministry said yesterday.

Finance Minister Choi Sang-mok and Trade Minister Ahn Duk-geun will meet with Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on the sidelines of the spring meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the ministry said in a statement.

South Korea hopes to lower the 25% "reciprocal" tariff that President Donald Trump has announced for the country, which he has since paused along with high tariffs slapped on a string of countries.

Ahn will leave on Wednesday, the statement said.

It did not specify the agenda or give other details. - Reuters

Global plans to **tax** super rich and tech giants stall

► Trump pulls US out of international deal, threatens tariffs over digital levies

PARIS: Global tax plans targeting billionaires and multinational companies are running aground, with the United States torpedoing reforms under President Donald Trump.

The billionaire real estate tycoon has pulled the United States out of an international deal on taxing multinationals and threatened tariffs on countries that target US tech giants.

Countries have accused Amazon, Microsoft, Google owner Alphabet and Facebook's parent company Meta of sidestepping local taxes.

Trump issued a warning on Feb 21 to countries that would hit big tech and other US companies with fines or taxes that are "discriminatory, disproportionate" or designed to transfer funds to local companies.

"My administration will act, imposing tariffs and taking such other responsive actions necessary to mitigate the harm to the United States," he said in the memo.

The move reopens a rift between

Washington and its allies over taxing digital services.

During his first term, Trump threatened to slap tariffs on US imports of champagne and French cheese after France rolled out a digital services tax in 2019.

Seven other countries have followed France's lead since then.

The tax generated €780 million (RM3.9 billion) for the French government last year.

Now the European Union is threatening to impose a tax on digital services if negotiations fail over Trump's plans to impose 20 percent tariffs on EU goods.

Britain, which is hoping to strike a trade deal with the United States, may reconsider its own digital levy, which currently brings in £800 million annually.

British Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds has said the digital tax is not "something that can never change or we can never have a conversation about".

Nearly 140 countries struck a deal in 2021 to tax multinational companies, an

agreement negotiated under the auspices of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The OECD agreement has two "pillars".

The first provides for the taxation of companies in countries where they make their profits, a move aimed at limiting tax evasion. It primarily targets tech giants.

Pillar two, which sets a minimum global rate of 15%, has been adopted by around 60 economies, including Brazil, Britain, Canada, the EU, Switzerland and Japan.

Daniel Bunn, head of the Tax Foundation, a US non-profit think-tank, said negotiations on implementation of the first pillar "have been stalled for some time", even under Joe Biden's presidency.

Franco-American economist Gabriel Zucman told AFP that the EU's reaction in the coming weeks "will be crucial".

"If the EU and other countries give up and allow American multinationals to exempt themselves, it will unfortunately spell the end of this very important agreement."

Efforts to tax the world's ultra-wealthy are also stalling.

Brazil used its time as chair of the G20 to push for a plan to impose a 2% minimum tax on the net worth of individuals with more than US\$1 billion in assets, a project estimated to raise as much as US\$250 billion per year.

The Biden administration balked at the plan and it is unlikely to get any traction with Trump - a billionaire himself and proponent of tax cuts - at the White House.

Almost a third of the world's billionaires are from the United States - more than China, India and Germany combined, according to *Forbes* magazine.

At a recent conference in Paris, French economist Thomas Piketty said the world cannot wait for the G20 to all agree.

"We need individual countries to act as soon as they can," he said.

"History suggests that once you have a couple of countries who adopt a certain kind of reform, in particular powerful countries, it becomes sort of a new standard." - AFP



A demonstrator wearing a shirt that reads 'Eat the Rich' is arrested during a protest during the nationwide 'Hands Off!' protest against Trump's policies and executive actions in Washington. - AFP/PIIC

Volkswagen floats making Audis in America

BERLIN: Volkswagen could relocate some production of its high-end Audi line to dodge American tariffs on automobiles ordered by President Donald Trump, the German carmaker's CEO said in an interview released last week.

Europe's largest auto manufacturer, which is especially vulnerable to the increase in US tariffs, was in "constructive discussions" with the Trump administration on the issue, Oliver Blume told the

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper.

Volkswagen, which earlier in April said Trump's slew of planned tariffs had dragged down its first-quarter operating profit, wanted to do "as much as possible to remain an investor and reliable partner for the United States", Blume added.

"For Audi, production in the United States would be in line with our development strategy," he said.

However he ruled out any

American manufacturing for Porsche, despite the US market being the luxury sports car brand's largest.

At only around 70,000 vehicles a year the volumes were too small to consider the idea, he said.

Trump last month announced a 25% tariff on autos imported to the United States, which is the number one destination for German car exports.

The Republican has claimed that imposing tariffs would make foreign

companies relocate part of their production to the United States.

Volkswagen - a 10-brand group which also includes Audi, Porsche, Seat and Skoda - sold just over one million vehicles in North America last year, 12% of its sales by volume.

With Volkswagen sales in reverse in China in the face of stiff competition from domestic carmakers, particularly on electric vehicles, the US market has become even more important for the German manufacturer.

Despite the presence of a Volkswagen production plant in Tennessee, 65% of its flagship VW brand's American sales come from vehicles shipped into the United States from Europe or Mexico.

The figure rises to 100% for its high-end Audi and Porsche brands.

Blume would not comment on the tariffs' financial impact on Volkswagen, nor on whether it would raise its prices in the United States in response. - AFP

MARKET ROUND-UP: APRIL 18

Bursa Trade Statistic

Source: Bursa Malaysia, Inter-Pacific Research

18 APRIL 2025

Participation

Retail (25.99%)

Net (in RM mil.)

-44.51

Bought (in RM mil.)

Sold (in RM mil.)

302.59 347.10

Institution (40.32%)

Net (in RM mil.)

+4.65

Bought (in RM mil.)

Sold (in RM mil.)

506.26 501.61

Foreign (33.69%)

Net (in RM mil.)

+39.86

Bought (in RM mil.)

Sold (in RM mil.)

440.95 401.09

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

f iPacOnline @ipaconline1972 Inter-Pacific Securities @Pac_TV

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

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Bursa Indices

INDEX	CHANGE
FBMEMAS	11,121.50 +121.19
FBMKLCI	1,499.40 +16.13
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	494.81 +4.79
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	145.08 +0.85
CONSTRUCTION	255.03 +3.42
FINANCIAL SERVICES	18,033.50 +252.61
ENERGY	665.87 +10.52
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	481.78 +5.52
HEALTH CARE	1,869.85 +8.41
TRANSPORTATION	960.74 -2.94
PROPERTY	955.31 +9.27
PLANTATION	7,226.38 +83.23
FBMSHA	10,910.10 +96.19
FBMACE	4,575.38 +17.25
TECHNOLOGY	44.98 +0.61
TURNOVER: 1.693 bil	VALUE: RM1.249 bil

FBM KLCI set to continue testing 1,500-point level

THE FTSE Bursa Malaysia Kuala Lumpur Composite Index (FBM KLCI) is expected to continue testing the 1,500-point psychological level this week, with a sustained breakout likely to boost investor confidence and attract foreign inflows.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd equity research vice-president Thong Pak Leng said he remained optimistic about the local bourse's near-term prospects, noting that sentiment remains buoyant, underpinned by a stronger ringgit, attractive equity valuations, and improving market conditions.

"From a technical standpoint, the FBM KLCI is likely to continue testing the key psychological resistance at the 1,500 level this week. We anticipate the benchmark index to trend within a range of 1,490 to 1,510, with 1,490 serving as the immediate support and 1,510 as the resistance," he told Bernama.

Thong said should the key index maintain its position above this level for a longer period, it would form a solid base for further rallies.

UOB Kay Hian Wealth Advisors Sdn Bhd head of investment research Mohd Sedek Jantan said the key focal point for this week will be the Malaysian delegation's visit to Washington, led by Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz, for discussions on tariff-related issues.

"Markets are cautiously optimistic, anticipating a pragmatic outcome given Tengku Zafrul's proven track record in trade diplomacy. The establishment of a clear framework to address lingering Donald Trump-era tariffs could lift investor sentiment further, particularly for export-oriented counters," he said.

However, he added, any signs of policy ambiguity or lack of progress may trigger short-term volatility.

Last week, on a Friday-to-Friday basis, the key index gained 44.64 points to 1,499.40 from 1,454.76 a week earlier.

Top 20 Actives

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
INGENIEU	0.040	+0.010	+33.33	1,275,252
NEXG	0.320	+0.005	+1.59	474,725
TANCO	0.890	+0.030	+3.49	359,096
VELESTO	0.160	+0.005	+3.23	356,681
WIDAD	0.035	+0.005	+16.67	267,947
HBGLOB	0.070	-0.020	-22.22	262,455
BPURI	0.345	-	-	248,549
MYEG	0.910	-	-	233,149
YONGTAI-WB	0.060	+0.015	+33.33	208,867
VS-WC	0.060	+0.010	+20.00	205,023
NATGATE	1.210	+0.050	+4.31	203,527
PERTAMA	0.140	-0.005	-3.45	188,524
DIALOG	1.300	+0.050	+4.00	184,270
RL	0.350	-	-	177,754
YEWLEE-WA	0.250	-	-	162,990
SENDAI-WA	0.180	+0.040	+28.57	156,804
JAKS	0.095	+0.005	+5.56	156,302
KAB	0.325	-	-	152,023
MSB	0.160	-0.005	-3.03	149,981
99SMART-CP	0.030	-	-	146,208



Top 20 Gainers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
F&N	26.740	+1.120	699
UTDPLT	22.780	+0.780	8,503
PETGAS	16.900	+0.460	879
DLADY	28.000	+0.400	73
PETDAG	19.340	+0.360	910
HLBANK	19.840	+0.340	943
ALLIANZ-PA	17.800	+0.300	5
MSNIGA	1.490	+0.280	20
MPI	15.460	+0.260	623
CARLSBG	18.820	+0.220	2,063
PPB	11.720	+0.220	1,703
ALLIANZ	17.580	+0.200	61
CHINTEK	8.170	+0.190	41
KESM	2.880	+0.190	97
MBMR	5.650	+0.170	2,348
ORIENT	6.980	+0.170	1,543
HLND	13.560	+0.160	37
MAYBANK	10.020	+0.150	57,598
AMBANK	5.200	+0.140	104,574
HLFG	16.800	+0.140	445

Top 20 Gainers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
AEON-C29	0.010	+100.00	4,130
CIMB-CIS	0.010	+100.00	5,005
INGENIEU-WB	0.010	+100.00	101,774
MRDIY-C36	0.050	+100.00	4,725
OCR-WE	0.010	+100.00	23,784
NEXG-C66	0.065	+62.50	73,514
TENAGA-C2W	0.055	+57.14	10,000
99SMART-CB	0.015	+50.00	61,729
99SMART-CQ	0.015	+50.00	3,585
AMBANK-C50	0.045	+50.00	49,877
FBMKLCI-CQW	0.015	+50.00	1,300
GREATC-C16	0.015	+50.00	1,180
MAYBANKC1W	0.030	+50.00	10,552
MTRONIC	0.015	+50.00	1,724
MMIS	0.300	+50.00	50
MYEG-C81	0.050	+42.86	28
AEON-C37	0.035	+40.00	100
99SMART-CJ	0.150	+36.36	40
JPG-CF	0.075	+36.36	1,395
ARMADA-C96	0.020	+33.33	545

World Stocks/Commodities

INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE (%)
DJIA (US)	39,142.23	-527.16	-1.33
S&P 500 (US)	5,282.70	7	0.13
NASDAQ (US)	16,286.45	-20.71	-0.13
NYSE (US)	18,367.12	121.47	0.67
EURO STOXX 50 (EUR)	4,935.34	-31.16	-0.63
FTSE 100 (UK)	8,275.66	0.06	0
DAX (GER)	21,205.86	-105.16	-0.49
NIKKEI 225 (JPN)	34,730.28	352.68	1.03
TOPIX (JPN)	2,559.15	28.92	1.14
HANG SENG INDEX (HK)	21,395.14	338.16	1.61
CSI 300 (CHN)	3,772.52	0.3	0.01
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	179.09	0.74	0.41
SH SE COM (CHN)	3,276.73	-3.61	-0.11
KOSPI INDEX (SK)	2,483.42	13.01	0.53
SENSEX INDEX (IND)	78,553.19	1,508.90	1.96
ASX 200 (AUS)	7,819.14	60.23	0.78
ALL ORDINARIES INDX (AUS)	8,021.90	60.17	0.76
FBM KLCI	1,499.40	16.13	1.09
STRAITS TIMES INDEX (S'PORE)	3,720.33	57.88	1.58
WTI (US\$/BBL)	64.68	2.21	3.54
BRENT (US\$/BBL)	67.96	2.11	3.2
GOLD (COMEX) (US\$/T OZ)	3,328.40	-18	-0.54
SILVER (COMEX) (US\$/T OZ)	32.78	-0.51	-1.53
PLATINUM (US\$/T OZ)	973.01	0.01	0
COPPER (COMEX) (US CENTS/LB.)	479.05	5.45	1.15
COPPER 3MO (LME) (US\$/MT)	9,188.50	-15	-0.16
CORN (US CENTS/BU.)	490.25	-1.5	-0.31
WHEAT (US CENTS/BU.)	562.25	1.25	0.22
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) (US CENTS/LB.)	48.34	0.34	0.71
COCOA (ICE) (US\$/MT)	8,295.00	289	3.61
RUBBER (S'PORE) (US CENTS/KG)	166.6	1.6	0.97

As at 5pm, April 18

Top 20 Losers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
NESTLE	79.800	-1.800	791
BIPORT	5.600	-0.250	13
HEIM	26.660	-0.160	526
YINSON-C44	0.020	-0.130	150
DIALOG-C2C	0.030	-0.120	2,000
DIALOG-C2E	0.030	-0.120	200
MBSB-C78	0.040	-0.110	500
SAM	3.250	-0.110	6,626
SP500-H53	1.500	-0.080	30
99SMART-CD	0.155	-0.075	130
ARANK	0.460	-0.070	1,829
SBAGAN	5.520	-0.070	8
RHBANKC57	0.015	-0.065	150
SCGBHD-CD	0.085	-0.065	30,160
ITMAX-CL	0.090	-0.060	2,000
BONIA	1.180	-0.050	230
DIALOG-C2B	0.030	-0.045	5,000
NIKKEI-HK	0.645	-0.045	575
Q215CM	0.110	-0.040	500
CHINWEL	0.820	-0.040	18

Top 20 Losers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
YINSON-C44	0.020	-86.67	150
RHBANKC57	0.015	-81.25	150
DIALOG-C2C	0.030	-80.00	2,000
DIALOG-C2E	0.030	-80.00	200
MYEG-C71	0.005	-80.00	5,004
MBSB-C78	0.040	-73.33	500
MRDIY-C32	0.005	-66.67	100
DIALOG-C2B	0.030	-60.00	5,000
CIMB-C1W	0.005	-50.00	23,308
D&O-C14	0.005	-50.00	5
INARI-C2Z	0.005	-50.00	6,278
NEXGRAM-WD	0.005	-50.00	552
SAPNRG-WA	0.005	-50.00	205
TXCD-PA	0.015	-50.00	134
ZENTECH	0.005	-50.00	17,649
SCGBHD-CD	0.085	-43.33	30,160
ITMAX-CL	0.090	-40.00	2,000
JPG-CB	0.035	-36.36	1
FBMKLCI-HA2	0.010	-33.33	2,600
GAMUDA-C2V	0.010	-33.33	500

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

Smart Manufacturing Awards nomination deadline extended

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysia Smart Manufacturing Awards (MSMA) 2025, endorsed by the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI) and co-organised by MIDF, Bizsphere, and Smart4wrd, has officially announced the extension of its nomination deadline to May 31.

The extension was driven by growing momentum within Malaysia's manufacturing sector as more industry communities, including trade associations and chambers, join as MSMA strategic partners to extend the opportunity to their members.

Additionally, the extension responds to feedback from manufacturers who are diligently preparing nominations to meet MSMA's rigorous judging standards.

Now entering its second series, MSMA 2025 continues to recognise and celebrate companies that demonstrate excellence in smart manufacturing transformation.

The awards highlight Malaysian manufacturers who adopt Industry 4.0 technologies to future-proof their businesses and stay competitive in the global economy.

Beyond recognition, MSMA offers winners key benefits, including access to up to 1% rebate on financing rate from MIDF, business advisory or starter kits on systems and solutions, as well as training support to further strengthen their digital journey.

"This extension gives more deserving companies the opportunity to showcase their smart manufacturing digital transformation journeys," said Bizsphere chief business strategist Yap Keng Teck.

The Award is open to manufacturers of all sizes, with categories designed to recognise various levels of excellence: Smart SME Award; Smart Mid-Tier Award; Smart Corporation Award besides special awards for outstanding achievements in technology excellence, people excellence and data-driven sustainability excellence.

Economist expects ringgit to trade flat this week

THE ringgit is expected to trade flat this week, potentially trading at around RM4.41 to RM4.42, said Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid.

He said that US President Donald Trump indicated a reluctance to keep raising the tariff against China as it might impact the trade between the two nations.

Additionally, several US Federal Reserve officials, including Christopher Waller and Austan Goolsbee, are scheduled to share their thoughts on the current state of the economy this week.

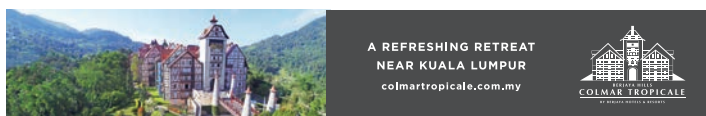
Meanwhile, SPI Asset Management managing director Stephen Innes expects market volatility to remain muted this week as diminishing returns on the US-China tariff front have been reached.

He anticipates the ringgit to trade within a slightly broader range of RM4.39 to RM4.43, reflecting the ongoing negotiation dynamics. Innes said that at this stage, markets expect some level of give-and-take to materialise out of necessity to avoid further economic drag.

"An easing of US-China tensions might provide some support for the ringgit, though as always, there's no certainty as the market closely monitors the news flow. Therefore, the local note will likely hover around RM4.41. Overall, Asian currencies and the ringgit are expected to strengthen, driven by progress in trade talks over the coming month or two," he said.

The local currency ended at 4.4100/4175 against the greenback last week, up from 4.4200/4265 the previous week. Year to date, the ringgit has risen by 1.32%.

It gained against the euro to 5.0133/0218 from 5.0207/0281 last week, but eased versus the Japanese yen to 3.0971/1028 from 3.0952/1000 and weakened vis-a-vis the British pound to 5.8516/8616 from 5.7849/7934. — Bernama



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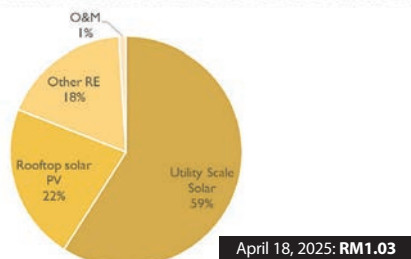
Exchange Rates

FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.4720	4.3390	4.3290
1 Australian Dollar	2.8710	2.7560	2.7400
1 Brunei Dollar	3.4070	3.3090	3.3010
1 Canadian Dollar	3.2250	3.1390	3.1270
1 Euro	5.0910	4.9290	4.9090
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.6780	2.5800	2.5640
1 Singapore Dollar	3.4070	3.3090	3.3010
1 Sterling Pound	5.9430	5.7580	5.7380
1 Swiss Franc	5.5030	5.2660	5.2510
100 UAE Dirham	123.1500	116.8200	116.6200
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.7570	3.4990	3.2990
100 Chinese Renminbi	61.6700	59.0800	59.0800
100 Danish Krone	69.9000	64.3400	64.1400
100 Hongkong Dollar	58.2100	55.3300	55.1300
100 Indian Rupee	5.3200	5.0000	4.8000
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0275	0.0249	0.0199
100 Japanese Yen	3.1450	3.0450	3.0350
100 New Taiwan Dollar	14.8000	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	43.8700	40.3300	40.1300
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.6200	1.5200	1.3200
100 Philippine Peso	8.0000	7.5400	7.3400
100 Qatar Riyal	124.0500	117.7600	117.5600
100 Saudi Riyal	120.5000	114.4000	114.2000
100 South Africa Rand	24.6500	22.2600	22.0600
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.5400	1.4100	1.2100
100 Swedish Krona	48.0200	43.6900	43.4900
100 Thai Baht	14.0100	12.4200	12.0200

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

Samaiden Group Bhd
Buy. Target price: RM1.63

Exhibit I: Estimated Orderbook Breakdown



April 18, 2025: RM1.03

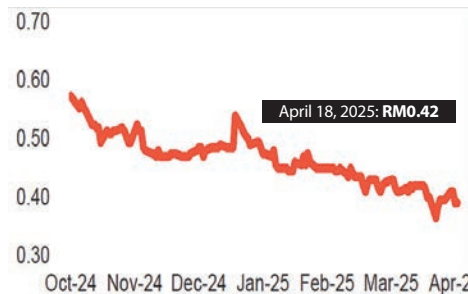
Source: Company data, TA Securities

WE expect SAMAIKEN's upcoming 3QFY25 (FYE June) earnings due next month to reflect further traction in execution of Corporate Green Power Programme (CGPP) EPCC projects and still strong contribution from the rooftop solar segment. To recap, the group secured three CGPP EPCC contracts with a commissioning deadline by end-CY25 as per requirements set by the Energy Commission. At least two of the three CGPP projects are targeted to be completed by Aug and Sep 2025 with most of the earnings likely to be captured within 2HFY25. Overall, we estimate 3QFY25 earnings to come in at between RM5-6mn, representing a 22-46% YoY growth.

We gather that 59% of SAMAIKEN's outstanding orderbook comprise of utility scale solar contracts with the majority consisting of CGPP projects. Another 22% of orderbook comprise of rooftop solar PV projects (both C&I and residential) while other RE projects such as mini hydro and bioenergy as well as O&M contracts make up the remaining. Total orderbook of RM515.7mn as at end-Dec 2024 is still close to a record high, representing 2.3x FY24 revenue. The group is likely to have run down part of this orderbook by end-3QFY25, but replenishment prospects are solid given an aggregate 4GW capacity under LSS5 and LSS5+ entailing EPCC prospect of RM12-14bn - utility-scale solar projects account for up to 80% of the group's RM1.8bn tenderbook.

We continue to like SAMAIKEN as one of the prime beneficiaries of an upcycle in RE plant-up underpinned by a solid orderbook, strong net cash position and secured pipeline of RE assets to boost recurring income.

Maintain Buy at unchanged TP of RM1.63. — TA Research, April 18

Sunsuria Bhd
Trading buy. Target price: RM0.55

Source: PublicInvest Research

SUNSURIA Bhd announced that it has signed a strategic partnership with Kwasa Land Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of EPF and the master developer of Kwasa Damansara for a new residential development in the township. The deal involves acquisition of a land measuring 9.464 acres for RM89mn, which is envisaged to have estimated Gross Development Value (GDV) of RM492m. As such, land cost appears fair at about 18% to the indicated GDV. The project will be delivered in phases, with the first phase expected to launch in the third quarter of 2026.

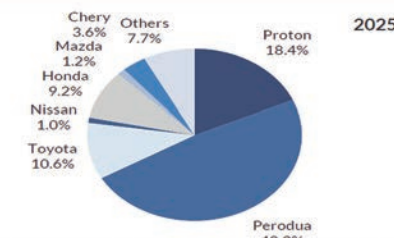
We understand that the group is planning to feature 520 residential units with an estimated GDV of RM492m on the newly acquired 9.464-acre land at Kwasa Dmanasara. The project would entail the construction of landed homes as well as a condominium, which designed for individuals and smaller families seeking an urban lifestyle. Additionally, the project will incorporate modern amenities and sustainable features to promote a balanced and connected living environment. The project will be delivered in phases, with the first phase expected to be launched in the third quarter of 2026.

Sunsuria currently has 2,052 acres of undeveloped landbank with potential gross development value (GDV) of RM8bn which we estimate could take at least 8-10 years to develop. About RM6bn GDV is mainly from Sunsuria City @ Salak Tinggi which has already completed projects with combined GDV of RM1.4bn to-date. Ongoing residential development projects, among others, include Tower A, D and E of Bangsar Hill Park, Seni Residences and multi-facility serviced apartment Tangerine Suites at Sunsuria City township and integrated mixed development Forum 2 at Setia Alam.

Keep Trading Buy with RM0.55 TP. — PublicInvest Research, April 18

Auto & Autoparts
Neutral

National carmakers account for a 67% share of the local market in YTD-2025



Source: Company data, RHB

RON95 subsidy rationalisation is imminent, but could be delayed as the full criteria for the eligibility — originally slated for announcement in 1Q25 — has yet to see the light of day. We understand the MyKad will be used in conjunction with a 2-tier pricing system. Furthermore, the T15 classification, ie those not be eligible for the subsidy, is still being reviewed, which could delay the rollout to beyond mid-2025 in our view. While details remain unclear, we believe policy will raise car ownership costs — it could also drive EV adoption and prompt some buyers to down-trade, given the limited availability of affordable EVs.

Additionally, an unresolved policy issue remains on the revision of open market value (OMV) for excise duty calculations on CKD cars. Originally based on manufacturing costs, the revised OMV may include selling-related expenses, potentially increasing car prices by 10-30% if implemented in Jan 2026. This could lead to a surge in car sales before the new excise duty takes effect. Nonetheless, strong opposition from Malaysian carmakers may influence the final decision on this policy change.

We remain cautious in our outlook due to ongoing price competition in the non-national segment and softening order backlogs. Perodua's backlog has reduced to 68k units (or 2-3 months of sales) currently from 90k units in Nov 2024, while Toyota's has maintained at 16k units (2-3 months of sales).

Keep neutral, given our expectations for a cyclical sector slowdown premised on a lack of catalysts to drive sales and earnings to new highs. We like SIME — it is well positioned for the RON95 rationalisation, given its broad EV line-up, while Perodua provides earnings protection amidst intensifying competition amongst non-national marques. — RHB Research, April 18



Chill out apps

**Self-defence
against stress**
- P22

WEEKLY FOCUS

MONDAY

Technology and
social media

TUESDAY

Family
and parenting

WEDNESDAY

Fashion
and beauty

THURSDAY

Home
and living

FRIDAY

Travel
and leisure

SATURDAY

Food
and beverage



-123RF/PI

INSIDE

p23

i-City tycoon's
ambitious tech vision

p24

Acer introduces new laptop,
monitors for professionals

p25

Oscars to include new
stunt category



BY THASHINE SELVAKUMARAN

We all have moments when life feels a bit too overwhelming. It is important to hit pause and find your centre. Thankfully, seeking calm can be as simple as opening an app. These eight highly rated apps, available on Android and iOS, are designed to help you breathe, relax and reset whenever and wherever you need it.

Calm

Calm is one of the most popular relaxation and meditation apps out there. It offers a wide range of features, including guided meditations, breathing exercises, soothing nature sounds and even sleep stories. Its daily meditation programmes are perfect for building a habit, and the serene visuals and background music add to the overall soothing experience. While Calm does offer a free version with basic features, most of its premium content, such as full sleep stories, masterclasses and exclusive music tracks, requires a subscription.

Headspace

Headspace is a user-friendly app that makes mindfulness feel approachable, especially for beginners. It provides guided meditation sessions tailored for various situations such as stress, anxiety, focus and sleep. There are also "SOS" sessions for moments of panic or emotional distress, as well as bedtime stories called "Sleepcasts". Headspace offers a limited selection of free content, but to unlock the full library and structured courses, you will need a paid subscription through in-app purchases.

Insight Timer

Insight Timer is a standout app because of its generous free offerings. It hosts the world's largest collection of free guided meditations – over 100,000 of them – led by experienced mindfulness teachers, psychologists and even monks. Insight Timer provides meditations, calming music and even a customisable timer for silent practice. There is a premium option for offline access and deeper courses. However, most users will find the free version more than sufficient for their daily relaxation needs.

Breathwrk

Breathwrk is focused on one powerful tool: your breathing. The app guides users through scientifically backed breathing exercises that can help you calm anxiety, boost energy or fall asleep more easily. Sessions are short, visual, effective and well-suited for quick resets during a stressful day. The app is free to download and includes a variety of beginner breathing techniques, though unlocking more advanced features and programmes requires in-app purchases or a premium plan.

Smiling Mind

Developed by psychologists and educators, Smiling Mind is a not-for-profit app that focuses on making mindfulness accessible for everyone, especially young people. It offers structured meditation programmes designed



Spending just a few minutes a day on these apps can bring profound change to your general mood.

Anti-stress apps for achieving calm

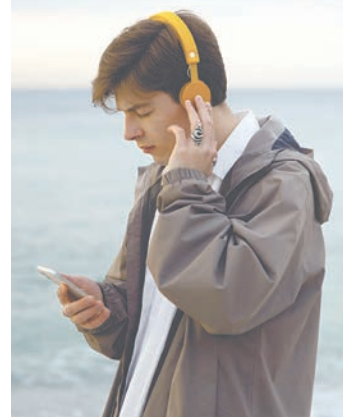
➤ Find relaxation, mental peace wherever, whenever

for different age groups, including kids, teens and adults. There are also specific modules for classroom and workplace stress. What sets Smiling Mind apart is that it is completely free, with no ads or locked content, making it an incredible resource for families, teachers and individuals on a budget.

Sanvello

Sanvello combines mindfulness tools with practical mental health support. Based on cognitive behavioural therapy, it features guided journeys, mood tracking, journaling and even peer support communities. This app is a full mental wellness toolkit. While

Some apps provide relaxing ambient sounds such as ocean waves and forest breezes.



the app does include free features, access to advanced tools, coaching and therapy sessions requires a premium subscription.

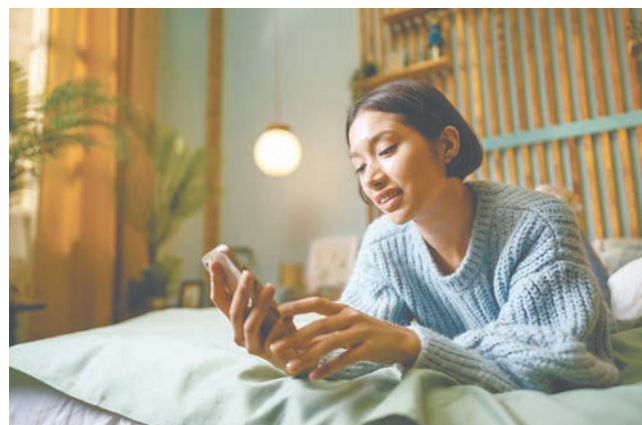
White Noise Lite

Sometimes, the best way to calm your mind is with sound. White Noise Lite offers a large library of looping ambient sounds such as rainfall, ocean waves, forest breezes and more. You can even mix and match different sounds to create your perfect background noise for sleeping, studying or relaxing. The basic version of the app is free and supported by ads, while an optional upgrade removes ads and adds more sound options and customisation features.

Aura

Aura offers a deeply personalised relaxation experience by using AI to recommend content based on your mood, habits and goals. The app curates suggestions to help you feel better fast through quick meditation, an inspiring story, calming music or even a life coaching session. It also features mood tracking, gratitude journaling and bedtime stories to ease you into sleep. While the app provides limited free content to get you started, a premium subscription is needed to unlock its full range of personalised features and unlimited access to its growing library.

Seeking peace and calm has never been more accessible. Each of these apps brings something unique to the table. The beauty of these tools is that they are available on both Android and iOS, and many offer valuable features for free. While some require subscriptions to access all content and features, even their basic versions can provide real, soothing benefits.



Many of these apps offer free content, making mental wellness relatively cost-free.

An app can offer bedtime stories that can ease you into peaceful sleep. – ALL PICS FROM FREEPIK



IN a quiet corner of Mercu Maybank's 32nd-floor office in i-City, 75-year-old I-Bhd chairman Tan Sri Lim Kim Hong swipes through a live dashboard monitoring i-City's traffic flows, energy use and even crowd densities at its theme park – all powered by artificial intelligence (AI).

It is a far cry from his first job as a 12-year-old apprentice in a Muar furniture shop, supporting a family of 10 after his father passed away. His mother earned just RM2 a day as a rubber worker. Lim never completed secondary school – failing Bahasa Malaysia in Standard 6 despite topping his class in Mathematics – but he would go on to become one of Malaysia's most understated tycoons.

"I did not have a real education, but Malaysia gave me the opportunity – I just never gave up," Lim said.

Mattress king

Lim first rose to prominence in the 1970s as the man who revolutionised Malaysia's bedding industry. His company Dreamland Holdings Bhd introduced spring mattresses to the local market and was listed on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange in 1987.

In 1991, Dreamland diversified into steel production and was rebranded as Kanzen Bhd. Just two years later, Lim divested his interest in Kanzen to reorganise his business portfolio and focus on three core areas: manufacturing, property development and financial services. This transition would eventually lead to the acquisition of Sanyo Industries Malaysia Bhd, later renamed I-Bhd – the company that would go on to build i-City.

In 1993, after selling his stake in Dreamland for RM300 million, Lim turned his focus toward a bigger ambition: building a future-ready city.

Smart infrastructure blueprint

In the late 1990s, Lim acquired a 72-acre plot in Shah Alam. Where others saw agriculture, he envisioned a data-driven city of the future. Today, that site is digital city i-City – a RM9.5 billion urban development and Malaysia's first privately-funded Multimedia Super Corridor project.

As the master developer, I-Bhd transformed i-City into a technology-led township that pioneered:

- Malaysia's Tier III-certified data centres.
- First Malaysian development to provide fibre-to-unit broadband and to include it as a core utility alongside water and electricity.
- Built on 5G-ready infrastructure, primed for AI and Internet of Things integration.



AI smart access for building security and convenience.



Facial recognition.

From mattress king to smart city visionary

➤ How tycoon built Malaysia's digital city

Now a recognised flagship of smart city planning in Malaysia, i-City draws over 30 million visitors annually, with a mix of residential, commercial, tourism and meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions components.

"We are not just landlords. We have built highways for data. Now we are exploring collaborations with Chinese AI firms to offer what Shenzhen did in 2005 – space to experiment," Lim said.

Next frontier: AI and robotics

With its infrastructure backbone in place, i-City is entering its next evolution – the integration of AI and robotics into community life.

"In keeping with the evolution of what a smart city should be, we are now embedding AI and robotics into i-City's digital fabric," Lim explained.

This includes real-time energy optimisation, AI-led mobility solutions and autonomous systems in facilities and services.

With China's AI champions such as DeepSeek and Baidu rolling out cutting-edge large language models, Lim sees an opportunity to leverage his long-standing relationships and bring these next-generation technologies into i-City.

He is actively engaging with Chinese AI powerhouses – not as traditional tenants, but as collaborative partners seeking to extend AI into daily urban functions.

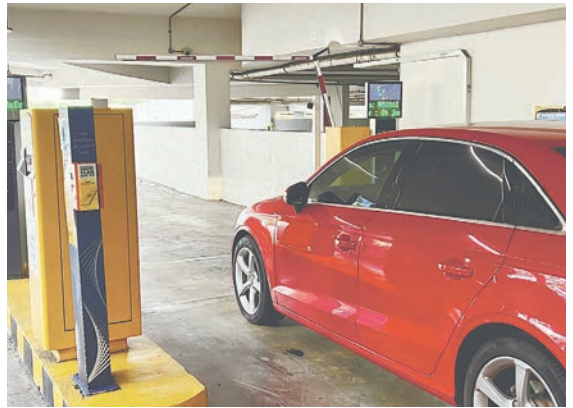
Just as global firms such as Cisco and Intel used i-City to pilot urban technologies in the early 2000s, today he is offering Chinese AI firms a living testbed to explore how their platforms can integrate into real-time environments – from traffic systems to healthcare and retail.

"We have always used cutting-edge tech in i-City. Now we want to take AI beyond search bars and chatbots and into improving the quality of life," he said.

Investing in next generation

Lim's belief in technology as a social equaliser dates back decades. In 1995, he invested RM10 million to host a Russian space exhibition in Malaysia – complete with a full-size MIR Space Station – to inspire students. In the early 2000s, he collaborated with Asus to launch i-Asus notebooks, helping to bridge the digital divide in underserved communities.

Today, i-Bhd, the listed company behind i-City, hosts around 400 interns annually, nurturing young Malaysian talent and exposing them



AI hands-free carpark.

to real-world applications in smart city development and AI.

"I tell my friends I am doing this for the young. Some think I am crazy. But I never had those chances. So I build what I did not have – opportunities."

Road ahead

With its financial and tourism districts already in place, i-City's next frontier is focused on robotics, autonomous systems and community-integrated AI. The vision is to build a self-aware

urban ecosystem that adapts to residents in real-time – and to make Malaysia a model for regional smart living.

"This is where the future is heading – from infrastructure to intelligence."

At 75, Lim remains deeply involved – as builder, strategist and visionary.

"I could have retired 20 years ago, but what keeps me going is this – turning struggle into structure. We are building a future for the next generation," Lim said.

Artificial intelligence features at i-City

➤ AI handsfree carpark

The AI Handsfree Carpark system uses automatic number plate recognition to create a seamless, ticketless parking experience. Drivers enter and exit without stopping – cameras scan their plates, opening barriers instantly while charging linked accounts automatically. This eliminates queues, reduces fraud and enforces parking rules with AI-powered accuracy.

Beyond convenience, the system enhances security by detecting unauthorised vehicles and provides real-time data for smarter parking management. The data collected helps the group to monitor usage

patterns and optimise space allocation.

➤ AI smart access for building security and convenience

The I-Bhd head office at Mercu Maybank i-City is equipped with a facial recognition system for access control and offers measurable security and efficiency improvements. By replacing physical credentials such as keycards or PINs, it eliminates common vulnerabilities such as loss, theft or credential sharing. The system provides precise authentication through biometric verification while maintaining encrypted logs of all

access attempts with timestamps – crucial for security audits and incident investigations. Real-time blacklist screening prevents unauthorised entry attempts, and access privileges can be instantly modified remotely without retrieving physical tokens.

From an operational standpoint, the technology streamlines building access by automating visitor processing and employee attendance and reducing front desk and HR workloads. Touchless operation improves hygiene by minimising surface contact, particularly valuable in healthcare or high-traffic environments. The

system automatically sends elevators to the right floors for each person, cutting down on waiting time.

➤ i-City SuperApp

A comprehensive digital platform that integrates various services and functionalities for residents and visitors of i-City. The application consolidates essential urban services, including parking management, facility bookings, community updates and theme park ticketing into a single mobile interface. Users can access real-time information about i-City's facilities, make reservations for amenities and purchase tickets

through a unified system.

From an organisational perspective, the SuperApp streamlines operations by centralising data collection and management, while reducing administrative overhead. The platform enables the organisation to monitor usage patterns, gather analytical insights and implement improvements based on user behaviour. Additionally, the digital infrastructure helps reduce paper-based processes, contributing to operational efficiency and environmental sustainability within the i-City ecosystem.



ACER Malaysia has rolled out the new TravelMate P6 14 AI laptop that delivers up to a total of 120 TOPS of artificial intelligence (AI) performance in a sleek and durable carbon fibre top cover. The company also unveiled its latest Vero CB2 series monitors designed to support eye comfort and sustainability for business environments.

Acer TravelMate P6 14 AI

Designed for professionals who need performance and security in a portable form factor, the new TravelMate P6 14 AI combines power and practicality in a lightweight, durable design

Acer means business

Laptop, monitors for professionals

incorporating sustainability.

Featuring a vivid 14-inch display with 100% sRGB colour gamut and up to 400 nits of brightness, the

TravelMate P614 AI offers display up to WQXGA+ (2880 × 1800) resolution, with the option for integrated multi-touch finger input on the WUXGA (1920 × 1200) variant. Weighing under 1kg, the new TravelMate P6 14 AI combines a premium carbon fibre top cover with a magnesium-aluminium alloy chassis to provide military-grade certified durability for professionals who work on the move.

Powered by the latest Intel Core Ultra 200V series with AI acceleration, with the option for up to 32GB LPDDR5X on board system memory, reaching up to 8533 MT/s, and a long-lasting 65Wh battery, the Acer TravelMate P6 14 AI is built for seamless multitasking and all-day productivity. Professionals will benefit from AI-enhanced features such as Acer PurifiedView and Acer PurifiedVoice for better videoconferencing while optimising power consumption through the NPU. These AI-boosted features subtly smoothen appearance and reduce noise automatically when the camera is activated, while QuickPanel offers fast camera and mic settings access. Intel Evo Edition options guarantee premium performance while Copilot+ PC experiences stand to further enhance AI-driven productivity.

The TravelMate P6 14 AI offers enterprise-grade security, including IR facial recognition and a privacy shutter to help safeguard against hackers. Acer User Sensing Technology uses a built-in

vision-based AI sensor to accurately detect people based on distance and movement. It helps keep data secure by locking the screen when the user leaves and quickly wakes when they return. Integrated Acer ProShield Plus offers added security and management features in a single-client console.

Designed with sustainability in mind, the Acer TravelMate P6 14 AI incorporates recycled materials in its build and packaging. The device is EPEAT-registered and TCO 10 certified, meeting the strictest criteria for sustainability leadership in electronics.

For streamlined IT management, TravelMate Sense and Acer Office Manager offer easy access to system controls and data protection for businesses without dedicated IT teams. With a single press of the TravelMate Sense key, users can:

- Customise profiles for various work modes such as Meeting, Away and Work.
- Strengthen security with features such as USB Device Filter, Personal Secure Drive, File Secure and Dynamic Lock.
- Monitor device health and calibration guides to optimise battery

performance and system upkeep.

The Acer TravelMate P6 14 is available from RM6,799 at the Acer eStore and authorised Acer resellers nationwide.

Acer Vero CB2 Series monitors

Acer also introduced the Vero CB242Y G and CB272 G monitors that are designed for professionals who demand clarity, comfort and environmental responsibility. Featuring Full HD IPS panels with a 120Hz refresh rate and 1ms VRB, these displays deliver sharp visuals and ultra-smooth performance, ideal for long hours of coding, writing or designing.

Engineered for eye comfort, the CB2 series integrates Acer VisionCare 2.0 with TÜV-certified low blue light panels, BlueLightShield Pro, Flicker-less and ComfyView technologies to reduce eye fatigue during extended use. Enhanced productivity comes standard with versatile ErgoStand adjustments, wide viewing angles, colour-accurate 6-axis tuning and multi-monitor-friendly ZeroFrame design.

Beyond performance, these monitors support sustainable business practices. Made with 85% PCR and 5% ocean-bound plastic, and packed in 100% recyclable materials, they carry TCO Edge, Energy Star and EPEAT Gold certifications.

Available at the Acer eStore and authorised Acer resellers nationwide, the Acer Vero CB242Y G and Vero CB272 G monitors retail for RM469 and RM599 respectively.



A minimum of 32GB of free space is recommended to be able to install the future Android 16. – PEXELSPIC

Google ups storage requirements for Android

GOOGLE has just set new storage space minimums for installing the latest versions of Android.

From now on, a minimum of 32GB of free space is recommended to be able to install the future Android 16, which automatically excludes the lowest-end models on the market.

According to Android Authority, Google is doubling its minimum storage requirements for Android devices.

From now on, any smartphone (or tablet) wishing to obtain official certification for Android 15 will need to have at least 32GB of internal storage, as opposed to 16GB previously.

The minimum RAM requirement is 4GB to install Android 15 and later versions. This requirement applies to all device manufacturers wishing to integrate Google services, such as the Play Store into

their products.

This decision aims to improve the user experience on entry-level devices, which often have limited space available after installing the system and pre-installed applications.

This means that several smartphone and tablet models, mainly in the entry-level tier, will not be authorised to install either Android 15 or Android 16.

Generally speaking, however, these announcements are not going to be a game changer, as the most recent versions of Android are usually reserved for the latest models released on the market.

Moreover, in 2025, it is rare to find smartphones on the market with such little storage space, as most of them, even in the low and mid-range, have at least 64GB.

The most recent versions of Android not only offer new features, they also offer guarantees in terms of security. – ETX Studio



Top: The TravelMate P6 14 AI laptop can deliver up to a total of 120 TOPS of AI performance.

Bottom: Engineered for eye comfort, the CB2 monitor series integrates Acer VisionCare 2.0 with TÜV-certified low blue light panels.

Oscars to add new award for stunts

► Films released in 2027 will be eligible for nominations

A NEW Oscar for stunts will be handed out when Hollywood's glitziest party celebrates its 100th birthday, awards officials said.

The Board of Governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said films released in 2027 will be eligible for an Oscar for Achievement in Stunt Design.

"Since the early days of cinema, stunt design has been an integral part of filmmaking. We are proud to honour the innovative work of these technical and creative artists, and we congratulate them for their commitment and dedication in reaching this momentous occasion," Academy CEO Bill Kramer and Academy president Janet Yang said in a statement.

Rules on eligibility and who will vote for the

winner will be unveiled in two years' time.

The announcement marks the culmination of a growing campaign for a "best stunts" category at the Oscars, with supporters arguing that the input of the unsung performers who risk life and limb equals that of the sound mixers, makeup artists and visual effects gurus who are already honoured.

Stunt work is already honoured at some prestigious movie and TV ceremonies, such as the Screen Actors Guild Awards where *Fall Guy* took home the 2024 prize.

The Academy has been expanding the Oscars to create more categories that reflect how complex filmmaking has become.

Last year, a new Oscar was established for casting, which will be awarded for the first time next year. — AFP



Those who perform dangerous stunts on film will finally get their due at the Oscars. — PEXELS/SPIC



Kwon shows off her goddess-like figure in a stunning red dress in the music video.

K-pop queen Kwon Eunbi charms with *Hello Stranger*

K-POP singer Kwon Eunbi returns with a new digital single *Hello Stranger*, which showcases her natural charm and captivating allure.

Hello Stranger invites fans into Kwon's secret world with a soft whisper, just like meeting a new stranger in a lonely city.

The single is marked by a signature Afro-pop sound, beginning with guitar arpeggios that leave a strong first impression alongside the dreamy vocals in the introduction and building into fast-racing energy and explosive rhythm alongside Kwon's powerful vocals.

Kwon also released the music video for *Hello Stranger* on her official YouTube channel.

In the video, she shows off her goddess-like figure in a stunning red dress and dazzles viewers with her dancing with fluttering and attention-grabbing ribbons, overwhelming the eyes and ears.

For this latest comeback, Kwon also shares four new looks showcasing her sexy and provocative charisma, announcing a concept transformation that is a 180-degree switch from the warm emotions of her previous work.

With her mysterious and dreamy aura, she has further fuelled the anticipation of fans around the world, raising their expectations for the kind of music and performances that she will deliver as a "global queen".

Will nu-metal comeback lift Machine Head?

■ BY R. BALA

WHISPER it, but that much maligned sub-genre that is nu-metal is making a comeback. The oft-ridiculed brand of music has suffered greatly since bands such as Limp Bizkit, Korn and Coal Chamber were multi-platinum stars.

But with the recent much-hyped return of Linkin Park, nu-metal seems to have been given a new lease of life. Coupled with acts such as Bloodywood breathing new life into the scene, it seems that nu-metal is not dead but was just laying motionless for awhile.

One of the sub-genre's most hard hitting bands is Machine Head, which landed with an almighty thud when its debut single *Davidian* was released back in 1994.

While nu-metal lost its lustre, the

American outfit soldiered on with fan interest dwindling. However, its fortunes took an upturn when Machine Head began focussing on a more thrash-oriented sound on *Bloodstone & Diamonds* in 2014. That has been the template followed on *Catharsis* (2018) and *Of Kingdom & Crown* (2022).

A new album *Unatoned* is slated to drop this Friday and the band has teased its release with a couple of sampler singles.

First up is *Bonescraper*, which features the bouncing, staccato beats that defined the band's early years. It seems that founding (and sole remaining original) member Rob Flynn has made a decision to take Machine Head back to its roots. Replete with cod-rapped lyrics, there is even a sing-a-long chorus that veers dangerously close to Linkin Park

territory. Machine Head may be nu-metal but was one of its heaviest practitioners and longtime fans may not take too kindly to the cotton candy chorus.

Unbound is more like the Machine Head that fans love and adore. The start-stop rhythms are delivered with a sledgehammer intensity that holds up to scrutiny and will definitely send fans into a moshing frenzy, be it in their living rooms or at a proper live show. The impact is immediate and will have listeners pressing the repeat button while adding it to their playlist.

Will the new album sound like the former or will it be hard-hitting like *Unbound*?

Whichever direction Machine Head takes, there will be fans who love it and those who loathe it. But it will be interesting for sure. The metal world waits with bated breath.



Machine Head's latest album is due to be released this Friday. — PIC FROM FACEBOOK @MACHINEHEAD

Dengue presents greater threat to women

► Physiological, social, economic factors play huge role

DENGUE fever remains a major public health concern in Malaysia, with thousands of cases reported annually. The country's tropical climate and rapid urbanisation create ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes, contributing to dengue's persistence and placing individuals at constant risk of infection.

While dengue affects both men and women, emerging insights reveal that women may bear a disproportionate burden of the disease – not just physically, but also socially and economically.

Impact of dengue on women

Dengue may not discriminate, but its effects on women can be particularly severe due to physiological, social and economic factors.

Women are more likely to develop severe dengue and dengue haemorrhagic fever due to physiological factors – women's immune system tends to mount a stronger response to the virus, leading to higher viral loads and increased inflammation. Women have lower blood volume, which makes them more susceptible to hypovolemic shock, a dangerous complication of severe dengue.

Capillary leakage

As women's blood vessels naturally allow more fluid to pass through their walls, they are more prone to bruising and internal bleeding. This is especially concerning for women who contract severe dengue while menstruating, as they are at risk of excessive bleeding, alongside other symptoms such as abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, mucosal



Women's immune system tends to mount a stronger response to the virus, leading to higher viral loads and increased inflammation. – 123RF/PIC

bleeding such as gum and nose bleeds, as well as plasma leakage.

These factors significantly increase the risk of severe complications, requiring close medical monitoring, especially in women with low platelet counts or anaemia – conditions that are more common in women than in men.

Pregnant women face an even greater risk from dengue infection, which can have serious consequences for both mother and child. Dengue during pregnancy can lead to low birth weight, premature birth, stillbirth and an increased risk of maternal death. The virus can be transmitted to the baby in the womb, potentially causing severe dengue with haemorrhagic symptoms in the baby.

Social, emotional toll on women

Beyond the physiological risks, women often carry a heavier social and emotional burden when it comes to dengue. As primary caregivers in many households, women are responsible for looking

after children, elderly parents and sick family members. However, when women fall ill, they may have limited support or feel compelled to downplay their symptoms to continue their caregiving responsibilities. Delaying care can come at a high personal cost as dengue progresses rapidly, and without timely intervention, complications can become life-threatening.

The situation can become even more challenging if access to healthcare services is limited by financial constraints, lack of childcare options and other socioeconomic factors. This may cause women to delay medical attention, choosing instead to prioritise their families over their own health. These interconnected factors create a cycle where women are more vulnerable to severe dengue outcomes simply because they struggle to prioritise their health.

Fight against dengue

There is a need to equip women

with the knowledge and resources to protect themselves and their families. If you have persistent fever, severe body aches, bleeding symptoms or prolonged fatigue, seek medical attention immediately.

Equally important is ensuring that women have the support they need to access healthcare. Supporting those affected by dengue are collective responsibilities that can be achieved through cooperation between neighbours and other community members. Whether it is financial assistance, childcare support or workplace flexibility, removing barriers to medical care can significantly improve outcomes for women affected by dengue.

Moving forward as community

While women often take the lead in dengue prevention at home, maintaining health is a shared responsibility.

Community-driven efforts remain essential, such as keeping neighbourhoods clean and eliminating mosquito breeding sites, alongside personal measures such as covering exposed skin and the use of repellents to prevent mosquito bites.

Increasing community vaccination uptake can help reduce severe dengue cases and hospitalisations, lessening the strain on both families and the healthcare system. Vaccination can reduce the burden of dengue, particularly for high-risk groups. Those living in or travelling to areas with high rates of dengue infections would also benefit from protecting themselves through vaccination.

By adopting integrated preventive measures, from vector control to vaccination, we can move towards a future where dengue no longer weighs so heavily on women and other vulnerable communities.

This article is contributed by consultant paediatrician Dr Han Mun Cheng.

USM SETS UP CANCER SPECIALIST CLINIC

UNIVERSITI Sains Malaysia (USM) has established a Clinical Specialist and Cancer Research Centre at the Institute of Advanced Medicine and Dentistry, Bertam Indah, Kepala Batas, Penang to treat five major types of cancer. USM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Seri Dr Abdul Rahman Mohamed said the centre, which was established last year, focuses on treating breast, skin, cervical, liver and tongue cancers. He said that so far the centre has received more than 8,000 patients, including those from Sabah and Sarawak, thus proving the effectiveness and trust in the expertise and treatment facilities offered. – Bernama

MEDICINE PRICE TRANSPARENCY

THE government will proceed with the implementation of the Medicine Price Transparency Mechanism on May 1, said Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Minister Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali. He said the draft order, which, among others, will require private healthcare facilities to display medicine prices, is currently under review by the Attorney-General's Chambers. "Once approved, the order will outline how prices should be displayed," he told a press conference last Friday. – Bernama

DRASTIC RISE IN PENANG HFMD CASES

PENANG registered an alarming increase in hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD) cases after 579 cases were recorded during the 15th epidemiological week between April 6 and 12. State Youth, Sports and Health Committee chairman Daniel Gooi Zi Sen said this was an increase of 353 cases or 156.2% compared to the previous week, with four new clusters also reported during the period. "This increase is believed to have occurred following the last Aidilfitri holidays, however, all the reported cases showed mild symptoms with outpatient treatment and none of the cases experienced severe complications or required intensive treatment," he said in a statement last Friday. – Bernama

Why are autism rates increasing?

AUTISM is a neurological and developmental condition marked by disruptions in brain-signalling that cause people to behave, communicate, interact and learn in atypical ways. Autism diagnoses have increased significantly since 2000, intensifying public concern over what might contribute to its prevalence.

How is autism diagnosed?

There are no objective tools for diagnosing autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the medical name for autism, such as blood tests or brain scans. Instead, diagnoses are made based on observations and interviews. The term spectrum reflects the wide range of possible manifestations. Some people with ASD may have good conversation skills while others may be nonverbal. Some may be acutely sensitive to sounds, touch or other triggers. Some may have restricted or repetitive

behaviours or interests. Some may need help with daily living, while others require little or no support.

What causes autism?

The causes of autism are unclear. There is widespread speculation among scientists that its neurological characteristics may develop in utero, when the fetal brain is being wired. Studies have linked autism to maternal factors in pregnancy and some research suggests a link to birth complications and timing.

Genetic factors account for about 80% of the risk for developing autism, research suggests. A growing area of investigation focuses on epigenetics – the interactions between genetic and environmental factors. One theory suggests that a woman's exposure to air pollution or harmful contaminants before or during pregnancy may trigger a genetic mutation leading to

autism in her child.

Gene variations in some people with autism strengthen the evidence for a genetic component. Among the genetic disorders linked with higher risks for autism are Fragile X syndrome, tuberous sclerosis complex, Phelan-McDermid syndrome and Prader-Willi syndrome.

Other potential risk factors may include very low birth weight, jaundice as a newborn, complications in utero or during birth, having an unhealthy assortment of organisms living in the intestines, immune system disorders, having a sibling with autism and parental factors such as age, obesity and diabetes.

No rigorous studies have found links between autism and vaccines or medications, or their components such as thimerosal or formaldehyde. Vaccination rates have declined as autism rates have climbed.

Why are autism rates rising?

Researchers largely attribute the rise in autism diagnoses to more widespread screening and the inclusion of a wider range of behaviours to describe the condition. Historically, the definition of autism included moderate to severe intellectual disabilities. Today, doctors recognise that the most severe forms account for only about 25% of cases.

In 2013, mental health experts combined what had been three separate diagnoses – autistic disorder, Asperger's disorder and pervasive developmental disorder – under the umbrella of autism spectrum disorder.

An October 2024 study of US insurance claims data found the largest increases in diagnoses were in groups with low screening rates in the past, including young adults, females and children from some racial or ethnic minority groups.

Researchers have also noted that certain risk factors have become more common, such as having been born prematurely or to older parents.

Diagnoses of more severe forms of the disorder, known as profound autism, have not risen as dramatically as rates of non-profound autism.

Are there treatments?

There are no treatments or cures for autism, nor can it be reversed. However, experts agree that early diagnosis is crucial. Intervention with supportive measures – ideally before age three – is critical for improving cognitive, social and communication skills. Such measures can include speech therapy, occupational therapy, social skills training, sensory integration therapy, visual aids, structured routines, individualised education plans, family therapy and providing a calm and predictable environment. – Reuters



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Jobs



1 MEDIA SALES - Specialist

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- 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)

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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.
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Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES (WINDING UP) RULES, 1972 (In Liquidation)

No. 67 (Rule 112)
NOTICE OF MEETING
KOMPLEX SERI KULIN SDN. BHD.
(Reg. No. 190301010100 (264927-K))
(In Liquidation)

TAKE NOTICE that the Third Meeting of the Purchasers and Creditors in the above matter will be held entirely on a fully virtual basis via Zoom at MOORE ROWLAND INSOLVENCY SERVICES PT, 338 Jalan Pahang, 10400 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang on Wednesday, 30th April, 2025 at 11.00 a.m. for the following purposes:-

1. Update on the notice for beneficial claim on Komplex Seri Kulun paid advertisement on 20.3.2025. Discuss the next course of action.

2. Update on the offer price received from Assets (both land and building on GRN 127701 Lot No. 845, Section 44, Town of Kulim, District of Kulim, Kedah) Sale by Tandu which was closed for tender on 10.4.2025.
3. Propose for an application of Scheme of Arrangement to be filed to court to get the court convene meeting to enable a scheme purchasers and scheme creditors to decide on the Assets Sale by Tandu.
4. Any other matters.

Khoo Yong Young
Liquidator
c/o MOORE ROWLAND
INSOLVENCY SERVICES PT
338 Jalan Pahang,
10400 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang
Tel: 604-227 4111

Dated this 21st day of May 2025.

Please contact us at may-tang.chan@moorerowland.com.my or 012-455 3727 to obtain the meeting platform and ID before the meeting.

Forms of general and special proxies are enclosed herewith. Proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged not later than 12 o'clock noon on the 29th of April 2025.

Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF BUSINESS PLAN SDN. BHD. (S6407-K) (MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING UP)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 439 of the Companies Act, 2016 that the Special Resolution set out below was duly passed by the members of the Company on 15 April 2025.

*Resolved that pursuant to Section 439 of the Companies Act, 2016, the Company be wound up voluntarily and that MR. YEE YUE THYE of 6-12-11, Menara Mutiara Bangsar, Jalan Liku, 59100 Kuala Lumpur be and is hereby appointed liquidator of the company for the purpose of such winding up with all powers given to such winding up by all powers given to such winding up of the Companies Act 2016.

YEE SIOK FONG
Director
Kuala Lumpur
Dated: 21/4/2025

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF BUSINESS PLAN SDN. BHD. (S6407-K) (MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP)

NOTICE is hereby given that the creditors of the above-mentioned Company, which is being wound up voluntarily are required on or before 15 May 2025 to send their names and addresses with particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the Liquidator of the said Company, and if so required in writing from the said Liquidator, are to prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefits of any such distribution made before such debts are proved.

YEE YUE THYE
6-12-11 Menara Mutiara Bangsar
Jalan Liku
59100 Kuala Lumpur
Dated: 21/4/2025

Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF P.V. ENGINEERING SDN. BHD. (359895-P) (In Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 459(1) of the Companies Act, 2016, that the Final Meeting of the members of the abovementioned Company will be held at Lot 4.1, Level 4, Pertama Complex Office Tower, Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman, 50100 Kuala Lumpur on 26TH May 2025 at 10.00am for the following purposes :-

1. To receive an account from the Liquidator showing how the winding up has been conducted and any explanations of the account that may be given by the Liquidator.
2. To determine by ordinary resolution in the manner in which the books, accounts and documents of the Company and the Liquidator thereof shall be disposed of after three (3) months from the date of final meeting.

Monoharan A/L Raju
(Liquidator)
Kuala Lumpur
Dated this 21st April 2025

theSun WE ARE HIRING!

- 1) EXECUTIVE / SENIOR - HR & Admin
- 2) ASST MANAGER / MANAGER - HR & Admin

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 staff training and 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.

3) EXECUTIVE - Safety & Building Maintenance

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 Chaperman, 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: April 30, 2025)

Notices

Pickles Auctions

Bank Repossessed bikes and cars for sale by auction. Auctions are conducted via eBidding on **Wednesday - 23rd April** from 9.35am onwards. All are invited to join our **PUBLIC AUCTION**. Viewing inspection on **Tuesday - 22nd April** at 9.30am - 5.30pm. All unsold bank repossessed vehicles will be auctioned on the following Wednesday until the vehicles are sold.

Download Pickles Auctions app to view all auction listings or visit www.pickles.my

Reg no	Make/Model	Reg no	Make/Model	Reg no	Make/Model
BRV1884	YAMAHA Y15ZR	SJ03725	HONDA RS150R	VL8776	PERODUA BEZZA 1.3 AV
WMS5789	YAMAHA Y15ZR	SY1675	SYM V9 180S LE PRO	W88087E	2015 HONDA CITY 1.8 I-VTEC
BO01813	YAMAHA 135CL-AUTO CLUTCH	SA415	YAMAHA 135CL FI STANDARD	ALM091	2018 PERODUA MYVI 1.3 I (A)
BR7493	YAMAHA 135CL FI STANDARD	SY08164	HONDA RS-X FS150FA ABS	BP0405	2016 PERODUA BEZZA 1.0 G (A)
VS45986	HONDA RS150R TRICO	SC13158	AKITA VS 110 DISC BR	WYN666	2012 BENLEY CONTINENTAL GL V8 (A)
VS45419	YAMAHA A-1Y15ZR	WJ06837	PROTON SAGA 1.8	PRX0550	2013 BMW 320I SPORT
JV06107	HONDA RS-X FS150FA ABS	VT62888	2017 PEUGEOT 3008 P84 (A)	STW05X	2016 HONDA ACCORD 2.0 VTL
SYL8263	YAMAHA EGO SOLARIS	W4679L	2013 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE	RAR3612	2023 MERCEDES-BENZ C 200
AL85865	HONDA WAIVE DASH FI	W03986P	2016 MERCEDES-BENZ C200	UC2223	2022 MERCEDES-BENZ EQA 250
QSS5946	YAMAHA Y15ZR	V035111	2021 BMW X1 SDRIVE20I	VJ41131	2023 MERCEDES-BENZ C200
BRU0299	HONDA RS-X FS150FA ABS	WXP450	2012 FORD FOCUS	DCP96	2019 MERCEDES-BENZ A 250
BOG3084	YAMAHA 135CL-AUTO CLUTCH	BRM2448	2023 PROTON PERSONA 1.6 CVT EXECUTIVE	BFY8837	2006 PERODUA KANCL EX (M)
VS43457	HONDA DASH 125	W8700R	2014 JAGUAR XF 2.0 H T XF LUXURY	WU0596	2010 PERODUA VIVA EX 850 (M)
DO84900	YAMAHA Y15ZR	W8225	2017 GREAT WALL HAWK H2	WJ61875	2011 PROTON PERSONA 1.6 (A)
VH92024	YAMAHA 135 CL	BOF2383	2020 PROTON X70 1.8 TDI EXECUTIVE 2WD	WJ43338	2002 HONDA ACCORD 2.0 (A)
DT4988	HONDA RS-X	VT42300	2017 NISSAN NP300 NAVARA 2.5V (A) 4WD	RL33777	2011 PROTON PERSONA 1.6 (A)
BRM4669	HONDA RS-X 150	SVCT490	2014 PORSCHE CAYENNE V6 DIESEL	JMD 6508	2010 PROTON SAGA 1.3 (A)
BR07101	YAMAHA Y15ZR	OTM0910	2014 FORD RANGER 2.2 XL 4WD (A)	V64535	2016 PROTON SAGA 1.3L CVT
VLL1342	YAMAHA 135CL FI STANDARD	WJ61842	YAMAHA Y15ZR SE	WTT4821	2010 PROTON PERSONA 1.6 (A)
VAK7383	SYM V9 180S LE PRO	JVY2031	2022 HONDA DASH 125	SS13520	2013 PROTON PERSONA 1.6 (A)
ALJ7354	YAMAHA MT-15	SWL2413	2024 YAMAHA Y15ZR	WJ07249	2011 NISSAN SYLPHY 2.0 IMPUL NAVI
VS44618	HONDA A-15150R REPSOL	JY73402	2023 YAMAHA Y15ZR	PRX2462	2008 NIZA CITRA
PRC4087	YAMAHA EGO GEAR	JY87251	2024 YAMAHA Y15ZR	JWA7674	2011 PROTON PERSONA
AMP8921	YAMAHA Y15ZR	KFV8025	YAMAHA Y15ZR	JPW4661	2014 PROTON PREVE 1.8L CVT
DT34849	YAMAHA Y15ZR	SY54879	2022 HONDA RS-X	JR95229	2015 PROTON PREVE 1.8L CVT
DO73460	HONDA RS150R TRICO	CF06899	2021 YAMAHA YZF-R15	JR2448	2016 PROTON SAGA 1.3L CVT
DEM 2318	YAMAHA Y15ZR	VKR7845	2023 YAMAHA EGO	PKW5383	2012 HONDA CIVIC HYBRID
DEK7423	HONDA RS150R TRICO	JKL5422	2022 HONDA RS-X	JPY5081	2016 NISSAN ALMERA 1.5E (A)
QF09904	HONDA A-15150R TRICO	QF51495	2022 YAMAHA EGO	BL44079	2011 MITSUBISHI 200 TROTTON AWD D/CAB
V036707	YAMAHA Y15ZR	WJ67375	PROTON SAGA 1.3	W034411	2018 NISSAN ALMERA 1.5E (A)
VEB 7743	YAMAHA 135CL SPECIAL EDITION	BM63857	2013 PROTON PERSONA 1.6 (A)	W83496P	2015 NISSAN ALMERA 1.5E (A)
BOB604	HONDA WAIVE 125i	JP69006	2013 PROTON EXORA FL 1.8L CVT	WD1890E	2016 NISSAN X-TRAIL 2.5 CVT
VE24388	YAMAHA Y15ZR	WJ7050M	2014 PROTON PERSONA 1.6 (A)	INT899	2016 PERODUA ALZA 1.3 E2 (A)
VPR6865	YAMAHA 135CL-AUTO CLUTCH	WRM1791	2008 PERODUA MYVI 1.3 E2 (A)	DCJ4771	2016 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.8L CVT
TCG7088	YAMAHA Y15ZR	WMY5607	2005 BMW 318i (A)	COE 8394	2010 PROTON SAGA FL 1.3 (A)
VEE 2847	SYM V9 180S SE	BRM7628	2014 PROTON PERSONA 1.6 (A)	OM3316A	2010 MAZDA CX-7 (A)
NM09751	HONDA DASH 125	P 48844	2009 HONDA ACCORD 2.0 VTI-L (A)	W06849F	2016 PROTON PREVE 1.8L CVT
VE2830	HONDA RS150R TRICO	W898900	HONDA CIVIC HYBRID	JO5467	2014 NISSAN ALMERA 1.5V (A)
JUT2416	YAMAHA A-1Y15ZR	WJ72427	2012 SUZUKI SWIFT 1.5L (A)	JPL7427	2013 NISSAN GRAND LIVINA 1.8L (A)
YU02682	YAMAHA 135CL-AUTO CLUTCH	WMY6816	PERODUA ALZA 1.5	W505216	2009 HONDA ACCORD 2.4 I-VTEC (A)
DOV5226	YAMAHA A-15GENOVA 1152 (E)	JR1357	2015 NISSAN ALMERA 1.5 (M)	JT7442	2010 VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.2
WY15133	NISSAN ALMERA 1.5E	VRN1942	2014 PERODUA MYVI 1.3 E2 (A)	W85646M	2015 PERODUA MYVI 1.3 X (A)
AM14502	HONDA VARIO 150	WQX955	TOYOTA VIOS 1.5J	BL49908	2008 HONDA CIVIC 1.8L I-VTEC (A)
SA48903	HONDA RS150R TRICO	KD30301	TOYOTA VIOS 1.5G	JT48843	2019 RENAUDI CAPTUR
SK5739E	HONDA RS-X FS150FAZ	W66721W	2014 TOYOTA VIOS 1.5E (A)	W83184J	2014 HONDA CITY S PLUS 1.5L I-VTEC

For more information contact us at
016-6999170 | 012-5553727 (WhatsApp)
www.pickles.my | info@pickles.my

PICKLES ASIA SDN BHD [1231292-D]
Lot 19391, Batu 8 ½, Jalan Klang Lama,
Taman Desaria, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

Notices

NOTIS JUALAN SECARA LELONG AWAM Akta Pemegang Pajak-Gadai(81)1972

Sandaran-sandaran yang tidak ditubus Pemegang Pajak Gadai yang tersebut dibawah ini yang mana sandaran-sandaran itu telah di-gadai 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 6th Mei 2025, Waktu 9.30am.

NEGERI Pulau PINANG

No. NAMA PAJAK GADAI
ALAMAT PAJAK GADAI

1. Pajak Gadai Sheng Lon (Bayan Baru) Sdn Bhd
54 Jalan Tengah, Taman Sri Tunas, 11950 Bayan Lepas, Penang.
2. Pajak Gadai Sheng Lon Sdn Bhd (Jelutong)
124 Jalan Jelutong, 11600 Georgetown, Penang.
3. Pajak Gadai Sheng Lon Sdn Bhd (Bukit Jambul)
880 Jalan Tun D'Awang, 11900 Bukit Jambul, Penang.
4. MCG Pawnshop Sdn Bhd
2952 Jalan Perai, Taman Inderawasih, 13600 Seberang Perai, Penang.
5. Hoong Cong Pawnshop Sdn Bhd
4-D Jalan Bayan Lepas, 11900 Bayan Lepas, Penang.
6. Pajak Gadai Wangmax Sdn Bhd
500 Jalan Duta Keramat, 10460 Penang.
7. Pajak Gadai Wangmax Fettes Sdn Bhd
16 Jalan Fettes, 11200 Tanjung Tokong, Penang.
8. Pajak Gadai Wangmax Farlim Sdn Bhd
63 Jalan Pisang Embun, 11500 Farlim, Penang.
9. Pajak Gadai Cheng Chang Sdn Bhd
8 Jalan Penanti 1, Taman Penanti, 14000 Bukit Mertajam, Penang.
10. 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 21th April 2025 sehingga 27th April 2025, pukul 10.00 Pagi sehingga 4.00 Petang sebelum tarikh jualan lelong itu.

Neoh Boon Hooi

Licensed Auctioneer
Pelelong Berlesen

Perbadanan Pengurusan Lot 15 SJCC Open Tender for Property Management Services

Tender Objective	Appointment of Property Management Services for Lot 15 Apartment, Jalan SS16/1, 47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor (361 residential units, 7 retail units with facilities)
Tender Documents	Interested bidders must obtain tender documents by emailing lot15managementcommittee@gmail.com with the following attachments: 1. A copy of a valid BOVAEP Certificate, and 2. Proof of payment (bank-in slip) for the non-refundable fee of RM150, payable to: Perbadanan Pengurusan Lot 15 SJCC Maybank Account No.: 5623-0264-9552 (Please use your company name as the payment reference)
Site Visit (compulsory)	23 April 2025 (Wed) & 26 April 2025 (Sat) Time: 10am - 12pm (with appointment)
Tender Deadline	2 May 2025 (Friday), 9:00AM

For tender-related enquiries, please contact: lot15managementcommittee@gmail.com, Lee (012-309 0378) or Phuah (012-288 3252).

Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND C C LEENSON MANUFACTURING SDN. BHD. (Reg. No. 202201013995 (1455692-K)) (In Members' Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 459(1)&(2) of the Companies Act, 2016 that a Final Meeting of the members of the Company will be held at C-02-16, Pavilion, Jalan Puteri 7/13, Bandar Puteri, 47100 Puchong, Selangor Darul Ehsan on the 22 May 2025 at 11.00 a.m. for the following purposes:-

- 1) To receive an account from the Liquidator showing the manner in which the winding up has been conducted, the property of the Company disposed of and to hear any explanation that may be given by the Liquidator.
- 2) To determine pursuant to Section 518(3)(b) of the Companies Act, 2016 the manner in which the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator hereof, shall be disposed of after the expiration of three (3) months from the date of the final meeting.

Martin Ting Kah Yew
Liquidator

Dated: 21 April 2025



Scan QR to download
Pickles Auctions App

322 Notices

FOCAL PARK SDN BHD (358698-H)
NOTIS LELONG AWAM KENDERAAN UNTUK DILELONG SEPERTI SEDIA ADA
TEMPAT & TARIKH LELONG : Northern Region (Alor Setar, Butterworth & Ipoh)
24-04-2025 (Khamis) Pukul 11.00pagi
TARIKH MELIHAT : SEBELUM TIGA HARI LELONG
(Pukul 9.00pagi - 4.00petang)
PERTANYAAN (Tel): Butterworth 04-3567972, Alor Setar 04-787 7972,
Ipoh 05-5293971
FPAC - PELELONG BERLESEN : a) Mr. Chew Woi Kok,
b) Mr. Steven Lim Peng Seng (02097),
c) Pn Hasniza Binti Abu Samah (01038)

Alamat : 352, Permatang Tok Jaya Maklom Sq Dua 13800 Butterworth.
: Lot 138-A, Batu 5 Jalan Langgar 05460 Alor Setar
: PT51683, Jalan Jelapang, Kws Perindustrian Tmn Meru 30020 Ipoh

SILA LAYANI LAMAN WEB KAMI : <http://www.focalpark.com.my>

Item	Reg No	Jenis & Model	Tahun
AM1	JSS2928	HYUNDAI ELANTRA 1.8 (A)	2015
AM2	RNS656	HYUNDAI TUCSON 2.0i	2015
AM3	AKU225	NISSAN X-TRAIL 2.0	2016
AM4	VE06019	PROTON PERSONA 1.6	2020
AM5	AKT7904	PROTON PREVE 1.6 (A)	2017
AM6	ALK5742	PERODUA AIA 1.0	2019
AM7	AMT4601	PROTON EXORA 1.6	2022
AM8	WYS1446	PERODUA MYVI 1.5	2013
AM9	RAC6783	MITSUBISHI TRITON 2.4	2019
AM10	KDB2888	PERODUA ALZA 1.5	2011

(Perhatian: Kenderaan-kenderaan diatas yang tidak dibida dalam perolehan akan dilelong semula pada 08-05-2025)

322 Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KUALA LUMPUR
IN THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
(COMMERCIAL DIVISION)
COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) PETITION
NO:WA-28NC-305-03/2025

In the matter of Section 465 (1) (e) read with Section 466 (1) (a) of the Companies Act, 2016

And

In the matter of the Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972

And

In the matter of ADVISEASIA PROJECT MANAGEMENT SDN. BHD.
(Company No.: 202001003758
(1360078-U))

BETWEEN

ELYSIUM WPC SDN. BHD.
(COMPANY NO.: 20060101745 (736897-V))
(formerly known as BCA MARKETING SDN. BHD.)

AND

ADVISEASIA PROJECT MANAGEMENT SDN. BHD. (COMPANY NO.: 202001003758
(1360078-U))

...RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for the Winding-up of the above-named Company by the High Court was on the 17.3.2025 presented by ELYSIUM WPC SDN. BHD. (COMPANY NO.: 20060101745 (736897-V)) AND that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at Kuala Lumpur on 25.6.2025 at 9.00 o'clock in the morning and any Creditor or Contributory of the said Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his Counsel for that purpose and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any Creditor or Contributory of the said Company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's address is at 16, Jalan Kawasari Perindustrian Ringan Martin 1/1, Kawasari Perindustrian Ringan Martin, 71700 Martin, Negeri Sembilan.

The Petitioner's Solicitors is Messrs. The Chambers of Cheong at 8-02-15, Sunway Nexus, No.1, Jalan P.J. 5/1, Kota Damansara, 47810 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

The Chambers of Cheong

Messrs. The Chambers of Cheong

Note: Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said petition must serve on or send by post to the above-named Messrs. The Chambers of Cheong, notice in writing of his intention to do so. The Notice must state the name and address of the person or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm or his or their solicitors (if any) and must be served, or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than 12.00 o'clock noon of 24.6.2025.

This Advertisement of Petition is prepared by The Chambers of Cheong, solicitors for the Petitioner whose address for service is at 8-02-15, Sunway Nexus, No.1, Jalan P.J. 5/1, Kota Damansara, 47810 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan 03-7624 4662 (03-7624 4663 legal.kscc@gmail.com [Ref: TDCU/L00625/24/PWV-UP/KC]

DALAM MAHKAMAH SESYEN DI SHAH ALAM
DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR
DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA
BAHAGIAN SIVIL
GUAMAN NO -
BA-AS2NCVC-59-02/2025

ANTARA

CHENG HEE REALTY SDN BHD
(No Syarikat: 3975-V)

DAN

1.V SING INFINITY (KLCC) SDN BHD
(No Syarikat: 1457647-X)

2. Dato' Seri Chong Wei Chuan
(No. K/P : 890612-07-5343)

...DEFENDAN-DEFENDAN

PENYAMPAIAN GANTI -
BENTUK IKLAN

Kepada:

V SING INFINITY (KLCC) SDN BHD
F-3A - 16, IOI Boulevard
Jalan Kenari 5
Puchong 47100 Selangor

&

DATO' SERI CHONG WEI CHUAN
Blok 19-G-11, Jalan Kampar
Taman Kampar, 10460
George Town, Pulau Pinang

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu dalam Mahkamah Sesyen Shah Alam dalam Guaman No. BA-AS2NCVC-59-02/2025 oleh CHENG HEE REALTY SDN BHD (No Syarikat: (3975-V)) yang beralamat di Life Centre, 20 Jalan Sultan Ismail, 50250 Kuala Lumpur yang mana tuntutan Plaintiff ialah untuk jumlah sebanyak RM205,408.37 yang merupakan bayaran hutang berlungguk dan faedah statutori pada kadar 5% setahun ke atas RM205,408.37 dan bahawa telah diperintahkan penyampaian Writ Saman Terpinada dan Penyataan Tuntutan Terpinada kepada kamu dalam tindakan ini hendaklah dilaksanakan melalui iklan ini.

Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membatalkan tindakan ini, kamu mestilah hadir sama ada secara sendiri atau melalui peguambela kamu memassukkan Memorandum Kehadiran di Mahkamah Sesyen Shah Alam dalam masa (14) hari selepas penyampaian Writ Saman Terpinada dan Penyataan Tuntutan Terpinada kepada kamu. Jika kamu ingkar hadir sedemikian, penghakiman boleh dibuat terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada 21 April 2025.

t.t

PEGUAMCARA PLAINTIFF

TETUAN LIM, PHUA & NORAINI

Penyampaian Ganti - Bentuk Iklan ini difailkan oleh Tetuan Lim, Phua & Noraini Peguamcara bagi pihak Plaintiff yang beralamat di No 49-C, Jalan Alam Jaya 17, Taman Alam Jaya, 43200 Cheras Selangor.

Dream come true

Rajasthan's Suryavanshi makes IPL debut at 14, starts off with a six

VAI BHAV SURYAVANSHI was thrust into the Indian Premier League (IPL) spotlight as its youngest debutant on Saturday and the 14-year-old announced himself in spectacular style with a massive six off the first ball he faced.

The Rajasthan Royals left-hander came into the squad for the clash with Lucknow Super Giants in place of captain Sanju Samson and was an impact substitute during their chase of 181, where he started by smashing Shardul Thakur over extra cover.

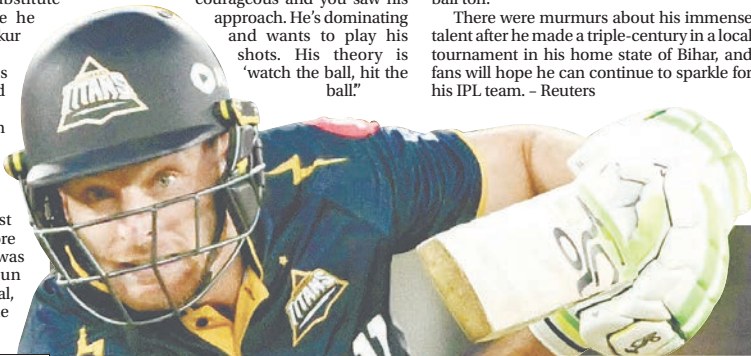
"My word, what the hell was that?" Australia's Shane Watson said during the broadcast.

"One of the hardest shots in cricket is to gain power over cover off the front shoe... Power to burn from the 14-year-old. What a way to announce yourself to the world."

Suryavanshi, who idolises West Indian great Brian Lara, hit two more sixes in his 20-ball 34 and was dismissed after forging a 85-run opening stand with Yashasvi Jaiswal, but his team went on to lose the match by two runs.

"It was important to give him an opportunity. He batted well in the nets, his preparation was good," Rajasthan's spin bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule told reporters. "Obviously we missed Sanju but it created an opportunity for Vaibhav and he made the most of his hit. He batted beautifully."

"He's a great kid with a really good head on his shoulders. He's got a game that's almost 360 degrees. He's courageous and you saw his approach. He's dominating and wants to play his shots. His theory is 'watch the ball, hit the ball'"



Buttler fires Gujarat to top of IPL table

Gujarat Titans' Jos Buttler plays a shot during the Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 match against Delhi Capitals. - AFP/PIC

ENGLAND'S Jos Buttler struck an unbeaten 97 to power Gujarat Titans to the top of the IPL table with a seven-wicket win over Delhi Capitals in Ahmedabad's intense heat on Saturday.

Chasing 204 for victory, Gujarat rode on Buttler's 54-ball knock laced with 11 fours and four sixes to achieve their target with four balls to spare at the world's biggest cricket stadium.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Buttler and impact substitute Sherfane Rutherford, a left-hand West Indies batter who hit 43, put on a key stand of 119 to steer Gujarat to their fifth win in seven matches and the top of the 10-team table. Delhi slipped to second.

Rutherford fell in the 19th over. Delhi's left-arm quick Mitchell Starc needed to defend 10 off the final six balls but the left-handed Rahul Tewatia finished off with a six and four.

Buttler, who hit his third half-century of the season, was left three short of a hundred that would have put him level with Virat Kohli's record eight IPL tons.

Gujarat, who won the IPL in their debut season in 2022, elected to field first on a hot afternoon as the temperature soared above 40°C.

Delhi reached 203-8 but the total could have been more had it not been for four wickets by Gujarat pace bowler Prasidh Krishna, who now leads this season's bowling with 14 scalps.

Buttler was the hero as his batting charge stood out after his work behind the stumps for 20 overs in the heat as he gloved two catches.

Gujarat skipper Shubman Gill fell run out for seven in the second over after he attempted a tough single and a direct throw from Karun Nair rattled the stumps.

The left-right batting pair of Sai Sudharsan and Buttler put the innings back on track as they balanced caution and aggression in their stand of 60.

Left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav took down Sudharsan for 36 but Buttler found another partner in Rutherford, who took on the bowling and hit three sixes. - AFP

Kim shoots 66, holds lead at RBC Heritage

AFTER all his adventures during the third round of the RBC Heritage, Justin Thomas wasn't complaining about where he ended up on the leader board.

He's right there in contention. South Korea's Kim Si Woo shot 5-under-par 66 to move into the tournament lead Saturday as Thomas, the second-round leader, encountered rough and wet patches at Hilton Head Island, SC.

Kim is at 15-under 198, holding a one-shot edge on Thomas and Andrew Novak going into Sunday's final round at Harbour Town Golf Links. Thomas figures that's not so bad.

"When you win golf tournaments, you need to salvage under-par rounds when you don't have your best stuff," he said. "Like I

said, I played well. ... I just fought and tried to stay patient and then was able to salvage a score to where I'm right there."

Kim was in a good frame of mind as well. "I played great," Kim said. "Only missed the last hole, so that's not a big deal. So I play pretty much 35 holes really decent. So I'm not going to worry about the last hole."

Kim, 29, will aim for his fifth PGA Tour victory and his first in more than two years. His lead was reduced on the final hole when he had his only bogey. Meanwhile Thomas, who was in the final pairing with him, was nothing a birdie.

Defending champion Scottie Scheffler shot 68, moving to 11-under and a share of seventh place with Russell Henley (70). - Field Level Media

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Bayern close in on Bundesliga title

HARRY KANE scored his 24th league goal of the season as Bayern Munich romped to a 4-0 win at Heidenheim on Saturday, moving the German giants ever closer to the Bundesliga title.

Kane joined Konrad Laimer, Kingsley Coman and Joshua Kimmich on the scoresheet.

The victory took Bayern nine points clear of second-placed Bayer Leverkusen, who play at St Pauli on Sunday.

"It was a very important step towards the title," Kimmich told *Sky Germany*.

"We're now nine points ahead – and Leverkusen have to win. But we're not really looking at them. We have to win at least two more games to secure the title."

Stung by Wednesday's Champions League quarterfinal elimination at Inter Milan, Bayern were ruthless. Kane, still seeking a first team trophy of his career, took the ball on the turn and lashed home with 12 minutes gone.

The England captain, who joined Bayern in the summer of 2023, now has 60 goals in his first 60 Bundesliga games.

Seven minutes later, Laimer latched onto a clever Serge Gnabry pass and clipped the ball past Heidenheim goalkeeper Kevin Müller.

Coman was on hand to tap in after Müller saved a shot from Raphael Guerreiro on 36 minutes. Kimmich then cut the ball into the corner from a Guerreiro pass with 56 minutes gone, sealing the result with just his second goal in his 46th game for Bayern this season.

Bayern could clinch what would be their 34th German title as early as next week if results go their way.

Union Berlin guaranteed they will stay in the top flight next season with a 4-4 home draw against Stuttgart. RB Leipzig's top-four hopes took a hit with a 1-1 home draw against last-placed Holstein Kiel. Mainz drew 2-2 at home against Wolfsburg despite leading for most of the match.

Freiburg also boosted their European hopes with a 3-2 win over Hoffenheim, with Lucas Hoeler scoring a brace and Werder Bremen beat Bochum 1-0. – AFP

PSG stay on course for unbeaten season

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN stayed on course to complete the Ligue 1 season without losing a game as the Champions League semifinalists beat struggling Le Havre 2-1 on Saturday.

Desire Doue and Goncalo Ramos scored the goals for PSG either side of halftime at the Parc des Princes, as coach Luis Enrique changed almost his entire starting line-up following the midweek European clash with Aston Villa.

PSG had already secured a fourth successive Ligue 1 title before this game, and their 10th consecutive league win leaves them on 77 points with five matches remaining.

No side has ever completed an entire French top-flight campaign unbeaten.

"We knew this game was a potential banana skin for us after a Champions League match which sucked out all our energy and left us feeling tired," Luis Enrique said.

"All the ingredients were there for this to be a difficult game against a side who were in need of points."

Achraf Hakimi and Bradley Barcola were the only players to keep their place in the PSG line-up at kickoff, following the 3-2 defeat away to Aston Villa which saw them edge through to the last four of the Champions League and a tie against Arsenal.

Doue gave PSG the lead inside eight minutes, and Ramos made the most of his chance in the starting line-up by making it 2-0 shortly after halftime with his 15th goal this season.

Issa Soumare pulled one back for Le Havre, but the result leaves the Normandy side still in third-bottom spot, the relegation playoff place.

Second-placed Monaco drew 0-0 at home to Strasbourg, who are three points behind them in fifth.

Marseille move back above Monaco into second with a 5-1 win at home to doomed bottom side Montpellier. – AFP

Conte fuels exit rumours

... as McTominay puts Napoli level with Inter

SCOTT MCTOMINAY headed Napoli level on points with Inter Milan at the top of Serie A with the only goal in Saturday's 1-0 win at Monza, but coach Antonio Conte lashed out at owner Aurelio De Laurentiis with angry post-match comments.

Scotland midfielder McTominay nodded home his 10th goal in all competitions this season from Giacomo Raspadori's cross in the 72nd minute to save Napoli's blushes after a drab display in northern Italy.

McTominay's third goal in a week boosted Napoli's bid for a second league title in three seasons and piled pressure on reigning champions Inter.

"It's a match that seems like it should be easy but the prize up for grabs is so important that there is a lot of pressure," said Conte.

"A lot of these boys are in a head-to-head (for a league title) for the first time. And it's an unexpected head-to-head... Just to be there is unexpected and extraordinary."

Conte continued to fuel rumours of his departure at the end of his first season as Napoli coach after raising eyebrows on Friday with his open frustration at the January sale of Khvicha Kvaratskhelia.

De Laurentiis then said that he should have waited until the end of the season before making those comments, causing a visibly irritated Conte to hit back while talking to broadcaster DAZN.

"You have to live in the present... the people want to win and are ambitious. I'm open to everything, but we need to see where we are," said Conte



Napoli's Scott McTominay celebrates after scoring their first goal. – REUTERS/PIC

when asked about his future.

"I'm happy in Naples and I'm working for fans who give me something emotionally. That's very important. But you know that whoever hires me knows that I bring with me expectations."

"People hire me and think 'you have to finish first or second, even if you finished 10th the year before, and you have to fight for the title, qualifying for Europe isn't enough'."

"I can handle all of that, but I'm not stupid if there aren't the resources in place to achieve that."

Conte also complained about the pitches at Napoli's Castel Volturno training ground, saying that they were supposed to be relaid and suggesting the club's failure to do so was behind recent calf injuries – the latest for Kvaratskhelia's replacement David Neres.

Regardless of where Conte is next season, he and Napoli have a great chance to win the Scudetto as after Easter they face only one team in the top half of the table – 10th-placed Torino – and have no other commitments.

Meanwhile, Roma beat Verona 1-0 thanks to an early Eldor Shomurodov strike. Assane Diallo fired

Como to a impressive 3-0 win at struggling. – AFP

Barca make stunning comeback to beat Celta Vigo



Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski (right) and Celta Vigo's Marcos Alonso Mendoza vie for the ball during their La Liga match. – AFP/PIC

BARCELONA pulled off a stunning comeback from two goals down to beat Celta Vigo 4-3 on Saturday and move seven points clear of Real Madrid in the La Liga title race.

The Catalans trailed 3-1 inside the final half-hour after a Borja Iglesias hat-trick for the visitors, but Dani Olmo scored and then Raphinha equalised before he snatched victory with a 98th minute penalty to snatch three essential points for the leaders.

Reigning champions Real Madrid, second, host Athletic Bilbao on Sunday, with a Clasico showdown still to come in May.

"This attitude, this mentality of not giving up, is really great to see... we tried everything to get the three points and we did it," Barcelona coach Hansi Flick told reporters.

However Flick said striker Robert Lewandowski needed tests after coming off with an apparent hamstring problem, making him a doubt for the Copa del Rey final next weekend against rivals Real Madrid, and putting a question mark over his involvement in the Champions League semifinal against Inter Milan.

"From my experience we wait until tomorrow (and the tests)," said Flick, who did not want to rule out the club's top scorer too quickly.

The coach, who railed against his team's intense schedule on Friday, rested teenage star Lamine Yamal for the first time in 2025, although he was later

needed from the bench after Iglesias' treble.

Celta, eighth and in contention for European football next season, were finding plenty of joy going forward.

Inspired by substitutes Yamal and Olmo, Barcelona battled back.

Raphinha nudged a pass through for Olmo to beat Guaita and four minutes later the Brazilian winger scored himself, heading home as Yamal crossed from the right.

Barcelona were awarded a penalty deep in injury time. Raphinha took responsibility and hammered into the top-right corner to earn his team a dramatic and potentially vital victory.

"This is football, we really wanted to win, maybe we weren't at our best (earlier in the game) but the response from the team, and the fans pushed us on... we deserved it," Olmo told DAZN.

Meanwhile, Javi Munoz's 93rd-minute strike earned Las Palmas an important 1-0 La Liga win over Atletico Madrid yesterday, hammering another nail into the coffin of the Rojiblancos' title ambitions. Diego Simeone's side, third, now trail leaders Barcelona by 10 points.

Victory helped Las Palmas climb provisionally 17th, out of the relegation zone and two points clear of Alaves, who face Sevilla overnight. – AFP

MANCHESTER CITY bolstered their bid to qualify for the Champions League with a dramatic 2-0 win at Everton on Saturday.

City were heading towards a damaging draw before Nico O'Reilly's 84th-minute strike put them on course for a vital victory that was sealed by Mateo Kovacic's goal in the final seconds. Pep Guardiola's side climb to fourth place.

At a stage of the season when they are usually embroiled in a battle to win the title, City - champions in six of the previous seven campaigns - have been reduced to scrapping for a Champions League berth after a dismal season.

They remain on course to achieve their bare minimum target of finishing inside the top five after a hard-fought success on Merseyside.

City boost top five bid

Guardiola 'grateful' to O'Reilly after 'massively important' win

In the 84th minute, Matheus Nunes's low cross into the six-yard box was met by the 20-year-old O'Reilly, who got in front of Michael Keane to poke home from close range.

Kovacic wrapped up City's victory on their last visit to Goodison Park before Everton move to a new stadium next season.

Asked how big the result was, Guardiola told *BBC Sport*: "I would say big. We have five, six games left and with the moment they had after winning against Nottingham Forest away, and given that Liverpool and Arsenal could not win here, it is massively important."

"I've tried to convince the players that qualifying for the Champions League is a huge achievement in this country and in this league."

"Being in the Champions League is enough, thinking that is not enough for us would be arrogant."

Victory in their next game against Aston Villa, who are also chasing a top-five place, will go a

long way to sealing a coveted Champions League spot.

"If you win you have character, if you don't win you don't have character - this is the motto," said Guardiola.

"What these players have done for one decade, I am so grateful for, whatever has happened - this season more than ever, in the toughest period for many reasons especially injuries."

"We were more or less stable, kept going and going for the next time. We are miles away from Liverpool and Arsenal but tonight we sleep fourth."

"It is in our hands but we have a final on Tuesday, three games at home, two away and hopefully we can achieve this big success to qualify for the Champions League."

Already relegated Southampton's last-gasp equaliser at West Ham ensured they will not have

sole possession of the lowest points total in Premier League history.

Bottom of the table Southampton are now on 11 points and have five games left to leave the Rams with the lowest total ever recorded in the Premier League.

Bryan Mbeumo scored twice as Brentford beat 10-man Brighton 4-2 to damage the Seagulls' prospects of qualifying for Europe with their first home win since December.

Crystal Palace held on for a 0-0 draw against Bournemouth despite playing half the match with 10 men after Chris Richards' first half red card. - AFP/Agencies



Everton's James Garner (front) in action with Manchester City's Omar Marmoush during their Premier League match. - REUTERS/PICT

Fullkrug goes on furious post-game rant

NICLAS FULLKRUG has blasted his teammates after West Ham's 1-1 draw with Southampton on Saturday. Jarrod Bowen had opened the scoring for the Hammers after 47 minutes before Lesley Ugochukwu equalised for the already-relegated Saints in added time, leaving West Ham without a win since late February.

Graham Potter's side could not contain their disappointment at throwing away the victory late on, and Fullkrug did not hold back in his criticism when speaking to *Sky Sports* after the match.

He said: "It is a mindset problem. Very angry today. Not disappointed, just angry with what we did after the goal. It was difficult to bring the boys back to push up. We didn't push up anymore. We tried but we didn't have the ability or the motivation to push up again."

"I'm very, very angry that we played like this because we had some minutes where we showed what we can do

against an opponent like that at home."

"We showed that we can have good possession, that we can go in behind and that we have the chances to score again. But the motivation, sorry we were s***. I'm very angry."

Fullkrug has made just 13 Premier League appearances for the Hammers so far this season did not hold back in claiming that the problems he has witnessed against the Saints were too frequent.

"It's not the first time that we score a goal and from the next thing we just shoot the ball long. We don't try to play football anymore. We don't push up anymore. We just sink. And that's not the way we want to play," Fullkrug added.

"We have to find a way to have togetherness, to have the idea where we want to go, what we want to do. The coach is very clear of what he wants but we have to do it all, everyone has to do it." - Express Newspapers

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4194 5143
7213 9273
7527 1014
8688 2226

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2517 1012	1012 2517
0841 1012	1012 0841

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2nd Prize	1215
3rd Prize	5494

Starters
0424 8545
7791 8403
6068 1703
1705 6699
8457 4815

Consolation
4150 9502
7568 6258
6613 0996
1680 9825
6638 3033

1+3D Jackpot
Jackpot 1 **RM19,890,621.00**

5909 + 1215	1215 + 5909
5909 + 5494	5494 + 5909
1215 + 5494	5494 + 1215

Jackpot 2 **RM551,557.30**
Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of 10 Starter Prizes.

3+3D Bonus

1st Prize	Bonus	1st Prize Bonus
815 909 + ROOSTER		RM110,000.00
2nd Prize	Bonus	2nd Prize Bonus
491 215 + TIGER		RM952,611.00
3rd Prize	Bonus	3rd Prize Bonus
705 494 + GOAT		RM2,021,506.00

Starters
950 424 598 545
377 791 958 403
726 068 901 703
151 705 716 699
258 457 374 815

Consolation
324 150 839 502
647 568 906 258
916 613 180 996
951 680 209 825
116 638 973 033

3D

1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
909	215	494

3D Jackpot
Jackpot **RM1,098,841.00**

909 + 215 + 494	215 + 494 + 909
909 + 494 + 215	494 + 909 + 215
215 + 909 + 494	494 + 215 + 909

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RESULTS & STANDINGS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Aston Villa 4 (Watkins 1, Maatsen 64, Burn 73-og, Onana 75) Newcastle 1 (Schar 18), Brentford 4 (Mbeumo 9, 48, Wissa 58, Norgaard 90+5) Brighton 2 (Welbeck 45+3, Mitoma 81), Crystal Palace 0 Bournemouth 0, Everton 0 Manchester City 2 (O'Reilly 84, Kovacic 90+2), West Ham 1 (Bowen 47) Southampton 1 (Ugochukwu 90+3).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	32	23	7	2	74	31	76
Arsenal	32	17	12	3	57	27	63
Newcastle	33	18	5	10	62	44	59
Man City	33	17	7	9	64	42	58
Nottm Forest	32	17	6	9	51	38	57
Aston Villa	33	16	9	8	53	47	57
Chelsea	32	15	9	8	56	39	54
Bournemouth	33	13	10	10	52	40	49
Fulham	32	13	9	10	47	43	48
Brighton	33	12	12	9	53	53	48
Brentford	33	13	7	13	56	50	46
Crystal Palace	33	11	11	11	41	45	44
Everton	33	8	14	11	34	40	38
Man Utd	32	10	8	14	38	45	38
Tottenham	32	11	4	17	60	49	37
West Ham	33	9	9	15	37	55	36
Wolves	32	10	5	17	47	61	35
Ipswich	32	4	9	19	33	67	21
Leicester	32	4	6	22	27	72	18
Southampton	33	2	5	26	24	78	11

LA LIGA: Rayo Vallecano 1 (Tarrega 45-og) Valencia 1 (Sadiq 75), Barcelona 4 (Torres 12, Olmo 64, Raphinha 68, 90+8-pen) Celta Vigo 3 (Iglesias 15, 52, 62), Mallorca 0 Leganes 0, Las Palmas 1 (Munoz 90+3) Atletico Madrid 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	32	23	4	5	88	32	73
Real Madrid	31	20	6	5	64	31	66
A. Madrid	32	18	9	5	53	27	63
A. Bilbao	31	15	12	4	49	25	57
Villarreal	30	14	9	7	53	40	51
Real Betis	31	13	9	9	42	39	48
Mallorca	32	12	8	12	31	37	44
Celta Vigo	32	12	7	13	47	49	43
R. Vallecano	32	10	11	11	35	39	41
Real Sociedad	31	12	5	14	30	41	41

SERIE A: Lecce 0 Como 3 (Diao 33, 90+1, Goldaniga 84), Monza 0 Napoli 1 (McTominay 72), Roma 1 (Shomurov 4) Verona 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan	32	21	8	3	72	31	71
Napoli	33	21	8	4	52	25	71
Atalanta	32	18	7	7	65	30	61
Juventus	32	15	14	3	49	30	59
Bologna	32	15	12	5	51	37	57
Roma	33	16	9	8	48	32	57

BUNDESLIGA: Union Berlin 4 VfB Stuttgart 4, RB Leipzig 1 Holstein Kiel 1, Heidenheim 0 Bayern Munich 4, Werder Bremen 1 Bochum 0, Freiburg 3 Hoffenheim 2, Mainz 2 Wolfsburg 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B. Munich	30	22	6	2	87	29	72
B. Leverkusen	29	18	9	2	63	34	63
E. Frankfurt	29	15	6	8	58	42	51
RB Leipzig	30	13	10	7	48	38	49
Freiburg	30	14	6	10	43	47	48
Mainz	30	13	8	9	48	36	47

FRENCH LIGUE 1: Paris Saint-Germain 2 Le Havre 1, Monaco 0 Strasbourg 0, Marseille 5 Montpellier 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris SG	29	24	5	0	82	27	77
Marseille	30	17	4	9	62	42	55
Monaco	30	16	6	8	57	35	54
Lyon	29	15	6	8	57	39	51
Strasbourg	30	14	9	7	48	37	51
Lille	29	14	8	7	44	31	50

CHAMPIONS RELEGATED

Sri Pahang, Selangor end Super League season in style

SRI PAHANG FC closed the 2024/25 Super League campaign in style by securing a 3-2 win over Penang FC at the Temerloh Municipal Council Stadium on Saturday.

The formidable partnership of Sri Pahang's Mykola Ahapov and Sergio Fabian Agüero managed to give the Elephants a victorious conclusion.

Head coach, Fandi Ahmad said this was because the compatibility shown by the two imported strikers helped his team to tear through the opponents' defence and create goals.

"The partnership of Mykola and Agüero was quite extraordinary tonight with their accurate passes in their attacks. Mykola's finishing at the opponents' goal was also effective, he performed very well in the striker position compared to the wing spot he was previously placed," he said.

Overall, Fandi said there was an improvement in the performance of his players on the field which allowed them to bring home the three valuable points.

"There were glaring weaknesses in the first half but we managed to gain control of the game in the

second half.

"Penang FC is a hard-working team and because of that, there was a fair exchange of attacks and goals," he said.

Meanwhile, Penang FC coach Wan Rohaimi Wan Ismail said he was satisfied with his men's performance despite starting a bit slow.

"The team did not perform like the previous two matches and they gave the opposing players too much space to advance into our area. The goals we conceded could have been avoided and we paid dearly for our carelessness," he said.

Meanwhile, Selangor FC also closed out the season in style after winning 2-0 over the Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM) 2-0 at the Petaling Jaya City Council Stadium (MBPJ) on Saturday.

The result saw Katsuhito Kinoshita's squad remain in second place in the league with 52 points while The Cops finished the competition in ninth position after collecting 27 points. - Bernama



National tenpin bowling athletes Sin Li Jane and Ethan Damien Goh pose for a picture after winning. - BERNAMAPIC

Li Jane dedicates Malaysia Open title to late grandfather

NATIONAL bowler Sin Li Jane couldn't hold back her tears after clinching the 2025 Malaysia Open title by defeating Singapore's New Hui Fen in the women's stepladder final yesterday.

Li Jane said the second Malaysia Open (2016) title she won today meant more than just being a champion - it was about fulfilling a promise to her late grandfather, Sin Gaga @ Sin Chee Heng, who passed away at the age of 92 last Monday due to old age.

"Before I returned from Ipoh, I promised him I would do my best in the Malaysia Open. He was my pillar of support since I was young - he was my source of strength.

"He's gone now, but I told myself I would win this for him, and I did," she told reporters after the final women's stepladder match yesterday.

In the final against Hui Fen, the 32-year-old bowler recorded a total pinfall of 222 to beat the Singaporean's 198.

Commenting on the final, Li Jane said Hui Fen is a familiar opponent, and she knew it would be a tough challenge to defeat her.

"Hui Fen and I have been bowling against

each other for quite some time now, and I know she is a very tough competitor.

"So for me, it was important to focus on repeating my shots rather than thinking about the outcome. My main focus was just to hit my target, and whatever pins were left, I just took them down," she said.

Meanwhile, in the men's events, national backup bowler Ethan Damien Goh created an upset when he defeated compatriot and defending champion, Hafiz Zainuddin.

The 15-year-old bowler recorded a total pinfall of 220 to beat Hafiz's 180.

Earlier Hafiz advanced to the stepladder final after defeating Australia's Luke Doyle 218-182 in the semifinal today while Ethan secured his spot in the final after finishing top in the qualifying round.

"This win is unexpected, but it was a fine run for me. I could not have done it without my family, coaches and the people who have supported me," he said.

The victory saw Ethan take home RM50,000 in cash, while Li Jane walked away with RM30,000. - Bernama

'No dedicated spot for Azizulhasni'

NATIONAL track cycling ace Datuk Mohd Azizulhasni Awang has to double down if he wants to be part of the Malaysian team for the 2025 Track Cycling World Championships in Santiago, Chile this October, said national cycling programme technical director John Beasley.

Beasley said Mohd Azizulhasni has to prove he has what it takes as there will not be a dedicated spot for him on the squad for the team sprint event.

Furthermore, Beasley said Mohd Azizulhasni will not be competing in the individual events.

"We need Mohd Azizulhasni. He realizes that he gonna need to push forward as hard as he can and he realizes he need to qualify to get a spot. There is no automatic spot (for Mohd Azizulhasni)," he told reporters during the Malaysian National Cycling Federation (MNCF) Hari Raya Open House yesterday.

For the team event, Mohd Azizulhasni will

have to compete with his juniors like Muhammad Fadhil Mohd Zonis, Umar Hasbullah, Mohamad Akmal Nazimi Jusena as well as seasoned campaigners Muhammad Shah Firdaus Sahrorn and Muhammad Ridwan Sahrorn.

Yesterday, Mohd Azizulhasni announced that he would continue his career as a track cyclist but as a professional.

He said the decision was made after discussing with the National Sports Council and Youth and Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh to ensure that all allocations could be focused on other riders.

According to him, one of the reasons he made the decision was to "heal the wounds" of failing to bring home a gold medal from the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Hannah also announced an individual grant allocation of RM200,000 for Mohd Azizulhasni to move professionally for the year 2025-2026. - Bernama

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3792 2720	2928 0124
2719 6060	9756 8400
1577 3876	9670 3047

4D Jackpot

Jackpot 1 **RM6,740,646.32**

6800 + 3729	6800 + 9683
3729 + 6800	3729 + 9683
9683 + 6800	9683 + 3729

Jackpot 2 **RM341,680.63**

PARTIALLY WON

Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

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Magnum Life

1	8	10	18	19	25	26	29
+							
17	23						

Grand Prize

RM1,000 EVERY DAY for 20 years

2nd Prize

RM1,000 EVERY DAY for 100 days

Jackpot Gold

Jackpot 1 **RM12,350,327.28**

PARTIALLY WON

Jackpot 1 - Group 1 + Golden Number

Jackpot 2 **RM100,000.00**

PARTIALLY WON

Jackpot 2 - Group 2 + Golden Number

GROUP 1	0 0 2 9 8 3	
GROUP 2	0 0 2 9 8	OR 0 2 9 8 3
GROUP 3	0 0 2 9	OR 2 9 8 3
GROUP 4	0 0 2	OR 9 8 3
GROUP 5	0 0	OR 8 3
	OR 2 9	
GOLDEN NUMBER	1 8	

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.



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SCAN ME

Aston Villa's Ollie Watkins (top) shoots at the goal during his team's Premier League match against Newcastle. - REUTERS/SPIC



BY RICHARD JOLLY

ASTON VILLA could bounce from the Champions League straight back into the Champions League. Four days after being knocked out, they scored four goals to take a giant stride towards a swift return.

Newcastle United were last season's upstart conquerors of Paris Saint-Germain and arguably the form team in England. They left Villa Park vanquished, their own chances of a top-five finish diminished as they were dismantled. Overpowered by Villa on the day, the danger is that they will be overtaken in the run-in.

"We are in our best moment," said Unai Emery. For Villa, fresh from

starting 11, two of those he brought in, Ollie Watkins and Ian Maatsen, scored. When he made a double substitution, Jacob Ramsey promptly set up the third goal and Amadou Onana scored the fourth, one and three minutes after coming on respectively.

Newcastle had the throwback tactic of naming the same 11 for a seventh consecutive game. There was no seventh straight win.

"Maybe today was a step too far for us," said stand-in boss Jason Tindall. "Maybe a third game in six days caught up with us around about the hour."

After Newcastle inflicted 4-1 and 5-0 thrashings, they were subjected to a 4-1 drubbing. If they missed the absent Eddie Howe, watching this may not aid his recuperation.

today and I want to play in those games.

"The manager is going to have a headache as I'm banging on the door asking why I'm not playing," Watkins said.

When asked about Watkins' comments Emery replied: "It's fantastic to be angry and fantastic for him to play like he did against Newcastle."

Yet his was the right response. Recalled, he was remarkable, scoring in the first minute, hitting the woodwork in the fifth and again within half an hour.

Villa were ahead in 33 seconds. Sandro Tonali, who so often sets the right tone, set the wrong one, gifting possession to the terrific Yuri Tielemans. He found Watkins, whose

'Dynamite' Watkins

Villa show off their key advantage to ignite Champions League charge

beating the potential Champions League winners, one seminal week may be leading to another.

With Manchester City next, with an FA Cup semifinal on April 27, a team with 10 wins in 11 games have momentum and strength in depth. Newcastle's first defeat since the time when they had not won a trophy in decades came courtesy of Villa's squad and Emery's brilliance in using it.

When he made four changes to the

The realist in Howe will know it could have been far worse. Villa hit the woodwork three times, drew three fine saves from Nick Pope and saw Marco Asensio miskick in front of goal. Villa had 23 shots. It felt they had even more.

Above all, they - particularly a defence featuring three thirty-somethings - suffered at the hands of a man with a point to prove. A catalyst in Villa's rise, Watkins was benched for both legs of the Champions League quarterfinal.

"I played 20 minutes against PSG in both games," he said. "I am not going to lie, I was fuming that I wasn't playing. I let him (Emery) know that."

"He's the manager, you have to respect his decision, but I am not one of these players happy to sit on the bench."

"It is something I have not experienced before, to miss out on the biggest stage. I wanted to be out on the pitch for much longer. I have played a big part to get to where we are

shot deflected in off Schar and enabled him to equal Gabriel Agbonlahor's club record of 74 Premier League goals.

Watkins was inches from a hatrick, rattling the bar with a rising shot, hitting the post when left unmarked to head Asensio's freekick. It was an eloquent message that he should not be omitted again.

Watkins was substituted in the 82nd minute, by which point Villa were already 4-1 up and Villa Park was chanting his name.

Ex-Aston Villa defender Dion Dublin, told *BBC Match of the Day*. "I am delighted, why wouldn't be fuming? You can imagine his frustration. Be honest and tell people what you think."

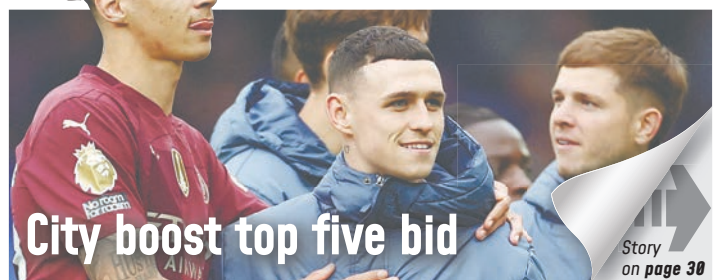
Former Liverpool and England midfielder Jamie Redknapp said Watkins' performance was "dynamite" and believes the striker "has turned a massive negative into a positive".

Watkins' goal means he is the first Villa player to score 15 or more times in three consecutive Premier League seasons. - The Independent/Agencies



Conte fuels exit rumours

Story on page 29



City boost top five bid

Story on page 30