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Beware of small acts that sow seeds of corruption, says MACC director

'Practice of paying to make supposedly trivial problems go away risks gradually become accepted behaviour.'

Report on page 5

Conditional acceptance of peace plan by Hamas seen as 'power play'

Academic says stance shows group ready to engage in dialogue, but on its own terms, while using conditions as leverage.

Report on page 2

Education Ministry completes safety audits on 700 schools nationwide

Initiative to help govt identify areas requiring immediate action and facilitate development of long-term safety measures.

Report on page 4



In Budget 2025, the government had allocated RM2.8 billion for refurbishing and maintaining federal roads and RM1 billion for those in other areas. – ***ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN***

Push for safer roads

Govt urged to leverage on upcoming Budget 2026 to shift from reactive ad hoc repairs to adopting proactive policies to address weaknesses in transport network.

Report on page 3

Detained GSF activists to return today

SEPANG: All 23 Malaysian activists involved in the Global Sumud Flotilla (GSF) mission, who were recently released from Israeli detention, are scheduled to return home today, said Sumud Nusantara Operations Centre director-general Datuk Dr Sani Araby Abdul Alim Araby.

The activists arrived safely at Istanbul International Airport at 8.40pm Malaysian time on Saturday, after departing from Ramon Airport in Israel at 6.40pm on a Turkish Airlines flight fully arranged and sponsored by the Turkish government.

They were received by officials from the Malaysian Embassy in Turkey, the Foreign Ministry and the Turkish government before being placed at hotels in Istanbul to rest ahead of their journey home.

"Sumud Nusantara expresses heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the families, delegates, secretariat and all Malaysians who supported this mission, for the care and leadership shown by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and the Malaysian government.

"Their relentless efforts and strong international diplomatic ties were instrumental in securing the release of the 23 Malaysians," he said at a media conference.

He also thanked Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari and Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan for their key roles in the negotiation process. – Bernama



GSF activists, sisters Nur Heliza Helmi (left) and Nur Hazwani Afiqah in good spirits upon arrival at Istanbul Airport. – ***AFP/PIC***

'Conditional acceptance of peace plan a power play'

BY **HARITH KAMAL**
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

Hamas' stance signals readiness to engage in dialogue but on own terms, using conditions as leverage to shape negotiation process, says academic

PETALING JAYA: Hamas' "conditional" acceptance of US President Donald Trump's 20-point peace plan isn't a peace breakthrough, but a power play, says International Islamic University Malaysia international relations expert Assoc Prof Dr Mohd Yazid Zul Kepli.

He said the group's stance signals a readiness to engage in dialogue but only on its own terms while using the conditions as leverage to shape the negotiation process.

"By framing it as 'conditional', Hamas turns those conditions into bargaining chips rather than absolute deal-breakers."

He said for Malaysia the move reinforces its long-held position of supporting Palestinian rights and advocating for negotiated settlements.

"In regional diplomacy, Malaysia can use this moment to push for greater Asean and OIC involvement, positioning itself as a credible mediator that supports peace while standing firmly against unilateral aggression."

Mohd Yazid said any genuine progress now depends on whether the US and Israel engage seriously with Hamas' terms.

"For now, Malaysia gains diplomatic room to strengthen its humanitarian and political advocacy for Palestine."

He said Hamas is unlikely to disarm unconditionally without concrete guarantees for Palestinian safety.

"They will never place Palestinian lives at the mercy of Europe, the US or Israel. At the very least, there must be a practical mechanism to prevent future violence against Palestinians."

He said Hamas' conditions likely centre on fundamental issues – Palestinian security, the right of refugees to return, lifting the Gaza blockade and guarantees of sovereignty.

"While these are grounded in long-standing principles, they also serve as leverage to extract practical concessions from the US and Israel. Some details may be negotiable but the foundations of statehood, territorial rights and dignity are non-negotiable."

Mohd Yazid said Hamas' move represents a strategic shift from its past stance of rejecting US-led initiatives.

"Hamas now appears flexible amid mounting international pressure and worsening conditions in Gaza.

"It helps ease external pressure, appeals to regional actors like Qatar, Egypt and Malaysia, and shows Palestinians that it isn't shutting the door on peace."

He said Trump's credibility as a mediator, however, remains highly contested.

"For Palestinians and much of the global community, Trump lacks impartiality, especially after recognising Jerusalem as Israel's capital and backing Israeli settlements. Conversely, Israel and far-right groups see him as a staunch ally, polarising perceptions of his role."

Malaysia has welcomed Hamas' conditional acceptance which Mohd Yazid described as cautious optimism, not a policy shift.

"By acknowledging this step, Malaysia signals support for any progress, however limited, that could reduce violence and open space for negotiations."

He added that Malaysia could play a constructive role in monitoring or humanitarian assistance if a phased withdrawal or truce takes place.

"Leveraging on its experience in aid delivery, NGO networks and credibility in the Muslim world, Malaysia can strengthen its humanitarian standing while maintaining a principled foreign policy.

"By supporting Palestinian rights while engaging diplomatically Malaysia can assert itself as both a credible mediator and a humanitarian actor."

On Saturday, Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan said Malaysia welcomed Hamas' conditional acceptance of the peace plan.

"This development is seen as a starting point towards lasting peace for Palestine and its people," he said, adding that it also reflects Hamas' willingness to seek a peaceful solution.

The plan proposes making Gaza a demilitarised zone under a transitional governing mechanism overseen by Trump through an international monitoring body.

It also includes the release of captives, an end to hostilities, disarmament of armed groups in Gaza and Israel's phased withdrawal from the territory.

Departure request signed to expedite repatriation: Minister

SEREMBAN: The requirement for Malaysians on the Global Sumud Flotilla mission to sign a "Request for Immediate Departure" form after being detained at Ketziot Prison, Israel, was aimed at expediting their repatriation and does not represent a concession, said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan.

He said the move was part of an SOP that had been communicated earlier to the delegation by the humanitarian mission secretariat, as the possibility of detention by Israeli authorities had been anticipated based on previous missions.

"By signing the form they avoided a lengthy legal process. We are unsure how the Israeli legal system works, and without signing they would likely have been detained much longer. This step has clearly helped expedite their release.

"GSF is not a terrorist mission but a peace mission to protest against Israeli atrocities. They carried no weapons. So, to be clear, this is not a concession. It is diplomacy done calmly and tactfully," he said after attending the Sheikh Haji Ahmad Mosque Mawlid carnival yesterday.

The Rembau MP said signing the release form also facilitated diplomatic coordination as Malaysia does not have official ties with Israel and depends on assistance from friendly nations such as Turkiye, Jordan and Egypt.

Mohamad said the documentation process and arrangements to bring home all 23 Malaysian activists who have been released would be managed by the Prime Minister's Department.

Last Thursday, 23 Malaysian activists were detained by Israeli forces after their vessel was intercepted in the R3 Red Zone of the Mediterranean Sea before being taken to the port of Ashdod.

Mohamad said the government is also monitoring the movements of eight other Malaysian volunteers, comprising medical experts, journalists and humanitarian workers, participating in the third wave of the humanitarian aid mission to Gaza.

"So far, we have not received any new updates. If they are detained, we may adopt the same approach, including requesting them to sign the form as it helps simplify the legal process." – Bernama

Terengganu thanks govt for job well done

KUALA NERUS: The Terengganu government has extended its gratitude to the federal administration for successfully securing the release and safe return of all 23 Malaysians who joined the Global Sumud Flotilla mission.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Samsuri Mokhtar said Putrajaya's swift diplomatic efforts were crucial in ensuring the safety of the activists, including five participants from Terengganu.

"We are truly thankful to the federal government for its efforts and we pray for the safe return of all those involved," he said yesterday.

Ahmad Samsuri said the state government has remained in contact with the Terengganu participants through various channels and confirmed that all are in good health.

The participants are Norfarahin Romli, better known as Farah Lee, Muhammad Rusydi Ramli, Razali Awang, Muhammad Abdullah, also known as Ustaz Mad Kecil and Muhammad Asmawi Mokhtar. – Bernama

BUDGET 2026 WISH LIST

Push for shift in road safety strategy in upcoming Budget

BY **HARITH KAMAL**
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University researcher presses need for targeted investments, stricter enforcement and preventive systems to curb motorcyclist deaths and heavy vehicle crashes

PETALING JAYA: It is time for Malaysia to stop patching potholes and start saving lives.

Budget 2026 must focus on building safer roads, not just fixing damaged ones, by shifting from reactive repairs to proactive safety systems, says Universiti Putra Malaysia Road Safety Research Centre head Assoc Prof Dr Law Teik Hua.

He said the government must use the next federal budget to finally tackle long-standing weaknesses in the transport system, especially the stubbornly high number of motorcyclist deaths and chronic non-compliance among heavy vehicles.

"The most troubling trends remain the inordinately high fatality rate among motorcyclists and the systemic non-compliance of commercial vehicles, as shown in the recent speed limiter devices report," he told *theSun*.

Law said targeted funding should be channelled to specific, high-impact measures such as subsidising tamper-proof speed governors for commercial fleets and building segregated motorcycle lanes along high-risk federal routes.

"These measures would physically separate vulnerable road users from fast-moving traffic and prevent collisions before they happen," he said.

He stressed that road maintenance must be seen as a core safety investment, not a beautification exercise.

"Spending more on maintenance is not just for convenience – it's a fundamental safety requirement," he said, noting that potholes, cracks and poor lighting directly contribute to accidents and fatalities.

Law proposed the setting upof a ring-fenced fund dedicated to systematic, preventive maintenance using durable materials.

"This would be a worthwhile investment in preventing crashes rather than the costly habit of patching roads only after tragedies occur."

To curb accidents involving heavy vehicles, Law said the focus should shift towards technology-led enforcement.

He suggested creating a centralised telematics system to monitor speed, braking behaviour and driver fatigue across all commercial fleets.

"This would move enforcement from sporadic roadside checks to a continuous, data-driven model," he said.

"Non-compliant fleets could be automatically flagged or fined, ensuring accountability and consistency."

While stricter enforcement and public education remain relevant, Law said lasting change depends on infrastructure designed to make safer choices easier by default.

"The Budget should make a significant share of infrastructure spending conditional on safe system design principles," he said, referring to an approach that accepts human error and focuses on roads, vehicles and speeds that prevent fatal outcomes.

He recommended the setting up of a safe system infrastructure fund to retrofit high-risk blackspots and build "forgiving roads" that reduce the severity of crashes.

He also called for mandatory, tech-based monitoring of commercial fleets to ensure full compliance with speed and safety standards.

"These measures would mark a decisive shift from reactive spending to proactive, life-saving policy.

"They would signal a strategic move towards a truly safety-centred national transport framework."

In the previous budget, the government allocated RM2.8 billion for the refurbishment and maintenance of federal roads.

Another RM1 billion was for non-federal routes, including secondary, Felda, industrial and flood-damaged roads.

Setting standards on success of public transport

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia's next federal budget should mark a turning point in how the nation measures success in transport, by prioritising journey time, reliability and commuter experience instead of simply funding new infrastructure, says transport policy expert Wan Agyl Wan Hassan.

He said despite years of record spending on urban rail and highways, public transport usage remains well below target – particularly in the Klang Valley, where fewer than one in four trips are made using buses or trains, far short of the 40% goal by 2030.

"The My50 pass (RapidKL's 30-day unlimited travel pass) has proven that affordability works. More than 2.7 million passes have been sold, and 60% of users are from the B40 group," he told *theSun*.

"It remains Malaysia's most effective cost-of-living policy in transport. But subsidies alone cannot change travel habits if the system remains slow and unreliable."

Wan Agyl said Budget 2026 must focus on time, not just ticket prices, arguing that the most immediate transformation could come from bus priority measures that improve speed and reliability at a fraction of the cost of rail expansion.

He said for about RM500 million, Malaysia could build 100km of dedicated bus lanes and smart traffic signal systems in key corridors across the Klang Valley, Penang and Johor Bahru.

"Cities like Bogotá and London saw journey times drop by 20% to 30% when buses were given dedicated right-of-way. When buses move faster, the entire system becomes more attractive – rail lines get more feeder passengers, and the My50 pass becomes even more valuable.

"If we truly want people to leave their cars, the bus must finally be faster than traffic. That should be the real 'wow factor' of Budget 2026."

He cautioned that Malaysia cannot "build its way out of congestion" with more flyovers or highways, which only shift bottlenecks elsewhere. Instead, the government should start managing travel demand more effectively through targeted reforms.



Wan Agyl said future transport policies should focus on journey time and commuter experience rather than infrastructure spending. – ***AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN***

Wan Agyl suggested that congestion pricing be introduced gradually – starting with feasibility studies and public education, followed by a pilot in downtown Kuala Lumpur or Bangsar South – but warned against rushing implementation before public transport reliability improves.

"Congestion charges, if introduced prematurely, will only frustrate drivers without changing behaviour. It can only work after people have reliable alternatives."

He said parking policy reform is also key to addressing urban gridlock, noting that Kuala Lumpur and Petaling Jaya still offer cheap, abundant parking even near rail stations — a practice that encourages car use and undermines public transport ridership.

"Internationally, cities like Seoul and Melbourne reduced traffic by tightening parking supply and channelling parking revenue into public transport upgrades. Malaysia can do the same – fewer parking spaces near transit and better pedestrian access to stations."

Wan Agyl also urged for employer-based travel management, such as tax incentives for flexible working hours, company carpool schemes and staff subsidies for My50 passes.

"These are inexpensive, high-impact policies that directly reduce peak-hour congestion without adding new roads."

For Kuala Lumpur, he proposed two practical steps that could ease congestion within two years: introducing peak-hour bus priority corridors to keep buses moving faster than traffic and improving first and last-mile access through shaded walkways, expanded feeder buses and on-demand microtransit within 400m of every rail station.

"If we can do these two things right, commuting times could fall by up to 25%, without spending another billion on new infrastructure."

Wan Agyl added that Malaysians are not demanding new mega-projects but visible, everyday improvements that make journeys faster and less stressful.

"People don't need more ribbon-cuttings – they need buses that move, trains that run on time and roads that are safe.

"Budget 2026 should mark a new era for transport priorities – one that values minutes saved over kilometres built.

"If the government can give every Malaysian even just 20 minutes back each day, that would be the most powerful 'wow factor' any budget could deliver." – By ***HARITH KAMAL***

Higher education sector set for bigger allocation

TANJONG MALIM: The Higher Education Ministry expects a higher allocation under the national budget in line with the launch of the Malaysia Higher Education Plan 2026–2035 next year.

Its minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir said the allocation would cover several aspects of strengthening the country's higher education system.

"If you combine the Education Ministry and the Higher Education Ministry, you'll find that education consistently receives the largest share of the national budget.

"This time, we anticipate and hope for the same. There may also be new measures to be announced by the prime minister and we are hopeful of an increase," he told reporters after officiating at the Global Educator Award (GEA) 2025 at the Tuanku Canselor Hall of Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (Upsi) on Saturday night.

Also present were Upsi vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Md Amin Md Taff.

Zambry said the launch of GEA 2025 was part of efforts to further internationalise the country's higher education institutions.

"I've asked every university to build on its own niche. For example, Upsi is a renowned institution in the field of education.

"We may have overlooked the importance of such institutions with over a century of history. The GEA initiative aims to elevate Upsi onto the international stage."

The GEA 2025 programme featured a series of events combining recognition with intellectual exchange. Among the activities were a teachers summit, education forum, sharing sessions by GEA finalists and faculty, and visits for international educators to experience Malaysia's educational practices first-hand. – Bernama

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Audits on over 700 schools nationwide completed

Initiative helps to identify key areas requiring immediate improvement and development of long-term measures for wellbeing of students and staff: Education minister



Fadhlina said school safety is being addressed holistically under the Safe School Framework, which is among the proposals included in the Budget 2026 submission. – ***ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN***

BUKIT MERTAJAM: The Education Ministry has completed safety audits on more than 700 schools nationwide, said Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek.

She said the auditing process, which involves both primary and secondary schools, is ongoing and expected to be completed within the next two months.

"This effort is very important for us to ensure that schools receive special attention, particularly in terms of safety.

"The audit will help us identify key areas that require immediate improvement and guide us in developing long-term safety measures for the wellbeing of students and staff," she said after launching an anti-bullying campaign at Yayasan Aman in Penanti yesterday.

Fadhlina said the safety audit exercise, led by the School Inspectorate and Quality Assurance Division, was initiated following several incidents in schools and is aimed at identifying risks related to infrastructure, supervision and student welfare. Weekly progress reports are being submitted to ensure swift action on critical findings.

She said school safety is being addressed holistically under the ministry's Safe School Framework, which is among the proposals included in the Budget 2026 submission.

"Within this framework, we have requested consideration for a significant increase in the number of counselling teachers and for expanded access to mental health support programmes in schools.

"We hope the Safe School Framework will receive due attention in the upcoming Budget as part of our commitment to building a safer and more supportive learning environment," she said.

The Safe School Framework, announced earlier this year, outlines measures to address issues such as bullying, vandalism, infrastructure maintenance and psychological wellbeing through closer coordination between schools, parents and local authorities, Bernama reported

Fadhlina said safety cannot be viewed solely from a physical standpoint but must also take into account emotional and psychological aspects, especially as students return to fully normalised schooling after the pandemic period.

On the recent tragedy involving a Year Four pupil who was found unconscious in a school restroom in Senawang, Negeri Sembilan, Fadhlina said the ministry is awaiting the outcome of police investigations and has extended full cooperation to the authorities.

"The investigation is ongoing and we are giving our full support to police. We hope the public will allow the authorities to complete their work without speculation," she said.

Negeri Sembilan police chief Datuk Alzafny Ahmad said investigators have recorded statements from 35 individuals including teachers, school staff, students, medical personnel and family members of the deceased.

He said a post-mortem carried out at the Rembau Hospital revealed pressure marks on the neck but no other external injuries.

The case is being investigated under Section 507C of the Penal Code, relating to bullying and harassment.

The investigation papers are expected to be referred to the deputy public prosecutor once all findings are compiled.

Authorities have also urged the public to avoid spreading unverified information on social media.

The 10-year-old boy was found unconscious in the school toilet at about 1.15pm last Wednesday and was pronounced dead after being taken to a nearby private medical centre.

His family has asked for privacy and said they would leave the investigation to the authorities.

Internet quality in seven key areas to be enhanced

KULAI: The Communications Ministry is focusing on improving internet coverage and quality in seven key areas to ensure more stable and comprehensive connectivity nationwide.

Communications Deputy Minister Teo Nie Ching said the targeted areas comprise event venues, public higher education institutions, military camps, stadiums, tourist destinations, hospitals, as well as highways.

She said 17 event venues have been identified, all of which have been fully upgraded.

A total of 81 public higher education institutions nationwide have been selected for upgrades following discussions with the Higher Education Ministry.

"For military camps, 73 locations have been identified for internet coverage upgrades, and the project is at the request-for-proposal stage.

"For stadiums, one location has been completed, while two others are in progress.

"For tourist areas, 23 locations have been identified for improvement works, with six already completed. As for hospitals, upgrades are planned at 20 locations and seven have been completed.

"For highways, seven sites have been identified, with one completed to date," she said after officiating at the closing ceremony of Run for the Future, a corporate social responsibility event held at Hutan Bandar Kulai yesterday.

Teo said the initiative, implemented in collaboration with the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission and telecommunications providers, aims to ensure satisfactory internet access at all hotspot areas, especially during major events or peak visitor periods.

On another matter, Teo commended the Kuala Lumpur Tower management for including *Iban* and *Kadazan* languages on its Welcome Wall, alongside Tamil.

She said the move reflects the Malaysia Madani spirit, which celebrates the country's cultural and linguistic diversity.

"When the issue of Tamil language signage (arose) recently, the management took immediate action to improve the display.

"I also suggested adding *Iban* and *Kadazan*, as they represent the identity of communities in Sabah and Sarawak," she said – Bernama

Safety measures to be prioritised at sporting events for students

BUKIT MERTAJAM: The Education Ministry will prioritise strengthening safety measures during school sports events to prevent a recurrence of incidents such as the death of a student during the National Full Residential School Rugby Seven-a-Side Tournament last Friday.

Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek said the ministry will also ensure that medical teams are stationed at every sporting event held in schools.

"Students have long been reminded to prioritise their health, and we have also asked parents to share relevant health information with the school.

"Our focus will be on comprehensive safety measures according to the type of sport, as well as ensuring that medical teams are present at every match," she said after launching the Anti-Bullying Roadshow at Yayasan Aman in Penanti yesterday.

She added that the ministry constantly reminds students and coaches on the importance of maintaining strict attention to safety.

On Saturday, Ipoh police chief ACP Abang Zainal Abidin Abang Ahmad said 16-year-old Muhammad Fauzan Mohd Sulaiman from Johor, reportedly collapsed at about 10.30am while preparing to enter the field for the second half of the match.

A post-mortem by the Raja Permaisuri Bainun Hospital Forensic Department found that the cause of death was internal bleeding from a torn right hip muscle.

The incident has been classified as a sudden death case.

On another matter, Fadhlina said the ministry is awaiting further instructions or recommendations from the Health Ministry regarding the possible reintroduction of face mask use in schools, following reports of a rise in influenza cases.

Earlier, social media reports had claimed that several schools, including in Penang, made mask-wearing mandatory to curb the spread of influenza, although state Youth, Sports and Health Committee chairman Daniel Gooi said the situation remains under control.

Fadhlina said all standard operating procedures relating to bullying cases must be given due attention and awareness must be promoted to ensure the protection and rights of students.

"The approach currently adopted by the ministry is an educational one, which may not be popular with some people, as many still believe that caning is the solution. But it is not that simple.

"We can take disciplinary action such as suspension or expelling students from school.

"But eventually, they will return to the education system under the ministry to be re-educated.

"Punitive approach alone would not solve the problem," she said.

She added that the ministry is also working closely with police to address bullying cases, including those categorised as criminal offences.

Fadhlina said the ministry will intensify advocacy efforts to educate students on the impact of bullying, including mental bullying, which could seriously affect their emotional wellbeing, especially following the enforcement of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act 2025.

"The effects of mental bullying are significant and could lead to more worrying consequences if not curbed from the beginning," she said. – Bernama

Small 'trivial' acts sowing seeds of graft

Integrity must be nurtured from young and strengthened across all levels of society, says KL MACC director

KUALA LUMPUR: The practice of offering "hush money" or using small rewards to cover up wrongdoings may seem harmless but is in fact the root of corruption that can undermine future generations, said Kuala Lumpur Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) director Mohamad Zakkuan Talib.

He said integrity must be nurtured from young and strengthened across all levels of society.

"Parents must instil honesty and trustworthiness from an early age. Don't normalise giving 'hush money' to hide mistakes. Likewise, paying for 'cables' (connections) must stop. That's where corruption begins, often unnoticed."

He was speaking after the Desa Bebas Rasuah 2025 event at Dataran Kamara in Kampung Malaysia Raya yesterday.

Mohamad Zakkuan said corruption rarely starts in boardrooms as it often begins with small actions that gradually become accepted behaviour.

"Corruption is like fire. It may seem small but if left unchecked it can burn homes, villages and entire nations. When students buy exam answers or village leaders show favouritism due to bribes, public trust begins to erode."

He said while MACC can investigate and prosecute, true success depends on public support, with the community as the frontline in building an integrity-driven generation, Bernama reported.

Mohamad Zakkuan said since taking office four months ago, public tip-offs had increased, driven by outreach efforts and greater awareness of whistle-blower rewards for information leading to convictions.

Yesterday's event involved several agencies, including the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry, police, National Population and Family Development Board and the National Anti-Drugs Agency, with Bank Islam as a strategic partner.

Activities included an anti-corruption forum titled "Building a Corruption-Free Generation" featuring actor Ebby Yus and community leader Khairul Salleh Hasan, a children's integrity-themed colouring contest, exhibitions, health screenings, Rahmah sales and lucky draws.

"Integrity starts with 'I'. If civil servants, students and community leaders are clean, the nation will be too," he said.

Remands on kidnap case suspects extended

KOTA BHARU: Seven men and a woman arrested over the alleged kidnapping of a man in Pasir Puteh have had their remands extended by two days, beginning today.

The order was issued by magistrate Amirul Asyraf Abdul Rasid yesterday after allowing a police application for further investigations under sections 385, 342 and 365 of the Penal Code as well as Section 8 of the Firearms (Increased Penalties) Act 1971.

All the suspects, dressed in orange lock-up attire and covering their faces, arrived at the Kota Bharu Magistrate's Court at 8.30am.

On Sept 26, the victim in his 20s was abducted and held captive in an unnumbered house in Cherang Ruku. The suspects allegedly demanded a ransom of RM150,000 from his employer.

All eight suspects, aged between 20 and 46, were arrested on Thursday in a series of raids at six locations across Kota Bharu, Bachok, Pasir Puteh and Tumpat. Police also successfully rescued the victim. – Bernama



FRIENDLY FELINE ... A visitor interacting with a furry participant during the 8th International Cat Expo at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. ***– ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN***

Second toll plaza crash victim succumbs to injuries

KAJANG: The death toll in the horrific multi-vehicle crash at the Bukit Kajang toll plaza has risen to two.

District police chief Asst Comm Naazron Abdul Yusof was quoted by a daily as saying that a 48-year-old man, who had been in critical condition since the Sept 27 collision, died at 11am on Sunday.

"The body will be released to the family after a post-mortem."

The crash, involving a lorry and three cars, occurred when the heavy vehicle allegedly developed brake failure before ploughing into several vehicles at the toll plaza.

The impact claimed the life of a 16-month-old toddler at the scene and left seven others injured.

In the aftermath, the Land Public Transport Agency revoked the operating licence of the lorry company involved after finding it had failed to instal a GPS tracking system and had neglected key safety requirements.

A technical expert report is being prepared to determine the cause and whether further legal action should be taken against the company or the driver.

A dashcam video, which was widely circulated on social media, showed the lorry driver jumping out just before the crash, fuelling public anger.

The tragedy has renewed scrutiny of lorry maintenance and compliance standards nationwide, with authorities pledging tighter checks and stricter penalties for negligent operators.

Boy drowns in irrigation canal

ALOR SETAR: A 13-year-old boy drowned after slipping into an irrigation canal while fishing with friends at Kampung Alor Setol in Langgar on Saturday.

Kota Setar district police chief ACP Siti Nor Salawati Saad said police received a call at 10am from a passerby reporting that an unconscious teenager had been found near the canal.

The boy, a student from a school in Pokok Sena, had reportedly lost his footing while walking along the canal bank, and his friends were unable to rescue him, she said in a statement.

A medical assistant from the Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital confirmed his death at the scene, and the body was sent for post-mortem. – Bernama

Security being tightened ahead of Sabah polls

TAWAU: The Eastern Sabah Security Command (Esscom) is stepping up security measures across the eastern region of Sabah ahead of the state legislative assembly dissolution and the upcoming 17th state election.

Its commander Datuk Victor Sanjos said Esscom, comprising police, the Armed Forces and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, remains on high alert to safeguard national sovereignty and ensure public safety throughout the electoral process.

"With elections also taking place in southern Philippines, we must remain vigilant as the overlapping elections require our full attention."

He was speaking after accompanying Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad and his delegation on a visit to the Inderasabah General Operations Force Security Post on Saturday.

He said Esscom's key responsibility is to maintain peace, order and safety to enable the public to exercise their democratic rights without fear.

"We do not want any negative elements or threats during this period, and all personnel will be deployed to specific locations as soon as the state legislative assembly is dissolved."

Victor also urged the media and researchers to use the term Eastern Sabah Safety Zone (Zon Selamat Sabah Timur) when referring to the area, Bernama reported.

"I would like to correct the frequent use of the term 'east coast'. It should be referred to as 'Eastern Sabah', which covers three domains – land, sea and air."

The Eastern Sabah Safety Zone encompasses 10 districts, namely Kudat, Pitas, Kota Marudu, Beluran, Sandakan, Kinabatangan, Lahad Datu, Kunak, Semporna and Tawau.

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Classic *bunga telur* gets fresh touch with *sarong* fabric

KOTA BHARU: From the humble *sarong* – once a symbol of Malay women's grace – comes a handcrafted revival of the *bunga telur*, the traditional Malay wedding favour now enjoying a comeback in modern ceremonies with its timeless charm.

Behind each delicately folded petal is homemaker Anis Aiza Shaari, 33, who transforms pieces of sarong cloth into works of art that embody heritage, creativity and quiet perseverance.

The fusion of classic tradition and contemporary design has made her sarong-themed bunga telur highly sought after, with orders pouring in from bridal couples seeking a nostalgic yet elegant touch.

A Universiti Malaysia Kelantan business graduate, Anis Aiza began crafting the wedding favours two years ago to supplement her household income.

"The idea came when my sister-in-law, Aima Najwa Abdul Rahim, 26, wanted a classic-themed *bunga telur* for her wedding in July 2023. When we couldn't find anything that matched her vision, I decided to make them myself," she told Bernama at her home in Kampung Wakaf Stan.

The mother of four had no formal training and relied entirely on TikTok tutorials to learn the craft.

"At the time, most *bunga telur* were made from songket. I wanted something different – sarong fabric is softer and feels closer to our heritage. The result is more classic and soulful," she said.

Each piece requires patience and precision, as every strip of fabric is individually cut, glued and arranged to achieve a neat, balanced finish.

"The first step is building the base frame. Then, the sarong is cut into floral shapes like lilies, daisies or peonies. Each pattern gives a different character, making every bloom unique," she explained. – Bernama

Keeping heritage alive in ever-changing landscape

From traditional dances *Mak Yong* to *Mayin Jo'oh*, the Living Arts Festival and renewed focus on Petaling Street are part of broader push to safeguard traditions and boost tourism appeal: Minister

KUALA LUMPUR: From the historic lanes of George Town to the bustling heart of Petaling Street, Malaysia's cultural pulse beats strong this week as the Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry steps up efforts to celebrate and preserve the nation's living heritage.

In Penang, the ministry, through the Culture and Arts Department, is hosting the sixth edition of the Living Arts Cultural Festival 2025 (LACF 2025) – a vibrant showcase of Malaysia's endangered traditions and performing arts.

Held in collaboration with the Penang state government and National Pancha Seniloka Association, the three-day festival along Armenian Street which ends today blends centuries-old artistry with a modern creative spirit.

Department director-general Mohd Amran Mohd Haris said the festival features over 27 traditional performances, including endangered art forms such as *Makyung*, *Mayin Jo'oh* and *Sinding Mansayau*, alongside cultural showcases from 10 countries including Malaysia, Bulgaria, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea.

The festival was officially opened by Penang Governor Tun Ramli Ngah Talib, with ministry secretary-general Datuk Shaharudin Abu Sohot and Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow in attendance.

Mohd Amran said George Town was selected as the venue for its Unesco World Heritage status and Armenian Street's reputation as a vibrant hub for arts and tourism.

The biennial festival's theme, "Sustainability of Cultural Heritage", focuses on safeguarding intangible heritage recognised by Unesco and national heritage lists, as well as endangered traditional arts in need of urgent revival, Bernama reported.

Besides cultural performances, other highlights include parades, craft exhibitions, lantern displays and a Malaysian breakfast featuring Unesco-recognised dishes.



Petaling Street continues to draw crowds with its mix of traditional charm and modern vibrancy. – *ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN*

There are also digital dialogues and workshops held in partnership with the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation.

Mohd Amran said the festival aims to turn audiences into active inheritors and promoters of the arts through interactive demonstrations and community engagement, bringing heritage closer to society and inspiring the next generation to cherish Malaysia's artistic legacy.

The event attracted between 30,000 and 40,000 visitors, including international tourists.

Meanwhile, in Kuala Lumpur, the ministry is reaffirming its commitment to preserving another cultural landmark – Petaling Street – while enhancing its global appeal as a must-visit destination.

Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing said balancing the street's traditional charm with improved tourism standards is crucial to sustaining its legacy.

"In recent years, Petaling Street has faced real challenges, from the livelihood pressures of local traders to the need for better cleanliness, order and visitor experience.

"The key lies in preserving its traditional identity while elevating the overall tourism experience," he said in his speech during the Mid-Autumn Lantern Parade 2025, delivered on his behalf by press secretary Ross Sia Wan Teng.

He said Petaling Street represents the living memory of Malaysia's early pioneers and remains one of the nation's most recognisable cultural gateways.

Tiong added that the ministry welcomes collaboration between local authorities, traders and community associations to rejuvenate Petaling Street into a clean, safe and vibrant destination.

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'Iron Lady' Takaichi not a feminist

LDP head seen as socially conservative

TOKYO: Sanae Takaichi *(pic)* is poised to become Japan's first female prime minister, but many of her positions are socially conservative in an often still deeply patriarchal nation.

Takaichi, whose hero is Margaret Thatcher, became head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party on Saturday and will likely take office later this month.

She has promised to appoint a Cabinet with "Nordic" levels of women, up from just two under outgoing premier Shigeru Ishiba.

Takaichi, 64, has also said she "hopes to raise awareness" about women's health struggles and spoken candidly about her own experience with menopause.



Despite these gestures, her policy positions on gender place her on the right of an already conservative LDP.

She is against revising a 19th-century law requiring married couples to share the same surname, which overwhelmingly results in women taking their husbands' names.

Takaichi also wants Japan's imperial family to stick to its male-only succession rules, and is "fundamentally opposed" to same-sex marriage.

Yuki Tsuji, a professor specialising in politics and gender at Tokai University, said Takaichi "has no interest in women's rights or gender equality policies".

"Therefore, it is unlikely that any change will occur in this policy area compared to previous LDP administrations," Tsuji said.

Tsuji added the symbolic significance of having a woman as premier is "quite substantial".

But the pressure will be high to achieve results, and if she fails "this could foster negative perceptions of woman prime ministers", Tsuji said.

Yuka, a Tokyo office worker in her 50s, welcomed Takaichi's win.

"We can proudly tell the world Japan will likely have a woman leader," Yuka said.

But she is sceptical that there will be much progress on gender issues under Takaichi.

Last year former cabin attendant Mitsuko Tottori became boss of Japan Airlines, but hers is a rare success story in the corporate world where hours are long and childcare options are often limited.

Women in Japan held 13.2% of management positions in 2021, the lowest among members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Japan ranked 118 out of 148 in the World Economic Forum's 2025 Global Gender Gap Report.

"There are many capable women but leadership roles tend to be taken by men in Japan," Yuka said.

"Many women are forced to give up at the height of their careers because they have to take care of their children or ageing parents."

In politics too, women are underrepresented, accounting for only around 15% of lawmakers in the lower house of parliament.

One notable exception is the three-term Tokyo governor, Yuriko Koike, who has announced several women-friendly policies including free day care for preschool children.

Female MPs have highlighted the difficulties of juggling the duties of being a politician and a homemaker – not something that worries their male counterparts. – AFP

BRIEFS

THAI BOY MAULED BY ESCAPED LION

BANGKOK: A lion kept at a private home in Kanchanaburi province got loose and attacked a young boy, leaving him in hospital on Saturday. The boy was on his way home from playing with other children when the big cat pounced on him. The lion's owner, who the wildlife department identified only as Parinya, was charged with violating wildlife protection laws, and faces up to six months in prison and a 50,000 baht (RM6,313) fine if convicted. The lion was seized by authorities, the department said, adding that a wildlife breeding centre had prepared a new home for it. Lion ownership is legal in Thailand. – AFP

INDIAN STATES BAN TOXIC COUGH SYRUP

NEW DELHI: Three Indian states – Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala – have banned a cough syrup after several children died after consuming the product. The death of at least nine children, all aged under five, since late August, in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have been linked to the syrup. Laboratory tests of the syrup revealed it was contaminated with diethylene glycol (DEG), a toxic substance used in industrial solvents that can be fatal if ingested even in small amounts. "The samples were found to contain DEG beyond the permissible limit," the Health Ministry said. The product sold under the brand name Coldrif Cough Syrup was made by Sresan Pharma in Tamil Nadu. – AFP

SCHOOL COLLAPSE DEATH TOLL RISES TO 36

JAKARTA: The number of students confirmed dead after the collapse of a boarding school building in Java rose to 36, from 16 a day earlier, the country's disaster mitigation agency said yesterday. Efforts continued for a seventh day to search for the bodies of 27 students still declared missing, mostly teenage boys, trapped under the rubble. Cranes were deployed to excavate debris and search and evacuation efforts were 60% complete, according to the agency, which said it expected to clear all debris and finish the search today. The Al Khoziny school in the town of Sidoarjo in East Java province caved in last Monday. – Reuters

22 dead in Nepal landslides, floods

KATHMANDU: Heavy rains triggered landslides and flash floods blocking roads, washing away bridges and killing at least 22 people in Nepal, officials said yesterday.

Eighteen people were killed in landslides in the Ilam district in the east bordering India, police spokesperson Binod Ghimire said. Three people were killed in southern Nepal in lightning strikes and one person died in floods in Udayapur district, also in east Nepal.

Eleven people were washed away by floods and have been missing since Saturday.

"Rescue efforts are going on," said Shanti Mahat, a Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority spokesperson.



A Kathmandu resident wading through a flooded street. – ***REUTERSPIC***

Several highways have been blocked by landslides and washed away by floods, stranding hundreds of passengers, authorities said.

"Domestic flights are largely disrupted but international flights are operating normally," said Rinji Sherpa, a spokesperson for Kathmandu airport.

In southeastern Nepal, the Koshi River, which causes deadly floods in the eastern Indian state of Bihar almost every year, was flowing above the danger level, a district official said.

Dharmendra Kumar Mishra, district governor of Sunsari district, said water flows in the Koshi River were more than double the normal volume.

Mishra said all 56 sluice gates of the Koshi Barrage had been opened to drain out water compared with about 10 to 12 during a normal situation, adding that authorities are "preparing to ban heavy vehicles from its bridge".

In hill-ringed Kathmandu, several rivers have flooded roads and inundated many houses, cutting the temple-studded capital off from the rest of the country.

Hundreds of people die every year in landslides and flash floods that are common in Nepal during the monsoon season which normally starts in mid-June and continues through mid-September.

Weather officials say rains are likely to lash the Himalayan nation until today and authorities say they are taking "maximum care and precautions" to help people affected by the disaster. – Reuters

Indonesia lifts TikTok suspension

JAKARTA: Indonesia has lifted its suspension of TikTok's local operating licence after the social media platform shared data requested by the government about recent protests, said the Communication and Digital Affairs Ministry.

Indonesia has the second biggest audience on TikTok, owned by China's ByteDance, with more than 100 million users.

The ministry said on Friday it had "temporarily suspended" the app's operating licence for failing to provide adequate data on its live feature's activities during anti-government protests in August.

But TikTok supplied the requested data that same day, the ministry's director-general Alexander Sabar said in a statement late on Saturday.

"Based on the fulfilment of those obligations, the Communication and Digital Affairs Ministry ... reactivated TikTok's status as a registered electronic system operator," he said.

A spokesperson for TikTok declined to comment, but the video-sharing app has previously said it respects the laws of the markets it operates in.

The company has faced a series of challenges operating in Indonesia.

It briefly suspended its live feature in August during violent protests that erupted after the death of a man hit by a police vehicle.

On Monday, Indonesia's antitrust agency fined TikTok US$900,000 (RM3.8 million) for failing to notify regulators in time about its acquisition of e-commerce platform Tokopedia.

Its e-commerce feature was also suspended by the government in 2023 after it moved to help small businesses.

It then bought a 75% stake in Tokopedia, Indonesia's largest e-commerce platform, bringing together their shopping arms. – AFP

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Trump sends troops to Chicago

Judge blocks Portland deployment

CHICAGO: President Donald Trump authorised deployment of troops to Chicago after a federal agent shot an allegedly armed motorist on Saturday, while a judge blocked the Republican leader's attempt to send the military into Portland.

The escalating crisis across the country pits Trump's increasingly militarised anti-crime and migration crackdown against Democrats who accuse him of an authoritarian power grab.

"President Trump has authorised 300 national guardsmen to protect federal officers and assets" in Chicago, White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson said in a statement, after weeks of the Republican threats to send troops to the Midwestern city over the wishes of local leaders.

"President Trump will not turn a blind eye to the lawlessness plaguing American cities," said Jackson.

Illinois Senator Dick Durbin called the move a "shameful chapter in our nation's history", adding that "the President is not intent on fighting crime. He is intent on spreading fear."

Chicago and Portland are the latest flashpoints in the Trump administration rollout of raids, following the deployment of troops to Los Angeles and Washington.

The raids have seen groups of masked, armed men in unmarked cars and armoured vehicles target residential neighbourhoods and businesses, sparking protests.

Trump has repeatedly called Portland "war-ravaged" and riddled with violent crime, but in Saturday's court order, US District Judge Karin Immergut wrote "the President's determination was simply untethered to the facts".

Although the city has seen scattered attacks on federal officers and property, the Trump administration failed to demonstrate "that those episodes of violence were part of an organised attempt to overthrow the government as a whole", Immergut wrote in granting a temporary restraining order.

Protests in Portland did not pose a "danger of rebellion" and "regular law enforcement forces" could handle such incidents, Immergut said.

Oregon Senator Ron Wyden lauded the order, saying: "The victory supports what Oregonians already know, we don't need or want Donald Trump to provoke violence by deploying federal troops in our state."

White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller wrote on social media that the judge's order was "legal insurrection" and accused local leaders in Oregon of conducting an "organised terrorist attack on the federal government".

Earlier on Saturday, a federal officer in Chicago shot a motorist after law enforcement agents were "boxed in by 10 cars", the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said.

"Agents were unable to move their vehicles and exited the car.

"One of the drivers who rammed the law enforcement vehicle was armed with a semi-automatic weapon," DHS assistant secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement.

"Law enforcement was forced to deploy their weapons and fire defensive shots at an armed US citizen," she said. – AFP



DIVINE DOTING ... Chile residents holding up their pets for blessing during a ceremony commemorating the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals, in Valparaiso on Saturday. – ***REUTERSPIC***

BRIEFS

GROKIPEDIA SET FOR RELEASE IN 2 WEEKS

MOSCOW: Elon Musk said yesterday that an early beta version of "Grokipedia", an analogue to the Wikipedia online encyclopedia developed by his artificial intelligence company, xAI, will be released in two weeks. In late September, Musk announced that xAI would rewrite Wikipedia, taking into account media sources prohibited from citing it, and publish the results in the public domain. Musk said xAI would create what he called "Grokipedia". "Version 0.1 early beta of Grokipedia will be published in two weeks," he said on X. – Bernama

'SPECIAL ASSETS TARGETING SEOUL'

SEOUL: Kim Jong Un said North Korea deployed "special assets" in response to what he called Washington's arms build-up in the South. "The US-ROK nuclear alliance is conducting exercises to execute dangerous scenarios," Kim said in a speech marking the opening of a weapons exhibition in Pyongyang on Saturday. "In direct proportion to the buildup, we have assigned our special assets." Photos released by Korea Central News Agency show Kim walking past weapons, including a missile, in an indoor exhibition centre. – AFP

Austrian children charity chief suspended

VIENNA: The director of SOS Children's Villages in Austria has been suspended following allegations of abuse at Austrian facilities of the international charity for orphaned and abandoned children, the supervisory board said on Saturday.

Christian Moser has been relieved of all his duties pending the findings of an external audit.

Separately, Austrian prosecutors said last week they had launched an investigation after reports of alleged child abuse at a care facility run by Austria-based SOS Children's Villages, which has 572 branches in more than 130 countries.

"The supervisory board believes that child protection, transparency and dealing with the facts are an absolute priority," said Irene Szimak, chairwoman of the supervisory board of SOS Children's Villages Austria.

The charity said on Sept 17 it was launching an external audit of its procedures after weekly magazine *Falter* published a report alleging children had been mistreated at its Moosburg facility in southwestern Austria between 2008 and 2020.

Falter alleged that children and teenagers were beaten, locked up and photographed naked for years.

The alleged abuse was never made public despite a detailed internal report in 2020.

Since the *Falter* report, there have been similar allegations about the children's villages in Imst in Tyrol and Seekirchen near Salzburg.

Prosecutors in Klagenfurt, Innsbruck and Salzburg are now investigating.

Moser has, as yet, not reacted publicly to his suspension.

In 2022, SOS Children's Villages said a major donor had been implicated in child sex abuse at one of its facilities in Asia.

The previous year, the charity said it was investigating cases of violence, particularly sexual violence, and fraud committed from the 1990s in around 20 of its operations in Africa and Asia. – AFP

NZ cafe on filmmaker's land to close

SYDNEY: A popular New Zealand cafe said it will be forced to close next year after the property's high-profile owner, Oscar-winning filmmaker Peter Jackson, ended its lease.

Jackson, best known for directing the Lord of *The Rings* films, bought the historic Submarine Barracks property on the Wellington peninsula with partner Fran Walsh in 2023.

The Chocolate Fish Cafe, which operates from the historic property, said it was informed this week that its landlords would end the lease in January, calling it a "devastating blow".

"Despite our requests, we haven't yet been given the opportunity to speak with Peter and Fran, and we are asking for that chance," the cafe said.

"We don't want to be forced to close. We don't want to be shut down."

WingNut PM, the property arm of Jackson and Walsh's WingNut Group, said there had been "occupancy discussions" with the cafe's owners.

The redevelopment plan is intended to "reinvigorate the city and provide a public amenity for all Wellingtonians", the company said in a statement to the *NZ Herald*.

"To deliver on the vision, a complete refurbishment is necessary."

The renovations would make it impossible for the cafe to continue operations beyond January and its owners had been offered support so it could remain open into the summer period, the statement said. – AFP

Gaza bombed as residents wait for peace plan to start

Egypt prepares to host ceasefire talks



Smoke rises following explosions in Gaza City yesterday. – ***REUTERSPIC***

CAIRO: Israeli planes and tanks pounded areas across the Gaza Strip on Saturday night and yesterday, destroying several residential buildings, witnesses said, as traumatised Palestinians hoped a US plan to end the war would soon ease their suffering.

President Donald Trump, who had called for an end to the bombing, said on Saturday on his Truth Social platform that Israel had agreed to an "initial withdrawal line" inside Gaza and that "when Hamas confirms, the ceasefire will be immediately effective."

Israel escalated its offensive as Egypt prepares to host delegates from Hamas, Israel, the United States and Qatar to kick off talks over the implementation of the most advanced effort yet to halt the conflict.

Hamas had drawn a welcoming response from Trump on Friday by saying it accepted certain key parts of his 20-point peace proposal, including ending the war, Israel's withdrawal, and the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian captives.

But the group left some issues up for further negotiation, as well as questions unanswered, such as whether it would be willing to disarm, a key demand from Israel to end the war.

"Progress would depend on whether Hamas would agree to the map, which shows the Israeli army would remain in control of most of the Gaza Strip," said a Palestinian official close to the talks.

"Hamas may also ask for a strict timetable for the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. The first phase of talks will determine how things are going to proceed," he said, asking not to be named.

In a sign of Israeli optimism over the Trump plan, the shekel currency hit a three-year high against the dollar and Tel Aviv stocks reached an all-time high.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Qatar, Jordan, Turkiye, Indonesia and Pakistan issued a joint statement welcoming the steps taken by Hamas regarding Trump's Gaza plan.

"The foreign ministers reiterated their joint commitment to support efforts towards the implementation of the proposal, to work for the immediate end of the war on Gaza, and achieve a comprehensive agreement," they said in the joint statement.

In Gaza City, which Israel describes as one of Hamas' last bastions, Israeli forces continued attacks and warned residents who left against returning, saying it was a "dangerous combat zone".

Yesterday, witnesses said Israeli planes escalated attacks against targets across the city, Gaza's biggest urban centre.

This followed a tense night in which drones dropped grenades on the rooftops of residential buildings and troops blew up explosive-laden vehicles, demolishing dozens of houses in two Gaza City neighbourhoods, Sabra and Sheikh Radwan.

"Where is Trump in all of this?" said Rami Mohammad-Ali, 37, from Gaza City, now displaced on the city's western side.

"The explosions don't stop, the drones drop bombs everywhere, as if nothing has happened.

"Where is the truce Trump told us about?"

Local health authorities said at least one Palestinian was killed, and several others were wounded in those attacks. Three other people were killed in separate Israeli strikes across the enclave, medics said.

Amjad Al-Shawa, head of the Palestinian NGOs Network, which liaises with the United Nations and international humanitarian organisations, said Gaza City has begun experiencing acute shortages of food and fuel, days after Israel blocked the route from the south to the north.

Under Trump's plan, all Israeli hostages, alive and deceased, were due to be released within 72 hours of Israel publicly accepting the agreement. Israel says 48 hostages remain, 20 of whom are alive.

There may be logistical challenges too. Sources close to Hamas told Reuters handing over living hostages could prove relatively straightforward, but retrieving bodies of dead ones amid the huge devastation and rubble of Gaza may take longer than a few days to achieve. – Reuters

Ukraine military factories, energy infrastructure hit

MOSCOW: The Russian Defence Ministry said its forces had carried out massive strikes on Saturday night on Ukrainian military-industrial facilities and on gas and energy infrastructure.

Kyiv said that the attack had killed at least five people and damaged infrastructure across numerous regions.

Four of the victims were family members killed when their residential building in the western region of Lviv bordering Poland was destroyed, local prosecutors said.

An industrial park in Lviv's regional capital was also set ablaze and parts of the city were left without power, said mayor Andriy Sadovyi, who had urged residents early yesterday to stay inside as authorities battled fires.

A Reuters correspondent heard explosions booming across the dark morning sky as air defences engaged targets from several directions. The attack on Lviv was likely the largest of the war on the Lviv region, a spokesman for the State Emergency Service said on Ukrainian television.

In southeastern Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia, one person was killed and 10 others wounded in a combined strike that left more than 73,000 customers without power, said governor Ivan Fedorov.

Civilian infrastructure was also damaged in the regions of Ivano-Frankivsk, Vinnytsia, Chernihiv, Kherson, Kharkiv and Odesa, said Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko.

Ukraine's Energy Ministry said energy facilities had been damaged in Zaporizhzhia and the northern Chernihiv region.

Moscow has stepped up attacks on Ukraine's energy grid in recent weeks as the fourth winter of war approaches and as diplomatic efforts to end the fighting have stalled.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said Russian forces had fired more than 50 missiles and nearly 500 drones.

Nato member Poland said it scrambled aircraft early yesterday to ensure its air safety.

"Polish and allied aircraft are operating in our airspace, while ground-based air defence and radar reconnaissance systems have been brought to the highest state of readiness," Poland's operational command said on X.

Eastern-flank Nato members are on high alert after Poland shot down drones in its airspace in September and drone sightings and air incursions, including in Copenhagen and Munich, have led to chaos in European aviation.

Lithuania's airport in Vilnius was closed for several hours overnight after reports of a possible series of balloons heading towards the airport late on Saturday. – Reuters

One million march through Rome

ROME: Hundreds of thousands of people marched through central Rome on Saturday for the fourth straight day of protests in Italy since Israel intercepted a flotilla trying to deliver aid to Gaza, and detained its activists.

People with banners and flags, chanting "Free Palestine" and other slogans, filed past the Colosseum, taking part in a march that organisers said attracted more than one million people, while police put the figure at around 250,000.

"I'm here with a lot of other friends because I think it is important for us all to mobilise individually," said Francesco Galtieri, a 65-year-old musician from Rome. "If we don't all mobilise, then nothing will change."

The protest, in bright sunshine, was peaceful, with students, children and the elderly attending.

Towards the end of the march, around 200 people broke away and clashed with officers in riot gear near the St Mary Major basilica, police said. Officers responded with tear gas and water cannons.

In later incidents, protesters set fire to a couple of cars and several rubbish bins, and hurled firecrackers at officers, police said, adding they detained 12 suspects and took down the names of 262 people.

Since Israel started blocking the flotilla late on Wednesday, protests have sprung up across Europe and in other parts of the world, but in Italy, they have happened daily, and in many cities.

On Friday, unions called a general strike in support of the flotilla, with demonstrations across the country that attracted more than 2 million people, organisers said. The Interior Ministry estimated attendance at around 400,000.

Italy's right-wing government has been critical of the protests.

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on Saturday blamed protesters for insulting graffiti that appeared on a statue of the late Pope John Paul II outside Rome's main train station, where pro-Palestinian groups have been holding a protest picket.

"They say they are taking to the streets for peace, but then they insult the memory of a man who was a true defender and builder of peace. A shameful act committed by people blinded by ideology," she said in a statement. – Reuters



Demonstrators march for Palestine in Rome on Saturday. – ***REUTERSPIC***

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SCAN ME

COMMENT by Ravindran Raman Kutty

Sustainable waste management

MALAYSIA has made commendable strides towards enhancing waste management and promoting recycling.

However, despite these efforts, the country's recycling rate hovers around a modest 31% (as of 2024), underscoring significant challenges in achieving sustainable waste management.

One critical issue is the absence of clear recycling information on product packaging, which impedes consumer participation in recycling and exacerbates environmental pollution.

To bridge this gap, the Housing and Local Government Ministry must enforce mandatory recycling labels, drawing insights from global leaders in waste management.

Role of recycling labels

Recycling labels play an indispensable role in waste management by educating consumers and streamlining recycling processes.

When packaging clearly indicates its recyclability and provides disposal instructions, it:

- ***Increases consumer awareness***: Many consumers are unsure how to properly dispose of various materials. Recycling labels will empower them with the necessary knowledge to engage actively in waste segregation. Labels on plastic bottles indicating they are made from recyclable PET can guide consumers to dispose of them in designated bins, enhancing recycling rates.
- ***Reduces contamination***: The mixing of non-recyclable materials with recyclables often leads to the rejection of entire batches of recycling. Clear labels can help minimise contamination, making recycling efforts more efficient. Malaysians often dispose of *nasi lemak* wrappers, tissues and used coffee cups contaminated with food waste in recycling bins. Proper labelling can prevent such mishaps.
- ***Encourages responsible habit***: Recycling logos and instructions serve as constant reminders, prompting individuals to adopt environmentally friendly habits. Consistent visibility of recycling symbols on daily-use items will reinforce the habit of proper waste disposal.

Learning from global leaders

Several countries have successfully implemented recycling labels, achieving impressive recycling rates. Malaysia can adopt best practices from these global examples:

- ***Germany***: The "Green Dot" system signifies that manufacturers contribute to a recycling programme, helping Germany achieve a recycling rate of around 66%.
- ***Japan***: Mandatory recycling symbols on packaging, such as distinct logos on PET bottles, support Japan's meticulous waste segregation system.
- ***The United Kingdom***: The "on-pack recycling label" system uses straightforward terms like "widely recycled" or "not yet recycled", simplifying the recycling process for consumers.
- ***South Korea***: Detailed recycling instructions on packaging, coupled with financial incentives for eco-friendly materials, have propelled South Korea to a recycling rate of approximately 59%.

Why it matters

Malaysia generates substantial waste annually, with over 80% ending up in landfills, many of which are nearing capacity and posing environmental risks. Recycling labels can address several critical challenges:

- ***Reduce landfill dependency***: Proper labelling will divert more recyclable materials from landfills, conserving space and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- ***Support circular economy***: Recycling transforms waste into valuable resources, reducing reliance on virgin materials and fostering sustainability.
- ***Align with global goals***: Clear recycling practices can help Malaysia achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production.
- ***Encourage behavioural change***: Recycling logos subtly educate users and foster a culture of sustainability by prompting responsible waste disposal.
- ***Clear guidelines***: Detailed visual diagrammes listing recyclables and non-recyclables should become mandatory on all packaging, complemented by labelled waste bins.



By learning from global examples and implementing clear recycling labels, Malaysia can overcome waste management challenges and move towards a sustainable future. – ***SUNPIC***

Multipronged approach

To implement packaging labelling effectively, Malaysia must adopt a multifaceted strategy:

- ***Mandatory labelling legislation***: The government should mandate recycling information on all packaging, specifying material types (for example, PET or HDPE) and providing disposal instructions.
- ***Public awareness campaigns***: Education is pivotal to recycling initiatives. Campaigns should teach consumers how to interpret labels, emphasise environmental benefits and utilise diverse media platforms for outreach.
- ***Incentivising manufacturers***: Offering tax benefits or subsidies to companies that comply with labelling requirements can accelerate adoption while penalties for non-compliance will ensure adherence.
- ***Enhancing recycling process***: Upgrading material recovery facilities and expanding the availability of colour-coded bins nationwide can simplify waste segregation and processing.
- ***Collaborating with global experts***: Malaysia can gain valuable insights by partnering countries with successful recycling systems, adapting best practices to local contexts.

Addressing challenges

Implementing recycling labels comes with challenges that require proactive solutions:

- ***Resistance from manufacturers***: Some manufacturers may view labelling requirements as a financial burden. A phased implementation and financial incentives, such as tax breaks, can facilitate compliance.
- ***Public apathy***: A segment of the population may lack interest in recycling. Education campaigns highlighting long-term benefits can inspire behavioural change.
- ***Inadequate enforcement***: Weak enforcement of waste management regulations can hinder compliance. Strengthening enforcement through regular audits and penalties will ensure adherence.

Benefits of early implementation

The advantages of adopting recycling labels far outweigh the challenges. Early implementation will:

- ***Boost recycling rates***: Clear labelling will simplify recycling for consumers, gradually increasing Malaysia's recycling rate.
- ***Protect the environment***: Effective waste management will reduce pollution and conserve natural resources.
- ***Create economic opportunities***: The recycling industry can generate jobs and drive innovation.
- ***Enhance Malaysia's global image***: As sustainability gains global prominence, recycling labels will position Malaysia as an eco-conscious nation.

Labelling products and food with clear recycling instructions can drastically reduce landfill waste.

This practice supports Waste-to-Energy (WTE) initiatives as fewer materials in landfills mean more recyclable items are diverted, easing landfill strain.

WTE facilities can then focus on converting non-recyclable waste into energy, improving efficiency and contributing to a sustainable waste management system.

By learning from global examples and implementing clear recycling labels, Malaysia can overcome waste management challenges and move towards a sustainable future.

Policymakers, manufacturers and citizens must collaborate to make recycling an integral part of daily life. Through collective efforts, Malaysia can achieve its recycling goals, protect the environment and secure a better future for generations to come.

Comments: *letters@thesundaily.com*

Embedding social workers in schools a necessity, not luxury

LETTERS
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EDUCATION is not only about academic achievement but also about nurturing the holistic development of children.

Schools shape the future of young people, yet many students face challenges that extend beyond the classroom, such as poverty, abuse, neglect, truancy and mental health difficulties, hindering children's ability to learn and thrive. While school counsellors provide essential guidance and support, their scope is limited to counselling and academic advice.

To address the growing complexity of student needs, professional school social workers are necessary.

Schools are often the first institutions to identify cases of abuse or neglect. For example, a child who comes to class with repeated bruises or signs of malnourishment requires immediate protection.

Teachers and counsellors may be aware of the issue but lack the training to intervene. A social worker, however, can act as a child protection officer, reporting cases in line with the Child Act 2001 (Act 611) and ensuring referral to the related agency for follow-up action.

Socioeconomic hardship is also one of the main barriers to education. Students from low-income families often struggle with transport, uniforms and food security, leading to absenteeism or dropout. Social workers can play a critical role in linking these families to assistance under welfare schemes, *zakat* institutions and NGO support, thereby reducing inequality and promoting equal access to education, in line with the goals of the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013–2025.

Mental health challenges are another pressing concern. Rising cases of depression, bullying and self-harm among students highlight the urgent need for expanded support. While counsellors can provide guidance, social workers can go further by offering case management, crisis intervention and referrals to community mental health services, such as those under the Health's Ministry's mental health programme. This aligns with the National Mental Health Policy 1997, which emphasises inter-agency cooperation.

Problems such as truancy, bullying and substance abuse are often symptoms of deeper family or social issues. For instance, a child who repeatedly skips class may be experiencing parental conflict or neglect. Social workers are trained to conduct home visits, counselling and mediation, addressing the root causes of behavioural challenges. This approach complements the Safe School Policy (2002), which encourages holistic intervention.

For Malaysia to benefit, the government must formally create school social worker positions under the Education Ministry, starting with schools in urban poor and rural areas.

The challenges faced by students today cannot be solved through academics alone. Poverty, abuse and mental health struggles demand professional intervention. Embedding social workers in schools gives every child the chance to learn, grow and be protected. These are not luxuries but necessities.

Thanaselan Punichelvana
Kuala Lumpur

Ending silence around death

DEATH is the one appointment every one of us will keep. It is the only true certainty, the immutable finale to the human story.

Yet, despite its inevitability, it remains a potent source of fear, a ghost-like presence that haunts our collective consciousness. This fear is often magnified when death arrives not as a quiet closing but as a sudden, violent shock.

Recently, the world watched in horror of how over forty people, who gathered for a political rally in India, lost their lives in a devastating stampede. They went out for a day of collective purpose and never returned.

Closer to home, a Malaysian family's ordinary journey turned into an unthinkable nightmare when a truck rammed into their vehicle at a toll plaza, claiming the life of their young child. In one brutal, fleeting moment, a future filled with promise was extinguished.

These are not isolated headlines; they are stark reminders that the thread of life is fragile, and the question of what is timely or untimely is ultimately irrelevant to the raw, gaping wound of loss.

A nonagenarian may celebrate a 90th birthday with vivaciousness while a child is lost in an accident. Death does not discriminate, and the trauma it leaves in its wake is a natural and profoundly human response.

Why then does this universal reality paralyse us so, and why do we struggle to address its aftermath? The answer lies in the abyss of the unknown, the potential pain and the heart-wrenching thought of who and what we leave behind. But beyond this philosophical terror lies a more immediate problem: the devastating aftermath for the living.

The passing of a loved one, especially when sudden and violent, is not a single event; it is a seismic shock that sends ripples of trauma through families and communities, fracturing foundations and leaving individuals to navigate a landscape of profound loss. In this turmoil, a critical question emerges: How does one cope?

Globally, the conversation around grief and traumatic bereavement has evolved. In many nations, the stigma surrounding grief support is slowly eroding. Structured support groups, grief counselling and community-led gatherings are commonplace, providing a lifeline to those drowning in sorrow.

These forums do not offer a magic cure but they equip individuals with vital coping strategies, normalising their feelings and guiding them through the stages of mourning.

However, in Malaysia – and generally in Asia – a different, more silent narrative often unfolds. Here, seeking professional help to cope with the trauma of death is not yet commonplace. The cultural presence, with stoic resilience and a deep-seated preference for private mourning, often discourages open discourse. The message, though unspoken, is clear: bear your pain quietly and with time it will lessen.

But what if it does not? The sudden loss of a child, the shocking death of a spouse or the collective trauma of a public tragedy can shatter a person's world. Such events can lead not just to sadness but also to severe trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder, leaving individuals with intrusive memories, severe anxiety and a debilitating inability to function.



"Death, in its permanence, teaches us about the fragility and value of life. Learning to face its aftermath with compassion, support and professional understanding is not a sign of cultural decay but a marker of a mature, empathetic society.

Without professional intervention, these individuals risk being trapped in a cycle of silent suffering, their trauma buried alive, only to resurface in destructive ways.

"The Malaysian mindset often views seeking psychological help as a sign of weakness or something only for the severely mentally ill," says a clinical psychologist. "But grief-induced trauma is not a weakness; it is a normal reaction to an abnormal event. When we avoid processing this trauma, it manifests in physical ailments, broken relationships and a life lived in the shadow of loss."

The path to healing is arduous and non-linear but it must begin with one fundamental milestone: acceptance – the unequivocal acceptance that the loss is real, permanent and cannot be reversed. This is not a cold, intellectual acknowledgement but a deep, often brutal, emotional surrender.

You cannot navigate a terrain you refuse to acknowledge exists. Acceptance is not about being okay with the death; it is about stopping the exhausting internal fight against reality. Only when we stop shouting that this cannot be happening can we begin to ask: What now?

Slowly, a shift is occurring. A growing number of non-profit organisations and private mental health practitioners in urban centres are creating safe spaces for the bereaved. Online communities and moderated support groups are beginning to emerge, offering a platform for shared experience that was previously unavailable.

For those supporting a grieving person, the best strategy is often presence over prescription. Avoiding clichés like he is in a better place or be strong, instead of offering a simple, "I am here with you", can be more powerful than any advice.

As a society, the conversation must move from the shadows into the light. The trauma that follows death is as natural as death itself.

Therefore, seeking help to address that trauma should be just as natural. Normalising grief, discussing end of life care openly and integrating psychological first aid into our community responses are essential steps.

Death, in its permanence, teaches us about the fragility and value of life. Learning to face its aftermath with compassion, support and professional understanding is not a sign of cultural decay but a marker of a mature, empathetic society. The goal is not to eliminate the pain of loss but to ensure no one has to bear it entirely alone.

As I pen this, on my late mother's birthday, I am still coming to terms with her passing three years ago!

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The 70-20-10 rule: Simple path to financial health

COMMENT
By Dr Lee Chee Loong

IN the years following the Covid-19 pandemic, Malaysians have become more aware of life's uncertainties. Many have taken steps to strengthen their safety nets – they start reviewing insurance policies, building emergency funds or seeking professional financial advice.

This growing interest in risk management is a positive trend. However, it also brings a hidden challenge: in the quest to protect our future, some may unknowingly overspend on insurance, stretching their budgets too thin and compromising other important financial goals.

Insurance in itself is valuable; it acts as a vital safeguard against life's uncertainties. As the saying goes, "Fortune knocks but once but misfortune has much more patience". Appropriate coverage can indeed shield a family. That said, insurance must align with an individual's financial capacity, family responsibilities and risk exposure. The needs of a young adult earning RM 3,000 monthly differ vastly from those of a mid-career professional who is supporting his/her children and ageing parents.

Admittedly, professional financial planning services come at a cost and may not be everyone's first choice. For the broader public, a simple rule of thumb can safeguard financial health to avoid overspending: by following the "70-20-10 rule". The "70-20-10 saving rule" is a simple budgeting framework that helps individuals manage their income effectively by dividing it into three categories:



Just like maintaining good physical health, safeguarding our financial health requires balance, discipline and regular check-ups. – ***SYED AZAHAR SYED OSMAN/THESUN***

- 70% of income for essentials (housing, food, utilities);
- 20% for savings and future goals (emergency fund, education, retirement);
- 10% for risk protection (insurance).

That 10% allocation for insurance is your protective boundary. If you are encouraged to commit far more than this, especially at the expense of your savings or daily needs, it is a sign to pause and reconsider. Risk protection is vital but it should never come at the cost of your financial stability.

The benefits of the "70-20-10 rule" are its simplicity and flexibility. It encourages a healthy balance between meeting present needs, preparing for the future, and enjoying life today. Over time, following this rule helps people avoid overspending, reduce financial stress and steadily build wealth.

Just like maintaining good physical health, safeguarding our financial health requires balance, discipline and regular check-ups. Financial health is not just about having insurance; it is about ensuring that all aspects of your money life are in harmony: manageable debt, adequate savings, protection against risks and the capacity to invest for the future.

Neglecting this balance can create long-term strain, even if your intentions are good.

When your financial health is strong, you gain more than just peace of mind. You are better equipped to weather economic downturns, handle unexpected expenses without panic and make life decisions, like starting a family, switching careers or retiring without being trapped by financial stress. Most importantly, you can protect your loved ones without sacrificing your own stability.

At its heart, sustainable safeguarding means protecting your future in a way that does not weaken your present. Insurance is just one tool in your financial toolkit. By maintaining balance and following a structured approach like the "70-20-10 rule", you can ensure that your financial health remains strong for the long run, no matter what uncertainties life brings.

Dr Lee Chee Loong *is a member of the Active Ageing Impact Lab and a senior lecturer at Taylor's University. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com*

Takaful Malaysia aims to secure sustainable growth

Islamic insurer growing general segment beyond motor coverage, entering family retail market with life protection and critical illness products

PETALING JAYA: Syarikat Takaful Malaysia Keluarga Bhd, the country's pioneering family takaful operator and second-largest general takaful provider, is reinforcing its leadership position through strategic initiatives aimed at delivering sustainable value for customers, shareholders and business partners.



The group recorded a resilient performance in the first half of the year, with takaful revenue rising 9% year-on-year to RM1.85 billion, up from RM1.69 billion in 2024. As at June 2025, Takaful Malaysia commanded a 28% share of the family takaful segment and 23% in the general takaful segment.

"Takaful Malaysia's consistent performance, innovation and leadership in the takaful sector underscore our ability to adapt and grow even in times of market adjustments," said group CEO Nor Azman Zainal (*pic*).

"Our focus remains on creating long-term shareholder value while delivering meaningful solutions to our customers. By preserving and expanding our market share, we aim to sustain investor confidence and uphold a healthy market valuation. Despite market headwinds, we are confident of continuing to provide syariah-compliant protection solutions and delivering long-term value to our customers, business partners and the community we serve."

As part of its growth strategy, the group is expanding its portfolio beyond credit-related products and motor takaful by introducing individual life protection offerings, in line with sustainable living trends and emerging customer needs.

Takaful Malaysia also plans to grow its general takaful business beyond motor coverage. With only four players in the segment, the group sees opportunities in non-motor products such as fire, solar, personal accident and other asset protection.

It is also moving into the family retail market with life protection and critical illness products, noting the relatively low takaful penetration rate of about 21%. The group has posted notable gains in the regular contribution segment over the past two years and is reaching customers directly through its digital platform, Kaotim, which offers competitive and affordable online protection plans.

A key milestone for the group is its exclusive 20-year bancatakaful partnership with RHB Islamic Bank. Under the agreement, Takaful Malaysia has sole rights to distribute family and general takaful solutions across RHB's nationwide branch network while tapping into its wealth management clientele.

To reinforce its financial strength and growth capacity, the group has proposed a RM1 billion Tier 2 Sukuk Wakalah Programme. Proceeds will strengthen its capital base, support digitalisation and technology infrastructure, and advance its ambition to lead in digital takaful solutions and customer experience.

"These initiatives reflect our proactive approach to future-proofing Takaful Malaysia. By investing in innovation, expanding distribution and diversifying our product mix, we are positioning the group for sustained earnings growth and long-term shareholder value creation," Nor Azman said.

"With a robust balance sheet, strong fundamentals and clear strategies, Takaful Malaysia is well-positioned to capture opportunities in FY25, FY26 and beyond, while reinforcing its role as the nation's leading family takaful provider and second-largest general takaful operator."

GXBank, AKPK join hands to champion financial resilience among Malaysians

PETALING JAYA: GX Bank Bhd (GXBank) and the Credit Counselling and Debt Management Agency (AKPK) have partnered up to deepen efforts in building a financially literate and resilient Malaysia.

"Financial resilience, literacy and inclusion are fundamental building blocks for Malaysia's economic prosperity. As a trailblazer in financial inclusion and digital banking innovation, we are deeply invested in seeing our communities thrive, which resonates with AKPK's impact on millions of Malaysians through their education and debt management programmes since 2006," said GXBank CEO Kaushik Chowdhury.

"For us at GXBank, responsible lending means providing access to appropriate financial tools like our FlexiCredit for everyday Malaysians, and upcoming business banking solutions for micro, small and medium enterprises, while also providing our customers with the necessary knowledge to nurture prudent financial health and behaviour."

For AKPK CEO Azaddin Ngah Tasir, financial literacy is the cornerstone of a prosperous Malaysia.

"Our collaboration with GXBank marks a significant step forward in making financial education and debt management support more accessible to Malaysians. By combining AKPK's long-standing expertise with the agility of digital banking, we can deliver guidance directly, in real time and on the platforms they use every day. This ensures that whether you are an individual navigating personal finances or an MSME striving for growth, you have the tools and trusted support needed to make responsible financial choices. Together, AKPK and GXBank are creating an ecosystem where financial resilience is not just a goal, but a reality for all communities."



From left: AKPK operations and business development general manager Mansor Ali, Azaddin, Kaushik and GXBank deputy CEO and COO Hildah Hamzah.

The GXBank-AKPK partnership will focus on two key areas – creating and distributing targeted content for GXBank customers and gig workers through digital channels and on-ground events and managing the collection and disbursement of loan repayments for GXBank's retail and MSME customers who may be part of AKPK's debt management programme.

According to the RinggitPlus Malaysian Financial Literacy Survey 2024, six out of 10 Malaysians have up to a four-month emergency fund, leaving them still vulnerable to financial shocks. This reality underscores the vital role of proven interventions.

To date, AKPK has counselled more than 1.5 million people and helped nearly 480,000 manage their debt through its Debt Management Programme. By integrating AKPK's impactful framework with GXBank's mission for a resilient nation, the partnership tackles the issue head-on.

RHB, Xero introduce digital data feed for small, medium firms

PETALING JAYA: Global small business platform Xero has partnered with RHB Banking Group to provide small and medium enterprises in Malaysia with seamless daily access to financial data through a fully digital, application programming interface-enabled bank feed.

The integration allows SMEs to automatically and securely import data from their RHB bank accounts into Xero each day, eliminating the need for manual uploads and reducing the risk of errors. The system is expected to save time in reconciling transactions and give business owners a clearer view of their cash flow.

Xero Asia managing director Koren Wines said the partnership marks a significant step for the company in Malaysia and reflects their deep commitment to supporting the country's small businesses.

By connecting RHB's banking services directly with Xero's platform, they are eliminating time-consuming manual data entry and giving business owners a clear, real-time view of their finances.

This is about more than efficiency, it's about empowering SMEs with the confidence and insights to grow, create jobs and strengthen Malaysia's economy," she said.

She added that the collaboration also supports the digitalisation of Malaysian SMEs and helps build an ecosystem where they can thrive.

RHB Bank Group sales banking managing director Nurjesmi Mohd Nashir said, "RHB is committed to supporting the growth of our SME customers through a connected ecosystem of simple, seamless banking experiences. This new bank feed that integrates directly with Xero enhances visibility and control, helping our customers make informed decisions and operate more efficiently."

Bank Muamalat and TASConnect offer SME financing solutions

PETALING JAYA: Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd and TASConnect, a digital supply chain finance platform, have come together to provide enhanced and more accessible financing solutions for small and medium enterprises across Malaysia.

SMEs can now access working capital more seamlessly, with faster approvals, improved financing terms, and reduced dependence on heavy collateral.

With TASConnect's platform, Bank Muamalat can deliver quicker financing approvals, enhanced transparency, and efficient disbursements, which significantly improves turnaround time for SME financing.

With the backing of the Government Guarantee Scheme Madani for SMEs (GGSM), administered by *Syarikat Jaminan Pembiayaan Perniagaan*, the bank's risk exposure is reduced, enabling financing for a wider spectrum of SMEs.

Bank Muamala president and CEO Datuk Khairul Kamarudin said, "At Bank Muamalat, we see SMEs not only as contributors to the economy, but as the real drivers of Malaysia's digital transformation and future competitiveness. Access to working capital is often the bridge between surviving and scaling and this collaboration with TASConnect provides SMEs with that bridge, delivered in a faster, simpler and syariah- compliant way."

TASConnect Malaysia country executive and regional head of sales Tse Ning Chan said, "The introduction of GGSM3 is a timely boost for SMEs seeking reliable financing in today's challenging business climate, our collaboration with Bank Muamalat will help SMEs strengthen their cash flow and seize new opportunities, while the SJPP guarantee reduces risks for financiers."

SCAN ME

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Cathay Pacific strengthens footprint across Malaysia

BY **JOHN GILBERT**
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Hong Kong flag carrier sees country as key growth market, rides on strong tourism rebound

KUALA LUMPUR: Hong Kong flag carrier Cathay Pacific is strengthening its presence in Malaysia, leveraging the country's travel and tourism sector, which is set to rebound strongly in 2025 with projected contributions of RM332.2 billion, or 11.3% of gross domestic product.

Malaysia's passenger traffic outlook is forecast to climb to 112.9 million movements this year, underpinned by pent-up international demand and Malaysia's strategic position as a regional gateway.

At the same time, inbound arrivals are surging – 24.5 million visitors in the first seven months of 2025 alone – setting a strong foundation for the country's flagship Visit Malaysia 2026 campaign.

"The optimism we see in the market is encouraging, not only out of Kuala Lumpur but also in secondary cities. We want to ensure more travellers can connect easily through Hong Kong to our network of over 100 destinations worldwide," Cathay Group area head, Singapore and Malaysia, Nicolas Masse told *SunBiz*.

He noted strong demand from Malaysians for travel to Mainland China, Taiwan, Japan and the Americas, underscoring the need for seamless, reliable connections.

Currently, the Cathay Group operates flights linking Hong Kong with Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Subang and, soon, Kota Kinabalu, strengthening its footprint across Malaysia.

"We see our role as more than providing capacity – we want to be the airline of choice, combining connectivity with service and value," Masse said.

"As Malaysia looks ahead to welcoming 35.6 million tourists by 2026, Cathay Pacific is committed to supporting that growth by bringing the world to Malaysia and taking Malaysia to the world."

On the regional market, Masse said Asia's aviation sector is entering a new growth cycle, with global passenger volumes in 2025 expected to surpass pre-Covid pandemic levels.

For Cathay Pacific, the region remains at the heart of its strategy, with Malaysia standing out as a key growth market.

"Travel demand here is resilient, spanning both leisure and business and, crucially, it extends beyond Kuala Lumpur and Penang.

"That's why we're investing in secondary gateways such as Subang and soon Kota Kinabalu, which will be served by our low-cost carrier HK Express," Masse said.

At the same time, Cathay Pacific is building a broader lifestyle ecosystem that goes beyond flights.

Through the Cathay Pacific membership programme, travellers can now earn and redeem rewards across hotels, retail outlets and shopping destinations in Malaysia, including Mitsui Outlet Park KLIA and LaLaport BBC.

"Our goal is to create value not just in the air, but in our customers' everyday lives," Masse said. "By integrating travel with lifestyle partnerships, we are ensuring that the Cathay Pacific brand is part of more meaningful moments for our members."

Masse noted that corporate travel out of Malaysia and Singapore is steadily regaining momentum as companies return to face-to-face engagements across the region.

"We are seeing encouraging signs that business travel is making a strong comeback, and the outlook remains positive as regional economies continue to reopen," Masse said.

To meet this demand, Cathay Pacific is enhancing the premium travel experience with investments in comfort, productivity and connectivity.

"Corporate travellers want seamless journeys that allow them to work effectively on the go," explained Masse.

"That's why we have invested in lounges at our Hong Kong hub and key airports, while also ensuring 100% Wi-Fi and seatback entertainment across our fleet."

Meanwhile, the airline is rolling out its new Aria Suite in business class on retrofitted Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, with an all-new lie-flat business class seat for Airbus A330s to debut in 2026.

In addition, regional business class cabins on select A330-300s and 777-300s are being refreshed with upgraded designs and features by the end of this year.

Flexibility remains another priority for business travellers, particularly SMEs and growing companies.

Cathay Pacific has revamped its Business Plus programme, allowing firms to pool Asia Miles into a dedicated corporate account and redeem them for tangible benefits such as lounge passes, priority baggage and even travel upgrades.

"The goal is to create value not just for the individual traveller, but also for the business as a whole," Masse said. "By pairing flexibility with premium experiences, we are positioning Cathay Pacific as the airline of choice for corporate travel in this region."

Since taking on the role of area manager for Malaysia and Singapore, Masse has set his sights on strengthening Cathay Pacific's foundations for sustainable growth in both markets.



Masse says Cathay Pacific sees its role as more than just providing capacity - it wants to be the airline of choice, combining connectivity with service and value.

A key priority is enhancing connectivity and choice for travellers.

"From October, we are excited to offer Penang customers greater flexibility with additional options to Hong Kong," said Masse.

The city's current seven weekly services will be complemented by two daily codeshare flights with HK Express, providing more seamless connections through Cathay Pacific's Hong Kong hub to its global network.

Cathay Pacific's cargo business continues to play a vital role in the airline's strategy, with Penang marking 25 years of Cathay Cargo freighter operations in 2025.

"We are proud to continue supporting Malaysia's high-value exports as we celebrate this milestone," Masse noted.

Looking ahead, Cathay Pacific is preparing to mark its 70th anniversary of serving Kuala Lumpur in 2027, underscoring its long-term commitment to Malaysia as a key market within the region.

US's Vertiv to set up Johor manufacturing facility to anchor SE Asia expansion

BY **HAYATUN RAZAK**
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PETALING JAYA: Vertiv Holdings Co, an American multinational provider of critical infrastructure and services for data centres, communication networks and commercial and industrial environments, is setting up a manufacturing facility in Johor to anchor its expansion in Southeast Asia.

Vertiv Asia vice-president Paul Churchill (*pic*) said Vertiv has been steadily strengthening its presence across Asia, and Malaysia is a key market in that strategy.

"We are establishing a manufacturing facility in Johor to scale our regional production capabilities and respond to growing demand for digital infrastructure across Southeast Asia. Our investment in Malaysia is part of our broader strategy to build an integrated network of operations in Southeast Asia," he told *SunBiz*.

Churchill said Malaysia offers a strong foundation for investment, bringing together supportive government policies, demand from hyperscalers and cloud providers, cost competitiveness and a deepening pool of skilled talent.

"These strengths make it an ideal location for developing the next generation of critical infrastructure," he said, adding that Malaysia's rise as a strategic force in Southeast Asia's technology landscape has not gone unnoticed on the global stage.

"The country is no longer just a consumer of digital services, but a builder of the systems, technology and platforms that power them."

"Beyond its strength in manufacturing, Malaysia has consistently drawn strong interest from global technology leaders including Microsoft, Google, and Amazon Web Services, alongside an expanding ecosystem of cloud and AI providers, hyperscalers and infrastructure partners," Churchill said.

Between January and mid-April 2025, Malaysia recorded RM16.2 billion in digital investments, with more than 60% directed towards data centre and cloud developments.

Johor is at the centre of this growth, with 30 projects completed or under way and 20 more pending approval. This reinforces its emergence as a key digital corridor in the region.

Churchhill said the government's proactive approach is helping accelerate this progress.

"Policies such as the Cyber Security Act 2024, the Data Sharing Act and the creation of the National AI Office provide a strong regulatory framework that helps build confidence among companies looking to invest in the nation.

"National efforts that include active public-private partnerships to build AI-ready talent are also key factors that help position Malaysia for long-term success in this field," he continued.

Vertiv is committed to enabling a more environmentally responsible future by delivering critical digital infrastructure that is not only highly reliable but also energy and water-efficient, Churchill emphasised.

"Malaysia is a key partner in this journey, and we look forward to supporting the country's continued leadership in shaping Southeast Asia's digital economy."

Alongside the upcoming Johor facility, Vertiv has launched the Vertiv Academy in the Philippines and opened an office in Indonesia, with the goal of expanding its services and technical capabilities, while simultaneously developing local talent which in turn builds long-term resilience within the digital ecosystem in the region.

Across the region, Churchill said, demand for AI-ready data centres is rising sharply with Southeast Asia's data centre capacity projected to grow by nearly 1.5 times, driven by AI workloads that require higher power density, efficient cooling, and smarter energy management.

"Vertiv is responding to this shift by investing in advanced infrastructure technologies, including liquid cooling, modular and microgrid-powered facilities, heat reuse strategies, and advanced energy management systems," he added.

Churchill said these these innovations are designed to support the performance and sustainability needs of high-density environments, ensuring data centres are equipped to meet the growing demands of AI across the region, while also being kinder to the environment.

Solarvest-Press Metal SPV to develop RM380m solar plant in Mukah, Sarawak

PETALING JAYA: Regional clean energy expert Solarvest Holdings Bhd announced that Mukah Solar Powerplant Sdn Bhd (MSPSB), its special purpose vehicle (SPV) with Press Metal Bhd, has entered into a power purchase agreement with Syarikat Sesco Bhd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sarawak Energy Bhd, relating to the joint development of a 100MW alternating current solar photovoltaic (PV) energy generating facility in Mukah, Sarawak.

MSPSB is jointly owned by Solarvest Asset Management (Borneo) Sdn Bhd, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Solarvest, which has a 60% equity stake, while Press Metal Bhd, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Press Metal Aluminium Holdings Bhd, holds the remaining 40%.

MSPSB will design, construct, own, operate and maintain the Mukah solar PV plant. The project's scheduled commercial operation date is Nov 30, 2027 and will require an estimated investment cost of RM380 million, to be financed primarily through bank facilities, with Solarvest's equity portion funded internally.

Solarvest executive director and group strategy officer Leon Liew Chee Ing said, "The Mukah solar PV plant marks a significant step forward in Sarawak's renewable energy journey, and Solarvest is proud to play a central role in delivering one of the state's largest clean energy projects. Once operational, the plant is expected to offset around 46,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually, supporting Malaysia's broader path toward a low-carbon economy.

"The Mukah solar PV plant is aligned with Sarawak's Energy Transition Strategy and Post Covid-19 Development Strategy 2030, both of which are designed to strengthen Sarawak's RE ecosystem and accelerate the shift towards a low-carbon future. These frameworks target 10 gigawatts of installed capacity by 2030, rising to 15 gigawatts by 2035, with renewables making up at least 60% of the energy mix.

"We see the Mukah solar PV plant as an energy generation project and a catalyst for Sarawak to emerge as a regional RE hub in line with Malaysia's net-zero aspirations.

"For Solarvest, this project further strengthens our position in the Sarawak EPCC market and gives additional momentum to our growing orderbook. We anticipate our order book to rise to a new high of approximately RM3 billion by the end of financial year, driven by more LSS5 and LSS5+ EPCC wins and additional projects in Borneo.

"More importantly, the Mukah solar PV plant reinforces our long-term commitment to Sarawak, where we aim to deepen our role as a trusted partner in driving clean energy development and supporting the state's sustainable economic growth."

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TAX MATTERS



BY S. M. THANNEERMALAI

THE frequency and intensity of tax audits by the Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia (IRB) is on the increase. There is a perception that if an audit has been started, you cannot close it without paying additional taxes. This is not a true reflection of the current environment.

The IRB knows that whatever it does, it has to do it within the law and cannot arbitrarily impose taxes. It is not uncommon to find situations where an audit is closed without any additional taxes.

The "secret" to avoiding any additional taxes is being prepared on the tax sensitive areas surrounding your business. In many instances, the taxpayers make mistakes in the basic areas such as the claims for capital allowances, claiming deductions that is not in accordance with the law, accelerating tax claims into an earlier period versus the later period, deferring income to a later period, lack of understanding in differentiating capital versus revenue expenditure, attempting to get a tax deduction on provisions of expenditure, failing to deduct withholding taxes, etc.

Where is the focus of the IRB?

All the above items would be seen as the "low hanging fruits" for the IRB. The reason for regarding the above as "low hanging fruits" is because it is very easy for the IRB to pick up the errors if they did the basic reconciliation between your tax returns, accounts, tax computations the general ledger and the underlying documents.

The majority of these errors will get picked up. An example would be if an item has been claimed as revenue expenditure, but it may contradict the underlying descriptions in your general ledger and the supporting documents such as the invoices, purchase orders, etc.

Another common example would be incorrect claims for capital allowances or tax depreciation where the taxpayers may attempt to claim the write-offs at a higher rate of 20% versus 14%. This can be quickly verified with the underlying documents. The failure to disclose the deferred income is not difficult to identify because if one looks at the balance sheet and reconciles it with the legal and underlying documents, it may become clear that such income that is kept in the balance sheet as a liability should have been recorded as income in the profit and loss account.

Another "low hanging fruit" is the completeness of the declaration of the benefits-in-kind and perquisites. Very often this is an area that received little attention from the taxpayers.

The IRB has enough simple issues to unearth before it moves on to the complex areas such as aggressive tax planning, tax avoidance scheme, transfer pricing, domestic source versus foreign source, etc. Abusing the use of tax shelters and shifting profits into the tax shelters both locally and overseas without substance would be a little bit more difficult for the IRB.

What should taxpayers do to avoid the problem?

Although taxpayers in most instances are not tax experts, they should exercise tax stewardship by asking the basic questions to their tax agents and doing the back of the envelope calculation. The starting point for a corporate entity would be to take apply the 24% standard corporate tax rate (excluding SMEs) to the net profit and compare it against the computed tax liability.

In the event the tax rate is higher or lower than the 24%, as the board of directors or the owner of the company, you should ask the person responsible for your tax affairs the reasons for the discrepancy and ensure the explanation given is plausible in commercial and legal terms.

The other behaviour that is required by the owners of the business is to ensure that the issues highlighted above have been addressed by your management throughout the year. In case your management hasn't got the necessary expertise, you must seek help from your tax consultants on more complex matters and for other straightforward issues, you may even approach the IRB for assistance.

***This** article is contributed by Thannees Tax Consulting Services Sdn Bhd managing director SM Thanneermalai (www.thannees.com).*

NexG wins RM733m deal for next-gen national ID cards

PETALING JAYA: NexG Bhd's wholly owned subsidiary, Datasonic Technologies Sdn Bhd, has received and accepted a six-year contract from National Registration Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs for the supply of Malaysia's national identity card solutions including MyKad, MyTentera and MyPOCA.

The contract, which will commence on June 1, 2026, carries a total value of about RM733 million. It follows the RM1.73 billion Malaysia international passport supply contract secured on Aug 29.

NexG, through its subsidiary, has been the provider of MyKad solutions since 1999, and the new contract reflects the government's trust in the group to safeguard and modernise the nation's identity infrastructure.

Under the new contract, the government will introduce a next-generation upgraded MyKad, representing a significant step forward in strengthening identity security and accelerating Malaysia's digital transformation.

The upgraded MyKad is not just an identity card, but a secure national digital key and the foundation of Malaysia's digital footprint. With enhanced durability and multi-layered security features, it is designed to resist forgery, protect against tampering, and ensure long-term reliability while enabling the *rakyat* to participate securely in the digital economy.



This infrastructure is expected to benefit Malaysians in meaningful ways, including access to tiered and targeted subsidies across fuel, food, transport, education and welfare; secure and transparent delivery of financial aid and welfare benefits, reducing the risk of fraud or leakage; the ability to perform digital transactions and biometric verification across banks, telcos, insurers and fintechs; easier access to government services digitally, such as renewals, permits and applications; seamless integration into healthcare, transport and smart city solutions, where one ID unlocks multiple essential services.

The next-generation upgraded MyKad will complement this initiative by providing Malaysians with a secure physical and digital foundation that aligns with the government's broader vision for a secure, inclusive and future-ready digital ecosystem.

NexG executive chairman and group CEO Datuk Abu Hanifah Noordin (*pic*) said: "The award of the MyKad contract is not just another project for NexG – it is a national milestone. It reflects the government's vision and commitment to provide Malaysians with a next-generation identity card that goes beyond identification.

"This new generation MyKad will be a secure and powerful tool for the *rakyat*, ensuring that financial aid, subsidies, and essential services are delivered fairly, transparently, and without leakage. By investing in this new generation MyKad, the government is strengthening national security while empowering every Malaysian to participate fully in the digital economy.

"Coupled with the RM1.73 billion passport contract, the back-to-back award of these two national ID projects gives NexG long-term earnings visibility and stability for at least the next six years.

"More importantly, it provides the foundation for us to bring homegrown Malaysian innovation of global standards to the world. We are ready to expand into Asean and Africa, offering secure identity and digital trust solutions that showcase Malaysia's capability to lead in mission-critical national infrastructure."

Together, the RM2.4 billion in back-to-back passport and MyKad contracts provide NexG with a recession-proof foundation of recurring revenue, ensuring resilience through economic cycles and stable earnings visibility for the years ahead.

Tekun Nasional: RM1.25b channelled to assist 67,000 Sabah entrepreneurs since 1998

KOTA KINABALU: The National Entrepreneurial Group Economic Fund (Tekun Nasional) has channelled RM1.25 billion in business financing to 66,992 entrepreneurs in Sabah since 1998, reflecting the government's ongoing commitment to empower micro-entrepreneurs in the state.

Tekun Nasional said in a statement that of the total amount, RM95 million was disbursed to 1,750 entrepreneurs in Sabah this year alone.

Minister of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Datuk Ewon Benedick expressed hope that the financing assistance would help entrepreneurs strengthen their operations and expand their business markets.

"Hopefully, the entrepreneurs receiving funding today will use the allocation appropriately to further expand their businesses. Entrepreneurs who are still seeking financial resources for working capital may visit the nearest Tekun Nasional office for more information," he said.

On Friday, 10 Tekun Nasional entrepreneurs in the state received RM29,000 in financing at the Tekun Financing Briefing held at Dewan Gopog, Tanginambur, Kota Belud.

Tekun Nasional also aims to assist 40,300 micro-entrepreneurs nationwide this year through an allocation of RM330 million announced in Budget 2025, including RM150 million set aside for 5,300 entrepreneurs in Sabah. – Bernama

BUDGET 2026 WISH LIST

Implementation of SST expected to be fine-tuned

BY JOHN GILBERT
usnbiz@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Budget 2026 is expected to focus on refining or fine-tuning the implementation of the Sales and Service Tax (SST), which came into effect on July 1, rather than introducing further significant changes to the framework.

Ernst & Young Tax Consultants Sdn Bhd partner, indirect tax, Yeoh Cheng Guan, said key areas likely to be addressed include the expansion of the business-to-business (B2B) exemption coverage.

He stated that the B2B exemption currently applies only when a taxable person acquires the same type of taxable service that they provide, which limits the scope of the exemption.

"It is hoped that the exemption will be expanded such that it applies to all categories of services acquired by a taxable person from suppliers or subcontractors, as long as the service is acquired for onward provision of services to the end-customer and not for own consumption.

"Further sector-specific policies and clarifications can also be anticipated as industry players actively engage with the authorities to share their views and seek practical guidance and concessions. Sectors for which policy refinements are expected include construction," he told *SunBiz*.

Yeoh said these refinements will help maintain the SST regime as fair, efficient and aligned with Malaysia's broader economic goals.

He explained that the SST forms the core of Malaysia's indirect tax system.

Reintroduced in 2018 to replace the Goods and Services Tax (GST), SST consists of a single-stage sales tax on manufacturers and importers and a service tax on specified local and foreign services.

> Expert says key areas likely to be addressed include expansion of business-to-business exemption coverage

Designed to be simple yet equitable, SST exempts essential goods and services while taxing discretionary items to ensure a fair, progressive burden. It is a single-stage tax, meaning – unlike GST or Value-Added Tax – it becomes a cost to the payer.

To reduce cascading effects, the government provides B2B exemptions and group relief for service tax.

Yeoh said while Budget 2025 introduced significant SST reforms, including review of the sales tax rates and scope expansion of service tax to sectors such as rental or leasing, construction, education, financial services and healthcare, Budget 2026 presents an opportunity for the government to refine and rebalance the framework to serve the business community better.

To that end, Yeoh said, several targeted measures and incentives should be considered.



Yeoh says further sector-specific policies and clarifications can be anticipated.

Budget 2026 could introduce clearer and broader B2B exemptions, particularly for industries with extended value chains such as construction and logistics, to reduce compliance friction, minimise tax cascading and improve cost efficiency.

He said it could also raise the registration thresholds for service tax – as was done for rental and leasing services (from RM500,000 to RM1 million) – in more sectors to ease the entry burden on smaller, growing businesses, allowing them to focus on recovery, reinvestment and expansion.

In addition, transitional rules and sector-specific clarifications should be provided to address ambiguities in service classification, tax treatment, and documentation, especially for mixed-service providers and complex industries, such as construction, where disputes are common.

"The government could further consider targeted SST exemptions or rebates for strategic sectors aligned with national priorities, such as digitalisation, green technology, and export-oriented services, to stimulate investment and competitiveness.

"Finally, it should institutionalise stakeholder engagement mechanisms to ensure SST policies remain adaptive, inclusive, and responsive to evolving business needs," Yeoh said.

Policymakers should consider broadening and relaxing the conditions of B2B exemptions to reduce tax-on-tax effects and enhance supply chain efficiency, while also providing clear, consistent, plain-language guidance and sector-specific policies to minimise compliance ambiguity, he added.

They should extend transitional reliefs and penalty waivers through voluntary disclosure programmes to support businesses adapting to the expanded scope, and introduce a voluntary Indirect Tax Governance Framework to encourage proactive compliance and risk management.

Yeoh said these measures would not only ease the compliance burden but also reinforce the government's commitment to a fair and business-friendly tax environment.

"SST remains central to Malaysia's fiscal strategy, reflecting a global shift toward consumption-based taxes. For businesses, compliance readiness and proactive engagement are key, while Budget 2026 offers a chance to refine B2B exemptions and sector clarity to keep SST a driver of sustainable growth – not a barrier," Yeoh said.

Chance to build stronger, more inclusive property market

AS Malaysia prepares for Budget 2026, set to be tabled in Parliament on Friday, the nation faces pressing challenges in the property sector that require urgent and decisive attention.

Rising construction costs, regulatory hurdles and labour shortages are placing significant pressure on both developers and homebuyers, threatening the resilience and affordability of the local housing market.

At Trinity Group, we commend the government's continued focus on affordable homeownership and sustainable urban development. These are critical priorities for ensuring that Malaysians from all walks of life can access quality homes in thriving communities. However, to meet these goals, Budget 2026 must go further and introduce bold, targeted reforms that address the structural challenges currently hindering the property market.

One immediate step is the reintroduction of the Home Ownership Campaign with 100% stamp duty exemptions on the memorandum of transfer and loan agreements for properties priced up to RM1 million. Coupled with 100% financing options for first-time buyers, this will empower more Malaysians to fulfil their homeownership dreams while injecting much-needed momentum into the property sector.

In addition, the minimum purchase price threshold for foreign buyers of strata properties in



Selangor should be revised from RM2 million to RM1 million, in line with Kuala Lumpur's policy.

Given that both states share similar urbancharacteristics and market dynamics, aligning these thresholds would strengthen Selangor's competitiveness, attract more foreign investment and stimulate greater economic activity within the state's property market.

Equally important is improving loan accessibility. Revising the debt service ratio calculations from "net" to "gross" income and removing the 70% loan-to value cap for third or subsequent housing loans will provide greater financial flexibility. These adjustments will help aspiring homeowners navigate financing options in a way that reflects real-world earning capacities.

Furthermore, banks should be allowed to consider informal income when assessing loan applications. Many Malay-sians earn through informal channels, yet their incomes are excluded, which reduces their housing loan eligibility.

By recognising these earnings, financial institutions can expand access to credit and enable more Malaysians to enter the property market.

Affordability can also be enhanced by reducing premiums on land conversions and development charges. This measure will lower overall costs for developers and translate into more affordable housing options, especially for lower-income groups and first-time buyers who are most vulnerable in today's market.

To combat labour shortages that drive up construction costs, we recommend expediting approvals for foreign labour intake in the construction sector. Stabilising the workforce will help contain escalating costs and ensure timely project delivery.

Furthermore, targeted tax incentives on essential building materials will help mitigate the impact of rising input costs. This is a practical step to keep housing prices within reach for ordinary Malaysians.

Budget 2026 offers an opportunity to recalibrate and strengthen Malaysia's property market with policies that promote resilience, affordability, and inclusiveness. Trinity Group stands ready to work alongside the government and industry partners to realise these reforms.

Together, we can reimagine urban living and deliver innovative, accessible homes that meet the evolving needs of Malaysian communities.

In doing so, we can help ensure that every Malaysian family has the opportunity to live in a quality home, an essential foundation for building vibrant and sustainable communities nationwide.

To support this vision, it is equally important to address structural challenges within the development ecosystem.

The government should consider measures to reduce upfront utility connection costs, while streamlining contributions and premiums to utility companies. At the same time, maintaining consistency in land premium structures will help reduce the financial burden on developers.

In parallel, more efficient and transparent approval mechanisms should be introduced to minimise red tape, enabling projects to progress more swiftly and ensuring that supply keeps pace with demand.

This article is contributed by Trinity Group founder and managing director Datuk Neoh Soo Keat (pic).

Firm calls for better energy efficiency, sustainable solutions

KUALA LUMPUR: An industry player has urged the government to strengthen energy efficiency and embed sustainable solutions, such as district cooling systems (DCS), to cut emissions, lower costs, and build resilient infrastructure for the future.

Engie Services Malaysia Sdn Bhd managing director Wong Yin Kee said demand for cooling systems is set to surge with the growth of data centres and advanced manufacturing. Centralising cooling systems is more sustainable and efficient than having each building use its own system.

"Countries at the forefront of sustainable urban development already embed DCS as a standard, and Malaysia should do the same to reduce emissions, lower energy costs, and ensure reliability," he told Bernama.

He said Engie Services Malaysia supports businesses, cities, and industries in moving towards a low-carbon future by delivering energy efficiency solutions, modernising industrial facilities, providing district cooling, and developing large-scale renewable energy projects.

Wong urged the government to strengthen the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act by setting clear, enforceable targets for large energy users. He suggested that the government introduce clear efficiency targets to drive real progress while enabling industries to reinvest savings into growth and innovation.

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SCAN ME

MBSB and Weststar partner to drive expansion

PETALING JAYA: MBSB Bhd and The Weststar Group, Malaysia's leading conglomerates with diversified interests spanning aviation, automotive, defence, construction, properties, insurance, ICT, F&B, and renewable energy, have formalised a landmark collaboration through an Exchange of Documents ceremony at Weststar Aviation Services, Hangar 75, Sultan Abdul Aziz AirPort Subang.

This MoU establishes a framework to unlock opportunities across financing solutions, investment ventures, and innovative financial structures designed to support Weststar's growth trajectory across all industries, while cementing MBSB's role as a financial partner to Malaysia's dynamic corporations.

MBSB and Weststar aim to strengthen Malaysia's business ecosystem, with a particular focus on expanding the aviation sector and deepening their long-term cooperation.

The initiative comes at a pivotal time as the regional aviation industry undergoes rapid growth, fuelled by global energy transition projects, rising demand for helicopter services, and the increasing importance of aviation businesses across Asia.

The collaboration builds on a syndicated financing facility in which MBSB participates with a financing commitment of RM1.3 billion and MBSB IB acted as the Joint Lead Arranger for the syndicated Islamic Financing Facility, marking a landmark transaction in the Islamic financing space.

The facility supports Weststar Aviation Services Sdn Bhd (WASSB), the aviation arm of The Weststar Group, through Term Financing-i to fund the acquisition of helicopters, additional financing for working capital and corporate purposes, and an FX Forward Wa'd-i facility to manage foreign exchange exposure.

MBSB chairman, Datuk Wan Kamaruzaman Wan Ahmad said: "Aerospace and aviation are no longer niche, they are growth multipliers that link Malaysia to global supply chains, energy corridors, and future industries.

By financing Weststar's expansion, MBSB is investing in Malaysia's competitiveness, positioning the country to lead in sectors that matter most for tomorrow's economy."

Meanwhile, The Weststar Group managing director Tan Sri Dr. Syed Azman Syed Ibrahim said: "Weststar's strength lies in our ability to innovate, diversify, and adapt to the changing demands of the global economy.

"While aviation remains our core, we have expanded into multiple industries while maintaining our position as a regional leader in helicopter services. This MoU with MBSB provides a strong strategic framework to unlock new opportunities, supported by innovative financial solutions that are critical to sustaining long-term growth."

BUDGET 2026 WISH LIST

Widen SST exemptions for logistics players

Doing so will ease costs for SMEs and consumers: Ninja Van Malaysia

AS Malaysia prepares for Budget 2026, Ninja Van Malaysia welcomes the government's continued efforts to advance digitalisation, support SMEs, and strengthen export capacity. Budget 2025 delivered important measures through expanded digitalisation grants, technology funding, initiatives to build resilience in the supply chain, and steps to help SMEs expand into international markets.

Yet, despite these strides, logistics costs remain a significant challenge for SMEs. Under the revised sales and service tax (SST) framework effective July 1, 2025; logistics services, including warehousing, fulfilment and last mile delivery, were brought into scope with a 6% tax. This means SMEs face compounded costs at different stages of moving goods. For smaller businesses that already operate on thin margins, these layered costs translate into higher operating expenses, reduced affordability for shippers, and ultimately higher prices for consumers.

Widening SST exemptions matters

Delivery and fulfillment make up a significant portion of SME operating costs, often accounting for more than 20% of e-commerce expenses. We encourage the government to explore widening SST exemptions across the logistics value chain, which would help ease cost pressures on SMEs and consumers. This would allow businesses to:

- Lower SME operating costs**:** For a small online seller processing 500 orders a month, removing SST-related charges could free up thousands of ringgit annually to reinvest in digital tools or business expansion.
- Support consumer affordability: Reduced logistics costs can help stabilise delivery fees and keep online shopping accessible for Malaysians at a time of rising living costs.
- Boost digital adoption: With savings from lower taxes, SMEs can more easily invest in parcel tracking systems, fulfilment software, and inventory restocking, aligning with Malaysia's digitalisation agenda.

Small and Medium Enterprises Association Malaysia (Samenta) highlighted that rising logistics costs have become one of the most pressing challenges for SMEs, particularly in e-commerce, where higher delivery charges directly erode competitiveness. The association also warned that these increases will be passed on to consumers, further driving up the cost of living. They have also cautioned that the expanded SST risks pushing up costs for SMEs least able to absorb them. Similarly, the SME Association of Malaysia has pointed out that the SST framework creates 'tax-on-tax' effects because it does not allow input tax credits, raising operating costs across logistics, manufacturing, and other export-reliant sectors.

Broader benefits across industries

The impact of lower logistics costs would extend beyond SMEs, delivering benefits across the wider economy.

In transportation and mobility, lower logistics costs would allow operators to reduce distribution expenses and optimise network efficiency, enabling goods to move faster and more affordably across the country.

For retail and e-commerce, reduced last-mile delivery expenses would help businesses maintain competitive pricing for consumers, while also supporting greater participation by small sellers in the digital economy.

Manufacturers, meanwhile, would benefit from reduced warehousing and supply chain costs, making Malaysia a more attractive location for regional production and export activities. These cost efficiencies could translate into greater investment inflows and job creation.

Unlocking competitiveness, growth

SMEs contributed 39.5% of GDP in 2024, making them critical to the economy. Yet as e-commerce adoption grows, the burden of service tax on parcel delivery risks slowing momentum and limiting their competitiveness. By considering wider SST exemptions for the logistics sector, the government has an opportunity to empower SMEs to compete more effectively, ensure consumers enjoy affordable access to goods and services, and strengthen Malaysia's position as a regional trade hub. This is a timely chance to make logistics a driver of growth rather than a barrier.

In the longer term, we encourage the government to review the overall tax framework, including exploring a possible transition back to Goods and Services Tax (GST).

This could help resolve the "tax-on-tax" burden currently faced by logistics players under SST, while making Malaysia's supply chains more competitive globally.

However, in the immediate term, widening SST exemptions across the logistics value chain would deliver faster relief for SMEs and consumers.

Ninja Van Malaysia stands ready to collaborate with government, industry associations, and the SME community to find practical solutions that ensure logistics remains an enabler of affordability, efficiency, and growth in Malaysia's digital future.

***This** article is contributed by Ninja Van Malaysia CEO Lin Zheng.*

WARRANTS WATCH

Puts in demand as HSI hits fresh high for 2025

THE Malaysian warrants market traded over RM694.7 million last week, a 15.9% week-on-week (w-o-w) decline from the previous week. Warrants over the Hang Seng Index (HSI) were leading with RM537.7million traded, making up more than 77% of the total warrants turnover.

The Hong Kong bourse jumped more than 520 points on the first 2 trading days of the week before the market was shut for National Day. Despite volatility due to the US government shutdown, the HSI edged above the 27,300 level for the first time in 2025 when the market resumed trading on Thursday, closing 1.6% higher at 26,287.12.

Profit taking activities resulted in the HSI sliding 80 points on Friday. Being one of the top performing indices this year, the HSI is up by 3.9% w-o-w and +35.3% year-to-date.

Last week, HSI put warrants secured 4 spots out of the top 5 actively traded structured warrants. The higher than usual demand for put warrants can be attributed to investors' anticipation of a pullback in the HSI after hitting a recent high.

Nevertheless, call warrant HSI-CWI3 was the top traded structured warrant, with a turnover of RM97.9 million as investors locked in up to over 30% gains in one week. Among the top put warrants, HSI-PWLQ has the longest time to maturity, with an expiry date of Dec 30, 2025.

Warrants over Gamuda, Zetrix AI, YTL Power and SNS Network Technology dominated the local front.

More than RM8.7million in Gamuda call warrants exchanged hands as the construction giant's share price retraced 2% w-o-w.

Meanwhile, bullish investors were heavily trading warrants over SNS as the underlying share price edged 12.6% higher. Amongst them, SNS-CM was one of the top performers.

Top warrants by value traded:

Warrant name	Value (RM'mil)	Issuer	Exercise level	Expiry date
HSI-CWI3	97.9	Kenanga	32,000.00	27 Nov 2025
HSI-PWJY	70.0	Kenanga	24,000.00	27 Nov 2025
HSI-PWLQ	63.1	Macquarie	22,000.00	30 Dec 2025
HSI-PWLB	50.0	Macquarie	24,000.00	27 Nov 2025
HSI-PWJ8	46.1	Kenanga	23,000.00	27 Nov 2025

To view the full list of structured warrants available on Bursa Malaysia, kindly 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.

CPO futures expected to trade with bullish bias this week

KUALA LUMPUR: The crude palm oil (CPO) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives is expected to trade with a bullish bias this week, supported by expectations of weaker output.

Palm oil trader David Ng said the lower stock levels in the country also influenced market sentiment.

"We expect CPO prices to trade between RM4,400 and RM4,600 per tonne this week," he told Bernama.

Meanwhile, Interband Group of Companies senior palm oil trader Jim Teh said market players would be waiting for the Malaysian Palm Oil Board's (MPOB) release of the monthly industry statistics on Oct 10, which will include the stock level of CPO for September.

"As for demand, it will come from India due to the festive season, as well as from China, Pakistan, Middle Eastern countries and the European Union."

On a weekly basis, the October 2025 contract rose RM35 to RM4,400 a tonne, November 2025 increased RM51 to RM4,418 a tonne, and December 2025 added RM46 to RM4,442 a tonne.

January 2026 gained RM37 to RM4,457 a tonne, February 2026 jumped RM28 to RM4,448 a tonne, while March 2026 edged up RM8 to RM4,416 a tonne.

Weekly trading volume fell to 373,167 lots from 423,097 lots last week. – Bernama

Vietnam economy grows 8.22% in Q3 despite Trump tariffs

HANOI: Vietnam's government said yesterday its economy grew at an annual rate of 8.22% in the third quarter, when a 20% tariff on US imports of its products took effect, accelerating from growth of 7.96% in the second quarter.

"It is the highest quarterly growth since 2011, excluding the surge in 2022 due to recovery post Covid-19 pandemic," Finance Minister Nguyen Van Thang said in a government statement.

Vietnam's total trade turnover, which includes imports and exports, surpassed US$680 billion (RM2.9 trillion) in the first nine months of this year, up 17% from a year earlier.

The country posted a trade surplus of US$16.8 billion during the same period, the government said.

Yesterday's economic release did not include comprehensive trade data, a key variable as a 20% US import tariff on most Vietnamese goods imposed by Donald Trump's administration took effect on Aug 7, midway through the quarter.

The National Statistics Office is expected to release a full set of economic data, including detailed trade figures, today.

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh said last month Vietnam expected exports to grow more than 12% this year.

But a UN Development Programme report said US duties risked slashing by up to one-fifth of Vietnam's exports to the United States, making it the hardest-hit country in Southeast Asia.

Vietnam would continue trade negotiations with the United States, the government and its Trade Ministry have said.

The third quarter was also marked by severe weather disruptions, with eight storms hitting the country, including *Typhoon Bualoi*, which caused an estimated 16.5 trillion dong (RM2.6 billion) in damage.

Over the first nine months of the year, GDP grew 7.84% compared to the same period in 2024, according to the government.

Vietnam is targeting gross domestic product growth of 8.3% to 8.5% this year.

That is faster than last year's 7.09% growth, and higher than the World Bank's forecast of 6.6% and the International Monetary Fund's estimate of 6.5% growth.

The country's 2025 growth faces headwinds from external economic pressures and slow-moving reforms, the government statement said.

It also warned of escalating natural disasters that are expected to worsen in the final months of the year.

Consumer prices rose 3.27% year-on-year in the January-September period, with September inflation at 3.38%, it said. – Reuters

Takaichi win may delay, not derail, BOJ rate hikes

New Japan leader is proponent of big spending, loose monetary policy



Takaichi bows in front of Ishiba after winning the LDP leadership election in Tokyo. – ***REUTERSPIC***

TOKYO: With Sanae Takaichi set to become Japan's prime minister, advancing expansionist economic policies, chances have risen that the central bank will avoid raising interest rates this month, though the pause may not last if it batters the yen.

Takaichi, likely to become Japan's first female leader next week after winning the presidency of the ruling party on Saturday, stood out in the race as the only proponent of big spending and loose monetary policy.

Parliament is expected to vote the conservative nationalist in as premier on Oct 15 since her Liberal Democratic Party is the largest in Parliament, though this is not assured as the LDP's coalition lost its majorities in both houses under her predecessor, Shigeru Ishiba.

Upon winning the race, Takaichi made clear the government will take the lead in setting fiscal and monetary policy – and that her priority would be to reflate demand and the broader economy.

Describing recent price rises as driven by higher raw-material costs, Takaichi warned it was premature to declare victory over deflation as companies start to feel the pain from President Donald Trump's tariffs.

"What would be best would be to achieve demand-driven inflation, where wages would rise and drive up demand, which in turn causes moderate price rises that boost corporate profits," she told a press conference after her victory.

Her ascension makes it more likely the Bank of Japan (BOJ) will refrain from raising rates on Oct 30, analysts say.

"Takaichi is not seen as supportive of interest rate hikes, which could make it more difficult for the BOJ to proceed with tightening," said Kazutaka Maeda, an economist at Meiji Yasuda Research Institute.

"While rate hikes may not be ruled out entirely, the central bank could adopt a more cautious and gradual approach," he said, adding the next increase may be delayed until early next year.

Some analysts, however, doubt whether Takaichi will push back too hard against the BOJ's plan for slow, moderate tightening as inflation – rather than Japan's long-time curse of deflation – is now the bigger economic problem, costing Ishiba's LDP a huge election loss in July.

The BOJ ended decades of massive stimulus last year, raising its policy rate to 0.5% in January on the view Japan was on the cusp of durably achieving its 2% inflation target.

Before Takaichi's victory, markets were pricing in more than a 60% probability of a rate hike this month, with inflation above target for more than three years, a hawkish board split at the September policy meeting and calls for a near-term rate hike by a dovish policymaker.

But Governor Kazuo Ueda kept markets guessing last week, warning of global uncertainties that could discourage firms from raising wages.

"Ueda appeared to be in no rush hiking interest rates anyway. Takaichi's win will make it even more likely the BOJ will take a wait-and-see mode and hold off raising rates in October," said Mari Iwashita, executive rates strategist at Nomura Securities.

At the same time, former central bank official Nobuyasu Atago said: "The BOJ faces a new challenge of creating a channel of trust and communication with Takaichi's administration, which might take some time."

Takaichi has been a vocal advocate of "Abenomics", a hefty mix of government spending and monetary stimulus deployed by her mentor, then-premier Shinzo Abe, to pull Japan out of deflation and ease the pain of a surging yen on the export-reliant economy.

Although she has toned down comments such as calling last year's rate hike "stupid", Takaichi has retained ties with reflationist-minded lawmakers and economists who advise her on policy.

Her stance contrasts with that of Ishiba and his predecessor Fumio Kishida, who nodded to the BOJ's efforts to roll back stimulus as accelerating food inflation – partly caused by higher import costs from a weak yen – hit households.

With markets fully pricing in another rate increase by early next year, delaying a hike for too long could unleash sharp yen falls that would boost import prices, exacerbating inflation.

Some investors expect Takaichi's win to push the dollar, now around ¥147, above ¥150 a level of yen weakness that drew verbal warnings from Japanese authorities in the past.

"Given her reflationist streak, there's a chance Takaichi could meddle in monetary policy," said former BOJ board member Takahide Kiuchi, who expects no rate hike this month.

"But I don't think her administration would force the BOJ to overhaul its rate-hike plans altogether, unless the US economy weakens significantly."

Diplomatic considerations could also affect Takaichi's stance on monetary policy, some analysts say.

Donald Trump's administration, which favours a weaker dollar to boost US exports, has signalled displeasure over the yen's softness, with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent saying in August the BOJ was "behind the curve" in tackling inflation.

"In the past the yen was strong, so low interest rates were acceptable. Now that higher inflation is causing difficulties, it's probably harder for Takaichi to criticise monetary policy as much as before," said Tomohisa Ishikawa, chief economist at Japan Research Institute.

"Things have changed from when Takaichi used to work together with Abe." – Reuters

American senator wants to boost pressure on China over Taiwan

WASHINGTON: The chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee said last week he will introduce legislation to deter aggression against Taiwan by identifying targets for economic measures that could be deployed rapidly if China acts against the island.

Republican Senator Jim Risch of Idaho said his "Deter PRC Aggression Against Taiwan Act" would create a State and Treasury Department-led task force that would identify Chinese military and non-military targets for sanctions, export controls and other economic measures to use against Beijing in case of Chinese aggression against Taiwan.

"Using lessons learned from the challenges in US and partner country sanctions against Russia following its invasion of Ukraine, this legislation will ensure America is prepared to hit China where it hurts should China follow through on its threats to use violent force against Taiwan," Risch said in a statement.

An aide said he planned to introduce the measure today.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry, in a statement in response to Reuters questions, said the United States should strictly abide by the one-China principle – under which China claims the democratically governed Taiwan as its own – and stop undermining bilateral relations and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

"The Taiwan issue is China's internal affair," the ministry said.

"How to resolve it is solely China's own business and does not tolerate any external interference."

The US is Taipei's main foreign backer and some foreign policy experts and people in Taiwan are concerned that Donald Trump may not be as committed to defence of the Chinese-claimed island as past US presidents and might be willing to offer Beijing concessions to secure a significant trade deal.

The US State Department says the American position on Taiwan has not changed and that Washington opposes any unilateral changes to the status quo from either side.

Analysts say China would particularly like the Trump administration to state explicitly that it opposes Taiwan's independence rather than say, as did Joe Biden's administration, that it did not support it.– Reuters

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People stand outside of the Washington Monument, which is closed for tours, on the fourth day of a partial government shutdown in Washington. – ***REUTERSPIC***

Trump's budget 'grim reaper' eyeing massive cuts

Russell Vought using govt shutdown to deliver shock therapy to bureaucracy

WASHINGTON: He is perhaps the most powerful man in Washington at the moment, after Donald Trump.

Russell Vought, the right-wing ideologue who heads the Office of Management and Budget, is using the US government shutdown to deliver his brand of shock therapy to American bureaucracy.

Shutdowns usually result in hundreds of thousands of federal workers being placed on temporary unpaid leave.

But this time, the White House has said mass firings are "imminent".

Trump has tapped Vought to tell him "which of the many Democrat Agencies ... he recommends to be cut".

He even posted on his Truth Social platform an AI-generated video depicting the budget chief as the grim reaper walking through Washington, scythe in hand.

Vought is following a far right governance blueprint, Project 2025, which he helped author.

During his reelection campaign, Trump distanced himself from the ultra-conservative policy plan, which envisions vastly expanded executive control over sharply reduced federal government.

Now Trump is referring to the 49-year-old Vought as "he of PROJECT 2025 Fame".

Lawmaker Rosa DeLauro, the ranking Democrat on the committee that allocates government money to federal agencies, accuses Vought of having "engineered" the shutdown.

"He has been scheming, hoping and planning for this since he was last in office, building his plan to dismantle essential government functions with no regard for the working class, the middle class, and vulnerable Americans who depend on them," she said on Wednesday, day one of the shutdown.

Shutdowns are brought about by lawmakers' failure to pass an annual budget bill that funds the government.

Born in the northeastern state of Connecticut, Vought graduated from a small evangelical Christian college before earning a law degree and becoming a staffer for Republican lawmakers, then a lobbyist for the conservative Heritage Foundation.

He joined the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and became its director during Trump's first term.

Vought spent president Joe Biden's term in office planning for a fresh conservative takeover over of government from his own think tank, the Centre for Renewing America.

The goal: instituting efficiency in what he saw as a bloated government.

Trump "has to move executively as fast and as aggressively as possible, with a radical constitutional perspective, to be able to dismantle that bureaucracy", he told conservative political commentator Tucker Carlson after Trump's reelection in November 2024.

In September, he called the US government "the woke and weaponised administrative state" of civil servants who resist the directives of an elected president.

Vought was swiftly confirmed by the Senate for a second stint as OMB director in February 2025.

But it was tech tycoon Elon Musk who wielded the cost-cutting chainsaw in the early months of the Trump administration.

That reportedly irritated Vought, who disagreed with parts of Musk's approach, sources told *The New York Times*.

But the OMB director was on board for the abrupt dismantling of government agencies.

"Yes, I called for trauma within bureaucracies. Bureaucracies hate the American people," he said in November.

"It's quite simple: all executive power must be vested in the executive branch."

Burying foreign aid, ending federal funding for public broadcasting and rolling back dozens and dozens of regulations: "It's exciting to be involved in this," Vought recently said. – AFP

Stellantis planning US$10b in US investments: Bloomberg

NEW YORK: French-Italian-American automaker Stellantis is planning to invest about US$10 billion (RM4.2 billion) in the United States, Bloomberg News reported on Saturday, citing people familiar with the situation.

Stellantis may announce in the coming weeks about US$5 billion in fresh investment on top of a similar amount earmarked earlier in the year, the report said.

The report added that the investments over several years could be funneled into plants – including reopenings, hiring, and new vehicle models – in states such as Illinois and Michigan.

In July, Stellantis had warned of a €1.5 billion (RM7.4 billion) hit from US tariffs this year, but pledged new vehicle launches to reconnect with customers as new CEO Antonio Filosa tries to get the automaker back on track after a dismal 2024.

Filosa became CEO in June.

Stellantis is reintroducing models, including the Jeep Cherokee and 8-cylinder RAM trucks, after dropping them proved to be one of the causes of the group's declining sales since 2024, Filosa said in September.

The carmaker is focused on reclaiming the past success of the Jeep brand and is considering fresh investments in Dodge, which could result in a new Dodge V8 muscle car, and possibly even the Chrysler brand in the long term, the Bloomberg report added.

"As part of the preparations for the Company's strategy update and Capital Markets Day next year, the CEO is leading a thorough evaluation of all future investments. This process is ongoing," a Stellantis spokesperson said in a statement to Reuters.

The spokesperson did not elaborate.

Senator Bernie Moreno, an Ohio Republican, and auto officials told Reuters on Friday that President Donald Trump is considering significant tariff relief for US auto production that could effectively eliminate much of the costs faced by major car companies. – Reuters

Iran approves plan to slash four zeros from currency

TEHRAN: Iran's Parliament yesterday approved a plan to remove four zeros from the national currency, the rial, which has sharply depreciated as the country grapples with renewed sanctions.

Lawmakers passed the bill two months after a parliamentary commission revived the long-stalled proposal aimed at simplifying transactions, the legislature's website said.

Under the plan, 10,000 current rials will be replaced by one new rial.

Both versions will circulate for up to three years, with the central bank given two years to launch the transition.

The rial has hit repeated record lows in recent days, according to black market trackers, amid the reimposition of United Nations sanctions on Iran.

Britain, France and Germany – signatories to Iran's moribund 2015 nuclear deal – last month triggered the "snapback" mechanism to restore the international sanctions over the republic's non-compliance.

Yesterday, the rial was trading at about 1,115,000 to the US dollar, compared with around 920,000 when the plan was revived in early August.

The redenomination was first floated in 2019 but later shelved.

It still requires approval by the Guardian Council and the signature of President Masoud Pezeshkian to take effect.

In daily life, Iranians drop a zero from the rial and use the resulting figure, called the toman, for most transactions. – AFP

Bitcoin rallies to record high

TOKYO: Bitcoin reached a new record high yesterday, rising above the US$125,000 mark.

The cryptocurrency reached US$125,689, shooting above its previous August record of around US$124,500.

Bitcoin has enjoyed a strong upward momentum with investors cautious about the US government shutdown.

Gains in US shares have also supported bitcoin's rise, while investors have looked to safe haven assets while US lawmakers negotiate over funding the federal government, Bloomberg News said.

US President Donald Trump and his family have also been big promoters of cryptocurrencies and are involved in various crypto endeavours that have inflated his wealth.

Trump's embrace of digital assets has reversed years of US government scepticism towards the crypto industry under his Democratic predecessor Joe Biden, with the US House of Representatives passing three landmark cryptocurrency bills in July.

These regulatory changes have seen the value of bitcoin soar.

"With many assets including equities, gold and even collectibles like Pokemon cards hitting all time highs, it's no surprise Bitcoin is benefiting from the dollar debasement narrative," Joshua Lim, co-head of markets at crypto prime brokerage firm FalconX, was quoted by Bloomberg News as saying. – AFP

MARKET ROUND-UP: OCT 3

3-Oct-2025
Bursa Malaysia
Trade Statistics

	Net (in RM million):	Participation
Retail	30.57	21.78%
Institutions	49.94	44.46%
Foreign	-80.50	33.76%

Source: Bursa Malaysia, Berjaya Research
Preliminary statistics (excluding trade amendments). For final data, please refer to www.bursamalaysia.com.

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- Quick updates on market news, statistics & information
- Monthly Traders' Talk for directions & positioning
- Company coverage & trading insights
- One-to-One trading coaching (available upon request)

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	12,181.60	-9.03
FBMKLCI	1,635.06	-2.74
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	521.75	+2.71
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	174.35	+0.16
CONSTRUCTION	331.73	-1.33
FINANCIAL SERVICES	18,602.40	+23.58
ENERGY	787.66	+4.50
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	498.58	-0.47
HEALTH CARE	1,606.13	-13.09
TRANSPORTATION	1,017.24	-5.96
PROPERTY	1,079.99	+0.01
PLANTATION	7,796.64	-6.91
FBMSHA	12,193.70	-28.30
FBMACE	5,347.12	+26.31
TECHNOLOGY	62.92	+0.29

TURNOVER: 4.037 bil **VALUE: RM2.502 bil**

All eyes on Budget 2026 and US govt shutdown situation

BURSA Malaysia is expected to remain volatile this week, if the United States federal government shutdown persists, said an analyst.

IPPFA Sdn Bhd's director of investment strategy and country economist, Mohd Sedek Jantan, said each week of closure is estimated to shave 0.1 percentage points off fourth quarter gross domestic product growth (annualised).

At the same time, domestic attention will pivot to Budget 2026, to be tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on Friday.

Mohd Sedek said as the first budget under the 13th Malaysia Plan, it is expected to set out the government's fiscal direction, with emphasis on subsidy rationalisation, social protection and infrastructure spending.

Beneficiaries are likely to include the consumer, tourism, and construction sectors, consistent with the government's medium-term growth agenda.

"Taken together, while global risks may inject volatility, Bursa Malaysia is expected to consolidate with a downward bias in the run-up to the budget.

"Profit-taking is likely to persist, particularly as technology counters have already priced in optimism over prospective US Federal Reserve interest rate cuts," Mohd Sedek told Bernama.

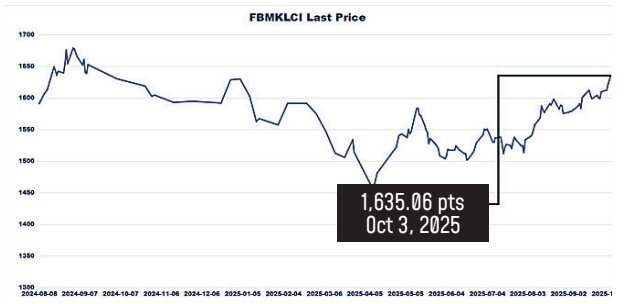
Meanwhile, Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd vice-president of equity research Thong Pak Leng said the overall outlook would remain positive as long as the benchmark holds above 1,620 points, paving the way for a move towards 1,650.

He said any consolidation should be seen as a healthy pause, with 1,600 serving as the critical line of defense.

"We anticipate the FBM KLCI to trend within the range of 1,620-1,650 (this week)," said Thong.

Top 20 Actives

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/-(RM)	+/-(%)	VOLUME ('00)
BORNOIL	0.005	-	-	5,221,823
HSI-CWI3	0.175	-0.020	-10.26	2,027,615
HSI-PWJY	0.175	+0.010	+6.06	1,879,537
HSI-CWKS	0.135	-0.010	-6.90	1,164,661
VS	0.570	-0.030	-5.00	845,479
SCIB	0.210	+0.045	+27.27	827,738
ZETRIX	0.850	-0.005	-0.59	782,417
PHARMA	0.280	-	-	617,280
NEXGBINA	0.095	-	-	598,318
EAH	0.005	-	-	574,828
HENGYUAN-R1	0.175	-	-	541,261
TANCO	0.890	-0.010	-1.11	540,883
HSI-CWKC	0.220	-0.020	-8.33	523,156
HSI-PWLB	0.120	+0.010	+9.09	507,566
XOXTECH	0.115	+0.030	+35.29	490,710
RENEUCO	0.030	+0.010	+50.00	453,015
VELESTO	0.250	-	-	335,365
L&G	0.155	+0.010	+6.90	330,558
SPSETIA	1.010	-0.030	-2.89	300,472
HSI-CWI2	0.260	-0.025	-8.77	286,323



Top 20 Gainers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
F&N	27.800	+0.560	206
LPI	14.580	+0.360	849
HLIND	14.200	+0.320	2,357
UTDPLT	23.300	+0.320	1,726
SAM	4.550	+0.270	32,004
KESM	3.860	+0.250	3,487
CARLSBG	16.800	+0.220	759
ALIBABA-C48	0.990	+0.215	1
PETDAG	23.380	+0.180	3,080
HTPADU	2.340	+0.170	34,429
ORIENT	7.050	+0.170	4,149
KUB	1.090	+0.140	63,156
CATL-C1	0.670	+0.120	3,194
KLCC	8.710	+0.120	501
LSH	2.050	+0.120	56,095
BURSA	8.210	+0.110	16,615
KJTS	1.720	+0.110	27,452
MITRA	0.550	+0.105	183,929
NIKKEI-CR	0.535	+0.105	1,068
HUMEIND	3.420	+0.100	7,422

Top 20 Gainers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
PBBANK-C1R	0.040	+100.00	39
INARI-C3M	0.125	+92.31	1,920
INARI-C3T	0.105	+90.91	96
LYC	0.025	+66.67	1,565
OCK-WB	0.065	+62.50	186,901
D&O-C22	0.235	+56.67	202
AHB-WC	0.015	+50.00	92
DIGISTA-WD	0.015	+50.00	3,150
FAST-WB	0.015	+50.00	65
PARKWD-WA	0.045	+50.00	212
RENEUCO	0.030	+50.00	453,015
XDL	0.015	+50.00	1,933
ABMB-C20	0.130	+44.44	19
SEDANIA	0.155	+40.91	244,731
KUAISHO-C19	0.260	+40.54	1,200
GENETEC-CN	0.035	+40.00	12,920
IHH-C57	0.300	+39.54	605
ERDASAN	0.125	+38.89	196,719
HEXRTL-WA	0.090	+38.46	1,420
AMD-C1	0.055	+37.50	3,600

World Stocks/Commodities

INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE (%)
DJIA (US)	46,758.28	238.56	0.51
S&P 500 (US)	6,715.79	0.44	0.01
NASDAQ (US)	22,780.51	-63.54	-0.28
NYSE (US)	21,725.40	117.43	0.54
EURO STOXX 50 (EUR)	5,651.71	5.9	0.1
FTSE 100 (UK)	9,491.25	63.52	0.67
DAX (GER)	24,378.80	-43.76	-0.18
NIKKEI 225 (JPN)	45,769.50	832.77	1.85
TOPIX (JPN)	3,129.17	41.77	1.35
HANG SENG INDEX (HK)	27,140.92	-146.2	-0.54
CSI 300 (CHN)	4,640.69	20.64	0.45
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	224.24	1.62	0.73
SH SE COM (CHN)	3,882.78	20.25	0.52
KOSPI INDEX (SK)	3,549.21	93.38	2.7
SENSEX INDEX (IND)	81,207.17	223.86	0.28
ASX 200 (AUS)	8,987.37	41.43	0.46
ALL ORDINARIES INDX (AUS)	9,288.08	47.74	0.52
FBM KLCI	1,635.06	-2.74	-0.17
STRAITS TIMES INDEX (S'PORE)	4,411.95	16.74	0.38
WTI (US$/BBL.)	60.88	0.4	0.66
BRENT (US$/BBL.)	64.53	0.42	0.66
GOLD (COMEX) (US$/T OZ)	3,908.90	40.8	1.05
SILVER (COMEX) (US$/T OZ)	47.97	1.6	3.44
PLATINUM (US$/T OZ)	1,605.18	28.57	1.81
COPPER (COMEX) (US CENTS/LB.)	510.9	15.95	3.22
COPPER 3MO (LME) (US$/MT)	10,715.50	225	2.14
CORN (US CENTS/BU.)	419	-2.75	-0.65
WHEAT (US CENTS/BU.)	515.25	0.5	0.1
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) (US CENTS/LB.)	50.05	-0.39	-0.77
COCOA (ICE) (US$/MT)	6,190.00	-291	-4.49
RUBBER (S'PORE) (US CENTS/KG)	170.1	0.4	0.24

Closing, Oct 3.

Top 20 Losers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
MPI	31.220	-0.520	1,437
ALLIANZ-PA	18.000	-0.340	564
KLK	20.200	-0.340	3,027
ALLIANZ	18.500	-0.240	370
KLUANG	5.550	-0.220	30
TENAGA	13.280	-0.180	73,387
DKLS	1.750	-0.130	30
IHH	8.130	-0.130	79,461
IGBB	3.210	-0.110	50
MALAKOF	1.000	-0.110	278,307
SUNCON	5.920	-0.110	15,032
NESTLE	97.020	-0.100	306
PIE	3.260	-0.100	11,957
HSI-CWKO	0.825	-0.090	147
MASTER	2.550	-0.090	147
ARKA	0.620	-0.080	121
EUROSP	2.900	-0.080	781
HSI-CWKX	0.890	-0.080	261
HSI-PWLI	0.125	-0.075	8,684
MALAKOFC62	0.250	-0.070	494

Top 20 Losers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
BIOHLDG-WB	0.005	-50.00	1,610
GENTINGC3M	0.010	-50.00	3,871
JFTECH-WA	0.005	-50.00	10,231
ZENTECH	0.005	-50.00	2,246
EVD-PA	0.020	-42.86	171
BYD-C36	0.015	-40.00	11,021
MALAKOFC67	0.085	-39.29	8,148
HSI-PWLI	0.125	-37.50	8,684
BURSA-C1H	0.095	-36.67	1,238
MBL-WB	0.045	-35.71	112
ECOWLD-C47	0.100	-33.33	1,158
HARTA-C2X	0.010	-33.33	1,000
JADI-WB	0.010	-33.33	34,334
MTRONIC	0.010	-33.33	1,734
RL-WA	0.010	-33.33	620
ZETRIX-C8Z	0.030	-33.33	500
HARTA-C3A	0.055	-31.25	164
HSI-PWLA	0.055	-31.25	418
MSM-C10	0.045	-30.77	100
MALAKOFC68	0.070	-30.00	18,197

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**

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Soft rubber market expected on slowing demand

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian rubber market is expected to trade sideways this week due to slowing demand for commodities including rubber, said industry expert Denis Low.

He said demand and prices are likely to soften in the week.

"We see the market as soft and expect demand to come down quite significantly. Prices may move lower but not substantially, as weather conditions will act as a counterweight," he told Bernama.

Citing the Thai Meteorological Department, he said the agency has forecast scattered rain, strong winds and rough seas due to shifting monsoon patterns and a nearby tropical storm, while Malaysia's Meteorological Department has issued thunderstorm warnings for several states.

He added that crude oil prices and the volatile US dollar may also affect demand and pricing.

"Such acute volatility represents uncertainties and may warrant both caution and fear. Thus, we may see a more measured approach to trading this commodity," he said.

Meanwhile, the Malaysian Rubber Glove Manufacturers Association said the rubber market may also be impacted by slowing US economic growth following the government shutdown.

"The International Monetary Fund also sees mixed views on inflation amid tariff impacts. The rubber market may ease over supply concerns due to adverse weather conditions in top-producing nations," it said.

On a week-to-week basis, the Malaysian Rubber Board's reference price for Standard Malaysian Rubber 20 (SMR 20) fell by 12 sen to 731.50 sen per kilogramme, while latex-in-bulk also slipped 12 sen to 570.50 sen per kg.

Ringgit to trade in narrow range ahead of Budget 2026

THE ringgit is expected to trade within the range of RM4.20 to RM4.22 against the US dollar this week as traders tread cautiously amid the US government shutdown and ahead of Malaysia's Budget 2026.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said the tabling of Budget 2026 on Friday will be closely watched, especially on the total allocation, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) forecast and the fiscal deficit target.

"In the past three years, the government has (embarked on) a fiscal consolidation exercise involving new taxes such as the low-value goods tax and capital gains tax, among others, as well as subsidy rationalisation.

"It should be positive for the ringgit as the government has been consistent in its financial discipline, which can be deemed as credit-positive," he told Bernama.

On a weekly basis, the ringgit strengthened against the greenback, closing at 4.2055/2125 versus 4.2200/2250 previously.

However, the local note weakened against a basket of major currencies. It depreciated against the Japanese yen to 2.8537/8586 from 2.8171/8206, dropped versus the euro to 4.9360/9442 from 4.9281/9340, and slid against the British pound to 5.6577/6671 from 5.6345/6412.

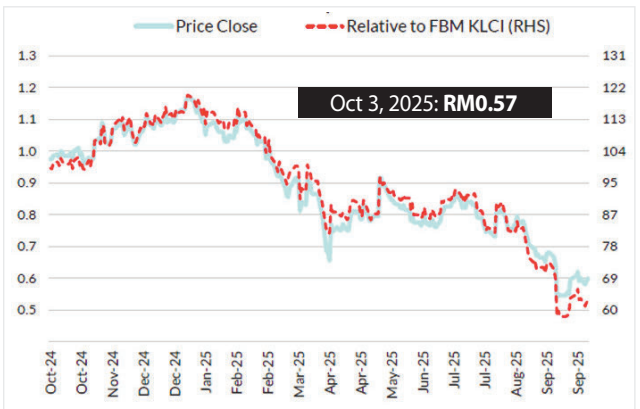
The ringgit traded mixed against its Asean peers, rising against the Singapore dollar to 3.2621/2678 from 3.2630/2671, and improving against the Thai baht to 12.9807/13.0084 from 13.0587/1069. However, it eased against the Philippine peso to 7.26/7.28 from 7.25/7.27 and declined versus the Indonesian rupiah to 253.9/254.4 from 252.1/252.5 previously.

Exchange Rates

FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.2830	4.1370	4.1270
1 Australian Dollar	2.8370	2.7230	2.7070
1 Brunei Dollar	3.3170	3.2140	3.2060
1 Canadian Dollar	3.0600	2.9750	2.9630
1 Euro	5.0170	4.8550	4.8350
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.4970	2.4050	2.3890
1 Singapore Dollar	3.3170	3.2140	3.2060
1 Sterling Pound	5.7540	5.5700	5.5500
1 Swiss Franc	5.3960	5.1660	5.1510
100 UAE Dirham	117.7400	111.6200	111.4200
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.5850	3.3380	3.1380
100 Chinese Renminbi	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Danish Krone	68.8800	63.3800	63.1800
100 Hongkong Dollar	55.5000	52.7300	52.5300
100 Indian Rupee	4.9000	4.6000	4.4000
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0267	0.0241	0.0191
100 Japanese Yen	2.9110	2.8060	2.7960
100 New Taiwan Dollar	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	43.9600	40.4300	40.2300
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.5300	1.4300	1.2300
100 Philippine Peso	7.4700	7.0300	6.8300
100 Qatar Riyal	118.5500	112.5400	112.3400
100 Saudi Riyal	115.2200	109.3800	109.1800
100 South Africa Rand	25.6100	23.1300	22.9300
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.4500	1.3300	1.1300
100 Swedish Krona	46.8700	42.6900	42.4900
100 Thai Baht	13.7500	12.1900	11.7900

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

VS Industry Bhd
Buy. Target price: RM0.71



Source: Bloomberg, RHB Research

VS Industry's management reaffirmed its earnings recovery at its results briefing. Amidst tariff-related disruptions, VSI has managed to maintain key customers' orders, and secured new ones to bolster its orderbook. Our positive outlook is underpinned by market share gains with Customer X, the turnaround of its loss-making operations, and new orders from opportunities that emerged from US-China trade war diversions.

With the majority of its key customers adopting a cautious stance - in view of the demand challenges and uncertainties from US reciprocal tariffs - VSI is focusing on retaining or garnering more orders from existing key customers by accommodating their cost-down requests. Whilst this could translate to lower profitability in the near term, management believes this is the best option for the company over the longer run.

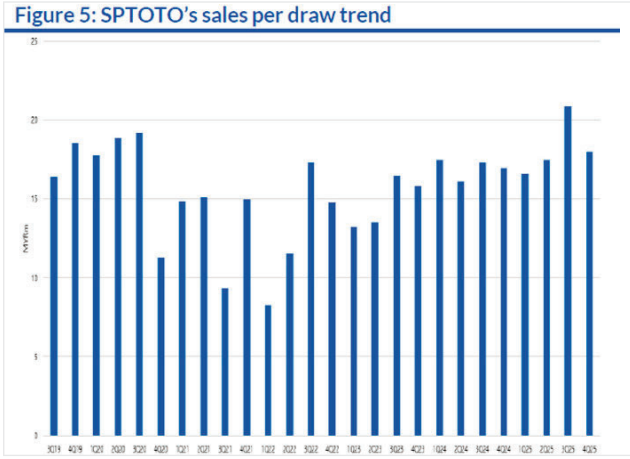
After a loss-making 4QFY25, management is expecting a swift turnaround in 1QFY26F as sales volumes have picked up post final tariff decision on 1 Aug. This would be driven by seasonal year-end demand and new product launches. VSI has commenced operating four new production lines for Customer X, and these are estimated to generate additional sales of MYR800m in FY26 while its coffee brewer customer and US-based customer have also launched two new models. In addition, management shared that it has secured a new customer - for which it will start production by end-2025 - which is expected to RM300m pa in sales, as a start.

The abovementioned new product launches should translate to higher capacity offtake and reduced losses (FY25:RM46m) for its 60%-owned subsidiary, HT Press Work. .

Maintain BUY, TP drops to RM0.71. – ***RHB Research, Oct 3***

Gaming – NFO
Neutral

Figure 5: SPTOTO's sales per draw trend



Source: Company data, RHB Research

OF the two companies under our coverage that reported results between April and June, one was in line while the other exceeded our expectations. Magnum's (MAG) results were ahead of forecasts, while Sports Toto's performance met expectations. MAG's better earnings stemmed from lower prize payouts and a substantial saving in interest expenses.

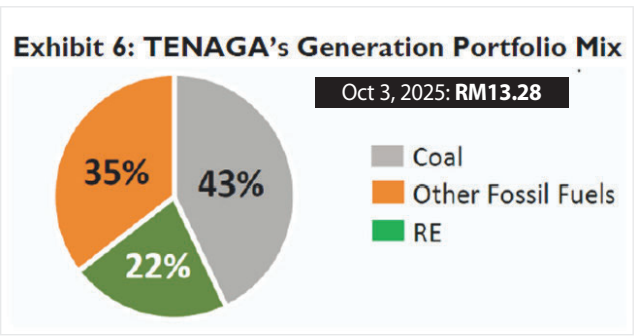
We expect 2H25 to remain challenging, with trading conditions weighed down by persistent illegal lottery activities that continue to erode market share from legal operators. Lottery game sales per draw for both SPTOTO (RM16-18m) and MAG (RM13-14m) have normalised this year, with the 3Q25 surge above RM20m for the former happening on the back of extraordinary jackpot prize rollovers that temporarily boosted player participation. Meanwhile, the sector's earnings momentum should remain highly sensitive to the luck factor and any potential government policy shifts on enforcement against illegal NFOs.

SPTOTO's gaming sales are anticipated to improve in the coming quarter, supported by the recent RM78m accumulated Supreme Toto 6/58 Jackpot pool (won on Aug 20). Meanwhile, HR Owen sales should also improve slightly, with the commencement of the September car plate campaign in the UK.

MAG's 6.3% stake in U Mobile currently has a book value of RM385.4m. With U Mobile targeting an IPO valuation of RM10bn, the value of MAG's stake could rise to RM633m.

Still NEUTRAL on the number forecast operators (NFOs). Top Pick: Sports Toto. – ***RHB Research, Oct 3***

Tenaga Nasional Bhd
Buy. Target price: RM15.80



Source: Tenaga, TA Research

WE recently hosted a meeting with Tenaga Nasional's Nuclear Taskforce, which was represented by Dr Mohd Syukri Yahya (TNB Nuclear Taskforce Member/Director of Nuclear Energy Institute UNITEN), accompanied by TENAGA's Investor Relations team. Broadly, TENAGA sees imminent inclusion of nuclear into the energy mix with the possibility of the country commissioning its first nuclear power plant within the next 6 years (by 2031). Over 3GW of nuclear capacity is targeted to come online by 2034 and TENAGA is positioning itself as a candidate to serve as Developer-Owner-Operator of Malaysia's nuclear projects. Overall, the potential transition from coal to nuclear energy creates capacity replenishment opportunities for TENAGA alongside generation portfolio decarbonisation.

TENAGA sees nuclear as a critical component of Malaysia's energy transition, and views that the inclusion of nuclear into the energy mix is no longer a question of 'if' but 'when' and 'how'. TENAGA's view is underpinned by the emergence of nuclear power under the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP) as a strategic pathway to low carbon energy and to meet rising demand, being a viable replacement for coal and gas as baseload generation while complementing renewables and emitting low GHG emissions.

TENAGA views that electrification of transport, industry and population growth and the growth of data centres will sharply increase electricity demand which in turn, adds pressure to the energy trilemma in balancing energy security, affordability and sustainability. Compounding the situation, Malaysia's entire coal capacity of 12GW – which is currently the country's main source of energy accounting for up to 61% of generation mix - will be retired by 2044. This will increase the country's reliance on gas to meet demand and manage RE intermittence, which in turn, will increase Malaysia's dependence on imported fuels.

Maintain BUY at DCF-based TP of RM15.80. – ***TA Research, Oct 3***

SCAN ME

the Sun LYFE

MONDAY | OCT 6, 2025

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Scammers target WhatsApp

Phishing campaign aims to hijack accounts ***– 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

– 123RFPIC

INSIDE

p23 Gorgeous, powerful tablets for work, play

p24 CG Computers unveils 30th anniversary giveaway

p25 One Battle After Another may not be for everyone



WhatsApp account hijacking scam

New phishing effort lures victims with fraudulent voting scheme featuring athletes

THERE is a new phishing campaign targeting WhatsApp users through a fraudulent voting scheme, according to Kaspersky. This attack lures victims with a voting page allegedly featuring young athletes, but other voting topics are being exploited as well. The method can be easily tuned for different scenarios, with the ultimate goal being the hijack of WhatsApp accounts.

The scam begins with users being directed to a seemingly legitimate webpage claiming to host a voting contest. For instance, the page can feature photos of athletes, each accompanied by a "Vote" button and real-time counters displaying alleged vote totals and the number of users who have participated.

These elements create a false sense of authenticity, encouraging user engagement. The page also claims that anyone can participate in the contest after "authorisation", with winners getting prizes from "sponsors".

Upon clicking either "Vote" or "Authorise" buttons, users are redirected to a fraudulent webpage that encourages users to "quickly and simply" authorise via WhatsApp. Users are prompted to enter their WhatsApp-associated mobile phone number.

Attackers then use the WhatsApp feature to login into the messenger's web interface via a one-time code: they input the victim's phone number to login to WhatsApp Web and the system gives out a 6-digit code which the scam website then mirrors.

When the user inputs this code in the app on their smartphone, the web session that the attackers initiated goes live, allowing them to spy on the victim, write messages and eventually take over the account.

"We see that online contests that include voting are very popular now and this is used by attackers who exploit trust in this seemingly harmless activity. By combining social engineering with convincing fake interfaces, attackers are weaponising user engagement to steal sensitive data. Awareness and vigilance are critical to staying safe," said Kaspersky web content analyst Tatyana Shcherbakova.

To be protected from such hijacking scams, Kaspersky recommends:

- Enable two-step verification

Activate WhatsApp's two-step verification feature to add an extra layer of security, requiring a PIN for account access.

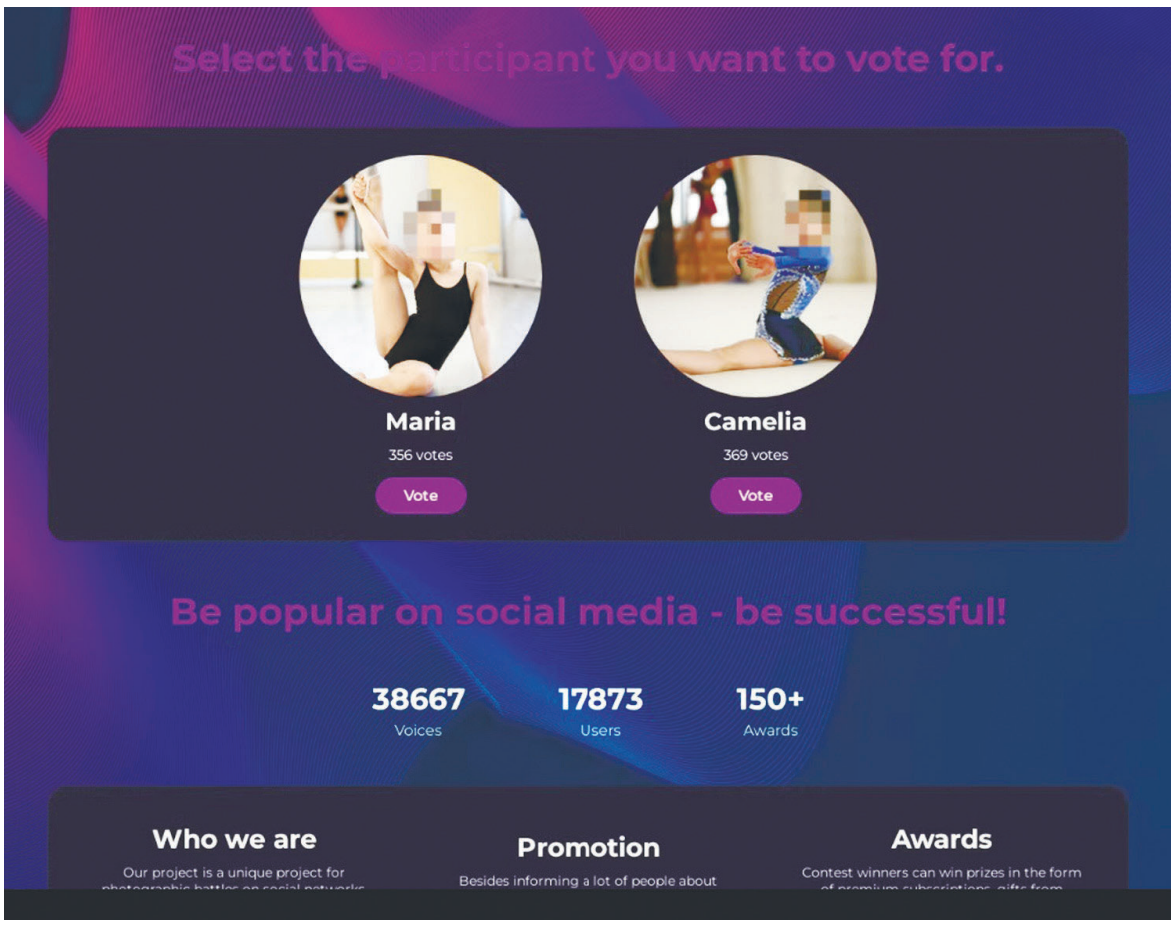
- Verify website authenticity

Avoid entering personal information on unfamiliar websites, especially those reached via unsolicited links. Always check the URL for legitimacy.

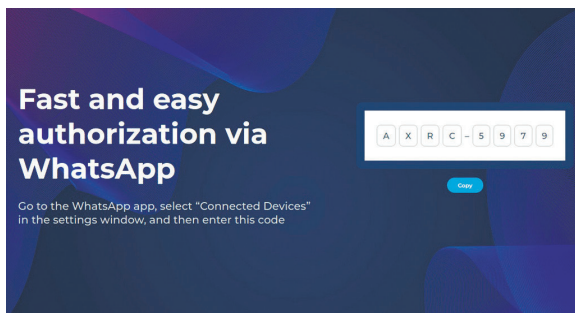
- Never share verification codes

WhatsApp will never ask for your verification code. Do not share or accept it from anyone, even if prompted by a seemingly trusted source.

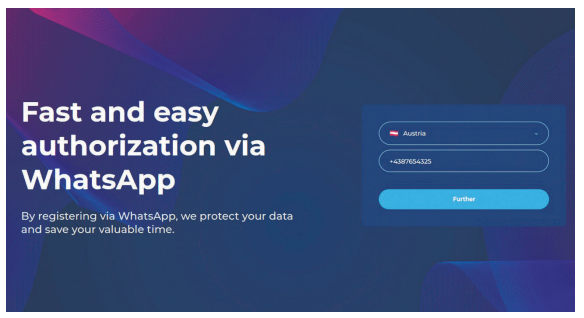
- Use trusted and proven security software to detect and block malicious websites and links.



Fake voting page.



A verification code from WhatsApp mirrored by the attackers.



A fraudulent webpage offering to authenticate via WhatsApp.

TikTok urges users to #ThinkTwice in push for online safety

TIKTOK Malaysia has expanded its #ThinkTwice digital literacy initiative this year with simplified access to additional resources on scam prevention through its multilingual in-app knowledge hub, search banners, short videos, creator content and upcoming series of industry dialogues.

The in-app knowledge hub is now available in more languages, including English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin and Tamil. This initiative aims to spread awareness across millions of users nationwide through a multi-pronged approach in collaboration with the Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM), Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, Securities Commission Malaysia and other key government agencies.

"Online safety is a shared responsibility. It requires collaborative and continuous efforts across all segments of society. This is especially true in the case of scams as the modus operandi of cybercriminals are constantly changing. Education is key and we are empowering Malaysians with the knowledge and tools to combat scams together through #ThinkTwice," TikTok Malaysia head of public policy Firdaus Fadzil said.

TikTok's digital literacy initiative encourages Malaysians to pause, prevent and protect. Pausing represents taking a moment to reflect and refrain from activities that violate TikTok's community guidelines and local laws. Prevention means proactively deploying TikTok's safety features and tools from local authorities to identify red flags. Protection rallies the community to keep each other safe by reporting potentially violative activities.

"Most of the scams can, in fact, be prevented. Among the most prevalent in Malaysia are investment scams, phishing, phone scams, job scams, love scams and loan scams. There are readily accessible tools to assist the public in detecting such threats, including PDRM's Semak Mule portal. Strengthening the nation's scam prevention ecosystem requires the concerted involvement of the public and private sectors. In this regard, TikTok's support in enhancing public awareness is most timely and greatly appreciated," PDRM director of the commercial crime investigation department Datuk Rusdi Mohd Isa said.

Malaysians can easily access the knowledge hub by searching #ThinkTwice or relevant keywords on the TikTok app. It features four main pillars of information, mainly scam prevention tips using publicly available tools from key government agencies, TikTok's community guidelines, TikTok's safety features and helplines to local authorities.



TikTok Malaysia's #ThinkTwice infographic.

SLEEK TABLETS



Huawei MatePad Pro 13.2"
Price: RM4,499
The Huawei MatePad Pro 13.2" is a flagship tablet designed to deliver a true PC-level experience for professionals, students, and creatives. It features the world's first 13.2-inch Flexible Oled PaperMatte Display with professional-grade colour accuracy, 1,000 nits peak brightness, a 94% screen-to-body ratio, and advanced eye comfort certifications. Built with a 3D heat dissipation system and an 85% longer turbo duration, it ensures smooth performance even during heavy multitasking, video editing, or coding. Offering a 30% performance boost from its predecessor, it integrates the PC-level WPS Office Suite for seamless productivity across documents, spreadsheets, and presentations, making it a versatile powerhouse for on-the-go users.



Oppo Pad SE
Price: RM599
The Oppo Pad SE is an 11-inch tablet designed for balanced performance and everyday usability, powered by the Mediatek Helio G100 (6nm) processor with 4GB RAM and 128GB storage. Running on Android 15 with ColorOS 15, it offers smooth multitasking and a vibrant IPS LCD display (1200×1920, 90Hz, 1B colours) with 500 nits peak brightness. Slim at 7.4mm and weighing 527g, it features a sturdy aluminum build and supports stylus input. For connectivity, it includes Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 5.4, GPS (cellular model), and 4G LTE with dual-band support. The device houses a 9340mAh battery with 33W wired fast charging (UFCS/PD), stereo speakers with a 3.5mm jack, and 5MP front and rear cameras for video calls and casual photography. Available in Starlight Silver and Twilight Blue, the Oppo Pad SE blends portability, productivity and entertainment in a sleek package.



Redmi Pad 2
Price: RM599
The Redmi Pad 2 Series, including its 4G variant, is Xiaomi's latest entry-level tablet lineup built for immersive entertainment and everyday use. Featuring an expansive 11-inch 2.5K display with 90Hz AdaptiveSync refresh rate, TÜV Rheinland eye comfort certifications, and quad speakers with Dolby Atmos, it delivers smooth visuals and rich sound for streaming, gaming, and browsing. Powered by the MediaTek Helio G100-Ultra processor and Xiaomi HyperOS 2, it supports seamless cross-device features like call sync, network sync, and shared clipboard for intuitive connectivity across Xiaomi devices. With a massive 9000mAh battery, sleek metal unibody design, and support for the Redmi Smart Pen and Pad 2 Cover, the series offers both performance and versatility, making it a vibrant all-in-one entertainment and productivity companion.



Huawei MatePad 11.5-inch PaperMatte Edition
Price: RM1,599
The Huawei MatePad 11.5-inch PaperMatte Edition is a slim and lightweight tablet at 499g and 6.85mm, built for productivity and comfort. It features an 11.5-inch 2.2K PaperMatte Display with a 120Hz refresh rate and nano-etched anti-glare technology that reduces reflections and eye strain, supported by TÜV Rheinland and SGS certifications. Powered by a 4nm processor, it handles multitasking with ease and includes features such as Multi-Window, SuperHub and Huawei Notes. The M-Pencil (2nd gen) with 4096 pressure levels provides a natural writing experience. The tablet also comes with an 8MP wide-angle front camera with FollowCam, a 13MP rear camera, quad speakers with AI noise cancellation, Wi-Fi 6 and a 7700mAh battery that lasts up to 10.5 hours of video playback, making it a balanced device for work, creativity and entertainment.



Samsung Galaxy Tab Active5 Pro
Price: RM3,599
The Samsung Galaxy Tab Active5 Pro is a rugged tablet built for frontline professionals, combining durability, power and enterprise features. With IP68 water and dust resistance, MIL-STD-810H certification and Corning Gorilla Glass Victus+, it withstands drops, harsh environments and frequent sanitisation. Its 10.1-inch display with Vision Booster reaches 600 nits for outdoor visibility, while glove and wet-touch support ensures usability anywhere. Powered by the Snapdragon 7s Gen 3 chipset with expanded RAM and storage, it handles demanding tasks with ease. The 10,100mAh hot-swappable battery, Pogo charging and No Battery Mode enable uninterrupted use, while Samsung DeX, the IP68-rated S Pen, NFC tagging, programmable keys and Samsung Knox Vault security make it a versatile, secure tool for industries such as logistics, healthcare, retail and manufacturing.



Xiaomi Pad Mini
Price: RM1,999
The Xiaomi Pad Mini is the brand's first compact tablet in Malaysia, designed for portability and AI-powered productivity. Featuring an 8.8-inch 3K display with up to 165Hz adaptive refresh rate, Dolby Vision, 700-nit peak brightness and TUV Rheinland-certified eye comfort, it delivers sharp visuals and immersive audio with dual stereo speakers and Dolby Atmos. Powered by the Mediatek Dimensity 9400+ 3nm chipset, it supports fluid multitasking, AI tools such as AI Writing, Interpreter and Art, plus Google Gemini integration. Its 7,500mAh battery with 67W HyperCharge ensures long use and fast refuelling, while dual USB-C ports add versatility with data transfer and reverse charging. Ergonomically designed with a balanced metal unibody, it also supports the Xiaomi Focus Pen for precise input and comes with a premium Xiaomi Pad Mini Cover for portability.

Vivo's OriginOS 6 coming to Malaysia

AFTER years of anticipation, Vivo is finally bringing OriginOS 6 to Malaysia.

Malaysian fans will soon experience Vivo's most advanced operating system yet, built on Android 16 and designed to transform the way people connect with their digital world.

OriginOS 6 has long been one of Vivo's most requested innovations, and it is arriving with a bold promise: to deliver a smartphone experience that feels smoother, smarter and more personal than ever before. With a refreshed design, intelligent AI features, seamless cross-device connectivity, and stronger privacy protection, it represents the future of Vivo's user experience.

As part of its debut, Vivo Malaysia is offering an exclusive Preview Programme. Starting now, only 500 X200 Pro users will be selected to try OriginOS 6 ahead of the official launch, with access beginning Oct 15. This program gives fans not just early access, but also the chance to shape the system with their feedback.

How to join:

1. Update your Vivo X200 Pro to system version 15.0.14.1 or above.
2. Go to Settings > System Update > Settings (top right) > Trial version > Closed beta sign-up.
3. Apply now to secure your spot.

vivo
originOS 6
Preview Program
Available on vivo X200 Pro
Be the first to explore OriginOS 6 with Android 16



For Malaysian users, the long wait is finally over, and for 500 lucky participants, the future begins even sooner.

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From left: CIMB head of acquiring business Arron Leu Chong Shing, Li, CG Computers marketing communications deputy managing director Peggy Tan and Azrul.

Celebrating customers

CG Computers launches 30th anniversary giveaway

ELECTRONICS retailer CG Computers recently launched its 30th anniversary giveaway campaign for all members of Switch and Urban Republic's (SURE) loyalty programme.

The nationwide initiative celebrates three decades of serving Malaysians since CG Computers's humble beginnings in 1995 with a single Switch store in Penang. Now with more than 250 Switch and Urban Republic stores nationwide, CG Computers credits its enduring success to the unwavering support of its customers.

The campaign, running until Dec 28, is CG Computers's way of thanking its customers for their decades of loyal support. With a strong focus on retail and a commitment to helping customers navigate their electronic purchases, it has consistently provided not only a diverse range of brands but also affordable payment solutions tailored for everyone, from students to business owners.

Throughout the campaign period, customers who make purchases at any Switch or Urban Republic outlet nationwide (retail or online) using a MyDebit debit card or DuitNow QR will automatically stand a chance to win weekly prizes totalling up to RM500,000. The grand prize in the draw is the all-electric Proton e.Mas.

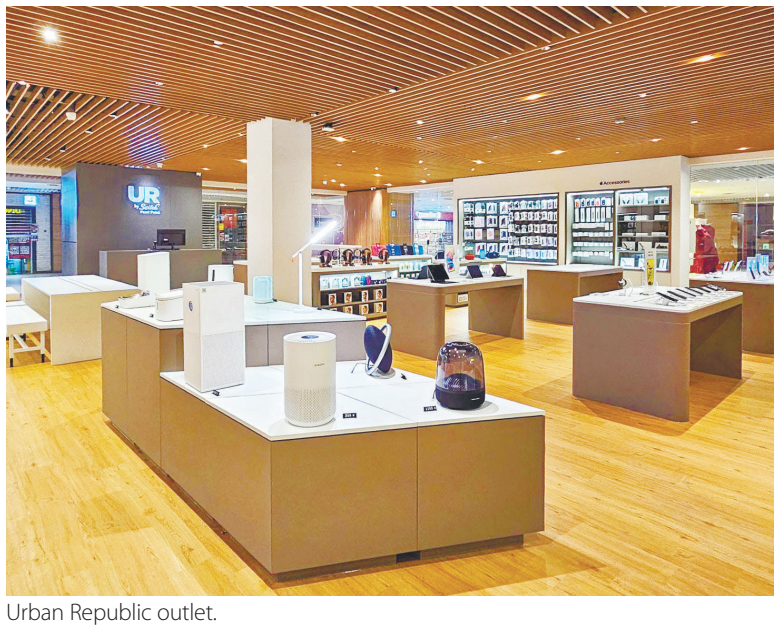
This celebratory campaign is made possible through a strategic partnership between CIMB Group Holdings Berhad and Payments Network Malaysia Sdn Bhd (PayNet). The collaboration further enhances the value and reach of the giveaway.

"This giveaway is a heartfelt thank you to every customer who has been a part of our journey. Their trust has fuelled our growth from a single store in Penang to a nationwide network, and we are thrilled to celebrate this milestone with them," said CG Computers Sdn Bhd managing director Li Chau Ging.

"We are proud to support CG Computers in celebrating its incredible milestone. By enabling debit card and QR transactions through the MyDebit and DuitNow ecosystem, we're making it even easier and more rewarding for Malaysians to shop securely and seamlessly. This campaign not only drives digital payment adoption, but also brings real value back to everyday consumers, aligning with our mission to advance a more inclusive and cashless Malaysia," said PayNet senior director of commercial division Azrul Fakhzan Mainor.

"CIMB has an established long-term partnership with CG Computers, and over the past decade, our partnership has strengthened. We are pleased to celebrate this milestone of CG Computers's 30th anniversary with a sponsorship of exciting giveaways, ensuring that our customers, especially business owners, benefit from this promotion. Together, we strive to advance customers and society, reinforcing our dedication to provide solutions that bring positive change in our communities," said CIMB head of consumer banking Malaysia Daniel Cheong.

Customers are welcome to visit any Switch or Urban Republic outlet to stand a chance to win exciting prizes. To be eligible, customers must be a SURE member – membership is free – and purchases must be made using either a MyDebit card or DuitNow QR.



Urban Republic outlet.



Urban Republic shopfront.

MOVIE REVIEW

Most unhinged revolution yet

DiCaprio stars in eccentric, raunchy, oddly profound epic *One Battle After Another*

BY **YASMIN ZULRAEZ**



Colonel Lockjaw (right) rises to political power while waging his personal vendetta.

Cast: Leonardo DiCaprio, Sean Penn, Benicio Del Toro, Regina Hall, Teyana Taylor
Director: Paul Thomas Anderson

E-VALUE 7
ACTING 8
PLOT 8



Anderson's eccentric 2025 epic.

PAUL Thomas Anderson has never been afraid of chaos, but *One Battle After Another* pushes his eccentric instincts into territory that borders on parody. Adapted loosely – very loosely – from Thomas Pynchon's *Vineland*, this war-sized art film is not about simple action spectacle. Instead, it is an unapologetically odd meditation on revolution, America's uneasy history with racial cleansing and the bizarre persistence of "superior" underground white clubs who believe their bloodlines entitle them to run the nation.

On paper, it reads like a dark thriller. On screen, it plays like a fever dream. Anderson stages the film as a sweeping action piece but fills it with moments so strange, so tonally jarring, that one half-expects the camera to pan over to a Monty Python sketch. It is not the typical crowd-pleaser and that is precisely the point.

DiCaprio, in peak sweat-drenched mode

Leonardo DiCaprio, playing the washed-up revolutionary Bob Ferguson, delivers the kind of performance that makes viewers remember why he has two trophies on the mantelpiece and keeps being invited back to the Oscars. He sweats, he rants, he looks perpetually three seconds away from a heart attack, and it is magnificent.

Anderson clearly enjoys putting his lead through the wringer. DiCaprio spends most of the runtime in a state of existential exhaustion, yet his charisma anchors the film whenever it threatens to spiral into incoherence. This is not the charming conman or slick businessman role – it is raw, desperate and oddly hilarious. The actor's commitment is so intense that even when the story veers into abstract racial allegories and secret-club lunacy, the audience cannot look away.

Not your popcorn blockbuster

Calling *One Battle After Another* "challenging" feels like an understatement. This is not a film designed for general audiences. The explosions and brawls may suggest a straight-up action thriller, but Anderson refuses to let anyone get comfortable. Instead, he layers in eccentric world-building that touches on revolutions gone wrong, systemic corruption and clandestine white supremacist "clubs" who dress like country-club elites while plotting ethnic purges in basements.

It is messy, yes. At times, it is even absurd. Yet beneath the oddball flourishes lies substance, grit about America's inability to reckon with its own violent history and a sharp satire about cycles of oppression. Those willing to engage with the strangeness will find moments of brilliance, but those expecting a tidy blockbuster will probably leave confused and muttering about refunds.

Surprising raunchiness

It would be remiss not to mention the film's unexpectedly raunchy side. Anderson has sprinkled sensual and sexual sequences throughout his filmography, but here they arrive with a surprising boldness. A few scenes push boundaries in ways that might make viewers squirm, laugh nervously or question the Film Censorship Board's coffee supply.

The eroticism is not gratuitous, though it punctuates the story's themes of betrayal, dominance and desire. At times, the physicality between characters feels as violent as the firefights. While the film could certainly have trimmed a scene or two, the raunch is part of the whole strange tapestry. In an odd way, it completes the movie.

Supporting circus

While DiCaprio carries the film, the supporting cast ensures that it never becomes a one-man show. Sean Penn leans into snarling villainy with the kind of menace that teeters between terrifying and cartoonish. Benicio del Toro, meanwhile, seems to be playing in a different movie altogether – half martial arts trainer, half accidental comedian – but somehow his energy works.

Regina Hall adds much-needed sharpness and gravity, cutting through the madness with acidic wit. Teyana Taylor, as the conflicted ex-ally and estranged partner, gives the film its emotional turbulence. And newcomer Chase Infiniti, as DiCaprio's daughter, brings a surprising steadiness to the whirlwind around her. Each performer commits, even when the screenplay throws them into scenes that feel written during a sleep-deprived Pynchon-Anderson dream swap.

Style, substance, stubbornness

Visually, *One Battle After Another* is stunning. Michael Bauman's cinematography moves from suburban stillness to chaotic urban mayhem with ease. Florencia Martin's production design is equally meticulous, capturing mundane Americana and dystopian exaggerations of it. And Jonny Greenwood's score, part pounding industrial, part elegiac strings, feels like an electric current running under the entire film.

Yet style here serves more than aesthetics. Anderson's stubborn refusal to dilute his eccentric vision makes the film maddening and admirable. At nearly three hours, it dares viewers to surrender to its rhythm: moments of brutal clarity, followed by passages of pure nonsense, then sudden emotional gut-punches.

Film that divides

One Battle After Another is destined to divide. Some will hail it as a wild, unfiltered masterwork that confronts uncomfortable truths with absurd bravado. Others will dismiss it as self-indulgent nonsensemasquerading as profundity. Both camps will be right.

What is certain is that the film would not leave audiences indifferent. Whether laughing at its eccentricities, bristling at its depictions of racial cleansing or marvelling at DiCaprio's volcanic intensity, viewers will leave talking. And in today's industry of forgettable blockbusters, that alone is a kind of victory.

Cannot be ignored

Anderson has crafted a movie that is too strange to be mainstream and too bold to be ignored. It is eccentric, raunchy, occasionally ridiculous and absolutely not for everyone. But beneath the chaos, there is substance, commentary on cycles of violence, the absurdity of superiority myths and the stubborn hope of new generations.

Those willing to watch *One Battle After Another* with an open mind, rather than expecting a neat action thriller, will discover a film of bizarre but undeniable power. It is not general-audience bait – it is cinematic provocation. And at the centre of it all, DiCaprio's acting remains legendary.



From left: Perfidia (Teyana Taylor), baby Charlene (Otillia Gupta) and Bob in a family moment.



Bob (DiCaprio) struggles to escape the shadow of his revolutionary past.



Willa (Infiniti) emerges as the reluctant moral centre of the conflict.

Restoring voice, dignity for head, neck cancer patients

How holistic care, modern therapies can help patients reclaim identity, confidence, hope

HEAD and neck cancers, while often overshadowed by other types of cancer, could have a profound impact on patients' lives. They not only threaten survival but also challenge the patient's self-identity, dignity and the ability to communicate with others. The loss of speech, ability to swallow, changes to taste of food or even changes to facial features can deeply affect how individuals see themselves and how they connect with others socially.

In Malaysia, head and neck cancers make up around 6% of all newly diagnosed cases and 8% of cancer-related deaths. Among men, nasopharyngeal cancer, which develops behind the nose and above the soft palate, is the fifth most common, with over 1,600 cases reported in 2022. Although less common in women, (1.5% of all female cancers), the impact of these cancers extends far beyond statistics.

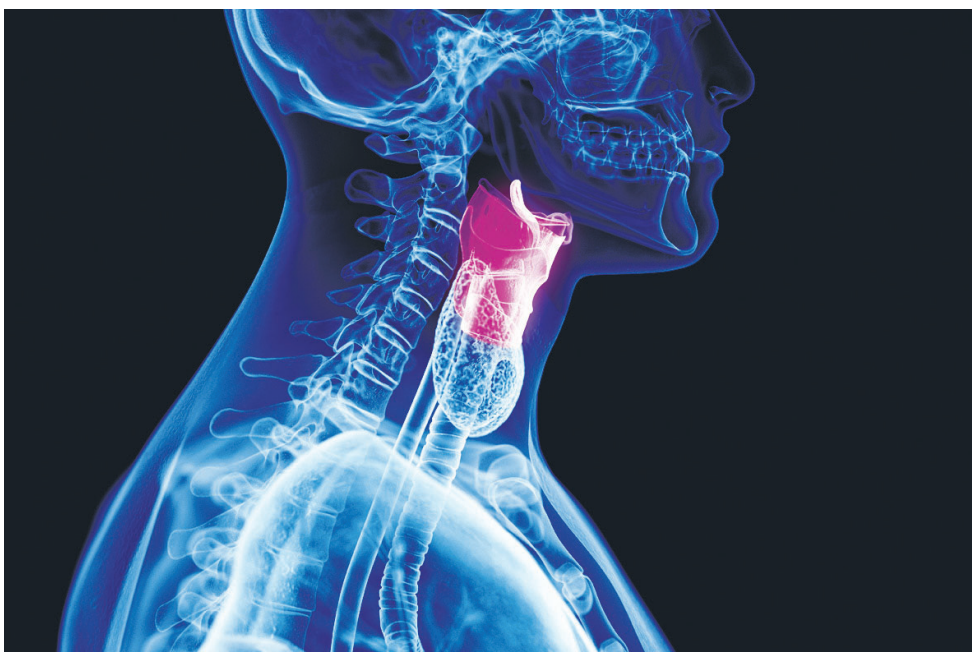
Cancer care goes far beyond removing or controlling the tumour. The real goal apart from cure from cancer is restoring the patient's dignity and improving quality of life, ensuring they can communicate effectively, consume food and feel confident in themselves again.

Understanding head, neck cancers

Head and neck cancer refers to a group of cancers that begin in areas such as the mouth, throat, voice box, nose, sinuses and salivary glands. In Malaysia, nasopharyngeal cancer is most common and other head and neck cancers include those of the oral cavity, larynx and oropharynx (back of the throat, tonsils and base of the tongue) cancers.

Nasopharyngeal cancer is far more common in Malaysia and neighbouring countries than in the West, where it is relatively rare. Contributing factors include Epstein-Barr virus infections, family history, diets high in preserved foods such as salted fish, and lifestyle habits such as smoking, alcohol consumption and betel quid chewing. Additionally, infections such as human papillomavirus (HPV) are associated with cancers of the oral cavity and oropharynx.

HPV-associated head and neck cancers are increasingly recognised, particularly among younger, non-smoking individuals. These cancers may present with symptoms such as a persistent sore throat, ear pain, difficulty swallowing, hoarseness or a neck lump (swollen or enlarged lymph node).



Neck cancers include those of the larynx.

More than medical diagnosis

For patients, the diagnosis of head and neck cancers goes beyond medical treatment. It affects everyday activities that most take for granted, such as speaking, eating, swallowing and even breathing. Losing the ability to enjoy meals, converse with loved ones or participate socially can cause patients to withdraw and feel isolated, and in some cases, struggle to continue working.

The effects can be very profound. Many patients feel as though they have lost part of their identity, especially if they can no longer speak clearly or enjoy food as before. This loss often leads to embarrassment, social withdrawal or even depression. It can also place strain on family relationships, although many families rise to the occasion and rally together to provide much-needed support.

These emotional burdens highlight the importance of holistic care that goes beyond tumour removal. Cancer treatment is not only about survival, but also about supporting patients as they walk through their cancer journey, rediscover their sense of self and embrace the simple joys that give life meaning.

Small steps, such as being able to enjoy a meal with family or speak clearly again, play an enormous role in restoring a patient's confidence and sense of self and well-being.

The integration of emotional and social support, along with empowering patients and their families with treatment information, is equally vital. Families, peer support groups and survivor communities offer encouragement that can significantly influence recovery outcomes.

Breaking stigma, misconceptions

Despite medical advances, stigma surrounding head and neck cancers remains a major challenge. Some patients delay seeking treatment because they fear being judged or believe their diagnosis leaves little room for hope, while others worry that treatment will inevitably result in severe disfigurement or the permanent loss of vital functions such as speaking and swallowing.

In fact, modern therapies such as precision radiotherapy, chemo-immunotherapy and organ-preserving surgical techniques have advanced greatly, enabling many patients to keep their appearance, voice and ability to eat near to normality. Yet, these fears can understandably hold people back from seeking help, and when treatment is delayed, it can become less effective.

Advances in treatment: Precision, hope

In recent years, significant technological advances have transformed treatment for head and neck cancers. Techniques such as intensity-modulated radiotherapy allow tumours to be targeted with precision while sparing healthy tissues such as salivary glands and hearing apparatus, resulting in fewer side effects such as dry mouth and hearing loss. In advanced cases, newer systemic therapies, including targeted drugs and immunotherapy, have improved survival rates and quality of life.

These advances not only give patients hope but also allow them to keep the ability to speak, eat and live more comfortably, things that are important for recovery and dignity.

HPV-associated head and neck cancers typically have a better prognosis and respond well to treatment – hence, aggressive and mutilating surgery should be avoided whenever possible.

Awareness, early action

The lessons from survivors echo a vital message that cancer is not the end of the story. With timely diagnosis, advanced treatment and holistic care, patients can reclaim their lives.

Humanising cancer helps break the stigma and encourages more people to seek screening and treatment. Early detection saves lives and preserves dignity.

Younger adults are encouraged to receive the HPV vaccination, which significantly reduces the risk of HPV-associated head and neck cancers. It is also important to quit smoking, a major risk factor for non-HPV related head and neck cancers.

As Malaysia continues the fight against cancer, open conversations and community education are essential. Breaking the silence not only encourages patients to seek help earlier, but also builds a society where every journey is met with dignity, understanding and support.

***This** article is contributed by OncoCare Cancer Centre Malaysia consultant clinical oncologist Dr Ben Yap Beng Khiong.*

Cysteine-rich diet may heal damaged intestines

A dietary intervention may help heal intestinal damage from radiation or chemotherapy, a study on mice suggested.

A diet rich in the amino acid cysteine turns on an immune signaling pathway that helps stem cells to regrow new tissue to line the intestines, researchers reported in *Nature*.

High cysteine foods include pork, beef, chicken, fish, lentils, oatmeal, eggs, low-fat yogurt, sunflower seeds and cheese.

In their study, the researchers began by feeding mice a diet high in one of 20 different amino acids, the building blocks of proteins. Among these amino acids, cysteine had the most dramatic effects on stem cells and progenitor cells, which are immature cells that can differentiate into adult intestinal cells.

Further experiments revealed that when cells lining the intestine absorb cysteine from digested food, they convert it into molecules called CoA, which are then absorbed by immune cells called CD8 T cells. This stimulates the T cells to produce a protein called IL-22 that plays an important role in intestinal stem cell regeneration.

"Once activated, those IL-22-releasing T cells are primed to help combat any kind of injury that could occur within the intestinal lining," the researchers said.



Chicken is among foods high in cysteine.
– ***ALL PICS FROM 123RF***

Also, in work that has not yet been published, they found that a high-cysteine diet had a regenerative effect following treatment with a chemotherapy drug called 5-fluorouracil. This drug, which is used to treat colon and pancreatic cancers, can also damage the intestinal lining.

If future research shows similar results in humans, then delivering elevated quantities of cysteine might dampen some chemotherapy or radiation-induced injuries to the intestinal lining, study leader Omer Yilmaz of MIT said in a statement.

"The beauty here is we're not using a synthetic molecule, we're exploiting a natural dietary compound," Yilmaz said. – Reuters

302 Jobs

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- Building and sustaining strong working relationship with advertising agencies and clients.
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- Good communication, presentation, problem-solving and organisational skills.
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Office based in Petaling Jaya (Five-day week)

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WITH OUR DIGITAL EXPANSION,

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1) Executive/Senior, IT
2) Assistant Manager/Manager, IT

Responsibilities:

- For Manager/Assistant Manager - Manage and oversee the daily operations of the IT department, with supervisory skills.
- Oversee the design, implementation, and maintenance of networks, servers, databases and IT platforms.
- Lead the IT team in delivering effective support and services across the group. Plan and manage the IT budget, including resource allocation, expenditure tracking and cost optimization.
- Assist the IT team in delivering effective support and services across the group.
- Develop, implement, and manage IT strategy, infrastructure, and operations.
- Provide technical support and resolve hardware and software issues.
- Monitor system and website performance, ensuring data security and integrity.
- Undertake any other assignments as directed by management.

Requirements:

- Diploma/Bachelor's degree in Information Technology or related field.
- Asst Manager/Manager: Minimum 5+ years' working experience in IT, with proven leadership or supervisory skills.
- Executive/Senior: Minimum 1+ years' working experience in IT.
- Strong knowledge of systems, networks, and software applications.
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving abilities.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Independent, reliable, and able to provide 24/7 standby support when required.

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302 Jobs

theSun Malaysian Paper

WE ARE HIRING!

1) MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN - PRINTING PRESS

Responsibilities:

1. Equipment Maintenance & Repair
- Attend to repair work on Goss Presslines, Cary Reel Stand, Stacker, Conveyor System, Water Fountain System, Central Ink Pump System, and other auxiliary equipment during printing operations or as noted in the night maintenance log.
- Plan and perform periodic mechanical and electrical maintenance on all printing and auxiliary equipment as instructed by the Maintenance Supervisor.
- Ensure all repair work is completed the same day meets operational standard.

2. Preventive Maintenance
- Prepare sufficient rubber roller, sock rollers, and other components for nightly operations.
- Conduct scheduled preventive maintenance and update relevant checklists, including:
- Rubber Roller, Sock Roller, and Lockup Bar service
- Folder, Cary Reel Stand, Water Fountain System , Main Motor, Dampener Motor
- Drive Control Panel, Web Break Detectors, and other auxiliary equipment
- Grease and top up oil on the Folder, Cary Reel Stand, and Printing Units

3. Inventory & Reporting
- Check and maintain adequate spare parts for presses and auxiliary equipment.
- Record daily work in the maintenance logbook.
- Report worn on faulty parts requiring replacement to the Maintenance Supervisor.

4. Operational Readiness
- Inspect all press lines and auxiliary equipment to ensure readiness before each night operation.
- Verify that sock rollers, water trays, stoppers, folder belts, folder pins, and slitter knives are in proper conditon
- Comfirm no cotton rags, tools, or debris remain on machines after servicing.

5. Additional Duties
- Assist in scheduled waste collection, labeling, and proper storage.
- Participate in in-house projects such as:
- Repairing washrooms, air conditioners, pallet trucks, trolleys, and conveyors.
- Welding, painting, lighting, wiring, piping, cement work, and other building maintenance tasks.

Qualifications & Skill (recommended)

- Technical certificate or diploma in Mechanical/Electrical/Industrial Maintenance (or equivalent experience).
- Hands-on experience with printing press equipment is preferred.
- Ability to works rotating shift and respong to urgent repair calls.
- Strong troubleshooting and problem-solving skills.

2) ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND HEALTH OFFICER

Responsibilities:

1. Equipment Maintenance & Repair
- Responsible for theSun compliance with the relevent governmental authorities legislation and to establish in-house Occupational Safety & Health and Environment policies and procedures.

Requirements:

- To develop in-house Environment, Safety and Health policies and procedures.
- To liaise with all departments on Occupational Safety and Health needs.
- To organize training from time to time in conjunction with external assistance for workers on Occupational Safety & Health and Environment.
- To prepare indexes on industrial accident, medical (Occupational Health issue), environment impact from time to time to measure the organizational climate of the company.
- To identify workplace risk, where necessary, and recommend actions plans to reduce and eliminate safety & health risk and fire hazards.
- To investigate all industrial accidents or near misses and devise effective preventive measures to eliminate repetition.
- To develop, implement and monitor Occupational Safety & Healty and Environment training program and conduct in-house training periodically.
- To conduct periodical safety audits.
- To organize and conduct emergency response exercise.
- To develop Medical Surveillance record.
- To liaise with the relevant governmental authorities relating to Environment, Safety and Health issues.
- To keep abreast and advise on any development issues related to Enviroments, Safety and Health.
- To act as a Chairman in the regular Environment, Safety and Health Committee meeting.
- To prepare monthly ESH report for submission to the Production Management.

Send in your CV with your photo via email to: thesun.hr2@gmail.com / hr@thesundaily.com

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) 09-10-2025 (Khamis) Pukul 11:00pagi

TARIKH MELIHAT : SEBELUM TIGA HARI LELONG (Pukul 9:00pagi - 4:00petang)

PERTANYAAN (Tel): Butterworth 04-3567972, Alor Seter 04-787 7972, Ipoh 05-5293971

FPAC - PELELONG BERLESEN : a) Mr. Chew Wooi Kok , b) Mr. Steven Lim Peng Seng (02097), c) Pn Hasniza Binti Abu Samah (01038)

Alamat : 352, Permatang Tok Jaya Maklom Sg Dua 13800 Butterworth. : Lot 138-A, Batu 5 Jalan Langgar 05460 Alor Setar : PT51683, Jalan Jelapang, Kws Perindustrian Tmn Meru 30020 Ipoh

SILA LAYARI LAMAN WEB KAMI : http://www.focalpark.com.my

Item	Reg No	Jenis & Model	Tahun
AM1	WNX1733	HONDA CITY 1.5 VTEC (A)	2006
AM2	AKE6679	NISSAN ALMERA 1.5L E	2015
AM3	AHH4294	NISSAN SENTRA Comfort (A) 1.6i (Impul)	2010
AM4	WWK7219	NISSAN X-TRAIL LUXURY (A) 2.0I	2004
AM5	AJG8852	PERODUA MYVI 1.3D3EZS (A)	2013
AM6	ALC9335	PROTON PERSONA 1.6	2018
AM7	ALD4829	PROTON PERSONA CVT 1.6	2018
AM8	WC6428L	PROTON PERSONA 1.6	2015
AM9	AKW8646	PROTON ERTIGA 1.4 AT EXECUTIVE PLUS	2017
AM10	AEL3591	PROTON WIRA 1.3GL	2001
AM11	ALF7411	PROTON SAGA 1.3 PREMIUM CVT	2018
AM12	ALG9624	PROTON SAGA 1.3	2019
AM13	WWB1802	PROTON PERSONA 1.6	2011
AM14	AGV172	SUZUKI - S CROSS CVT	2014
AM15	WNB3001	TOYOTA VIOS 1.5	2005
AM16	PMQ1221	FORD RANGER DCAB XLT (A) 4WD 2.2DDiT	2017
AM17	VAH8432	MAZDA CX3 SKYACTIV 2.0 2WD	2017
AM18	PPL5411	MITSUBISHI TRITON 2.5	2019
AM19	JUF9483	PERODUA BEZZA 1.3	2020

(Perhatian: Kenderaan-kenderaan diatas yang tidak dibida dalam perlelongan akan dilelong semula pada 16-10-2025)

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG
DALAM KEBANKRAPAN NO. PA-29NCC-493-07/2025

Per:
Muhammad Nurfauzan Bin Noor Razali [No. K/P: 910412-07-5635] Penghutang Penghakiman

Ex parte: Hong Leong Islamic Bank Berhad [No. Syarikat: 200501009144 (686191-W)] Pemiutang Penghakiman

NOTIS

Dalam perkara Notis Kebankrapan yang bertarikh pada 14-07-2025

Kepada:
MUHAMMAD NURFAUZAN BIN NOOR RAZALI
2B-14-14 Pangsapuri Mutiara Idaman, Solok Tengku Jelutong, 11600 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang.

Dan/atau

No. 83 Jalan Presint 1/15, Darulaman Perdana, 08000 Sungai Petani, Kedah.

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa satu Notis Kebankrapan telah dikeluarkan terhadap kamu dalam Mahkamah ini oleh Hong Leong Islamic Bank Berhad yang beralamat di Tingkat 30, Menara Hong Leong, No. 6, Jalan Damanlela, Bukit Damansara, 50490 Kuala Lumpur dan Mahkamah telah memerintahkan supaya Notis Kebankrapan tersebut disampaikan kepada kamu dengan menampalkan salinan-salinannya berserta satu salinan termeterai Perintah Untuk Penyampaian Ganti pada papan notis Mahkamah Tinggi di Pulau Pinang dan penampalan di tempat ketara premis Penghutang Penghakiman di 2B-14-14 Pangsapuri Mutiara Idaman, Solok Tengku Jelutong, 11600 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang dan/atau No. 83 Jalan Presint 1/15, Darulaman Perdana, 08000 Sungai Petani, Kedah dan juga dengan menyiarkan Notis ini sekali di dalam akhbar tempata berbahasa Inggeris iaitu "The Sun" dan bahawa penampalan dan penyiaran sedemikian disifatkan penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup akan Notis Kebankrapan tersebut kepada kamu selepas tujuh (7) hari selepas tarikh penampalan atau penyiaran sedemikian Notis ini mengikut mana yang berkenaan.

Jika kamu berniat untuk menentang dan/atau membela diri, kamu Muhammad Nurfauzan Bin Noor Razali [No. K/P: 910412-07-5635] mestilah dalam masa tujuh (7) hari selepas tarikh penampalan dan pengiklanan tersebut menjadi sempurna, memohon kepada Mahkamah untuk mengenepikan Notis Kebankrapan tersebut dengan memasukkan satu afidavit bagi maksud tersebut di mahkamah ini. Jika tidak, suatu Petisyen Pemiutang boleh dikeluarkan terhadap kamu.

Notis Kebankrapan tersebut boleh diperiksa oleh kamu atas permohonan di Mahkamah ini.

Bertarikh pada 11 September 2025

tandatangan

.....
MASYITAH BINTI AYOIB
Penolong Kanan Pendaftar
Mahkamah Tinggi Malaya
Georgetown

Notis ini difailkan oleh Tetuan Kek Ooi & Lee Hong, Peguamcara bagi Pemiutang Penghakiman yang dinamakan di atas dan alamat untuk penyampaian kepadanya ialah di 53, Tingkat 1, Lebuh Pantai, 10300 Pulau Pinang.

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJISTRET DI PORT DICKSON
DALAM NEGERI SEMBILAN DARUL KHUSUS, MALAYSIA
GUAMAN NO : ND-A72NCvC-85-07/2025

ANTARA

PERBADANAN PENGURUSAN SUNSHINE BAY RESORT (NO. PENDAFTARAN: PTG.NS. 13/88/3/4/62)
... PLAINTIF

DAN

TAN HUN SANG
(NO. K/P: 570113-05-5599/5231674)
... DEFENDAN

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN GANTI BENTUK IKLAN

Kepada :

Tan Hun Sang
154, Kg Dhobi
71000 Port Dickson
Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa satu tindakan telah dikemukakan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Majistret Port Dickson melalui Writ No. ND-A72NCvC-85-07/2025 oleh Perbadanan Pengurusan Sunshine Bay Resort (NO. PENDAFTARAN: PTG. NS. 13/88/3/4/62) bagi memohon Perintah-Perintah yang berkaitan dengannya di mana Mahkamah telah memerintahkan bahawa Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan bertarikh 21/07/2025 disampaikan kepada kamu dengan cara penyampaian ganti dengan menampalkan sesalinan Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan bertarikh 21/07/2025 di Papan Notis Mahkamah Majistret di Port Dickson dan di alamat terakhir 154, Kg Dhobi, 71000 Port Dickson, Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus dan mengiklankan di surat khabar tempatan, The Sun.

Bahawa penyampaian dan pengiklanan tersebut hendaklah menjadi penyampaian yang sempurna dalam masa empat belas (14) hari dari tarikh penampalan dan pengiklanan tersebut.

SILA AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan bertarikh 21/07/2025 telah ditetapkan untuk pengurusan kes pada 23/10/2025 melalui E-review jam 09.00 pagi dan sekiranya kamu atau peguamcara kamu gagal untuk hadir pada tarikh yang ditetapkan, maka satu penghakiman boleh dibuat terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada

t.t.

.....
Peguamcara Plaintif
Tetuan Law Office of Paul

NOTIS IKLAN ini difailkan oleh Tetuan Law Office of Paul yang beralamat di 29-4, Block E1, Jalan PJU 1/42, Dataran Prima, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Peguamcara bagi Defendan-Defendan yang disebutkan di atas. Tel No: +603-7887 5668 Fax No: +603-7886 8665 Email: paulaisu.associates@gmail.com [Ruj: PA/PPSBR/DR/LIT/658-25(TAN HUN SANG)]

322 Notices

PicklesAuctions

Bank Repossessed bikes and cars for sale by auction. Auctions are conducted via eBidding on **Wednesday - 8 October** from 9.35am onwards. All are invited to join our **PUBLIC AUCTION**. Viewing inspection on **Tuesday - 7 October** at 9.30am - 5.30pm. All unsold bank repossessed vehicles will be reauctioned 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	Reserve
BNG1743	YAMAHA Y125ZR SPECIAL LIMITED MOTOGP	TBA
VME2099	YAMAHA 135LC F.I. STANDARD	TBA
VLY2055	HONDA DASH 125	TBA
BRR 1736	SUZUKI RAIDER R150FI	TBA
DFD537	YAMAHA Y15ZR	TBA
VKV2091	YAMAHA Y15ZR	TBA
VMJ2815	YAMAHA Y15ZR	TBA
VJE1109	YAMAHA 135LC F.I.SE	TBA
BRF4233	YAMAHA 135LC	TBA
VME4201	YAMAHA EGO AVANTIZ	TBA
VLL3709	YAMAHA 135LC F.I. STANDARD	TBA
CEM5038	YAMAHA 135 LC HAND CLUTCH	TBA
SMN5761	HONDA RS-X FS150FA ABS	TBA
VKV7805	YAMAHA Y16ZR	TBA
ANP8747	YAMAHA Y15ZR	TBA
VMA9245	YAMAHA Y15ZR	TBA
SWK3427	KTM 250 DUKE	TBA
VKJ7332	BENELLI LEONCINO 250	TBA
SWJ9419	YAMAHA Y15ZR SE	TBA
QDA1581	YAMAHA NVX STANDARD	TBA
SD6924W	YAMAHA Y15ZR	TBA
VGJ4898	YAMAHA EGO SOLARIZ	TBA
BQV8351	HONDA RS150R TRICO	TBA
VEL6746	YAMAHA Y15ZR	TBA
KFK5245	YAMAHA Y16ZR	TBA
VGL4310	HONDA A-RS150R TRICO	TBA
VFM5889	YAMAHA Y15ZR	TBA
WWR9846	PERODUA MYVI 1.3 EZI	TBA
AJT5655	PROTON SUPRIMA-S 1.6L CVT	TBA
WWG1329	PERODUA ALZA	TBA
DEM 8312	YAMAHA Y15ZR	TBA
DDU2856	YAMAHA 135LC-AUTO CLUTCH	TBA
RAF6052	SYM VF3I 185 SE	TBA
PRH8371	YAMAHA Y15ZR	TBA
SYA5847	BENELLI RFS150I STD	TBA
PQP9947	YAMAHA Y15ZR	TBA
PNU8736	SYM VF3I 185 SE	TBA
PRN6492	YAMAHA Y15ZR	TBA
SYV2316	YAMAHA LAGENDA 115Z	TBA
JXP3929	YAMAHA Y15ZR	TBA
JVP3915	YAMAHA Y15ZR	TBA
JWQ2150	YAMAHA 135LC FI STANDARD	TBA
QAB8941H	MFORCE PREMIUM SYM VF3I 185	TBA
QAB8794H	HONDA RS-X FS150FA ABS	TBA
QAB1850D	YAMAHA A-135LC AUTO CLUTCH	TBA
QCP2267	WMOTO ES125 SE	TBA
QAA8506A	YAMAHA 135 LC	TBA
QAB7604C	YAMAHA A-YZF-R15	TBA
QKG3475	HONDA WAVE ALPHA	TBA
PMB2012	YAMAHA Y15ZR	TBA
QCP4005	HONDA VARIO 150	TBA
VBQ7924	BENELLI RFS150i SE	TBA
QAA3969Y	HONDA WAVE ALPHA	TBA
QCP6418	YAMAHA Y15ZR	TBA
QAA4976Y	YAMAHA Y15ZR	TBA
QCD7572	YAMAHA LAGENDA 115Z	TBA
QAA6429F	HONDA CITY 1.5L I-VTEC	TBA
QBD9236	PERODUA AXIA 1.00 G (A) XTRA	TBA
QCC6992	PERODUA MYVI 1.3 SX	TBA
BLU3962	PERODUA VIVA 850	TBA
NCR816	PROTON EXORA	TBA
VAT6288	2017 PEUGEOT 3008 P84 A	8700
KER201	2022 BMW 218I GRAN COUPE	90000
VMC9562	2024 PROTON SAGA 1.3 (A) PREMIUM S	22500
PRB5411	2023 YAMAHA Y15ZR	6350
SU6583J	2023 YAMAHA Y15ZR	6350
JWG3837	2023 HONDA VARIO 125	3600
VNR5013	2025 YAMAHA Y15ZR	6800
DFC6928	2024 HONDA VARIO 125	4200
TBL1137	2013 YAMAHA 135LC	3600
JKV3262	2008 TOYOTA AVANZA 1.5G (A)	10000
WXV23	2009 TOYOTA LAND CRUISER V8 D-4D A	110300
CAV23	2006 PORSCHE CAYENNE TIPTRONIC S (A)	19100
VEE8857	2019 PROTON PERSONA 1.6 CVT EXECUTIVE	15000
VKR6132	2023 PROTON SAGA 1.3 (A) PREMIUM	22000
WA9160A	2014 FORD RANGER 2.2L XLT 4WD	23000
VJD2055	2022 NISSAN ALMERA 1.0 (A) VLP	37000
VAQ489	2012 BMW 520I	42000
VKM2533	2023 HONDA CITY 1.5E AT	47000
VKY5247	2023 PROTON X50 1.5 FLAGSHIP	47000
DEF9610	2022 NISSAN SERENA 2.0L CVT HWS S-HEV	83000
VEF 1514	2019 AUDI Q2 1.4 TFSI	84000
VKE4193	2023 TOYOTA ALTIS 1.8 G	85000
VLX7809	2024 TOYOTA HILUX	129000
SMM3387	2024 PERODUA MYVI 1.5 AV	38000
VDM2479	2019 TOYOTA VIOS 1.5E (A)	27000
VKL6073	2023 PROTON EXORA 1.6 CVT PREMIUM	29000
VCU2475	2019 HONDA HR-V 1.8L E	38000
VGX5202	2021 MITSUBISHI TRITON 2.4 (A) ATHLET	75000
U27	2018 LAND ROVER VELAR 2.0L	145000
BRD3268	2022 MERCEDES-BENZ EQC 400	215000
AMG189	2022 MERCEDES-BENZ GLC 300 E COUPE	220000
BRC 72	2021 MERCEDES-BENZ GLC300	235400
AMG6656	2022 MERCEDES-BENZ GLC300	241840
TCP1899	2022 MERCEDES-BENZ AMG GLA 35	252400
BQT334	2021 MERCEDES-BENZ E300	262600
JUV60	2021 MERCEDES-BENZ E300	273600
AMN94	2022 MERCEDES-BENZ EQS 450+	335000
VMC9562	2024 PROTON SAGA 1.3 (A) PREMIUM S	22500
PRB5411	2023 YAMAHA Y15ZR	6350
SU6583J	2023 YAMAHA Y15ZR	6350
JWG3837	2023 HONDA VARIO 125	3600
VNR5013	2025 YAMAHA Y15ZR	6800
DFC6928	2024 HONDA VARIO 125	4200
TBL1137	2013 YAMAHA 135LC	3600

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322 Notices

NOTIS
DI DALAM PERKARA
AKTA SYARIKAT, 2016
DAN
DI DALAM PERKARA
GUAN WAH SENDIRIAN BERHAD
(NO. PENDAFTARAN
197701002894 (33865-V))
(Dalam Penggulungan Sukarela oleh Pemegang Saham)

NOTIS adalah dengan ini diberikan bahawa mengikut Seksyen 459 (2) Akta Syarikat, 2016, Mesyuarat Akhir Syarikat di atas yang akan diadakan di No. 35 (Ground Floor), Scotland Road, 10450 George Town, Pulau Pinang pada 06hb November 2025 pada jam 11.00 pagi untuk tujuan berikut:

i. Untuk mempertimbangkan dan sekiranya difikirkan wajar, meluluskan Akaun Terakhir Pelikuidasi yang menunjukkan bagaimana penggulungan telah dijalankan dan harta syarikat itu telah dilupuskan;

ii. Untuk menyelesaikan di bawah Seksyen 518 (3) (b) Akta Syarikat 2016, bahawa buku-buku, akaun dan dokumen Syarikat dan Pelikuidasi dimusnahkan menerusi resolusi syarikat dalam tempoh tiga bulan daripada tarikh mesyuarat akhir.

Penang
Bertarikh 06hb Oktober 2025

Ooi Eng Choo
Pelikuidasi

Nota :
Seorang ahli yang berhak menghadiri dan mengundi di mesyuarat ini boleh melantik seorang proksi dan mengundi bagi pihaknya. Proksi dibenarkan tetapi tidak semestinya seorang ahli Syarikat.

Suratcara perlantikan proksi hendaklah diserahkan di pejabat pelikuidasi, No. 35 (Ground Floor), Scotland Road, 10450 George Town, Pulau Pinang tidak kurang daripada 48 jam sebelum mesyuarat.

PERISYTIHARAN JUALAN
DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG
PERMOHONAN UNTUK PERLAKSANAAN NO: PA-38-1110-08/2025

Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 256 dan 257 Kanun Tanah Negara, 1965

Dan

Dalam perkara mengenai Gadaian Perserahan No: 0704SC2019001504(bertarikh : 29/08/2019) ke atas semua bahagian tanah yang dipegang di bawah **Geran Mukim 375/M2/18/245 bersama petak aksesori A256, A261 & A266, Lot 4244, Mukim 18, Daerah Timor Laut, Pulau Pinang**

Dan

Dalam perkara mengenai Aturan 83 Kaedah-Kaedah Mahkamah, 2012

ANTARA

OCBC AL-AMIN BANK BERHAD (No. Syarikat : 818444-T) ...PLAINTIF

DAN

TAN AH NYA @ SAW LAY LENG (SEBAGAI WASI KEPADA HARTA PUSAKA SI MATI, SAW HUN KHOON) (No. Kad Pengenalan : 670219075086)
TAN AH NYA @ SAW LAY LENG (No. Kad Pengenalan : 670219075086)
...DEFENDAN

Menurut Perintah Mahkamah Tinggi Malaya di **PULAU PINANG** mengenai Perintah Jualan dan Perintah bertarikh **28 Februari 2024** dan **18 September 2025**, adalah dengan ini diisytiharkan bahawa Timbalan Pendaftar/Penolong Kanan Pendaftar Pusat Operasi e-Lelong di Kuantan

AKAN MENJUAL SECARA
LELONG AWAM
Pada Hari Selasa, 28 Oktober 2025, Pada Jam 11:00 pagi,
SECARA ELEKTRONIK DI LAMAN WEB e-LELONG, PUSAT OPERASI e-LELONG, KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KUANTAN, PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR

NOTA: Bakal pembeli adalah dinasihatkan agar membuat carian Hakmilik secara rasmi di Pejabat Tanah dan memeriksa semua tanggungan, bebanan serta mengenal pasti dengan tepat hartanah tersebut sebelum jualan lelongan dijalankan.

Sila layari https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb

BUTIR-BUTIR HAKMILIK:

No. Hakmilik	:	Geran Mukim 375/M2/18/245 bersama petak aksesori A256, A261 & A266
No. Lot	:	Lot 4244
Mukim/Daerah/Negeri	:	18 / Timor Laut / Pulau Pinang
Pegangan	:	Hakmilik Kekal
No. Petak/No. Tingkat/No. Bangunan	:	245 / 18 / M2
Keluasan Tanah	:	0.0000000000 kaki persegi 0.0000000000 meter persegi
Pemilik Berdaftar	:	SAW HUN KHOON & TAN AH NYA @ SAW LAY LENG
Syarat Nyata	:	Petak ini hendaklah digunakan untuk tujuan pangsapuri sahaja
Sekatan Kepentingan	:	Tiada
Bebanan / Lain-Lain	:	
Kawasan Rizab	:	
Kaveat	:	

LOKASI DAN PERIHAL HARTANAH :
Hartanah tersebut adalah **seunit dupleks bersama dua 'foyer' dan satu 'roof top garden' sebagai petak aksesori** yang beralamat pos di **1B-19-6, Block 1B, Lorong Kejora, Alila Horizon, 11200, Tanjong Bungah, Pulau Pinang.**

HARGA RIZAB :
Hartanah tersebut akan dijual atas **"sepertimana sedia ada"** tertakluk kepada satu harga rizab sebanyak **RM 1,539,000.00 (RINGGIT MALAYSIA: SATU JUTA LIMA RATUS TIGA PULUH SEMBILAN RIBU SAHAJA)** dan kepada syarat-syarat jualan yang dilampirkan. Pembida yang berminat hendaklah mendepositkan 10% daripada harga rizab dalam bentuk **Bank Draf** di atas nama **OCBC AL-AMIN BANK BERHAD 1 HARI BEKERJA** sebelum tarikh lelong awam. Baki harga belian hendaklah dibayar oleh pembida yang berjaya kepada **OCBC AL-AMIN BANK BERHAD** dalam tempoh **seratus dua puluh (120) hari** dari tarikh jualan. Untuk butir-butir selanjutnya, sila berhubung dengan:-

Firma Guaman	:	**GHAZI & LIM**
Alamat	:	**19TH FLOOR, PLAZA MWE NO 8, LEBUH FARQUHAR, 10200, PG, MY**
No. Telefon	:	**04-2633688**
No. Fax	:	**04-2633188/2627433**
No. Rujukan	:	**070/21/JB/LJL/rzl**

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322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJISTRET DI SEPANG
DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA
GUAMAN SIVIL NO.: BK-A72NCVC-79-07/2025

ANTARA

TENAGA NASIONAL BERHAD
[No. Syarikat : 199001009294 (200866-W)]
…PLAINTIF

DAN

SITI NOR AINA BINTI MOHAMAD SALI
[NO. K. P.:950829-05-5150]
…DEFENDAN

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN GANTI-BENTUK IKLAN

Kepada,

SITI NOR AINA BINTI MOHAMAD SALI
Lot 5661, Jalan Labu Lanjut,
Kg Baru Lanjut,
43900 Sepang
Selangor Darul Ehsan

Dalam perkara Writ yang dikeluarkan pada 8 Julai 2025.

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan Writ telah dikeluarkan terhadap Defendan dalam Mahkamah Majistret di Sepang dalam Guaman No. BK-A72NCVC-79-07/2025 oleh Tenaga Nasional Berhad [No. Syarikat: 199001009294] (200866-W)] di mana tuntutan Plaintif ialah untuk bayaran bagi jumlah tunggakan bil elektrik bulanan yang dikeluarkan oleh Plaintif kepada Defendan sebanyak RM22,943.72 setakat bil bertarikh 05/02/2024 untuk Nombor Akaun Pengguna 220263199004, faedah atas jumlah penghakiman pada kadar 5% setahun dari tarikh pemfailan tindakan ini sehingga tarikh penghakiman, faedah atas jumlah penghakiman pada kadar 5% setahun dari tarikh penghakiman sehingga tarikh penyelesaian penuh, kos dan adalah diperintahkan bahawa sesalinan Writ dan Pernyataan Tuntutan kedua-duanya bertarikh 8 Julai 2025 ("Writ tersebut") disampaikan kepada kamu melalui Penyampaian Ganti iaitu dengan menampalkan sesalinan Writ tersebut di Papan Notis Mahkamah Majistret Sepang, ditampal di alamat terakhir Defendan yang diketahui iaitu di Lot 5661, Jalan Labu Lanjut, Kg Baru Lanjut, 43900 Sepang, Selangor Darul Ehsan ("selepas dari ini "alamat Defendan") berdasarkan kepada Perintah bertarikh 10 September 2025 dan juga mengiklankannya sekali (1) dalam surat khabar tempatan dan saya percaya bahawa penyampaian itu menjadi penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup ke atas Defendan tersebut empatbelas (14) hari selepas dari tarikh pengiklanan dan penampalan tersebut yang mana terkemudian.

Sekiranya kamu berhajat untuk membuat pembelaan terhadap tindakan tersebut, kamu mestilah diwakili oleh Peguambela kamu di hadapan Mahkamah Majistret Sepang pada 13/10/2025 (secara E-Review), jam 9.00 pagi.
Sekiranya kamu gagal berbuat demikian maka Penghakiman Ingkar boleh diberikan terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada 6 haribulan Oktober 2025

……tt……..
Tetuan Sandosh Anandan
Peguamcara bagi Plaintif

Notis Penyampaian Ganti Bentuk Iklan ini dikeluarkan oleh Tetuan Sandosh Anandan, Peguamcara bagi pihak Plaintif yang beralamat di Unit A502, Blok A, Kelana Square, No. 17, Jalan SS7/26, Kelana Jaya, 47301, Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan.
Tel: 03-78065819 / 03-7804607
Fax: 03-78807409
(Ruj : SA/L/TNB/SITI NOR AINA/2107/2025/SA)

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG
DALAM KEBANKRAPAN NO. PA-29NCC-492-07/2025

Per:
Dhivyaa A/P Thangamoney
[No. K/P: 910110-07-5576]
Penghutang Penghakiman

Ex parte: Hong Leong Bank Berhad
[No. Syarikat: 193401000023 (97141-X)]
Pemiutang Penghakiman

NOTIS

Dalam perkara Notis Kebankrapan yang bertarikh pada 14-07-2025

Kepada:
Dhivyaa A/P Thangamoney
No. 11, Lorong Sungai Tiram 4,
Taman Tunas Damai,
11900 Bayan Lepas,
Pulau Pinang.

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa satu Notis Kebankrapan telah dikeluarkan terhadap kamu dalam Mahkamah ini oleh Hong Leong Bank Berhad yang beralamat di Tingkat 30, Menara Hong Leong, No. 6, Jalan Damanlela, Bukit Damansara, 50490 Kuala Lumpur dan Mahkamah telah memerintahkan supaya Notis Kebankrapan tersebut disampaikan kepada kamu dengan menampalkan salinan-salinannya berserta satu salinan termeterai Perintah Untuk Penyampaian Ganti pada papan notis Mahkamah Tinggi di Pulau Pinang dan penampalan di tempat ketara premis Penghutang Penghakiman di No. 11, Lorong Sungai Tiram 4, Taman Tunas Damai, 11900 Bayan Lepas, Pulau Pinang dan juga dengan menyiarkan Notis ini sekali di dalam akhbar tempatan berbahasa Inggeris iaitu "The Sun" dan bahawa penampalan dan penyiaran sedemikian disifatkan penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup akan Notis Kebankrapan tersebut kepada kamu selepas tujuh (7) hari selepas tarikh penampalan atau penyiaran sedemikian Notis ini mengikut mana yang berkenaan.

Jika kamu berniat untuk menentang dan/atau membela diri, kamu Dhivyaa A/P Thangamoney [No. K/P: 910110-07-5576] mestilah dalam masa tujuh (7) hari selepas tarikh penampalan dan pengiklanan tersebut menjadi sempurna, memohon kepada Mahkamah untuk mengenepikan Notis Kebankrapan tersebut dengan memasukkan satu afidavit bagi maksud tersebut di mahkamah ini. Jika tidak, suatu Petisyen Pemiutang boleh dikeluarkan terhadap kamu.

Notis Kebankrapan tersebut boleh diperiksa oleh kamu atas permohonan di Mahkamah ini.

Bertarikh pada 17 September 2025

tandatangan
.....
MASYITAH BINTI AYOIB
Penolong Kanan Pendaftar
Mahkamah Tinggi Malaya
Georgetown

Notis ini difailkan oleh Tetuan Kek Ooi & Lee Hong, Peguamcara bagi Pemiutang Penghakiman yang dinamakan di atas dan alamat untuk penyampaian kepadanya ialah di 53, Tingkat 1, Lebuh Pantai, 10300 Pulau Pinang.

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KUALA LUMPUR
(Bahagian Dagang)
PETISYEN PENGGULUNGAN SYARIKAT NO.: WA-28NCC-989-09/2025

DALAM PERKARA SEKSYEN 465(1)(e), SEKSYEN 465(1)(h) DAN SEKSYEN 466(1)(a) AKTA SYARIKAT 2016

DAN

DALAM PERKARA DYNAMIC NAVIGATION SDN BHD (NO. SYARIKAT: 201401011427)
DAN

DALAM PERKARA ATURAN 88 DAN ATURAN 92 KAEDAH 4 KAEDAH-KAEDAH MAHKAMAH 2012

ANTARA

CARIMIN ENGINEERING SERVICES SDN BHD
[No. Syarikat: 200501028221 (710356-T)]
...PEMPETISYEN

DAN

DYNAMIC NAVIGATION SDN BHD
[No. Syarikat: 201401011427 (1087503-D)]
...RESPONDEN

IKLAN PETISYEN

NOTIS dengan ini adalah diberikan bahawa Petisyen untuk menggulungkan Syarikat Responden tersebut di Mahkamah Tinggi Kuala Lumpur telah pada 22 September 2025 diperserahkan di Mahkamah Tinggi Malaya di Kuala Lumpur oleh Carimin Engineering Services Sdn Bhd dan Petisyen tersebut diarahkan untuk didengar oleh Mahkamah Tinggi Kuala Lumpur yang bersidang di Kuala Lumpur pada 26 November 2025 pada pukul 9.00 pagi; dan mana-mana Pemiutang atau Penyumbang Syarikat Responden tersebut yang ingin menyokong atau membantah Perintah yang dibuat atas Petisyen tersebut bolehlah hadir pada waktu perbicaraan dengan sendirinya atau melalui Peguamnya bagi maksud itu; dan sesalinan Petisyen akan diberikan kepada mana-mana Pemiutang ataupun Penyumbang Syarikat Responden tersebut yang mengkehendaki yang sama oleh yang bertandatangan di bawah atas pembayaran caj teratur untuk yang sama.

Alamat Pempetisyen adalah di 3rd Floor, No. 77, 79 & 81, Jalan SS 21/60, Damansara Utama 47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

Peguamcara Pempetisyen iaitu Tetuan Rabinder Budiman & Associates yang mempunyai alamat penyampaian di Suite 3B-15-5, Level 15, Block 3B, Plaza Sentral, Jalan Stesen Sentral 5, 50470 Kuala Lumpur.

Tetuan Rabinder Budiman & Associates
Peguamcara bagi Pempetisyen

Nota :-
Sesiapa yang ingin hadir pada hari Pendengaran Petisyen mestilah menyerahkan pada ataupun melalui pos kepada Tetuan Rabinder Budiman & Associates secara Notis bertulis niatnya untuk berbuat begitu. Notis tersebut mestilah menyatakan nama dan alamat orang tersebut, atau, jika suatu firma, nama dan alamat firma tersebut, dan harus ditandatangani oleh orang tersebut atau firma tersebut, atau Peguamcaranya (jika ada) dan mestilah diserahkan, ataupun, jika diposkan, harus dihantar dalam masa mencukupi untuk sampai kepada yang dinamakan di atas tidak lewat dari pukul 12:00 tengah hari pada 25 November 2025 seperti apa yang diperuntukkan di bawah Kaedah 28, Kaedah Penggulungan Syarikat 1972.

IKLAN PETISYEN ini difailkan oleh Tetuan Rabinder Budiman & Associates, peguamcara bagi Pempetisyen yang beralamat di Suite 3B-15-5, Level 15, Block 3B, Plaza Sentral, Jalan Stesen Sentral 5, 50470 Kuala Lumpur.
(Tel :03-2274 2075 Faks : 03-2260 7266
Email : rba@rbalaw.com.my)
(Our Ref: RBA/RS/1214/23/wcw)

322 Notices

NOTICE
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
GUAN WAH SENDIRIAN BERHAD
Company No.
197701002894 (33865-V)
(In Members' Voluntary Winding Up)

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to Section 459(2) of the Companies Act, 2016, the Final Meeting of the above-mentioned Company will be held at No. 35 (Ground Floor), Scotland Road, 10450 George Town, Pulau Pinang on 06th November 2025 at 11.00 a.m. for the following purposes:

i. To consider and, if thought fit, adopt the Final Account of the Liquidator showing how the winding up has been conducted and the property of the company has been disposed of;

ii. To resolve under Section 518(3)(b) of the Companies Act 2016, that the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator be destroyed as the company resolution directs after the expiration of three months from the date of the final meeting.

Penang
Dated this 06th October 2025

Ooi Eng Choo
Liquidator

Notes:
A member entitled to attend and vote at this meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and, on a poll, to vote on his behalf. Such proxy need not be a member of the Company.

The instrument appointing a proxy must be deposited at the liquidator office, No. 35 (Ground Floor), Scotland Road, 10450 George Town, Pulau Pinang not less than forty-eight (48) hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

BRIEFS

Hwang wins maiden LPGA tour event

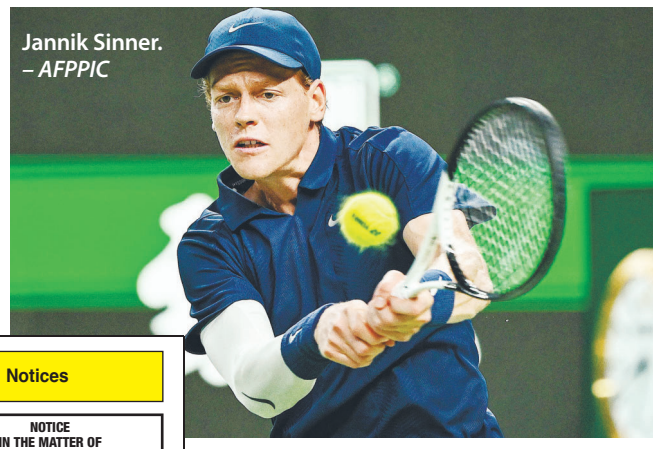
SOUTH KOREA'S Hwang You-min fired a closing 5-under-par 67 to claim her first LPGA Tour victory at the Lotte Championship in Hawaii yesterday. The 22-year-old from Seoul produced a scintillating late birdie spree – rattling off four birdies in her closing four holes – to finish on 17-under for the tournament at the Hoakalei Country Club. That was good enough to vault Hwang ahead of a high-caliber field which saw compatriot Kim Hyo-joo finish second on 16 under following a closing 68. Japan's Minami Katsu was two off the lead on 15-under while US star Nelly Korda was among four players tied for fourth.
Hwang meanwhile was left stunned by her win, a victory means she has now secured an LPGA Tour card for the first time. "I actually didn't believe in myself, but my caddie he supported my very well during the course," Hwang said through an interpreter.

Anisimova ousts Gauff, Noskova stuns Pegula

US OPEN runner-up Amanda Anisimova outclassed defending champion Coco Gauff 6-1, 6-2 and Linda Noskova stunned Jessica Pegula 6-3, 1-6, 7-6(6) on Saturday to reach the China Open final. "I was able to put on a really good performance and I knew I was going to have to play really well against Coco if I wanted to get the win. I'm really excited to be in the final," Anisimova said. "I've been saying every time I've walked on court and won my match that I love playing here and the crowd support has been so amazing since the first day I got here. I really think that's carried me through this entire tournament."

Higgo stretches lead in Mississippi

SOUTH AFRICA'S Garrick Higgo closed in on his second US PGA Tour title of 2025 yesterday, carding a 5-under-par 67 to take a two-shot lead after three rounds of the Sanderson Farms Championship. Higgo fired six birdies with one bogey at Country Club of Jackson in Mississippi to build an 18-under-par total of 198. Leading by one to start the day, he was two strokes clear of Americans Steven Fisk and Danny Walker. "I'd say it was quite a good fight," Higgo said. "I knew it wasn't going to be easy. I mean, it's never easy. Golf never really goes your way. I just stayed patient and tried to put good swings on it and tried to roll the ball as good as I can." he added. "But I think I just stayed patient and then just let it come to me."


Jannik Sinner. – *AFPPIC*

Sinner starts Shanghai defence in style

WORLD NO. 2 Jannik Sinner launched his Shanghai Masters title defence Saturday, breezing past Germany's Daniel Altmaier 6-3, 6-3 while Alexander Zverev advanced despite toe trouble. "First match is never easy, especially when you don't have a lot of time to adjust," Sinner said. "(Altmaier) is a very tough player, very talented… I just tried to stay mentally in a good point," he added. Sinner's path to retaining the title has been made easier by the withdrawal of great rival Carlos Alcaraz, who dropped out last minute to rest. The tournament lost another top-10 player as Karen Khachanov was defeated by China's Shang Juncheng 7-6 (7-3), 6-3. World No. 3 Zverev overcame an injury to his big toe to book his place in the third round, beating France's Valentin Royer 6-4, 6-4. "It's not a nice feeling to finish a match like that," Zverev said afterwards, wincing. World No. 7 Alex de Minaur comfortably dispatched Argentina's Camilo Ugo Carabelli 6-4, 6-2. Russian Andrey Rublev, ranked 14th, was upset by qualifier Yoshihito Nishioka 2-6, 6-1, 6-4. But compatriot Daniil Medvedev dominated qualifier Dalibor Svrcina to advance 6-1, 6-1.

Diaz dazzles early

Kane strikes again as Bayern beat Frankfurt

LUIS DIAZ scored a double, his first coming after just 15 seconds, and Harry Kane added another as Bayern Munich won 3-0 at Eintracht Frankfurt yesterday.

England captain Kane's 18th goal in 10 games in all competitions this season helped Bayern move four points clear atop the German Bundesliga table heading into the international break.

"It was a great performance. We've got momentum on our side and we'll have to hold onto that," Kane told *Sky Germany*.

Bayern got off to a lightning start, Serge Gnabry grabbing an errant Frankfurt pass to set up Diaz for the third-fastest goal in Bundesliga history.

Frankfurt's Jean-Matteo Bahoya looked to have drawn the hosts level with 15 minutes played after an excellent long-range effort, but the goal was ruled out by VAR for a handball against Ritsu Doan in the lead-up.

With 27 minutes gone, Kane thumped a low shot from outside the box past Frankfurt goalkeeper Kaua Santos and into the bottom left corner, his 11th league goal in six matches this season.

Kane collided with Santos late in the second half and needed assistance leaving the pitch with a limp, but was able to jog down the touchline before being subbed off.

Despite the injury he said he would be fit for England duty next week.

"I'm OK. It was a contact to the bone. I had it a few weeks ago, and it was in the same spot today. A few days and it'll be fine." he said.

Diaz scored with six minutes remaining, raising his total to six goals in 10 games since moving from Liverpool in the summer.

Bayern's next opponents after the international break are second-placed Borussia Dortmund, who were held to a 1-1 draw by visitors RB Leipzig earlier on Saturday.

"We wanted to win today and we had the chances to do so, but we lacked a bit of luck in the end," Dortmund captain Nico Schlotterbeck told *DAZN*.

"We wasted a lot of possession up front. A point is OK."

The draw leaves second-placed Dortmund two points behind league leaders Bayern. Leipzig are a point behind Dortmund in third.

Summer arrivals Ernest Poku and Christian Kofane scored as Bayer Leverkusen beat Union Berlin 2-0 at home to collect their third win of the season.

Samuel Mbangula's second-minute goal was enough for Werder Bremen in a 1-0 home win over St Pauli, the hosts' second victory of the season.

Augsburg bounced back after a run of four defeats with a dominant 3-1 home win over Wolfsburg. – AFP

Vinicius double helps Real beat Yellow Submarine

VINICIUS JUNIOR fired Real Madrid to the top of La Liga with a brace in a 3-1 win over Villarreal yesterday, while Kylian Mbappe was also on target.

Having returned from their long midweek trip to Kazakhstan, where they beat Kairat in the Champions League, Madrid turned their focus back to domestic matters.

Thrashed 5-2 by city rivals Atletico Madrid last weekend, Xabi Alonso's side had plenty to prove against a strong Villarreal team, who are third.

"I played very well and I want to continue like this, keeping this confidence and doing even more," Vinicius told *Real Madrid TV*.

"We have good feelings… when we come back (from the international break) we have big games and we need confidence," added Vinicius.

The winger did not start the season well but has found form in recent outings.

"Vini had a very good game and he was decisive, I'm very happy for him," Alonso told reporters.

Alonso brought Fede Valverde back into the team, playing him at rightback in the absence of injured duo Dani Carvajal and Trent Alexander-Arnold.

Mbappe was taken off grimacing in the final stages, in the only negative note for a Madrid side who were good value for their three points.

"Kylian already had a little discomfort in his ankle, we will see how it goes," said Alonso, adding that the forward would still travel to join up with the French national team.

Villarreal midfielder Santiago Comesana complained about some of the refereeing decisions that went against his side.

"It's a shame about the first goal which hit me, and then came the penalty, which wasn't enough (of a foul) to give it," Comesana told *DAZN*.

"That hurt us a lot, you only have to look how he threw himself down… and the red card (was soft)… if it's already hard to win at the Bernabeu, with these things it's even harder." – AFP



Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior (centre) in action with Villarreal's Santiago Mourino (left) and Alberto Moleiro during their Spanish La Liga match yesterday. – ***REUTERSPIC***

Inter sweep past Cremonese to join Serie A leaders

INTER MILAN joined a clutch of teams level at the top of Serie A yesterday by giving sorry Cremonese a 4-1 thumping at the San Siro thanks in large part to a superb display from Ange-Yoan Bonny.

Lautaro Martinez, Bonny, Federico Dimarco and Nicolo Barella were all on target for Inter, who movd onto 12 points alongside local rivals AC Milan, Napoli and Roma, who all play on Sunday.

Inter were missing France forward Marcus Thuram to a hamstring injury but that did not stop the hosts from bulldozing promoted Cremonese, as his countryman Bonny impressed with three assists to go along with a goal in his first start for his new club.

"It was great to win, we're very consistent at the moment and if I can help the team, then that's great too," said Bonny, who followed coach Cristian Chivu to Inter from Parma in the summer.

"He (Chivu) gives me confidence every day. I know that if I work hard in training that I'll get my chance. Whether we're at Parma or Inter that's how it is."

Bonny was key to Inter taking the lead in the sixth minute as he slipped down the left side of the penalty area before pulling back a perfect pass for Martinez, who tapped home his sixth goal of the season.

And the 21-year-old was on hand to double his team's lead seven minutes before the break when he nipped in at the near post to nod home Dimarco's cross.

Bonny laid up Dimarco to lash home Inter's third 10 minutes after halftime and shortly afterwards he slipped in a neat ball from which Barella netted his first goal since December.

"We dominated, we created a lot and we had some fun. We were aggressive but also well organised," said Chivu.

"I'm pleased Bonny scored but I'm also happy about how he worked for the team. Up front we've got two top drawer players and two youngsters and the whole squad is happy with how they're doing."

Earlier, Lazio scraped a 3-3 home draw with Torino thanks to a penalty from Danilo Cataldi in the 13th minute of stoppage time. – AFP

SHORTS

De Zerbi living his best life

MARSEILLE climbed to the top of Ligue 1 yesterday with a 3-0 win at Metz which left coach Roberto De Zerbi purring over his side's form after four straight wins.

Abdallah Sima scored with virtually the last kick of the match to hand 10-man Lens a 2-1 victory at Auxerre and move the northerners up to fourth.

Rock bottom Metz parked the bus in the first half but Marseille poured forwards after the break with Brazilian dynamo Igor Paixao breaking the deadlock on 51 minutes, while Matt O'Riley on 69 minutes and Amine Gouiri two minutes after that secured the three points.

"These are the kind of matches we were losing last year, we've matured and the team is much stronger now," said De Zerbi.

"I'm very happy. This is my best period since I took over Marseille," the Italian coach, who joined from Brighton in June 2024 and led OM to the runners-up spot last season, added.

In the day's other match Brest and Nantes played out a goalless draw.

Coventry lead Championship

FRANK LAMPARD'S Coventry stormed to the top of the Championship with a 5-0 rout of financially stricken Sheffield Wednesday on Saturday as Middlesbrough lost 1-0 at Portsmouth.

The match at Hillsborough was briefly interrupted by a pitch invasion by the home fans to protest against Wednesday owner Dejphon Chansiri.

The Wednesday players were not paid on time this week for the fifth time in seven months.

"It's a period where we're playing well. All the work that we do is coming together. It won't always be that way, but at this point, we're very clinical in front of goal," said former England midfielder Lampard.

"We're creating a lot of chances and four clean sheets is obviously great for us because the early games, we were conceding a lot."

Middlesbrough relinquished top spot after losing for the first time in the league under Rob Edwards.

Leicester climbed up to third with a 3-1 win at Swansea thanks to goals from Jordan James, Abdul Fatawu and Jannik Vestergaard.

Preston beat Charlton 2-0 to move up to fourth, while fifth-placed Stoke were held 1-1 at Blackburn.

Southampton's struggles to readjust to life in the Championship continued in a 1-1 draw at Derby to sit 16th in the table.

Sheffield United remain rooted to the bottom of the table after losing 1-0 at Hull.

Lammens must be ready for scrutiny: Amorim

RUBEN AMORIM said on Saturday that he had bedded in Senne Lammens slowly due to the pressure that comes with being a Manchester United goalkeeper.

The Belgian made his debut and kept a clean sheet in Saturday's 2-0 win over Sunderland to ease the rising pressure on Amorim after a poor start to the season.

The 23-year-old was left out by Amorim for Premier League games against Manchester City, Chelsea and Brentford as Turkish international Altay Bayindir kept his place in the side.

"I think he looks confident in the first game, but the important thing is that the teammates help Senne to have a good game because everyone was focused, not a lot of mistakes," said Amorim.

"When Senne arrived here, first of all Altay was playing, and then you can feel that he needs to adapt – new country, new training, the pressure you guys put on the goalkeeper is massive.

"It was a little preparation for the guy to be ready to start his first game.

"But now it is just one game and he needs to work because he needs to be prepared that in our club things are really hard."

Amorim conceded on the eve of Sunderland's visit to Old Trafford that time was running out for him to get the results needed to keep his job.

After finishing 15th in the Premier League last season, United began the day down in 14th having won just two of their opening six league games.

A third consecutive home win propelled the Red Devils into the top half of the table.

But Amorim said that they must now take that form on the road to back up Mason Mount's claim that the players are "100 percent behind" their manager.

Mount scored the opening goal in a rare comfortable win for Amorim's men and Benjamin Sesko added the second before halftime.

"I know they want to do their best – and I know they don't want to change the coach all the time," added Amorim.

"Sometimes when we look at our team ,I know for sure that when we see the games in the end, they know that sometimes we can do better." – AFP

SPORTS TOTO RESULTS

DRAW NO: 6030/2025 **DATE:** 05/10/2025 (SUN)

STM LOTTERY SDN. BHD.
196901000090 (8420-D)

TOTO 4D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

1st Prize	3151
2nd Prize	8462
3rd Prize	0132

Special		Consolation	
8972	6965	7653	8675
9653	8520	2860	2984
9009	5324	4349	4083
4499	6595	5010	0184
7146	5687	9433	4333

4D JACKPOT

Jackpot 1 RM14,894,868.00

3151 8462	8462 3151
3151 0132	0132 3151
8462 0132	0132 8462

Jackpot 2 RM 216,998.76

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4D Zodiac

1st Prize	3151 +	OX
2nd Prize	8462 +	
3rd Prize	0132 +	
4th Prize	Special Prize +	
5th Prize	Consolation Prize +	
6th Prize	Any 4D drawn number	

TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

5D TOTO

1ST	7 2 4 0 6	
2ND	9 9 1 2 2	4TH 2 4 0 6
3RD	5 7 2 2 7	5TH 4 0 6
		6TH 0 6

6D TOTO

1ST	7 1 8 9 7 2	
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Arsenal go top

Arteta 'not positive' after Odegaard sets unwanted injury record

DECLAN RICE came back to haunt former club West Ham as Arsenal moved top of the Premier League on Saturday.

In Mikel Arteta's 300th match in charge, the Gunners proved far too strong for the struggling Hammers in a 2-0 win at the Emirates Stadium to further their ambitions of a first Premier League title for 22 years.

Victory came at a cost for Arsenal as captain Martin Odegaard was forced off injured before halftime for the third time this season.

However, the strength in depth now on offer to Arteta has made light of Arsenal's injury troubles.

Rice, who left West Ham in 2023, ended the visitors' resistence by blasting high into the net on the rebound after Alphonse Areola parried Eberechi Eze's drive.

Bukayo Saka made the points safe midway through the second half from the penalty spot after Jurrien Timber was brought down by El Hadji Malick Diouf.

Arteta's mood at going top of the Premier League was soured on Saturday by another injury setback for captain Odegaard.

The Norwegian set an unwanted record by becoming the first player in Premier League history to be substituted before halftime in three consecutive starts.

Odegaard also came off in victories against Leeds and Nottingham Forest due to a shoulder problem.

The 26-year-old appeared over that after his eye-catching display in the Gunners' 2-0 Champions League win over Olympiakos in midweek.

But he had to be withdrawn again on the half hour mark at the Emirates after colliding knees with West Ham's Crysencio Summerville.

"I think he had a clash, knee-to-knee and immediately he was uncomfortable. I just spoke to him and he is not positive about it," said Arteta, who revealed Odegaard was in a knee brace after the match.

"We have to wait and see the extent of the injury. We will have to find solutions but obviously he is our captain and is a player that gives us a completely different dimension with things that he can do, especially in the attack.

"Let's wait and hopefully it is not that bad." – AFP/Reuters



Arsenal's Martin Odegaard reacts after sustaining an injury yesterday. – *AFPPIC*

Kudus fires Spurs in win at Leeds

TOTTENHAM boss Thomas Frank hailed his side's character to grind out a 2-1 win at Leeds as Mohammed Kudus' first goal for the club sent Spurs up to second in the Premier League.

Noah Okafor cancelled out Mathys Tel's opener for the visitors in a first half that raged from end to end.

But as the torrential rain and ferocious winds of Storm Amy hit Elland Road in the second half, Spurs stood strong and grabbed the winner through Kudus' deflected shot to inflict Leeds' first home league defeat for over a year.

"I think the character was the foundation," said Frank. "To go here and get through the spells where everything was not perfect and to keep the focus.

"We needed a win… That feeling to get over the line, to get three points, was big."

Leeds will rue their missed chances to avoid a first league defeat at Elland Road since losing to Burnley in September 2024.

"You can accept the defeat if it is against a top side like Tottenham," said Leeds boss Daniel Farke.

"I am still happy with the performance. If we deliver performances like this, we will be fine in the end."

Frank has so far stamped out that habit as Spurs are yet to drop points after taking the lead in a match. Defeat leaves Leeds in 12th with eight points from their first seven games. – AFP

WINNING NUMBERS — da ma cai

PAYMENT GUARANTEED IN FULL

Draw Date: 05/10/25 (Sun) Draw No: 5977/25 Venue: WISMA GENTING, KL

1+3D SUPER1+3D

1st Prize	4814
2nd Prize	3872
3rd Prize	5873

Starters		Consolation	
7801	2208	2794	5729
7311	7052	1761	2380
6088	4724	6858	6137
3611	3349	6358	8610
3255	8140	4241	3123

1+3D Jackpot

Jackpot 1 RM8,017,150.40

4814 + 3872	3872 + 4814
4814 + 5873	5873 + 4814
3872 + 5873	5873 + 3872

Jackpot 2 RM115,434.80

Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of 10 Starter Prizes.

3+3D Bonus

1st Prize 024 814 +	Bonus HORSE	1st Prize Bonus RM230,000.00
2nd Prize 493 872 +	Bonus SNAKE	2nd Prize Bonus RM380,000.00
3rd Prize 015 873 +	Bonus OX	3rd Prize Bonus RM549,097.10

Starters		Consolation	
077 801	522 208	212 794	115 729
197 311	847 052	081 761	082 380
416 088	654 724	706 858	876 137
723 611	473 349	776 358	578 610
473 255	308 140	714 241	273 123

3D

1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
814	872	873

3D Jackpot

Jackpot RM715,495.40

814 + 872 + 873	872 + 873 + 814
814 + 873 + 872	873 + 814 + 872
872 + 814 + 873	873 + 872 + 814

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1+3D Jackpot 2 RM614,185.40 won on 4/10/25!

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RESULTS & STANDINGS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Leeds 1 *(Okafor 34)* **Tottenham 2** *(Tel 23, Kudus 57)*, **Arsenal 2** *(Rice 38, Saka 67-pen)* **West Ham 0, Man Utd 2** *(Mount 8, Sesko 31)* **Sunderland 0, Chelsea 2** *(Caicedo 14, Estevao 90+6)* **Liverpool 1** *(Gakpo 63)*.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	7	5	1	1	14	3	16
Liverpool	7	5	0	2	13	9	15
Tottenham	7	4	2	1	13	5	14
Bournemouth	7	4	2	1	11	8	14
Crystal Palace	6	3	3	0	8	3	12
Chelsea	7	3	2	2	13	9	11
Sunderland	7	3	2	2	7	6	11
Man City	6	3	1	2	14	6	10
Man Utd	7	3	1	3	9	11	10
Everton	6	2	2	2	7	6	8
Brighton	6	2	2	2	9	9	8
Fulham	7	2	2	3	8	11	8
Leeds	7	2	2	3	7	11	8
Brentford	6	2	1	3	9	11	7
Newcastle	6	1	3	2	4	5	6
Aston Villa	6	1	3	2	4	6	6
Nottm Forest	6	1	2	3	5	10	5
Burnley	6	1	1	4	6	13	4
West Ham	7	1	1	5	6	16	4
Wolves	6	0	1	5	4	13	1

ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIP: Blackburn Rovers 1 Stoke City 1, Hull City 1 Sheffield United 0, Sheffield Wednesday 0 Coventry City 5, Bristol City 1 Queens Park Rangers 2, Derby County 1 Southampton 1, Millwall 3 West Bromwich Albion 0, Portsmouth 1 Middlesbrough 0, Preston North End 2 Charlton Athletic 0, Swansea City 1 Leicester City 3, Watford 2 Oxford United 1.

TOP 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Coventry	9	5	4	0	27	7	19
Mid'boro	9	5	3	1	12	6	18
Leicester	9	4	4	1	13	8	16
Preston	9	4	4	1	11	7	16
Stoke	9	4	3	2	11	6	15
QPR	9	4	3	2	13	14	15

SPANISH LA LIGA: Oviedo 0 Levante 2 *(Alvarez 30, Etta Eyong 72)*, **Girona 2** *(Vanat 18, Martinez 63)* **Valencia 1** *(Lopez 57)*, **Athletic Bilbao 2** *(Williams 9-pen, Rego 82)* **Mallorca 1** *(Costa 77)*, **Real Madrid 3** *(Vinicius 47, 69-pen, Mbappe 81)* **Villarreal 1** *(Mikautadze 73)*.

ITALIAN SERIE A: Atalanta 1 *(Samardzic 6)* **Como 1** *(Perrone 19)*, **Inter Milan 4** *(Martinez 6, Bonny 38, Dimarco 55, Barella 57)* **Cremonese 1** *(Bonazzoli 87)*, **Parma 0 Lecce 1** *(Sottil 38)*, **Lazio 3** *(Cancellieri 24, 40, Cataldi 90+13-pen)* **Torino 3** *(Simeone 16, Adams 73, Coco 90+2)*.

TOP 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AC Milan	5	4	0	1	9	3	12
Napoli	5	4	0	1	10	5	12
Roma	5	4	0	1	5	1	12
Inter Milan	6	4	0	2	17	8	12
Juventus	5	3	2	0	9	5	11
Atalanta	5	2	3	0	10	4	9

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA: Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Bayern Munich 3, Bayer Leverkusen 2 Union Berlin 0, Borussia Dortmund 1 RB Leipzig 1, Werder Bremen 1 St Pauli 0, Augsburg 3 Wolfsburg 1.

FRENCH LIGUE 1: Metz 0 Marseille 3, Brest 0 Nantes 0, Auxerre 1 Lens 2.

Kristoff bids emotional farewell at LTdL25

NORWEGIAN sprint legend Alexander Kristoff received a guard of honour before the start of the final stage of the 2025 Le Tour de Langkawi (LTdL) today, marking his official retirement from professional cycling.

During the ceremony at Dataran Tangkak Ledang here today, the 38-year-old was given the special send-off before the start of Stage Eight of LTdL 2025 by being escorted to the starting line on a trishaw ridden by Malaysian road cycling legend Anuar Manan.

Riders from the peloton lined both sides of the road, raising their bicycles in salute as Kristoff waved to the crowd in an emotional farewell.

Kristoff, who crashed during Stage Seven from Melaka to Medini yesterday, was unable to start today's final stage from Tangkak to Kuala Lumpur.

"I'm already retired now because I cannot race today after yesterday's crash, but it's nice to be here to say goodbye.

"I was hoping to finish the race, but still, to get an honour ceremony like this means a lot. It's been an honour to be in the pro peloton for so many years," he said.

Among his notable achievements are victories in Milan-San Remo (2014), Tour of Flanders (2015), four Tour de France stage wins and the European Championship (2017), along with podium finishes at the Olympic Games and World Championships.

Meanwhile, Kristoff said he will continue to contribute to the sport as part of the Tour of Norway organising committee.

Kristoff, who made his LTdL debut this year, praised the organisation and the safety of the Malaysian race.

"It's been cool to be here for the first time. The race was very secure and well-organised. If I were still racing, I'd definitely come back," he said. – Bernama

Kenyans bag open titles

Ni Jia, Chua emerge top Malaysians at KLSCM 2025

THE Kuala Lumpur Standard Chartered Marathon (KLSCM) 2025 saw John Nzau Mwangangi crossing the finish line in a time of 02:17:28 to win the Full Marathon Men's Open title.

In the Malaysian category, the highly anticipated contest between some of the nation's top long distance runners saw Yeow Ni Jia surging ahead in the final stretch to break the tape with a time of 02:36:13, besting two other close contenders to bag the Malaysian title.

The KLSCM is Malaysia's premier distance running event where KLSCM 2025 is a World Athletics Elite Label Race, making it the first and only distance running event in the country to be accorded that status.

This year's event, Pantai KL 10km, 5km fun run and Kids Dash categories held on Saturday while the Full Marathon and Asics Half Marathon yesterday, saw record number of 42,000 participants registered for this 17th edition of the KLSCM, including 3,300 international participants from 53 countries.

Mwangangi was elated to clinch the Men's Open title after finishing second in his last two KLSCM races.

"I missed out on first place twice because of my lack of experience with the final kilometre. I decided to analyse and learn from my previous mistake and change my strategy," he said. "The course was balanced with a good mix of flat and hilly sections and I managed to go a bit faster today and improve my time."

His compatriots Kiprotich Kiru and defending champion Vincent Kiprono taking the remaining podium positions.

Third time was a charm for Truphena Chepchirchir of Kenya who won the Women's Open crown with a time of 02:41:36. Almaz Negede Fekade of Ethiopia finished second while Joyline Chemutai of Kenya had to settle for third place.

The Full Marathon Malaysian Men's category was set to be a close fight with the additional carrot of being a Category B qualification for the 2025 SEA Games.

Yeow Ni Jia finished in 02:36:13 to best national record holder Tan Huong Leong who came in second with a time of 02:37:05. Defending champion and six-time KLSCM champion Muhaizar Mohamad had to settle for third place with his time of 02:44:37.

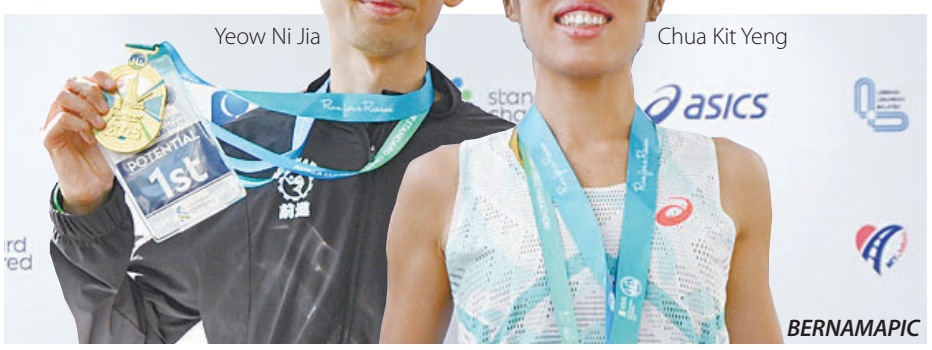
"The course was challenging because of the rolling hills that KL is famous for. In terms of performance, I am grateful that I managed to hit the goal that I set before the race, which was to achieve a sub 02:40 timing in local weather," said Yeow, 25.

"I am looking forward to breaking my personal best in the next event but if I were to be selected for the SEA Games, I'll be focusing on that first."

In the Full Marathon Malaysian Women's category, Chua Khit Yeng reclaimed the title with a time of 03:05:40 with the defending champion Noor Amelia Musa settling for second place with a time of 03:09:03. The third podium spot went to Lee Siok Chin who finished in 03:11:07.

"I came in today focused on setting a good time – my goal was not to win but to fight the clock. Winning the race was a nice surprise because I have been losing to Amelia by a few seconds in our other races this year. I did not expect to overtake her today," said Chua, 34.

This year, Standard Chartered Malaysia brought the spirit of Asean to life through its Ekiden Heroes challenge, where colleagues from across the region came together in relay to symbolise Malaysia as Chair.



Pos Malaysia to support healthy lifestyle

POS MALAYSIA Berhad (Pos Malaysia) reinforced its commitment to supporting a healthy lifestyle by becoming the Official Logistics Strategic Partner for the 2025 National Sports Day (HSN2025) on Oct 11.

Pos Malaysia chief executive officer Charles Brewer said that as part of its contribution, it will, among others, provide 15,000 pieces of running shirts for HSN participants in Ipoh (Perak) and Penang.

"Pos Malaysia is proud to support the organisation of this national-scale event, which can unite Malaysians from all walks of life.

"As the Official Logistics Strategic Partner of HSN2025, we are honoured to play a crucial role in supporting the movement of all logistics goods for Perak and Penang.

"This includes the distribution of running shirts, retail activities, branding collaboration activations with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, as well as participation in the official flag-off of the running event," he said in a statement yesterday.

Themed "Malaysia Active", HSN2025 is targeting the involvement of over 5.2 million Malaysians through various sports and recreational programmes that will be held over three days from Oct 10. – Bernama

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Jackpot 2 - Group 2 + Golden Number

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GROUP 2	29756	OR	97567
GROUP 3	2975	OR	7567
GROUP 4	297	OR	567
GROUP 5	29	OR	67
		OR	75
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Diaz dazzles early

Story on page 29



Liverpool lose again!

Liverpool players walk out to the football field for the second half against Chelsea. –REUTERSPIC

Slot struggles to solve the Reds' problems after third successive defeat

ARNE SLOT admitted Liverpool are still a work in progress after the spluttering Premier League champions suffered their third successive loss in a 2-1 defeat against Chelsea on Saturday.

For the second time in the space of a week, Liverpool's title defence was rocked by an agonising last-gasp loss.

Beaten in the final seconds at Crystal Palace last weekend, Slot's side stumbled again as Estevao Willian grabbed a dramatic stoppage-time winner at Stamford Bridge.

Moises Caicedo had blasted Chelsea into an early lead with a superb long-range strike before Cody Gakpo equalised in the second half.

After starting the season with seven successive wins in all competitions, the Reds lost to Palace, then Galatasaray in the Champions League in midweek before their latest flop in west London.

It is the first time that Liverpool have suffered three consecutive losses since 2023 when Jurgen Klopp was in charge for defeats against Bournemouth, Real Madrid and Manchester City.

For Slot, it was a first experience in his managerial career of three defeats in a row.

Even when Liverpool were winning at the start of the season, they needed several late goals to paper over the cracks in some creaky performances.

And Slot believes his team are not yet functioning at full power because of their summer spending spree and the tragic death of Portugal forward Diogo Jota in a car crash in Spain.

Liverpool splashed out on Alexander Isak, Florian Wirtz and a host of other players, but their two marquee signings have yet to shine.

"You are never close to your ideal. You have to work very hard to reach a certain level and then it's hard to maintain that level because you play against other quality teams," Slot said.

"We had our changes in the summer. Players came in at different moments. In the last weeks there has hardly been any training time. We need to bring these players into our style.

"If we had a draw today we would have had a great start to the season if you take into account everything that happened in the summer with Liverpool."

Liverpool took 51 minutes to muster a shot on target against a Chelsea side missing out a host of injured and suspended defenders.

The Blues, beaten in their previous two league games, have also been struggling to find their form, but Liverpool were unable to take advantage.

"Another disappointing loss, that is clear. We created three big chances in the first half, they only had one and they scored it," said Slot, whose team host Manchester United in their next match after the international break.

"The second half performance I liked. We created more than enough to score more than one goal. There were periods where I thought we were going to win it.



Chelsea's Moises Caicedo scores their first goal. – REUTERSPIC

"We didn't play the last pass well enough in those chances. It was end to end in the last few minutes. Either team could have won it and Chelsea did."

Sweden striker Isak and Egypt forward Mohamed Salah once again failed to find a positive connection, but Slot is confident they will hit it off eventually.

"The more they play together the more they will connect. I had to take (Ibrahima) Konate off because he felt his quad. When Ryan (Gravenberch) started to play in that position we started to get our attacking players in much better positions," he said.

"It wasn't about a disconnection between players. We had to do much better with our build-up and that's what we did in the second half."

Chelsea boss Enzo Maresca did not attend the post-match press conference after being sent off for his jubilant sprint down the touchline to celebrate Estevao's winner.

"He is ok. Unfortunately he can't be here because of the red card but he was so happy after the game," Maresca's assistant Willy Caballero said.

"We have been holding our emotions for the last couple of weeks because we have been playing well and not winning. Today was really important." – AFP

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