



MMA calls for bold reforms in healthcare sector
 M'sia must double spending to 5% of GDP under Budget 2026 to meet rising demands and close critical service gaps.

Report on page 4

Sabah state assembly dissolved

Move allows Sabahans to exercise their democratic rights and choose new govt, says CM Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor in announcing dissolution to pave way for 17th state polls within 60 days.

Hajiji Noor (centre) announcing the dissolution of the Sabah State Legislative Assembly at a press conference after meeting with assemblymen from the coalition government at Menara Kinabalu yesterday. – BERNAMAPIC

Report on page 2



Govt told to recover RM54m penalties for late vehicle deliveries
 No claims made against concessionaire despite extensive delays, says Auditor-General's Report.

Report on page 3

Tragedy highlights lack of professional oversight for home renovations
 Small construction errors or unchecked modifications can have fatal consequences: Experts

Report on page 5



Sabah assembly dissolved to pave way for election

➤ Move allows people to exercise democratic rights to choose new state government, says chief minister

■ BY HARITH KAMAL
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: The 16th Sabah State Legislative Assembly has been dissolved to pave the way for the 17th state election, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor announced yesterday.

He said he had met Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Musa Aman earlier in the day to seek consent for the dissolution.

During a press conference in Kota Kinabalu, Hajiji said the move allows Sabahans to exercise their democratic rights and choose a new state government.

"Through this dissolution, we are giving the people of Sabah the opportunity to decide and renew the mandate to continue our mission of building a stronger, more prosperous and united Sabah for all."

Hajiji said since taking office in September 2022, his administration has implemented the Sabah Maju Jaya (SMJ) Development Plan, a holistic framework aimed at transforming the

state through three key pillars - agriculture, industry and tourism; human capital and people's well-being; and infrastructure and regional connectivity.

"The SMJ Plan has placed Sabah on a clear path of transformation. We have taken bold and responsible steps to address inherited issues, especially those concerning water and electricity supply and other critical infrastructure," he said.

He added that major projects were being rolled out to resolve long-standing problems that have burdened the people, with several initiatives already completed.

"During this period, Sabah has strengthened its economy, attracted investments, created more jobs, expanded access to education and improved social well-being across all levels of society," Hajiji said.

He credited these gains to the people's trust and cooperation in supporting the government's development vision.

"However, our work is not yet done.

"New challenges demand new solutions and we are ready to bring Sabah into its next chapter," he said.

He added that the state government is seeking a fresh mandate to continue its agenda.

Hajiji expressed hope that the upcoming election would strengthen the people's voice, safeguard stability and security, and ensure continued progress for the state.

"Let us move forward together with confidence and purpose."

Present at the press conference were Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Seri Dr Joachim Gunsalam, who is also Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) acting president, and other members of the state Cabinet.

Also in attendance were leaders of Gabungan Rakyat Sabah (GRS) component parties, as well as Sabah Pakatan Harapan chairman and United Progressive Kinabalu Organisation president Datuk Ewon Benedick and Sabah DAP chairman Datuk Phoong Jin Zhe.

The Sabah State Assembly comprises 79 seats, with 73 elected and six appointed members. In the 16th state election held in 2020, GRS - then aligned with Perikatan Nasional, Barisan Nasional, PBS and several independents - won 41 of the 73 contested seats, forming the state government.

Freedom Flotilla set to enter yellow zone

SERDANG: The Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) humanitarian mission sailing to Gaza is expected to enter the yellow zone today.

Humanitarian Care Malaysia (MyCARE) chief executive officer Kamarul Zaman Shaharul Anwar said this would allow the mission - involving nine vessels, including the flagship *Conscience* and the *Umm Saad* - to reach Gaza before the weekend.

He said the flotilla aims to avoid arriving on Friday or Saturday, which are non-working days in Israel, to ensure immediate legal support in case the mission is blocked.

"So, they will try to reach Gaza before that. If they arrive on Wednesday and are intercepted, our lawyers can gain access to them and provide assistance," he said at MyCARE's headquarters here yesterday.

As of 2.20am (Malaysian time) yesterday, *Conscience* was about 250 nautical miles off Gaza's coast, and expected to enter the yellow zone within 24 hours, he said.

Kamarul added that *Conscience* plans to slow its journey to regroup with the other eight boats, including *Umm Saad*, which carries one Malaysian, before sailing together into the yellow zone.

He said Malaysia's chief delegate Prof Emeritus Dr Mohd Alauddin Mohd Ali reported that drones were spotted hovering above *Conscience*, apparently to intimidate participants.

Eight Malaysians are aboard *Conscience*, which departed from Porto Otranto, Italy, on Sept 30. They are Mohd Alauddin, Dr Fauziah Mohd Hassan, Dr Hafiz Sulaiman and Dr Ili Syakira Mohd Suhaimi (doctors), Prof Dr Mond Afandi Salleh and Dr Noorhasyimah Ismail (lecturers), MyCARE trustee Norsham Abu Bakar, and Astro Awani journalist Syafik Shukri Abdul Jalil.

Another Malaysian, Dr Maziah Muhammad, is on board *Umm Saad*, which left Catania, Sicily, on Sept 27 with seven other vessels heading toward Gaza.

In total, around 150 participants from 25 countries are part of the mission, with MyCARE leading the Malaysian delegation. - Bernama

M'sia, Pakistan to enhance defence cooperation

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia and Pakistan have reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation across emerging sectors including defence, agriculture, the digital economy, energy and technology-driven industries.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said both countries share longstanding ties since Malaysia's independence in 1957, with collaboration already established in education, culture, defence and trade.

"Our joint aspiration is to further enhance this collaboration in all fields.

"We are in a period of geopolitical uncertainty, so defence, agriculture, digital economy, energy and new technologies such as STEM, ICT, innovation, TVET, E&E and semiconductors are areas we can explore together," he said at a joint press conference with visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here yesterday.

Anwar also expressed appreciation for the contributions of Pakistan's professionals, workers and students in Malaysia, saying their presence has strengthened bilateral relations.

"We value their contribution and will give preference for them to stay and continue contributing here," he said.

Both leaders also exchanged views on regional and international issues, including peace efforts in the India-Pakistan subcontinent and cooperation in combating terrorism.

Anwar said Malaysia's restored political stability will allow more effective collaboration with Pakistan in the future.

Earlier, Shehbaz was accorded an official welcome at the Perdana Putra Complex before attending a bilateral meeting with Anwar. The Pakistani leader, who is on a three-day official visit to Malaysia at Anwar's invitation, was later hosted to a luncheon at Seri Perdana.

Anwar and Shehbaz arrived together at the luncheon, where students from Sekolah Kebangsaan Putrajaya Presint 11 (3) greeted them with chants of "Welcome to Malaysia", accompanied by a cultural performance by



Anwar and Shehbaz at the joint press conference yesterday. - BERNAMAPIC

dancers from Istana Budaya.

Among those present were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Tiong King Sing, Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Religious Affairs) Datuk Dr Mohd Na'im Mokhtar.

According to Wisma Putra, Shehbaz's visit serves as a reciprocal gesture to Anwar's

official visit to Pakistan in October 2024 and reflects the strengthening of Malaysia-Pakistan relations, which were elevated to a Strategic Partnership in March 2019.

In 2024, total trade between both nations rose 25.5% to RM8.07 billion (US1.76 billion), with Malaysia's key exports comprising palm oil, petroleum and chemical products, while imports from Pakistan include agricultural goods, textiles, apparel, footwear and petroleum products. - Bernama

RM19.5bil boost to security enforcement

PETALING JAYA: The Home Ministry's RM19.5 billion allocation under Budget 2025 has reinforced Malaysia's security enforcement and strengthened the professionalism of its agencies, said Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail.

He said the allocation underscores the Madani government's commitment to enhancing the readiness, efficiency and integrity of enforcement bodies under the ministry, including the Royal Malaysia Police, Immigration Department, National Anti-Drugs Agency and Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency.

"Budget 2025 is not just about figures, but a reflection of the government's determination to protect the people and ensure national security remains a top priority," Saifuddin said in a Facebook post.

He noted that one of the ministry's key achievements this year was its heightened crackdown on human trafficking and exploitation, achieved through close cooperation between the Criminal Investigation Department, Immigration Department and local authorities.

"As a result of these joint operations, 45 raids were carried out, 249 individuals were arrested, and 144 victims of human exploitation were rescued," he said.

"This shows that every enforcement action under the Home Ministry's reforms is not merely about upholding the law, but about safeguarding human dignity and saving lives."

- By HARITH KAMAL

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT 3/2025

RM54.5m in unclaimed fines over delayed deliveries

► Auditor-general flags financial losses and poor oversight by Finance Ministry

BY HARITH KAMAL
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: The management of government vehicles under concession has been found to be unsatisfactory, with the government failing to recover RM54.51 million in penalties from the concessionaire for late vehicle deliveries, according to the Auditor-General's Report 3/2025 (AG Report). As of Dec 31, 2024, a total of 6,028 vehicles were delivered late – between one and 508 days beyond the agreed timeframe – under

Concession Agreement 2 (CA2), signed in January 2022 between the government and concession company.

Under the contract, vehicles must be delivered within 60 working days, with penalties imposed for delays. However, the audit found that no claims were made against the concessionaire despite the extensive delays.

Based on audit estimates, the government could have imposed RM54.51 million in penalties – comprising RM45.14 million for replacement vehicles under the expired CA1 lease, RM8.98 million for new orders and about RM380,000 for vehicles classified as total losses.

The Finance Ministry, which oversees the contract, said it has set up a Penalty Committee and a Penalty Assessment Working Committee to review and determine appropriate claims. A coordination meeting with all ministries was held on Aug 18 to discuss the audit findings and next steps.

The audit also revealed that the government continued to pay RM123.43 million in leasing fees for 5,323

vehicles whose lease periods had expired between 2021 and 2024.

It estimated that if these vehicles had been replaced on schedule, the cost would have been RM94.64 million, resulting in a potential loss of RM28.79 million.

The ministry explained that expired vehicles were still being used to prevent service disruptions, adding that supply delays from manufacturers also contributed to the backlog.

Between 2021 and 2024, ministries spent a total of RM1.75 billion on vehicle leasing, repairs and maintenance – including RM1.52 billion under CA1 and RM235 million under CA2.

CA2, which took effect on July 31, 2022, is a 15-year contract running until July 30, 2037, replacing the earlier CA1 that expired in 2018 and was extended four times.

As of end-2024, there were 14,459 government vehicles under the concession – 11,322 departmental vehicles and 3,137 official cars.

The report concluded that the Finance Ministry's management of the concession was inefficient, citing late deliveries, unclaimed penalties and financial losses from the continued use of expired leased vehicles.

RTD system 'ebaki' to plug revenue gap

KUALA LUMPUR: The Road Transport Department (RTD) is developing an online system called "ebaki" to manage the sale of expired vehicle registration numbers.

According to the Auditor-General's Report, the new system will be introduced under the RTD Digital System Development Project.

"Currently, it is at the System Requirement Studies (SRS) stage and is expected to go live in October 2026," the report stated.

The report said RTD collected RM1.65 billion in revenue from the sale of vehicle registration numbers between 2022 and 2024.

However, an estimated additional RM115.96 million could have been earned if blocked and inactive registration numbers were offered for sale at the minimum price.

As of 2024, there were 375,792 expired registration numbers unsold and 134 blocked registration numbers that could generate at least RM112.73 million and RM795,150 respectively if sold.

The audit also found that among the 219 applications to reclaim expired registration numbers, 12 approved cases were only charged a RM10 service fee, compared with a potential revenue of RM23,100 had they been sold at the minimum price.

The minimum price for registration numbers is set between RM300 and RM20,000, depending on whether they fall under the current, popular, interesting or premium categories. A service fee of RM10 applies to each number offered.

However, the audit noted that the pricing basis for *nombor baki* (remaining numbers) under the popular category was not standardised across state RTD offices.

The RTD has been urged to ensure inactive numbers are made available to the public and to lock in the minimum pricing structure for each category through mySIKAP for wider transparency and publicity. – Bernama



The auditor-general has called on the Finance Ministry to tighten spending controls and strengthen oversight of public funds to improve government performance. – SUNPIC

Education Ministry tops list of overdue federal projects

PETALING JAYA: The Education Ministry recorded the highest number of delayed or "sick" projects last year, with 46 behind schedule – the most among 18 ministries – according to the Auditor-General's Report.

Overall, 157 federal development projects were classified as delayed as of Dec 31, 2024.

The Rural and Regional

Development Ministry came next with 34 delayed projects, followed by the Energy Transition and Water Transformation Ministry with 12 and the Housing and Local Government Ministry with 11.

The report highlighted four projects suffering severe delays – with progress lagging more than 20% and timelines extended between two and 10 times,

adding up to as many as 785 extra days.

Two of these were under the Defence Ministry for the construction of Armed Forces family housing in Sabah – one at Kem Kusan, Tawau and the other at the Labuan Air Base.

The remaining two were the upgrading of Galeria Perdana in Langkawi under the Home Ministry and the construction of a new six-

classroom school, dormitory and teachers' quarters at SK Metalun, Belaga, Sarawak, under the Education Ministry.

As of June 30, 2025, nearly half – 48.4% (4,528) – of 9,355 projects under the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) were in the implementation phase. Another 33.5% (3,136) were still in pre-implementation, 16.3% (1,526) had

reached post-implementation, and 1.8% (165) were either on hold or cancelled. From 2021 to 2024, total project spending hit RM315.93 billion, overshooting the approved allocation of RM307.91 billion.

The Auditor-General urged ministries and agencies to take swift action to address the delays. – By HARITH KAMAL

Federal deficit narrows to RM79.2b amid stronger financial management: AG

PETALING JAYA: Malaysia's fiscal position strengthened last year as the federal deficit narrowed to RM79.17 billion in 2024, down from RM91.39 billion in 2023, according to the National Audit Report 3/2025 tabled in Parliament yesterday.

Auditor-General Datuk Seri Wan Suraya Wan Mohd Radzi said the reduction of RM12.22 billion reflects tighter control over spending and a more disciplined approach to managing public finances.

In a statement, she said the Federal Government's 2024 financial statements "give a true and fair view" of the nation's accounts. Her office issued

an Unmodified Opinion – the highest level of assurance an auditor can give.

"The accounting records were properly maintained and updated, and overall, the government's financial performance showed improvement."

The deficit-to-GDP ratio also improved to 4.1% in 2024, down from 5.0% a year earlier and better than the 4.3% target set in the 2024 national budget.

According to the report, the improved figures provide a stronger base for Malaysia to meet its medium-term fiscal goals and reduce reliance on borrowing.

However, the audit also flagged

long-standing weaknesses in several development projects that remain incomplete.

Among them was the Operational Forward Base Project in Pulau Mabul, Semporna, Sabah, which was originally slated for completion in November 2024 but still unfinished as of July this year.

Planned since 2016 under the Second Rolling Plan of the 11th Malaysia Plan, the project was delayed by issues such as incomplete housing, unfinished main buildings and a missing jetty.

The report urged stricter monitoring to ensure projects are delivered on time

and within budget.

To enhance transparency and efficiency, the National Audit Department has widened its audit coverage to include 1,856 additional entities, including government-linked companies, through its new e-SelfAudit System.

The system leverages digital tools and data analytics to allow more frequent and accurate reviews of government-linked bodies.

Wan Suraya said the initiative reflects the department's ongoing modernisation drive to improve accountability and ensure public funds are well spent.

"It enables us to track whether organisations are achieving their objectives, practising good governance and managing finances responsibly," she said.

At the state level, the Auditor-General reviewed the 2024 financial statements of all 13 states. Four – Malacca, Pahang, Penang and Terengganu – received clean audits, while nine obtained clean opinions with minor notes, indicating generally sound financial management with room for reporting improvements. The audit report is available at ikan.audit.gov.my and agdashboard.audit.gov.my. – By HARITH KAMAL

BUDGET 2026 WISH LIST

MMA calls for bold reforms

► 'Priority to address shortages, retention issues in public healthcare workforce'

BY KIRTINEE RAMESH
 newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has unveiled its wishlist for Budget 2026, calling for bold reforms in healthcare financing, workforce retention, digitalisation and elderly care, adding that health must be viewed as an investment, not an expenditure.

Its president Datuk Dr Thirunavukarasu Rajoo said Malaysia must double its public healthcare spending from the current 2.4% to 5% of the GDP to meet rising demands and close critical service gaps.

To fund this, the MMA proposed removing the sugar subsidy and expanding the sugar tax on sweetened drinks, with the revenue ring-fenced for the Health Ministry.

"This not only discourages unhealthy consumption but also strengthens our healthcare system."

He also suggested raising registration fees at public clinics, from RM1 to RM5 for primary care and from RM5 to RM25 at specialist outpatient clinics, with proceeds



Thirunavukarasu recommended funding preventive screenings in private clinics and outsourcing health checks for civil servants, university entrants and national immunisation programmes to private GPs. — MASRY CHE ANI/THESUN

channelled into facility maintenance, while maintaining B40 exemptions.

He said the most urgent priority for Budget 2026 is addressing severe shortages and retention challenges in the public healthcare workforce.

He welcomed the government's move to abolish the contract doctor system and urged that all remaining contract doctors be absorbed into permanent positions.

"Without a strong workforce, even the best policies cannot be delivered effectively," he said, adding that on-call allowances for doctors should

be raised from RM9.16 to RM25 per hour to reflect their workload.

To ensure fair distribution of healthcare personnel nationwide, he proposed creating a national dashboard to map healthcare workers, facilities and resources across the country.

"This would allow better planning, transparency and workload management."

He also urged that digitalisation be made a central pillar of healthcare reform.

"It is unacceptable that some

hospitals still have 'dead zones' without phone connectivity." He called for nationwide standardisation of patient ID stickers to reduce errors, and for improvements to the MySejahtera app to provide more personalised care while mapping private GP clinics participating in public-private collaborations.

Thirunavukarasu said Budget 2026 should offer more grants for clinics, pharmacies and dental practices to support digital upgrades under the 13th Malaysia Plan, adding that such investments would modernise healthcare delivery and strengthen patient continuity.

Citing that non-communicable diseases cost Malaysia an estimated RM64.2 billion in 2021, or 4.2% of GDP, largely from productivity loss, he said prevention must be made a national priority.

He recommended funding preventive screenings in private clinics and outsourcing health checks for civil servants, university entrants and national immunisation programmes to private GPs.

"This would ease pressure on public facilities while maintaining secure record-keeping through MySejahtera."

He also called for stronger policies to promote healthy living, including mandatory calorie labelling at food outlets, healthier school meals and tax relief for Malaysians adopting active lifestyles through gym

memberships or sports activities.

With elderly care costs projected to reach RM21 billion by 2040, Thirunavukarasu said Budget 2026 must start preparing for an ageing population.

He proposed greater investment in home-based care, more geriatric and palliative specialists and upgrades to hospitals and clinics with age-friendly facilities.

Financial support for seniors, including subsidies, micro-insurance and caregiver training, should also be expanded.

To address manpower shortages and wait times, he suggested offering tax incentives for private hospitals to lend diagnostic equipment after office hours and formalising GP-health clinic-hospital clusters under a dedicated fund.

He also called for a review of the outdated PHFSA Act to improve governance and integration between public and private sectors.

He said the Covid-19 pandemic proved that collaboration works.

"GP-MOH cooperation delivered one of the highest vaccination rates in the world. That success must be replicated in our national health programmes.

"With fairer funding, stronger partnerships and better planning, Malaysia could save billions in productivity losses while improving quality of life. Health is not an expenditure, it is an investment in the nation's future."

Healthcare system needs shift towards prevention, equity: Expert

PETALING JAYA: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak public health expert Prof Dr Helmy Hazmi said Malaysia's healthcare system needs an urgent shift towards prevention and equity, especially in East Malaysia.

He added that health challenges cannot be solved by hospital expansion alone.

"Where you live should not determine if you live. Allocations must reach the unreached," he said, calling for a rethink of how health resources are distributed.

He outlined three priorities; prevention and primary care, workforce support and greater state-level autonomy.

He said Malaysia must "shift resources upstream", moving from hospital-based treatment to community and preventive care, as envisioned in the Health White Paper.

He also said for Sarawak, this means strengthening rural clinics, expanding mobile services and scaling up telehealth, adding that accelerating digitalisation would create a more efficient network.

Helmy said the second priority is retaining healthcare workers through permanent posts, housing, allowances and family support.

"Health workers are not just individuals on the frontlines. Their families, who are their immediate support system, must also be considered," he told *theSun*.

He also called for greater autonomy for Sarawak in financing, workforce planning and service delivery to ensure policies reflect local realities.

He added that non-communicable diseases (NCD) such as diabetes and hypertension remain Malaysia's

biggest long-term burden.

"Prevention always costs less than cure," he said. "We do not lack foresight or policy frameworks, only the courage and political will to act."

He said policies such as the sugar tax and tobacco control, although slow to take shape, are showing results and must be strengthened. He also urged scaling up nationwide interventions such as hypertension screening and salt reduction.

He added that at the core of lasting reform lies sustainable health financing. Malaysia's total health spending has stayed at about 4% to 5% of GDP for a decade, with only 2% to 3% from public expenditure, among the lowest in Southeast Asia.

"Thailand spends about 3.7% and Vietnam about 3.5% of GDP on public health, both higher than Malaysia."

While the World Health

Organisation recommends at least 5%, Helmy proposed a realistic stepwise increase.

"A practical goal would be 2.9% to 3% next year, signalling we are serious about reaching 5% by 2030," he said, adding that sustainability also requires structural reform and innovative financing, not just bigger budgets.

To bridge the urban-rural divide, he proposed three steps:

- Upgrade and equip facilities, particularly in Sarawak and Sabah, where geography remains a major barrier.
- Offer stronger incentives for healthcare workers, including rural and on-call allowances and family-friendly measures.
- Invest in preventive and primary care, such as NCD screening and maternal health outreach, to enable

early detection and cut costly complications.

He said the next decade must focus on healthcare financing reform, including a stronger *takaful* or insurance framework for middle-income earners.

He also said if the government were to introduce a policy in 2026, it should be "equity-weighted primary care funding", in which allocations are based on community needs.

"Rural Sarawak should finally get the same chance at health as Kuala Lumpur. Such funding would mean better primary care, fewer preventable admissions and more motivated health workers.

"Health equity is not just a goal but a duty. Reform starts with the client's experience and builds the system around what truly matters."

— by **Kirtinee Ramesh**

Govt urged to uphold rights of M'sians in tabling of national financial plan

BY AZURA ABAS
 newsdesk@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia has urged the government to ensure that Budget 2026, set to be tabled this Friday, goes beyond fiscal arithmetic to uphold the rights and dignity of all Malaysians.

Describing the national budget as both a "moral and legal obligation", the commission said it must serve as a tool to protect the vulnerable while advancing social justice and equity.

It outlined priorities it believes should be reflected in Budget 2026.

Among its top concerns is safeguarding low-income households amid the ongoing subsidy rationalisation.

"With subsidy rationalisation under way, targeted assistance must ensure that low-income households are not left vulnerable to rising living costs. Safeguards are needed so that fiscal reforms do not burden the poorest communities."

The commission added that without proper protections, reforms could deepen hardship for families struggling to make ends meet.

It also urged the government to

expand social protection to workers in the informal sector and those in the so-called "missing middle", who remain excluded from health insurance, retirement savings and income support schemes.

It called for guaranteed, ring-fenced allocations for health and education that must never be subjected to budget cuts, ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare and education, particularly for marginalised groups.

"Health and education are fundamental rights that require guaranteed and sustained financing."

On climate action, the commission said Budget 2026 should fund adaptation and community resilience programmes to help rural and coastal populations cope with environmental and disaster risks.

"Fiscal responsibility must be anchored in rights," it said, urging the government to uphold equity, transparency and accountability.

It emphasised the need to strengthen oversight institutions, including Parliament and independent bodies, to ensure that allocations are implemented effectively and free from misuse.

It also reminded Putrajaya of its statutory duty to provide the commission itself with adequate funding under Section 11(1) of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia Act 1999.

"The government has a legal obligation to provide (the commission) with adequate funding to effectively and efficiently carry out its mandate."

It added that Budget 2026 must reinforce the independence and capacity of the commission by guaranteeing sufficient resources for its human rights work, as mandated by the Paris Principles.

Homeowners urged to prioritise structural safety

➤ Professional supervision may seem costly, but cutting corners could later be tragic and expensive: Civil engineering lecturer

BY KIRTINEE RAMESH
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: The recent death of a toddler in Seremban who was crushed by a fallen gate pillar has prompted civil engineering experts to warn homeowners that structural safety is not optional but vital.

They said even small construction errors or unchecked modifications could have fatal consequences.

The incident, which occurred on Friday, claimed the life of a two-year-old girl who was playing outside her home when a concrete pillar collapsed on her.

Police have since urged homeowners to ensure all structures within their properties are safely built and regularly maintained.

Universiti Teknologi Mara Shah Alam Faculty of Civil Engineering dean Prof Dr Che Khairil Izam Che Ibrahim said the tragedy highlights a worrying trend of homeowners bypassing professional oversight during small-scale construction or renovation works.

"A common mistake is failing to seek advice from a competent person, especially civil or structural engineers."

"Many homeowners proceed without proper design drawings, site supervision or quality control. In some cases, unqualified contractors use improper construction techniques that compromise the safety of the structure."

He said such collapses often stem from basic technical errors that could easily have been prevented with professional input.

"In many cases, the reinforcement embedded into the concrete floor is too short or there is no proper structural base at all. If the steel bars are too small or too few to bear the gate's weight, or if they do not meet the specifications in the Code of Practice, the structure would eventually fail under stress," he explained.

Che Khairil added that Malaysia has sufficient safety standards in place, but enforcement at the household level



Che Khairil said structural collapses often stem from basic technical errors that could easily have been prevented with professional input. – AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN

remains weak.

"The government cannot change every homeowner's attitude overnight, but it is time for local authorities to require that all renovation works, no matter how small, be carried out by licensed contractors registered with the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB)," he said, stressing that a thorough assessment needs to be done by an agency appointed by the government.

University senior lecturer Dr Warid Wazien Ahmad Zailani said homeowners should learn to recognise early warning signs of structural instability before it turns disastrous.

"Visible cracks that keep growing, widening gaps or any noticeable leaning of the pillar are serious warning signs," he said.

"Even minor floor settlement could indicate that the base is weakening. Once you notice these symptoms, stop using the gate

and consult a professional immediately."

He added that small structural flaws are often underestimated and could worsen over time, especially when exposed to rain, soil movement or vehicle impact.

Both experts urged homeowners to view safety as an investment rather than a cost.

"Put safety as your utmost priority and do things right from the start," said Warid.

"Seek advice from competent professionals, not from social media or Facebook, and always appoint contractors registered with CIDB."

He added that while professional design and supervision may seem costly upfront, cutting corners could prove far more expensive and tragic later.

"Improper cost-saving today may lead to costly repairs tomorrow, or worse, loss of lives and property," he said.

Man loses son in fiery road collision

KEPALA BATAS: An elderly man was left in shock after learning that a widely spread video of a fiery car crash in Jalan Permatang Baru, Sungai Lokan over the weekend involved his son.

The 7.30am collision claimed two lives after the vehicle lost control, slammed into a pile of earth and burst into flames.

Ahmad Lin @ Mustafa, 74, said he only discovered that his son Mohd Fitri, 35, was among the victims when friends came to his home in Kampung Teluk Amboi, Kuala Muda in Kedah at 5pm on Saturday.

"I did not expect it to be Mohd Fitri. He never told the family that he was going to Perak with friends. I only learned about the crash and the burnt car when his friends came over before rushing to the Kepala Batas Hospital," he told reporters at the hospital's forensic unit on Sunday.

Ahmad said despite the tragedy, the family has accepted the loss of their eighth child out of 10 siblings as God's will.

"This loss is especially painful as I also lost a seven-year-old daughter in the 1970s when a mosquito net caught fire," he said.

The family is awaiting DNA test results from the victim's sister to confirm Mohd Fitri's identity, a process expected to take three weeks to a month due to the severely burnt and skeletal state of the remains.

The identity of the second victim has yet to be confirmed.

The deceased's younger brother Mohd Arif, 31, described Mohd Fitri as hardworking, neat and well liked, adding that his brother could not drive.

"He was simple, responsible and hated mess. The last time I saw him was the day before the crash as we lived together," he said. – Bernama

Worker jailed for trespassing, peeping

KUALA NERUS: A worker was sentenced to six months' jail by the Magistrate's Court here on Sunday after pleading guilty to trespassing in an inn and peeping on a woman entrepreneur in a bathroom.

Magistrate Noor Mazrinie Mahmood handed down the sentence after Ahmad Farhan Rizal Abdullah, 29, pleaded guilty to both charges.

Ahmad Farhan was accused of peeping at a 36-year-old woman with the intent to outrage her modesty at an inn in Manir, near Kuala Nerus at 12.30am on Aug 26.

He was also charged with criminal trespass for unlawfully entering premises used as a residence on the same date, time and location.

Kuala Terengganu police chief Azli Mohd Noor said the victim and her husband, from Ampang, Selangor, had rented the inn for four days starting Aug 25 for a holiday and to film a commercial featuring Malay traditional attire. – Bernama

Child safety goes beyond supervision, says NGO

PETALING JAYA: Following the tragic death of the toddler who was crushed by a fallen gate pillar, child rights group Protect and Save the Children (PSC) has reminded Malaysians that child safety "goes beyond supervision".

The group emphasised that it requires safe home design, regular maintenance and stronger community awareness.

"This tragedy highlights the need for greater attention to safety design and regular maintenance of household structures, especially when there are children around," it said.

It stressed that keeping children safe must be treated as a shared responsibility, involving families,

builders and local authorities, to ensure homes are designed and maintained as secure spaces for children to grow and play.

PSC added that home safety education should be practical and community-based, rather than confined to parenting advice alone.

"Safety messages could be shared not just through parenting platforms or clinics, but also via housing developers and local councils.

"Visual checklists showing common hazards, such as unstable structures, unsecured furniture or unsafe balconies, could help families identify risks more easily."

The group also suggested that community campaigns and media

partnerships could help normalise conversations about safer home environments and encourage proactive safety checks.

It said while there have been public campaigns on burns, falls, poisoning and drowning prevention, such efforts remain sporadic, urging for a coordinated national approach that treats home safety as part of child health and development.

"Licensed childcare centres follow safety regulations under the Child Care Centre Act 1984.

"Similar principles should apply at home. Multiple stakeholders must work together to ensure these measures are implemented as widely and consistently as possible," it said.

The organisation called for a shift from reactive to preventive action.

"We often only hear about safety measures after a tragedy occurs, rather than being reminded of preventive steps beforehand.

"Safety planning should be part of everyday life through policies that prioritise child-safe home designs, safety checks in early childhood settings and greater public awareness on how prevention saves lives."

PSC said parents should view their homes from a child's perspective to better identify potential hazards.

"Look at your home from your child's eye level. Children explore through movement and their

environments need to support that safely. Anything that could topple, swing or collapse should be checked and secured.

"A few minutes spent identifying and fixing potential risks could make a real difference."

Police, meanwhile, have classified the case as sudden death.

Seremban district police chief ACP Mohamad Hatta Che Din said the toddler had been playing with her sister when the incident occurred.

"The pillar supporting the main gate collapsed on the victim," he said, adding that a post-mortem found the cause of death to be head injuries from a heavy impact.

– BY KIRTINEE RAMESH



Nutritionist honoured with award

➤ Recognition given for lifelong service, charitable work and outstanding contributions

SEREMBAN: Nutrition consultant Dr Tee E. Siong was honoured as the Senior Citizen Icon at the National Level Elderly Day celebration here on Sunday.

Tee, 78, a former Health Ministry Institute for Medical Research nutrition officer, received the award in recognition of his lifelong service, charitable work and outstanding contributions at the community, state, national and international levels.

Still active in several organisations, including the Nutrition Society of Malaysia, the Allied Health Professions Council and the Malaysian Elderly Health Awareness Society, Tee continues to advance the field of nutrition through voluntary policy work, community



Nancy (second, left), along with Noraini (centre) presenting the award to Tee at the National Level Elderly Day celebration. – BERNAMAPIC

programmes and public education.

The Seremban-born expert also leads numerous initiatives for women, children and the wider community, among them the Positive Healthy Ageing Programme launched in 2022 to promote healthy lifestyles and empower senior citizens to remain active contributors to their families and the nation.

The Senior Citizen Icon Award was presented by Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri, who also officiated the closing ceremony of the celebration, Bernama reported.

Also present were her deputy Datuk Seri Dr Noraini Ahmad, the ministry's secretary-general Datuk Dr

Maziah Che Yusoff and Community Welfare Department director-general Datuk Che Murad Sayang Ramjan.

Speaking to reporters afterwards, Tee expressed gratitude for the recognition and hope that it would inspire other senior citizens to remain active and continue contributing to society.

"In any field, including healthcare, senior citizens must continue to contribute. Even in our later years, we could still play a valuable role. We should not just sit quietly at home. Maintaining our health is crucial so that we could stay active in old age," he said.

Earlier, Nancy said this year's Elderly Day theme, "Senior Citizens, The Face of Our Future", serves as a reminder that the elderly should be celebrated not only for their past contributions, but also for their ongoing roles and as an inspiration to younger generations.

She said the celebration, organised by the Social Welfare Department, carried a clear message that senior citizens represent a shared future for all Malaysians.

She expressed hope that the culture of respecting the elderly and cherishing the young would continue

to flourish.

Meanwhile, the Elopura Senior Citizens Activity Centre in Sandakan, Sabah received the Excellent Pawe Award for its active involvement in volunteer and community programmes and its dedication to improving the wellbeing of senior citizens from all backgrounds.

The Subang Jaya City Council (Selangor), Kulim Municipal Council (Kedah) and Kuala Pilah District Council (Negeri Sembilan) were also presented with the Prihatin Warga Emas (Elderly Care) certificate of appreciation in the local authorities category.

In the statutory body and corporate category, certificates of appreciation went to the Employees Provident Fund, Mydin Mohamed Holdings Bhd and 99 Speedmart Sdn Bhd for their commitment to corporate social responsibility initiatives benefiting senior citizens.

A two-day Senior Citizens' Carnival was also held in conjunction with the celebration at the Negeri Sembilan Youth and Sports Complex, drawing more than 3,000 participants, including members of Elopura Senior Citizens Activity Centres nationwide.

Shark sighting highlights biodiversity of Labuan waters

LABUAN: The waters off Pulau Rusukan Kecil shimmered under the afternoon light, emitting a calm mood above, yet alive with hidden wonders below.

For Labuan Dive Club member Tan Zhi Shan, a routine recreational dive turned unforgettable when a shadow emerged from the seabed, taking shape as a nurse shark.

"It was surreal to come across such a young nurse shark. It stayed calm and allowed me to observe it closely. It gave me hope that Labuan's marine life is thriving," said Tan, who spotted the creature on Sept 14.

The one-metre-long juvenile, believed to be only weeks old, has

since become a talking point among divers and conservationists, reinforcing Labuan's reputation as a marine treasure trove.

Pulau Rusukan Kecil is one of three islands within the Labuan Marine Park, located 2km south of the main island. The others are Pulau Kuraman and Pulau Rusukan Besar.

Spotting a nurse shark is rare enough, but finding a juvenile suggests something more—a thriving habitat that could serve as a nursery ground for marine species.

Labuan Dive Club president Teoh Ming Woei said the sighting marks a milestone for the island's growing list of marine discoveries.

"The appearance of this juvenile nurse shark enriches marine life in Labuan waters. It is also great for recreational diving as it adds to the biodiversity that divers could enjoy."

Members have also reported sightings of blacktip and lizard sharks around Pulau Kuraman and Pulau Rusukan Kecil.

"These species are not harmful to humans. Instead, they make every dive more exciting," said Teoh, adding that sharks play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance.

He explained that nurse sharks (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*) are slow-moving "gentle giants" that rest on the ocean floor and are

generally harmless.

Blacktip sharks (*Carcharhinus limbatus*) are active swimmers often seen near reefs and shallow waters while lizard sharks (*Chlamydoselachus anguineus*) are a small, bottom-dwelling species that prefer sandy seabeds and rarely exceed a metre in length.

Surrounded by coral gardens teeming with parrotfish, clownfish and angelfish, Pulau Rusukan Kecil is a diver's paradise. Together with Pulau Kuraman and Pulau Rusukan Besar, it forms the Labuan Marine Park, famed for pristine reefs and vibrant marine life.

The island is also being considered

for a new tourism resort, a proposal that makes the recent shark sightings even more significant, underscoring the need for sustainable development that balances conservation and tourism.

"Every sighting shows that our waters are still healthy. With proper protection, they would continue to offer extraordinary experiences for divers and visitors alike," said Teoh.

For divers such as Tan, those moments are unforgettable.

"Seeing the nurse shark reminded me why we dive. It is not just for adventure, but to witness life beneath the waves that we must protect," he said. – Bernama

EDUCATION

FOCUS 2025

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



Stranded Everest trekkers brought to safety

➤ Heavy snow, rainfall pummel Himalayas

BEIJING: Hundreds of trekkers stranded by a blizzard near the eastern face of Mount Everest in Tibet have been guided to safety by rescuers, Chinese state media reported on Sunday, as unusually heavy snow and rainfall pummelled the Himalayas.

As of Sunday, 350 trekkers had reached the small township of Qudang, while contact with the remaining 200-plus trekkers had been made, CCTV reported.

Visitors to the remote valley of Karma, which leads to the eastern Kangshung face of Everest, were in the hundreds last week, taking advantage of an eight-day National Day holiday in China.

"It was so wet and cold in the mountains, and hypothermia was a real risk," said Chen Geshuang, who was part of an 18-strong trekking team that made it to Qudang.

Chen's party descended from the

mountains on Sunday and was greeted by villagers after enduring a harrowing evening of heavy snowfall combined with thunder and lightning.

"Back in the village, we had a meal and were finally warm."

Hundreds of local villagers and rescue teams had been deployed to help remove snow blocking access to the area, where nearly 1,000 people had been trapped, according to an earlier report by state-backed Jimu News.

The remaining trekkers will arrive in Qudang in stages under the guidance and assistance of rescuers organised by the local government, CCTV reported.

The CCTV report did not say if local guides and support staff of the trekking parties had been accounted for.

Snowfall in the valley, which lies at an elevation averaging 4,200m, began on Friday evening and persisted throughout Saturday.

"It was raining and snowing every day, and we did not see Everest at all," said Eric Wen, who survived the ordeal.

His trekking party of 18 had decided on

Saturday night to make their way back from their fifth and final campsite, concerned by the continuous snowfall.

"We only had a few tents. More than 10 of us were in the large tent and hardly slept," Wen said yesterday. "It was snowing too hard."

Wen said his group had to clear the snow every 10 minutes.

"Otherwise our tents would have collapsed," he said.

Two men and a woman in the group fell victim to hypothermia when the temperature slipped below freezing, even though they were sufficiently attired, Wen said.

But his expedition party emerged largely unscathed, including eight other expedition guides and several others who tended the yaks transporting their equipment and kit.

Karma valley, first explored by Western travellers a century ago, is a relatively pristine part of the Everest region.

Unlike the peak's arid north face, it boasts lush vegetation and untouched alpine forests, fed by meltwaters from the Kangshung glacier at the foot of the world's highest mountain.

- Reuters

Cough syrup maker under probe

NEW DELHI: Police here have launched criminal action against a maker of cough syrup whose product was found to contain dangerous levels of a toxic chemical, following the deaths of 10 children suspected to have consumed contaminated medicine.

Known as the "pharmacy of the world", India has faced scrutiny for the quality of its pharmaceutical exports, with its cough syrups being linked to child deaths in Cameroon, Gambia and Uzbekistan over the past few years.

A sample of the syrup, Coldrif, among 19 medicines tested after the deaths in the central state of Madhya Pradesh, contained diethylene glycol exceeding permissible limits, the Health Ministry said on Sunday.

A criminal case has been registered against the manufacturer, Sresan Pharma, in Tamil Nadu, and a doctor who prescribed the medication to some of the dead children.

"The doctor who wrote the prescription has been arrested," said Madhya Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla.

The company faces accusations of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, adulteration of drugs, and manufacturing, selling, or distributing cosmetics in violation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Regulatory action has also been taken against a unit of the company, the ministry said, without giving details, and the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation recommended cancellation of its manufacturing licence.

Sresan Pharma did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment.

India supplies 40% of generic medicines used in the United States, 25% of all those used in Britain and more than 90% of all medicines in many African nations. - Reuters



HERITAGE IN ACTION ... Performers in Hong Kong taking part on Sunday in the centuries-old Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance, featuring a 67m dragon effigy with over 10,000 burning incense sticks, to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. - REUTERS/PIC

Indonesia transfers seized assets to state tin miner

PANGKALPINANG: Indonesia's attorney-general yesterday handed over assets including smelters and heavy equipment seized in a corruption case to state tin miner PT Timah, as President Prabowo Subianto urged authorities to stop illegal mining and smuggling of tin.

The resource-rich country is ramping up efforts to improve governance of natural resources exploitation, with measures including a clampdown on illegal mining.

Prabowo visited tin hub Bangka Island to witness the transfer of assets that were

confiscated after a number of tin executives were convicted for colluding to conduct illegal mining.

The attorney-general said their actions had led to about US\$18.09 billion (RM76 billion) in state losses, including environmental damage.

The visit came after Prabowo said he had ordered the closure of about 1,000 illegal tin mines on the islands and would intensify a crackdown on tin smugglers, sending tin prices last week to a near six-month high.

Prabowo yesterday urged the military, customs office, the coast guard and related

authorities to continue their efforts to stop illegal activities.

"We are determined to eradicate smuggling, eradicate illegal mining, eradicate all those who violate the law, we will enforce it," Prabowo told reporters after the handover.

The assets transferred to state tin miner Timah included six smelters, about 680 tonnes of refined tin and 108 units of heavy equipment.

Some of the assets were on display at the handover, including stacks of the tin ingots and dozens of excavators. - Reuters

BRIEFS

SPANISH TOURIST HURT IN JAPAN BEAR ATTACK

TOKYO: A bear attacked a Spanish tourist in a Japanese village, a local official said yesterday, days after another mauling left one woman dead and another missing. The 44-year-old tourist was pounced on from behind as he was walking to a bus stop on Sunday in Shirakawa-go, known for its traditional large houses with thatched roofs, said village official Kazunari Takashima. The tourist "was injured with a scratch on his right arm, then he walked to a tourist information office nearby and requested an ambulance," Takashima said, adding that the man was treated in hospital and discharged. The animal was about one metre long and is believed to be a juvenile black bear. - AFP

PAPUA MINE COLLAPSE, LAST FIVE BODIES RECOVERED

JAKARTA: Rescuers have recovered the bodies of five workers, including two foreigners, who were missing for nearly a month after a landslide trapped seven of them at a mine in Indonesia's Papua region, operator Freeport Indonesia said yesterday. The bodies of the other two workers were recovered in September. The landslide occurred on Sept 8 when material from an extraction point flowed at one section of the Grasberg Block Cave underground gold and copper mine in Tembagapura, Central Papua. The workers were trapped after the flow closed access. Two workers were found dead on Sept 20. - AFP

HEAVY RAINS TRIGGER FLOODS, LANDSLIDES IN DARJEELING

NEW DELHI: Floods and landslides unleashed by unrelenting rain in India's eastern region of Darjeeling killed at least 18 people, after washing away homes, roads and bridges, while the death toll in Nepal rose to 50. Several people were still missing yesterday, as relief work got under way, said local officials in West Bengal, warning that the death toll was likely to rise. "Two iron bridges have collapsed, several roads have been damaged and huge areas flooded," said Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. - Reuters



Man held over Sydney mass shooting

➤ 16 wounded, say police

SYDNEY: A 60-year-old man was in custody in Australia yesterday after police said he shot up to 50 bullets into a busy Sydney street, wounding more than a dozen people.

Police were called on Sunday evening to the city's Inner West, where the alleged gunman was firing from his property at random at passing cars and police.

A large contingent of police swarmed the area and locked down the street, before entering the property above a business and arresting the man. They seized a rifle from the scene.

Office worker Joe Azar said he was working across the road when he heard what he thought were fireworks or rocks being thrown at the windows.

"Some guy's windshield blew up, then the bus stop glass shattered," Azar told *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

"The surreal feeling kicked in like, 'Oh, this is what's happening,'" he said.

"It was frantic. It all happened so quick, so I couldn't comprehend what was going on."

Police had initially said up to a hundred bullets were fired and 20 people were wounded.

But yesterday, New South Wales Police Acting Superintendent Stephen Parry revised the number of shots to around 50 and the toll of wounded to 16.

"In my 35 years in the police, there's been very few incidents of this nature where somebody is randomly targeting people in the street," he said.

The accused shooter was taken to hospital and treated for minor injuries to the area around his eyes sustained during his arrest.

No charges have been laid against the alleged gunman yet.

One man self-presented to hospital with a gunshot wound following the incident, but would likely survive, police said.

The remaining people were treated by ambulance staff for minor injuries, including shattered glass as bullets hit their car windows.

New South Wales Police Commissioner Mal Lanyon yesterday described the shooting as

"serious and terrifying".

The gunman's motive was unclear but there were "no known links to terrorism activity or any gang activity", he told local radio station 2GB.

One witness who gave his name as Tadgh told the national broadcaster ABC he had been watching rugby when he first heard the gunshots.

"It was very loud and 'bang, bang, bang' and flash-bangs and sparks and smoke and the whole works. It was something out of a movie, really," he said.

Mass shootings are relatively rare in Australia.

A ban on automatic and semi-automatic weapons has been in place since 1996. - AFP

Trump administration brands US cities war zones

CHICAGO: The Trump administration branded Chicago a "war zone" on Sunday as a justification for deploying soldiers against the will of local Democratic officials, while a judge blocked the White House from sending troops to another Democrat-run city.

An escalating political crisis across the country pits President Donald Trump's anti-crime and migration crackdown against opposition Democrats who accuse him of an authoritarian power grab.

In the newest flashpoint, Trump late on Saturday authorised deployment of 300 National Guard soldiers to Chicago, the third-largest city in the United States, despite the opposition of elected leaders including the mayor and state Governor JB Pritzker.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem defended the move on Sunday, claiming on Fox News that Chicago is "a war zone".

But Pritzker, speaking on CNN's *State of the Union* show, accused Republicans of aiming to sow "mayhem on the ground. They want to create the war zone, so that they can send in even more troops".

In a statement, the governor called the proposed deployment "Trump's invasion", saying "there is no reason" to send troops into Illinois or any other state without the "knowledge, consent, or cooperation" of local officials.

A CBS poll found that 58% of Americans oppose deploying the National Guard to cities.

Trump - who last Tuesday spoke of using the military for a "war from within" - shows no sign of backing off his hardline campaign.

On Sunday, he said "Portland is burning to the ground. It's insurrectionists all over the place."

Key ally Mike Johnson, the Republican speaker of the House of Representatives, echoed the president's rhetoric on Sunday, telling NBC that National Guard troops deployed in Washington had responded to a "literal war zone".

Trump's campaign to use the military on home soil hit a roadblock on Saturday in Portland, Oregon, when a court ruled the deployment was unlawful.

Trump has repeatedly called Portland "war-ravaged", but US District Judge Karin Immergut issued a temporary block, saying "the president's determination was simply untethered to the facts".

"This is a nation of Constitutional law, not martial law," Immergut wrote in her ruling. - AFP



Federal agents arresting a protester in Portland on Sunday. - GETTY IMAGES NORTH AMERICA/AFPIC

New Zealand pays US\$3.5m to Samoa

WELLINGTON: The New Zealand government said yesterday it would pay the Samoan government US\$3.51 million (RM14.79 million) following the sinking of a Royal New Zealand Navy vessel off the coast of Samoa last year.

Manawanui, the navy's specialist dive and hydrographic vessel, ran aground near the southern coast of Upolu last October as it was conducting a reef survey.

The ship's crew abandoned the ship, which later capsized and sank. All 75 crew members survived. An initial inquiry into the grounding found it was caused by a series of human errors.

Foreign Minister Winston Peters said in a statement the payment follows a request from the government of Samoa.

"We recognise the impact the sinking has had on local communities and acknowledge the disruption it caused," Peters said.

Manawanui remains on the reef but salvors have removed diesel fuel, oil and other pollutants from the ship along with equipment, weapons and ammunition and shipping containers have all been removed.

Peters says New Zealand continues to work with Samoa on decisions around the ship and its future.

"Working with the government of Samoa, our focus continues to be on minimising any possible environmental impact and supporting the response. These are our absolute priorities." - Reuters

Australia, Papua New Guinea sign defence deal

MELBOURNE: Australia has signed a new defence agreement with Papua New Guinea, its first in more than 70 years, as Canberra seeks to block China from expanding its security presence in the Pacific.

Under the Pukpuk defence treaty, which is the first signed by Papua New Guinea, Australia and its northern neighbour are obliged to come to each other's aid if attacked.

"This is a historic agreement," Prime Minister

Anthony Albanese told press in Canberra. "By continuing to build our security relationships in the region, we safeguard our own security."

The treaty allows as many as 10,000 Papua New Guineans to serve with the Australian Defence Force, under dual arrangements.

Albanese said both nations have agreed "not to undertake any activities or enter into any agreements that would compromise the implementation of this treaty".

"This treaty was not conceived out of geopolitics or any other reason. But out of geography, history and the enduring reality of our shared neighbourhood," said Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape. The Papua New Guinea Cabinet approved the Pukpuk treaty, which means crocodile, last week.

"We still retain our relationship with China and other nations," Marape said. - Reuters



Albanese (right) greets Marape. - AFPIC

French govt quits hours after being appointed

➤ Opposition calls for snap elections

PARIS: France's new Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu and his government resigned yesterday, hours after Lecornu announced his Cabinet line-up, making it the shortest-lived in modern French history, driving stocks and the euro sharply lower.

The swift resignation was unexpected and marked another major deepening of France's political crisis. It came after allies and foes alike threatened to topple the new government.

Lecornu was prime minister for only 27 days. His government lasted 14 hours. The far-right National Rally immediately urged President Emmanuel Macron to call a snap parliamentary election. The hard left France Unbowed said Macron himself must go.

After weeks of consultations with political parties across the board, Lecornu, a close ally of Macron, had appointed his ministers on Sunday and they had been set to hold their first meeting yesterday afternoon.

But the new Cabinet line-up had angered opponents and allies alike, who either found it too right-wing or not sufficiently so, raising questions on how long it could last, with no group holding a majority in a fragmented parliament.

Lecornu handed his resignation to Macron yesterday morning.

"Mr Sebastien Lecornu has submitted the resignation of his Government to the President of the Republic, who has accepted it," the Elysee's press office said.

French politics has become increasingly unstable since Macron's re-election in 2022 for want of any party or grouping holding a parliamentary majority.

Macron's decision to call a snap parliamentary election last year deepened the crisis by producing an even more fragmented parliament. Lecornu, who was only appointed last month, was Macron's fifth prime minister in two years.

"There can be no return to stability without a return to the polls and the dissolution of the National Assembly," National Rally leader Jordan Bardella said after Lecornu resigned.

Mathilde Panot, of the hard left France Unbowed, said: "Lecornu resigns. 3 Prime Ministers defeated in less than a year. The countdown has begun. Macron must go."

France has rarely suffered a political crisis so deep since the creation in 1958 of the Fifth Republic, the current system of government.



Lecornu delivers a statement at Hotel Matignon in Paris yesterday. – AFP/IC

The 1958 constitution was designed to ensure stable governance by creating a powerful and highly centralised president endowed with a strong majority in parliament, and to avoid the instability of the periods immediately before and after World War Two.

Instead, Macron, who in his

ascent to power in 2017 reshaped the political landscape, has found himself struggling with a fragmented parliament where the centre no longer holds the balance and the far-right and hard-left hold sway.

France is not used to building coalitions and finding consensus. – Reuters

BRIEFS

MSF OUTRAGED BY DEATH OF 15TH STAFF

GENEVA: The medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF) voiced outrage following the death on Sunday of a colleague fatally hit in Gaza. Abed El Hameed Qaradaya, 43, succumbed to shrapnel injuries sustained in the attack on Thursday and which had killed MSF colleague Omar Hayek and injured several others. It said its staff were waiting for a bus to a field hospital and were wearing MSF vests. El Hameed is the 15th MSF staff member killed in the conflict and the third in less than 20 days. "For 18 years, Abed El Hameed was a cornerstone of MSF's physiotherapy department in Gaza. He was a unique and invaluable specialist in both physiotherapy and occupational therapy. Abed was dedicated not only to his patients' physical recovery but also to restoring their hope and sense of dignity." – AFP

'WESTERN PARTS FOUND IN DRONES, MISSILES'

KYIV: Ukraine has found tens of thousands of foreign parts, including Western-made, in the drones and missiles fired in a weekend air attack, President Volodymyr Zelensky said. "During the strike on Sunday, Russia used weapons with 102,785 foreign-made components." He said the parts came "from companies in the United States, China and Taiwan, the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Netherlands." Converters, sensors and microcomputers were among the components found in the drones and missiles. "Microcontrollers for unmanned vehicles were made in Switzerland and microcomputers for drone flight control are made in the UK." Kyiv was preparing sanctions on their manufacturers. – AFP

Tanzanian opposition leader on trial for treason

DAR ES SALAAM: Tanzanian opposition leader Tundu Lissu went on trial for treason here yesterday, weeks before the country holds an election that his party has been barred from contesting.

Lissu, who came second in the last presidential poll in 2020, was arrested in April and charged with treason over a speech.

Lissu had vowed to boycott the vote unless significant reforms were made to an electoral process which he said favours the Chama Cha Mapinduzi party of President Samia Suluhu Hassan, which has been in power since independence in 1961.

Lissu, who leads the Chadema opposition party, survived being shot 16 times in an assassination attempt in 2017. No one has ever been charged in the case.

He has pleaded not guilty in the treason case.

Judges were expected to hear testimonies from the first state witnesses yesterday.

As the trial began, Lissu said some of his supporters had been beaten and blocked from entering the court room, said one of his lawyers, Jebra Kambole.

The court has banned live coverage at the request of the state prosecutor, to conceal the identities of their witnesses.

His detention as well as alleged abductions of government critics in the last year have shone a spotlight on the human rights record of



Lissu in the dock on Sept 8. – REUTERS/SPIC

Hassan, who is widely expected to win the Oct 28 election.

Tanzania's electoral commission barred Chadema in April from taking part in the poll after the party failed to sign a code of conduct

document. The commission also disqualified the leader of Tanzania's second-largest opposition party from running for president, leaving only candidates from minor parties to challenge Hassan. – Reuters

Negotiators gather for Gaza talks, expect slow progress

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: Hamas officials were in Egypt yesterday ahead of talks with Israel that the US hopes will bring a halt to war in Gaza and release of hostages despite contentious issues like disarmament of the group.

Israeli negotiators were also due to travel to Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh for talks about freeing hostages, part of the US president's 20-point blueprint for ending the conflict.

The Israeli delegation includes officials from spy agencies Mossad and Shin Bet, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser Ophir Falk and hostages coordinator Gal Hirsch.

However, Israel's chief negotiator, Strategic Affairs Minister Ron Dermer, was only expected to join later this week, pending developments in the negotiations, according to three Israeli officials.

The Hamas delegation is led by the group's exiled Gaza leader, Khalil Al-Hayya.

Negotiators from Hamas will seek clarity on the mechanism to achieve a swap of hostages for Palestinian prisoners held in Israel, as well as an Israeli military withdrawal from Gaza and a ceasefire, according to a statement put out by the group.

A thorny issue is likely to be the Israeli demand, echoed in Trump's plan, that Hamas disarm, something the

group insists cannot take place unless Israel ends its occupation and a Palestinian state is created.

Netanyahu says a Palestinian state will never happen, defying Western countries that have newly recognised Palestinian independence.

An official briefed on the talks told Reuters he expected slow progress.

"Negotiations will last at least a few days if not longer. There won't likely be a quick agreement because the goal is to reach agreement on a comprehensive deal with all details worked out before the ceasefire can begin to be implemented," he said.

"Hamas and Israel have agreed to the fundamentals of the Trump 20-point plan. The next phase or phases of talks are designed to tackle the specific details, which in the past has been a lengthy process."

The plan has stirred hopes for peace among Palestinians, but there was no let-up of Israeli attacks on Gaza.

Domestically, Netanyahu is caught between growing pressure to end the war – from hostage families and a war-weary public – and demands from ultra-nationalist members of his coalition who insist there must be no let-up in efforts to annihilate Hamas.

Far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said on X that ceasing the military campaign would be a "grave mistake." – Reuters

COMMENT by Dr Karisma

Time to legally act on climate change

IN Malaysia, climate action is too often mapped out on paper but rarely anchored in law. From the 2009 National Policy on Climate Change (NPCC) 1.0 to its successor, the 2024 NPCC 2.0, both documents outline strategic objectives, pathways and actions aimed at supporting the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy. However, neither NPCC 1.0 nor NPCC 2.0 carries any statutory force.

Although NPCC 2.0 – built around five strategic thrusts and catalytic initiatives – reflects a deeper engagement with Malaysia's climate change and international commitments, it continues the pattern of soft laws, with ambitions set out but no binding legal accountability.

A Climate Change Act would serve as the backbone of our national climate response. Unlike policy roadmaps, which can be quietly shelved or rebranded with each new administration, legislation binds governments across electoral cycles, thus serving as the backbone of Malaysia's climate landscape, empowering the formulation and enforcement of policies, measures and actions aligned with national imperatives and international obligations.

It creates durable commitments that cannot be reversed without parliamentary amendment. In short, it transforms climate promises into legal duties.

The urgency of the climate crisis in Malaysia cannot be overstated. We are facing intensifying floods, rising seas, prolonged heatwaves and extreme rainfall. These are not distant threats but lived realities.

Local governments are already grappling with flood defences and heat-adapted urban design but without a national legal framework, these efforts remain piecemeal.

A Climate Change Act would set clear, enforceable targets and define responsibilities across federal, state and local levels, ensuring coordination rather than fragmentation.

Crucially, the Act must establish legally binding targets for emission reduction. Our current commitments under the Paris Agreement, including a 45% reduction in the emissions intensity of GDP by 2030 compared to 2005, are international pledges rather than domestic law.

Malaysia operates under a “dualist system”, a legal framework in which international treaties, such as the Paris Agreement, do not

automatically generate enforceable domestic legal obligations. Such international commitments require explicit legislative incorporation to achieve a binding effect within domestic law.

This constitutional arrangement stems from Malaysia's Federal Constitution, where Article 74, interpreted alongside the Federal List, vests Parliament with exclusive jurisdiction over “external affairs”, which includes “treaties, agreements and conventions”.

Furthermore, under Article 80, “executive authority of the Federation extends to all matters, with respect to which Parliament may make laws”. Thus, the Paris Agreement, though binding on Malaysia internationally, requires statutory transposition before its obligations are effective domestically.

Legislated targets provide several crucial advantages. First, they offer clear, well-defined policy objectives that signal strong governmental commitment and intent, internally to government agencies and externally to investors, industries and the community.

As scholars Rutter and Knighton correctly elucidated, “the effect of legislated targets is to try to bind the hand of successor governments”, helping to anchor long-term decision-making and foster policy continuity across political cycles.

Once targets are enshrined in statutory law, they become legally binding obligations that future governments cannot easily reverse or ignore without undertaking the formal legislative amendment process, thereby providing institutional stability for sustained policy implementation.

Furthermore, the Act must be a vehicle for justice. This means embedding three core principles: distributive justice, to ensure the burdens and benefits of climate action are shared fairly; procedural justice, to guarantee inclusive and equitable participation in climate decision-making; and restorative justice, to address the historical and ongoing harms borne by the most vulnerable.

Central to this is the formal inclusion of the indigenous population. As the original stewards of our nation's richest ecosystems, their knowledge is invaluable for building climate resilience. The Act must legally mandate their seat at the policy-making table, ensuring their rights to land, resources and self-determination are protected and that climate policies do not



The bill must be more than symbolic; it must be adequately developed, with clear provisions, binding targets, judicial safeguards and independent oversight.
– REUTERS/PIC

perpetuate their marginalisation.

Equally important, the Act must safeguard judicial review. The consultation paper on the proposed Act provides for “legal protection and immunity to designated enforcement units handling compliance matters, particularly those related to data and information disclosure, carbon trading and actions taken to implement RUUPIN (Rang Undang-Undang Perubahan Iklim Negara) or National Climate Change Bill. This will ensure effective enforcement without unnecessary obstacles”.

A plain interpretation suggests this provision insulates enforcement authorities from judicial accountability or procedural contestation when executing their mandated functions.

The drafting reflects a clear intent to preserve enforcement effectiveness, facilitating seamless implementation while reducing barriers that could otherwise impede or compromise regulatory adherence, thus promoting streamlined administrative processes.

Yet, efficiency must not come at the expense of accountability. While streamlined enforcement is essential, it cannot justify insulating government actions from scrutiny.

Courts must retain the power to assess whether ministerial decisions are lawful, rational and consistent with statutory duties. Judicial oversight is not an obstacle; it is a safeguard that ensures climate law is more than rhetoric.

An independent oversight body, akin to a Climate Change Committee, should also be

established. It must be structurally autonomous, insulated from political interference and empowered to provide scientific advice, monitor progress and report to the public. Without independence, oversight risks becoming another arm of bureaucracy rather than a credible check on the government.

Finally, the Act must incorporate adaptation and mitigation. Binding mandates should be paired with strategic instruments to build resilience in agriculture, urban planning, health and infrastructure. Climate impacts are already here; adaptation cannot remain voluntary or secondary.

Malaysia stands at a crossroads. With the National Climate Change Bill expected to be introduced soon in Parliament, we have the opportunity to transition from roadmaps to law, from aspirations to obligations.

The bill must be more than symbolic; it must be adequately developed, with clear provisions, binding targets, judicial safeguards and independent oversight. Otherwise, we risk having an Act for the sake of having an Act, without the strength or legitimacy needed to truly transform Malaysia's climate governance.

A Climate Change Act would not only align us with global best practices but also secure our collective future.

The time for roadmaps has passed. The time for law is now.

*Dr Karisma is an independent researcher.
Comments: letters@thesundaily.com*

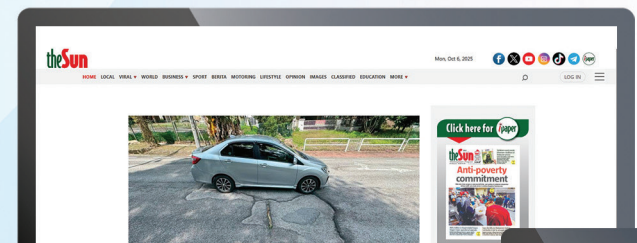
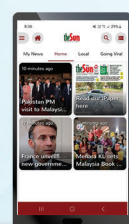
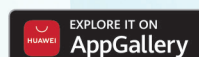


ENJOY A SEAMLESS READING EXPERIENCE.



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

Or download theSun app on
the AppStore or Google Play



Grade expectations: Pass low, aim lower



MARINATED MAKCIK
BY AZURA ABAS

“When passing becomes meaningless, excellence becomes optional. Teachers lose drive, students lose direction and parents lose faith. And one day, we will all wonder why our ‘graduates’ can’t write an email without emojis or confusion.”

ADOI, anak-anak semua rejoice! Apparently, you can now pass with 20%. Yes, *dua puluh peratus saja* – that is right – you can practically spell your name wrong and still get a “Good job, keep it up!”

If this sounds like satire, it’s not; it’s Malaysia, 2025 edition – where exams are starting to look more like self-esteem workshops than assessments.

And if you think *Makcik’s* exaggerating, just look at the *theSun’s* front page on Sept 30, where the nation’s collective jaw is still on the floor. (Pssst... it’s still up on the iPaper if you need proof.)

Once upon a time, 40% was the line between “ok-lah” and “prepare your last rites”. Your mother would storm into your room with your report card like it was a crime scene file. But now? We are told 20% is enough to pass. Even TikTok dance challenges have higher entry requirements, *sayang*.

Let’s unpack this academic *nasi lemak*, shall we?

A score of 20% used to mean you studied the wrong syllabus, panicked halfway and wrote “God bless me” in the essay section. It was the academic equivalent of “*eh*, at least I tried”. But now, that same effort supposedly earns a passing grade. Wah, what an era – we have officially rebranded failure as progress.

It’s giving “group therapy disguised as policy”. You show up, scribble something vaguely relevant and the system pats your head like a confused cat: “You tried, *kan?* So, *pass-lah*.”

Hold your horses, *Makcik* isn’t a monster; she believes in kindness, empathy and not traumatising

children with red ink. But there is a fine line between being compassionate and being complacent. And my dear, this 20%-to-pass idea doesn’t blur that line; it pole-dances on it.

If 20% is now considered “passing”, what message are we sending? That effort doesn’t matter and mediocrity is acceptable as long as it is wrapped in pastel-coloured “mental health” packaging? Because let’s be honest, not every low mark is a cry for help. Sometimes, it is just the result of not studying.

Picture this: “Don’t worry, doc, I know you only got 20% in anatomy but you passed!”

Next thing you know, you wake up from surgery missing your appendix, wallet and sense of security. Or imagine an engineer who scraped through with 20% in physics. The bridge he designs won’t just collapse; it will qualify as a modern art installation, titled “Falling Standards”.

Even the *makciks* at *pasar malam* know better. If your *kuih* turns out right only 20% of the time, you don’t sell it; you fix the recipe.

Standards matter-*lah*.

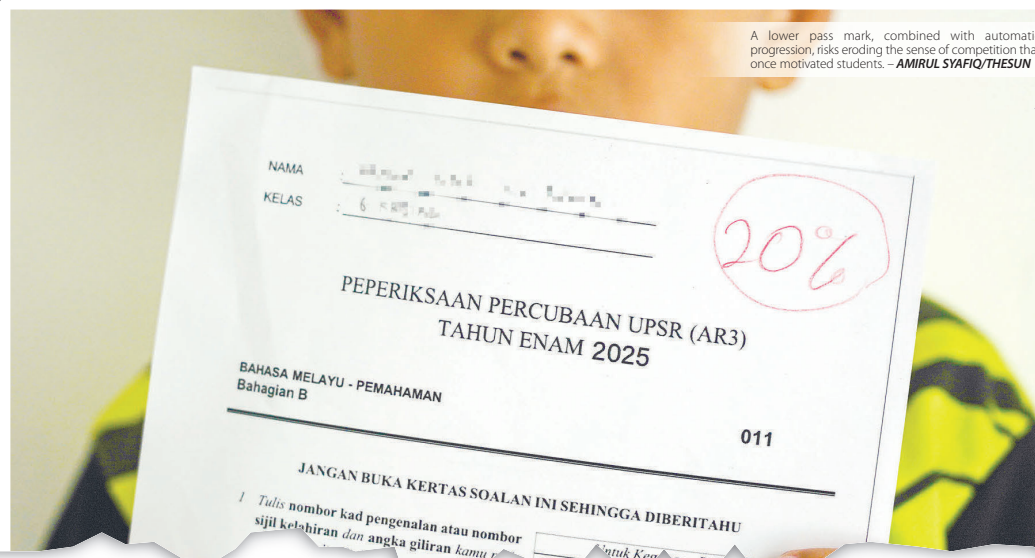
When you lower the bar so far that it is grazing the floor tiles, you are not lifting people up; you are teaching them to trip gracefully. Maybe the intention is noble. Maybe someone in the ministry thought: “Let’s reduce the stigma of failure and nurture confidence.” Beautiful words, darling, but inclusivity without quality is just pity in PowerPoint form.

You can call it “modern grading” but if a student who barely attempts the paper walks away with a pass, we

Jaw-dropping shift

Report on > page 3

Claims that passing grade for school assessments lowered to 20% under Ujian Akhir Sesi Akademik rattle parents and educators, with some warning such threshold could affect students’ motivation and learning habits.



A lower pass mark, combined with automatic progression, risks eroding the sense of competition that once motivated students. —AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN

The front page headline of *theSun* on Sept 30 shows a school-based exam passing mark of 20%, triggering public controversy.

are not helping them succeed; we are handing out delusions like door gifts.

And what about the hardworking students – the ones who actually study until their eyebags qualify for EPF? The ones who survive on Maggi, panic and pure caffeine? They will get lumped together with those who wrote “I don’t know” in beautiful cursive.

How is that fair? You can’t flatten effort like you flatten chapati. It kills motivation faster than a Friday evening “urgent” email from the boss.

What’s next? A 10% pass mark because “we must nurture self-esteem”? Exams, where all multiple-choice answers are correct? “Just choose what resonates with your truth”?

We have entered the era of “bare minimum”.

Tagline: “Why aim high when you can pass low?”

This isn’t empowerment; it is quiet

surrender – the academic version of “*malas nak gaduh*”.

Because here’s the truth, *sayang*: a low bar doesn’t lift the weak; it weakens everyone. When passing becomes meaningless, excellence becomes optional. Teachers lose drive, students lose direction and parents lose faith. And one day, we will all wonder why our “graduates” can’t write an email without emojis or confusion.

Education isn’t supposed to be easy; it is supposed to be transformative. A pass mark should mean something – that you have understood, not that you have existed. We don’t need more pity passes; we need passion, rigour and systems that actually teach students how to think, not just how to be graded.

Because when the real world hits – with deadlines, bosses, clients and

bills – nobody’s handing out 20% pity passes.

If the powers-that-be truly want to build resilient students, then stop adjusting the goalposts. Build classrooms that excite, teachers who inspire and policies that make sense outside ministry memos.

And if you’re reading this and thinking, “Cannot be-*lah*”, then grab that copy of *theSun* – with the front page bright and bold. The numbers are there. The debate is real. The standards, sadly, are not.

Until then, *Makcik* will be here, sipping her *teh tarik*, shaking her head with love and disbelief, muttering, “You pass with 20%, I can pass out already.” Because Malaysia deserves better, and so do our kids.

Azura Abas is the

associate editor of *theSun*.

Comments: letters@thesundaily.com

The Middle East road to nowhere: Where peace remains a mirage

BY ERIC S. MARGOLIS

“STOP writing about the Middle East or we will throw acid in your face and your son’s.”

Such was the threat shouted through the front door of our New York City apartment, where my mother and I lived in the 1950s. There was also frequent pounding on the door at 3am with further threats and obscenities.

My mother’s offence? Being one of the first female journalists to cover the Middle East, a region barely known at that time to most Americans.

My mother Nexhmie Zaimi was born in Albania, a former province of the Ottoman Empire. She was the first girl in Albania to go to high school, which was run by Presbyterian missionaries.

She was also a natural-born rebel. She scandalised the capital, Tirana, by refusing to wear a veil and speaking of emigrating to the United States.

She managed to get to the US and, somehow, was enrolled at the prestigious Wellesley College. There, she wrote a stellar book, *Daughter of the Eagle*, about growing up in semi-feudal Albania. It became a national best-seller.

My mother then attended Columbia University Journalism school, when it was still a bastion of free speech. She met my father, a New York City attorney, married him before the war and soon became a journalist and lecturer.

She also worked with the predecessor of the CIA in early post-war years, then began reporting on the Middle East for the US State Department. In the 1950s, she warned Washington that unless the Palestine problem was resolved with justice, the Middle East would erupt in fury against the US. That came in 2001.

My mother was a star journalist despite her grave eye problems. On her

own, with no support, she managed to interview Egypt’s ruler Gamal Abdel Nasser, Jordan’s King Hussein, Egypt’s old ruler King Farouk, Egypt’s former president Anwar El-Sadat, Egyptian army officer and statesman General Naguib and Iraq’s former prime minister and strongman, Nuri al-Said.

While travelling in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, my mother was shocked to discover hundreds of thousands (750,000 in total) of Palestinian villagers who had been driven from their homes at gunpoint or by premeditated massacres by Jewish regular and irregular forces. These refugees were living in cardboard boxes or metal sheds, many starving and ill.

My mother began writing and lecturing about their plight. What had become Northern Israel (the Arab region of Galilee and Haifa) “was a land without people for a people without land”, as the Zionist party line went. A catchy phrase but wholly untrue.

Israeli historians have amply chronicled the ethnic cleansing of northern Palestine. Many of its people ended up in the open-air prison camp of Gaza, where they are today victims of brutal ethnic terrorism.

Pro-Israel advertisers in the newspapers and radio stations that carried my mother’s reports threatened to stop their advertisements unless she was silenced. She refused to be quiet – until the threats came to throw acid in my face.

I have had my columns and broadcasts blacklisted by major US and Canadian newspapers, radio and television for my heretical pro-peace views on the Middle East – and my life threatened numerous times. After 60 years of threats and intimidation, I have learned to live with them.

Even many former right-wing partisans of Israel are beginning to re-evaluate their thinking as the world turns against Israel’s final solution to

the Palestinians, who have become martyrs.

I am firmly in the camp of those Israelis who understand that they must, some day, live with their Palestinian neighbours.

I salute the great Israeli journalist Uri Avnery, who advocated this peaceful course for decades.

The partisans of ever greater Israel are on a road to nowhere. They have managed to get their strongest supporter, President Donald Trump, into the White House but where does he go from there?

My mother died in 2003 in Santa Barbara, California, where she had retired. At that time, she was nursing Bosnian children wounded in the Balkan War. Many hailed her as “the first lady of Albania”.

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

Examinations – why they matter

FOR me, growing up with examinations was a part of going to school. Being educated in a convent school with regular assessment tests meant we all knew our weaknesses and strengths.

But the standard six and form three government examinations set a national benchmark because the whole school knew whether we met the national standards of teaching and learning. If we did well, there were congratulations all around.

If not, we had to attend extra classes to improve.

For many, the sudden abolishment of UPSR in 2021 and the PT3 in 2022 by the Ministry of Education (MOE) came as a shock because there was no indication of the move from MOE prior to the action.

There was also no transition period for the abolishment, leaving teachers in government schools having to prepare their students for school based assessments, with bare minimum guidelines.

Building skills through exams

Mangalagowri Ramanathan, a HR practitioner for 20 years, with 2 school-going children expressed her deep unhappiness with the abolishment of both exams at short notice.

In her letter to the Sun she said: “Research has shown there is a degree of stress among students, when faced with exams. There are reports of burnout and some students show depression and possibly loss of appetite in this high pressure environment but does that mean exams should be abolished?” she said.

“Exams when approached with the right structure and support are not just about memorisation or grades. They cultivate resilience,



Exams give students the opportunity to study together and also contributes to building teamwork skills in the long term.

time management, consistency, focus and the ability to deliver and cope under pressure. These are life-skills that go beyond the classroom.”

Mangalagowri added that she had observed first-hand how these traits or their absence play out in the workplace.

“By abolishing UPSR and PT3, policymakers aimed to reduce academic stress but now teachers worry that students lack foundational skills when they sit for SPM and parents are left without clear benchmarks of progress,” she added.

Hamidi Mookkaiyah Abdullah, current secretary for the Malaysian Society for Education and ex-secretary of for the national union of teachers’ profession (NUTP) Selangor, with more than 35 years of teaching experience said:

“Exams have an important function, which sometimes may be overlooked.

“They mark key transitions. When students perform well, they can influence subject options and stream placement.

“Secondly, exams contribute to foundation building, where students can access core literacy and numeracy skills, essential for future learning. Also, a structured target can motivate disciplined study habits and a sense of achievement,” he said.

“For parents and teachers, exams provide a means of benchmarking to identify strengths and areas needing support.

“For the education system, national exams ensure basic competencies across the student population; they can influence

policy decisions, where data driven insights influence curriculum design, teacher training and resource allocation.

Exams improve equity and access, where those underperforming schools can be singled out for improvement and also improve support for underserved communities,” said Hamidi.

The lack of analysis of UPSR and PT3 exams

Lecturer Aznijar Ahmad Yazid, working in the faculty of engineering at Universiti Malaya and vice-president of Persatuan Kakitangan Akademik Universiti Malaya (PKAUM) session 2024/26, felt MOE may have been too hasty in their decision-making:

“There was no real analysis made of the effectiveness or the weaknesses of both exams when both were abolished.

“While I do agree with the spirit of the change, the implementation which was so sudden, without any pilot studies made anywhere locally made me feel unsure of the consequences.

“I would have liked for the new system of school based assessments to have been given a pilot run in selected schools or states, and the results compared with the existing system first.

“To me, the change was rushed and was not properly considered,

not deliberated adequately, without the involvement of all stakeholders and was ultimately a bad decision,” added Aznijar.

Teachers under stress

Jerome Fernandez, who taught both in secondary and primary schools for 31 years and retired as headmaster, feels the abolishment does not augur well for students, including teachers.

“These exams gave students direction and discipline and they allowed parents and teachers to clearly measure progress.

“Without exams, students tend to lose focus and teachers are under stress to produce assessments, which can be inconsistent. Teachers become overworked, grading could be also biased and lead to unfairness in this system of school based assessments.

“In the long run, this decision may weaken our education system and leave students less prepared for bigger challenges such as SPM,” he said.

Managing exams not abolishment

“The stress of exams is undeniable, but so too are their benefits. The key lies in managing the process, not abolishing it. Parents must avoid projecting anxieties onto their children. Policyholders must design systems that safeguard mental health, while maintaining standards,” said Mangalagowri, who hopes the MOE, will reconsider their decision based on feedback.



Teachers work with classes to improve outcomes based on examination results.





'Very encouraging' start for Single-Family Office scheme

➤ Tax incentive gazetted, six conditional approvals granted with indicative AUM of close to RM400m since launch: SC

BY JOHN GILBERT
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: The Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) has reaffirmed the country's openness to long-term, purpose-driven investments through the establishment of a dedicated framework for a Single-Family Office (SFO) Incentive Scheme.

SC chairman Datuk Mohammad Faiz Azmi said the framework was developed through the engagement with industry leaders, high-net-worth families both locally and internationally, as well as other key stakeholders.

"Minister of Finance II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah launched the scheme in September last year as part of the Forest City Special Financial Zone. The scheme was designed with a clear purpose: to position Malaysia as a home for generational wealth, committed to long-term value creation, and providing transformative spillovers for our economy," Faiz told reporters at a briefing yesterday.

A SFO is a private setup created by a wealthy family to manage their entire financial affairs under one roof. Instead of using different banks, advisers or services, the family builds its own team of experts to handle everything from investments and property to taxes, legal matters and daily expenses, as well as charitable giving.

It is called "single-family" because it serves only one family, allowing for complete control, privacy and tailored management of their wealth across generations.

In announcing the formal gazetting of the SFO tax incentive, Faiz said the interest in the scheme over the past 12 months has been very encouraging, with six conditional approvals granted, indicative of assets under management (AUM) of close to RM400 million.

"Alongside this, we have also received 30 Expressions of Interest and have a target of RM2 billion in AUM by the end of 2026. The pipeline



From left: Country Garden Malaysia and Forest City CFO Kevin Li Gen, Faiz and Securities Commission Malaysia managing director Datin Paduka Azalina Adham. The SFO Scheme embeds a strong nation-building dimension by requiring SFOs to establish offices in the Forest City Special Financial Zone, employ local staff and invest in Malaysia's capital markets.

includes Malaysian families repatriating wealth back home, as well as foreign families establishing a regional base," he said.

SFOs are required to have a minimum of RM30 million in AUM, which increases to RM50 million after the first 10 years.

These assets will be centrally managed from Malaysia, ensuring that investment decisions, oversight and governance functions are anchored domestically.

The SFOs are required to invest RM10 million or 10% of AUM, whichever is lower (for the first 10 years) and higher (for the next 10 years), in eligible and promoted investments.

Faiz said each SFO brings substantial domestic economic substance requirements.

These include a minimum of RM500,000 in annual operating expenditure during the initial period, rising to RM650,000 thereafter, the hiring of investment professionals and the setting up of an office space within the designated financial zone.

"This will result in spillover effects for legal, banking, property, education and other support services.

"Equally important is how the scheme aligns with Malaysia's national development plans through Promoted Investments.

"Investments into key sectors provide a 1.5 times multiplier for assets under management - a powerful incentive that ensures private wealth is actively deployed in support of

national priorities," Faiz said.

Promoted investments include sustainability funds, bonds and sukuk aligned with Malaysian or Asean standards for local projects.

They also included priority sectors under the New Industrial Master Plan 2030, investments in the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone and startups and SMEs through recognised equity crowdfunding and peer-to-peer financing platforms, as well as waqf funds aimed at strengthening Malaysia's leadership in sustainable and Islamic finance.

Faiz said, "The formal gazette of three key tax orders, covering capital gains tax, the exemption, stamp duty relief, and the zero per cent tax rate for eligible income represent the culmination of extensive preparation.

"We are confident that the scheme's 20-year duration and the two-step certification process will provide the proper oversight, stability and predictability that multi-generational wealth requires.

"We anticipate continued expansion of both domestic and international interest."

The SFO scheme now moves into its next phase, from commitment to execution.

"I am confident that with the early success we have achieved, the strong foundation established and the robust pipeline we continue to build, Malaysia will be well-positioned to tap the opportunities in the global wealth management segment," Faiz said.

Article 6 carbon market set to be operational by 2026, says deputy minister

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia expects the compliance carbon market mechanism under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement to become operational as early as next year, in support of the country's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Deputy Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Datuk Seri Huang Tiong Sii said the two main mechanisms being developed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are the bilateral cooperation approach under Article 6.2 and the UNFCCC-managed trading mechanism known as the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM) under Article 6.4.

He said the implementation of the two mechanisms would enable carbon projects in Malaysia to contribute to reducing GHG emissions, strengthen local technological capabilities, and create green job opportunities.

"Currently, the ministry is finalising the National Carbon Market Policy, which outlines the framework for implementing Articles 6.2 and 6.4, and supports the establishment of a voluntary carbon market under the Bursa Carbon Exchange, launched on Sept 25, 2023," he said during the question-and-answer session at the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He said this in his reply to a question from Datuk Mohd Shahar Abdullah (BN-Paya Besar) regarding the readiness and development of the country's carbon trading market ecosystem, as well as the number of bilateral memoranda of understanding (MoU) the government has signed for the carbon credit market in line with the Nationally Determined Contribution under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement.

Huang said the government is also considering project applications under the Clean Development Mechanism to be aligned with the Article 6.4 compliance market mechanism.

Elaborating further, he said, Malaysia has signed two MoU for bilateral cooperation under Article 6.2 - with South Korea on Nov 25, 2024, and Singapore on Jan 7.

"Through these MoU, both countries will be able to invest in the implementation of carbon projects in Malaysia," he said.

Huang also said that several technical components under Article 6.4 are currently being developed, including the establishment of a regulatory body, the formulation of baseline guidelines for carbon sequestration methodologies and activities, as well as the creation of a temporary registry to record carbon activities and transactions.

"However, technical elements such as specific methodologies, a complete registry, and corresponding adjustment procedures have yet to be finalised, resulting in carbon credits not being officially issued," he said when replying to a supplementary question from Mohd Shahar on the implementation status of Article 6.4 and Malaysia's level of preparedness.

He said the participation of local companies in the carbon market is expected to become more active once the proposed national climate change bill is implemented, as it will outline the procedures for participation in the carbon market under Article 6.

"The Malaysia Forest Fund was also established to promote the development of forest-based carbon projects and facilitate their implementation by local companies," he said in reply to a supplementary question from Jamaludin Yahya (PN-Pasir Salak). - Bernama

Cyber threats – M'sian firms among most targeted in SE Asia: Kaspersky

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian businesses are among the most targeted in Southeast Asia for web-based threats, recording 190,556 exploit attempts, averaging over 1,050 attacks a day, in the first half of 2025 (H1'25), according to cybersecurity company Kaspersky.

In a statement yesterday, it said this represents a 16% increase from the same period last year, reflecting a clear upward trend as digital infrastructure continues to expand.

Within Southeast Asia, Malaysia ranks third in terms of exploit volume, behind Indonesia (524,657) and Vietnam (301,800).

Kaspersky noted that exploits are a type of malicious programme designed to take advantage of bugs or vulnerabilities in

software or operating systems to gain unauthorised access. When left unpatched, these weak points serve as open doors for cybercriminals.

Kaspersky managing director for Asia Pacific, Adrian Hia said, a 16% jump in exploit attempts against Malaysian businesses within just six months highlights how relentless these attackers have become.

"As the country's online economy expands, closing the gap in unpatched systems is not just about avoiding attacks but also fortifying the nation's digital progress.

"Threat intelligence tells us exactly where attackers are focusing, so Malaysian enterprises can strengthen defences before the

damage is done," he said.

The company also said that, overall, businesses in Malaysia encountered 1.70 million business-to-business web-based threats in the first six months of 2025.

This makes Malaysia the second most targeted country in Southeast Asia, with incidents exceeding Indonesia's 1.63 million threats and outpaced only by Thailand's 2.52 million.

"Web-based threats refer to malware programmes that can target users when they are browsing the Internet. These threats are not limited to online activity but ultimately involve the Internet at some stage to inflict harm," it added. - Bernama



Bioeconomy Corp, Polaris Bio forge RM700m collaboration

Malaysian entity and South Korean company to develop facilities to turn palm oil mill waste into biogas as energy source

PETALING JAYA: Malaysian Bioeconomy Development Corporation (Bioeconomy Corp), which is under the purview of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation Malaysia, has entered into a collaboration with South Korea-based renewable energy company Polaris Bio Co Ltd to develop palm oil mill effluent-based biogas upgrading facilities in Malaysia.

An initial RM30 million will be invested in the first facility as part of RM700 million total planned investments. The pilot project will validate the technical and financial feasibility of biogas upgrading and pave the way for the nationwide rollout of more than 20 facilities, which are expected to cut up to 384,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent each year.

The partnership will accelerate the commercialisation of biotech-

nology converting palm oil mill effluent (POME) into bio-compressed natural gas (bio-CNG), a sustainable fuel, while also creating internationally tradable carbon credits - known as Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement.

According to Bioeconomy Corp CEO Mohd Khairul Fdzal Abdul Razak, biogas development from oil palm biomass and waste in Malaysia has long been recognised as a strategic opportunity.

While early projects faced inconsistent yields, high maintenance costs and limited downstream integration, recent technological advances have improved efficiency and reliability, enabling biogas to be upgraded into bio-CNG, biomethane and green chemicals - making it a viable pathway for decarbonisation and integration into Malaysia's re-

newable energy and bio-based industrial ecosystem.

"Over the past two years, Bioeconomy Corporation has witnessed a series of bioenergy partnerships from its BioNexus Status and Bio-based Accelerator companies, signalling a surge of activity in the sector and renewed investor confidence. This is reflected in our partnership with Polaris Bio, which will advance the government's push to position bioenergy at the heart of Malaysia's energy transition and power the country's circular bioeconomy," he said.

Polaris Bio CEO Junghwan Kim said the collaboration with Bioeconomy Corp opens new opportunities for scaling bioenergy solutions in Malaysia, while setting a benchmark for cross-border climate partnerships.

"Since 2020, Polaris Bio has been actively engaged in Malaysia's pioneering POME-to-bio-CNG initiatives. Building on this proven track record, we are now delighted to embark on direct investments in partnership with the Government of Korea, including the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment, its agency the Sudokwon Landfill

Site Management Corporation, and leading Korean private enterprises. This collaboration not only reinforces Korea-Malaysia cooperation in renewable energy and carbon markets, but also stands as the first bilateral endeavour under Article 6.2, enhancing carbon market development in both nations," he stated.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy Transition and Water Transformation Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof witnessed the exchange of memorandum of understanding between Mohd Khairul and Kim at the opening ceremony of the National Innovation and Creative Economy Expo 2025 in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The partnership represents a timely step in aligning national priorities with international investment to reinforce Malaysia's low-carbon transition under the National Energy Transition Roadmap and its target of 40% renewables in the primary energy mix by 2035, while supporting the goals of the National Biotechnology Policy 2.0 to drive sustainable bio-based industries and innovation for the nation's circular economy.

Malaysian firms to display green rubber at German trade fair

KUALA LUMPUR: Twelve Malaysian companies are set to showcase a wide range of green rubber and advanced plastics innovations for the plastics and rubber industry at the K 2025 -- the world's number one trade fair for plastics and rubber.

To be held from Oct 8-15 in Düsseldorf, Germany, the event will gather over 3,000 exhibitors and more than 225,000 trade visitors from around the world.

In a statement yesterday, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) said Malaysia's participation underscores its commitment to advancing sustainability in the global plastics industry.

"Our presence at K 2025 reflects Malaysia's strengths in innovation, quality and responsibility. By embracing recycled content, sustainable resins and circular economy practices, our companies are well-positioned to contribute to greener industrial solutions," said Matrade director of oil and gas, chemical and energy section, Idzham Abdul Hamid.

He added that Malaysian participants are committed to reducing waste, adhering to international environmental standards and incorporating recycled materials to support multinational clients in achieving their sustainability objectives.

Malaysian exhibitors will highlight a range of solutions, from acrylic sheets for creative and commercial applications to specialised materials for flexible packaging and film extrusion. - Bernama

KDEB launches Malaysia's first smart reverse vending machine to boost recycling

BY DEEPALAKSHMI MANICKAM
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

SHAH ALAM: KDEB Waste Management Sdn Bhd, through its subsidiary KDEB Services Sdn Bhd, has partnered with HMA Digital Malaysia to launch the country's first artificial intelligence-powered Smart 5-in-1 Reverse Vending Machine (RVM), introducing a new technology-driven approach to recycling in Selangor.

KDEB Waste Management managing director Datuk Ramli Mohd Tahir said the initiative is aimed at raising Selangor's recycling rate to 15% this year under Rancangan Selangor Pertama.

"Today we are taking another step forward by using smart artificial intelligence through a reverse vending machine, which people can

use 24 hours a day, 365 days a year," he said at the launch.

The machine, which accepts plastics, paper, cartons, aluminium cans and used cooking oil, is designed with smart sensors to prevent fraud. "If someone tries to put water in the oil or put stones in a bottle to increase weight, the machine will detect and reject it," Ramli explained.

Users register via their phone number and e-wallet or bank account, deposit recyclables into the designated slots, and receive instant rewards credited directly to their accounts.

Ramli said the goal is to make recycling more accessible and rewarding. "No need to wait for collectors or travel far to recycling centres. Just bring your items to an RVM and it will be processed instantly,"

KDEB Waste Management plans to roll out 100 units of the Smart RVM across Selangor by the first quarter of 2026.

Each machine can process up to 750kg of recyclables daily. Once full, an automatic alert will be sent to KDEB's collection team to clear the load.

Addressing concerns about illegal dumping at recycling bins, Ramli stressed that the smart RVM will only accept designated items. "This is for materials that can be recycled into new by-products, not for bulky items or garbage. Waste is not dirty, waste is money. It is a resource that can generate income for households and reduce our reliance on landfills," he said.

The machines are also fitted with a closed-circuit television system to deter vandalism.



From left: Ramli and HMA Digital chairman Datuk Baharon Talib in front of the AI-powered Smart 5-in-1 Reverse Vending Machine.

Powertech to raise RM22m from listing on ACE Market

BY HAYATUN RAZAK
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Powertech Group Bhd, a specialist in the provision of crane and hoist systems, elevated platform systems and elevators, aims to raise RM22.05 million from its listing on the ACE Market of Bursa Malaysia to fund automation, expansion and working capital needs.

Managing director Ivan Na Keh Chai said the initial public offering (IPO) will enhance production capabilities through automation for fabrication processes and strengthen

market presence in new target areas. "We are aiming for expansion in Penang and Sarawak as well as Singapore and Indonesia," he said at the prospectus launch yesterday.

Na said the primary reason for establishing facilities in Penang and Sarawak is to support business growth in northern Peninsular Malaysia and East Malaysia by addressing potential markets driven by economic growth in these regions.

The set up of two new product showrooms and sales offices with storage space is expected to

commence in fourth quarter 2025.

The group operates principally from its headquarters in Johor. The southern region of Peninsular Malaysia comprising Johor, Malacca and Negeri Sembilan has been its main revenue contributor accounting for 92.56% (RM15.06 million), 87.79% (RM17.75 million), 64.28% (RM19.68 million), 69.91% (RM27.97 million) and 77.88% (RM17.58 million), respectively, of its total revenue.

In Johor, beyond the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone, Powertech's facility is located only 15 minutes from the main manufacturing

hub, positioning the company to capitalise on new developments, including data centre projects.

"While not all data centres source their lifting systems from us, I can say that more than half, possibly up to 80-90%, of them are our clients. And this segment presents strong growth prospects in the years ahead," Na said.

For the IPO, Powertech will issue 63 million new shares at 35 sen per share.

Proceeds will be used mainly for working capital (RM6.65 million), followed by the establishment of new product showrooms and sales offices

with storage and marketing facilities (RM4.5 million).

Another RM3.8 million has been earmarked for capital expenditure, primarily to acquire automated machinery, while RM2.8 million will go towards repaying bank borrowings. The remaining RM4.3 million will be used to cover listing expenses.

Powertech is scheduled to be listed on the ACE Market of Bursa Securities on Oct 28.

TA Securities Holdings Bhd is the principal adviser, sponsor, underwriter, and placement agent for the IPO.

BUDGET 2026 WISH LIST

Building a **future-proof** housing market for Malaysia

➤ It is not just about hitting numerical targets, but ensuring homes are realistically within reach of households: PropertyGuru country manager

PETALING JAYA: As Malaysians await Budget 2026, the local property market is at a crossroads, said PropertyGuru and iProperty country manager for Malaysia, Kenneth Soh (*pic*).

The 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP), he said sets ambitious housing reform goals, including the delivery of one million affordable homes by 2035, but the real test lies in translating this ambition into measures that address what the market is experiencing today.

"We observe that demand for affordable housing remains strong, particularly for homes priced below RM300,000. As of September 2025, more than 20,500 properties nationwide are listed on PropertyGuru under this threshold, with about 2,500 in Kuala Lumpur alone," he added.

Soh said affordable housing is not just about hitting numerical targets, but ensuring homes are realistically within reach for households.

"Our platform data shows encouraging resilience in buyer behaviour. Enquiries for homes under RM300,000 surged by 27.3% from April to June 2025 and remained steady through July, reflecting the positive impact of policy support and stabilising sentiment. While there was a dip between December 2024 and September 2025, where enquiries for homes under RM300,000 fell by 8.7% amid economic uncertainty, this recent rebound highlights that Malaysians are quick to re-engage when they see both opportunity and stability in the market" said Soh.

Demand for affordable homes is highest in Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Johor and Penang – states where jobs, infrastructure, and amenities are concentrated.

Budget 2026, Soh said, could have an outsized impact by encouraging the development of mid-priced, transit-linked homes in these high-demand corridors.

In the meantime, rent-to-own (RTO) schemes provide a practical bridge for many families. For the lowest B40 households, where rental affordability hovers around RM1,500, well-structured RTO programmes offer a path to eventual ownership while addressing immediate

housing needs.

"Affordability alone will not future-proof Malaysia's property sector. Increasingly, Malaysians are asking for homes that are not only affordable, but also environmentally sustainable, energy-efficient, and socially responsible.

"Recent developments in the market show how developers are beginning to integrate such principles into their projects, from preserving large tracts of green space within township master plans to embedding low-carbon and smart-city features that enhance liveability while reducing environmental impact," said Soh.

At the same time, he continued, new buildings are attaining top-tier green certifications, showcasing advances in design that deliver measurable benefits in energy, water and resource efficiency. These developments indicate that sustainability is not an abstract ideal but an achievable standard that can be scaled across the sector. This aligns with global ESG priorities and can reduce long-term costs for households while safeguarding asset values.

"Budget 2026 could help accelerate the shift by incentivising the adoption of green building



technologies, from rooftop solar panels and water-efficient systems to industrialised building systems that cut waste and speed up construction. At the same time, policies that encourage retrofitting existing housing stock with energy-saving upgrades would lower monthly outgoings for families while extending the lifespan of older properties," said Soh.

He added that creating frameworks for liveable, mixed-income communities supported by transit, education, and healthcare access ensures housing policy contributes to broader national goals of inclusivity and mobility. Clearer disclosure of building performance standards, such as energy ratings and maintenance fund health, would also boost buyer confidence and encourage better stewardship of assets over time.

By integrating environmental, social and governance considerations into housing policy, Soh said, Malaysia can build not only more homes, but better homes that are efficient, resilient, and aligned with the country's long-term development trajectory under 13MP.

"Budget 2026 is more than a fiscal exercise. It is an opportunity to reflect the realities of the market and the aspirations of Malaysians. By focusing on affordability, aligning supply with real demand, and embedding sustainability at the heart of housing delivery, the government can ensure that the vision of 13MP translates into tangible outcomes," he concluded.

Demand for affordable housing remains strong, particularly for homes priced below RM300,000. – **BERNAMAPIC**



Maybank IB expects sustained fiscal consolidation

KUALA LUMPUR: With the 2025 budget deficit on track to meet the target of 3.8% of gross domestic product (GDP), Budget 2026 is expected to continue fiscal consolidation, aiming to narrow the deficit to 3.6% of GDP, Maybank Investment Bank (Maybank IB) said yesterday.

The expectation is premised on sustained revenue growth alongside resilient economic expansion, supporting higher operating expenditure for civil service salary and pension increases in the second and final phase, as well as essential public services and social assistance.

Maybank IB added that development expenditure is expected to remain stable, supplemented by domestic investment from government-linked investment companies under the GEAR-up Programme and through public-private partnerships/private finance initiative projects.

The investment bank anticipates a "quieter" budget on tax measures after a series of new levies in 2024-2025.

"We see respite from new taxes versus 2024-2025 with the introduction of Capital Gains Tax and Low Value Goods Tax in 2024, Dividend Tax and Global Minimum Tax (GMT) in 2025 and Sales and Services Tax reviews in 2024-2025.

"The only new tax we see coming in Budget 2026 is Carbon Tax (mentioned in Budget 2025 to start with iron and steel and energy industries), coupled with focusing on progress in the on-going implementation of GMT and e-invoicing," the research note said.

Maybank IB noted potential "wild cards," including excise duty increases on tobacco (last revised in 2015), alcoholic beverages (2016) and gaming taxes (2019) on public health and social grounds.

The bank also highlighted scope for expanding targeted subsidy rationalisation beyond electricity and fuel to address leakages and phase out temporary subsidies, such as those on liquefied petroleum gas, cooking oil, public healthcare, education, and sugar, following the end of temporary subsidies for chicken in 2023 and eggs this year.

Meanwhile, key economic and social measures under the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP, 2026-2030) are expected to focus on income support and labour market reforms, including details on the multi-tier foreign workers levy and a proposed 10 per cent cap on foreign workers' share of total employment. – **Berna**

Agrobank: Continue support for Business Financing Guarantee Scheme

PWTALING JAYA Bank Pertanian Malaysia Bhd (Agrobank) is hoping that the Business Financing Guarantee Scheme (SJPP) will continue to be enhanced under Budget 2026, given its positive impact on the economy, particularly in empowering micro, small and medium enterprises in the agri-food sector.



CEO Datuk Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah Raja Hussin (*pic*) said sectors such as production, livestock, fisheries and agro-based manufacturing, as well as food security, have strong potential for further development.

"We have several segments that

we will be highlighting (for Budget 2026), especially with regard to young entrepreneurs who do not have much experience in business management.

"Agrobank is ready to help train them so that they will be able to advance and expand their business, eventually transitioning to larger-scale businesses. Our targets

include women, the B40 income group and graduates," he said in an interview with Bernama recently.

Under Budget 2025, the government continued the implementation of the SJPP with guarantees of up to RM20 billion to strengthen financing access for entrepreneurs

facing collateral constraints.

"The agriculture sector is considered among the high-risk sectors as its activities are influenced by many external factors such as unpredictable weather, geo-economic and geopolitical conditions.

"With the SJPP, banks and financiers are more confident to extend financing to those involved in this sector, particularly micro and small clients who lack collateral," he said.

He noted that various financial institutions have been participating in the scheme, including Agrobank, which has so far channelled RM5.3 billion in financing to entrepreneurs in the agriculture and food security

sectors under SJPP.

In the previous years, Agrobank had only disbursed between RM1 billion and RM2 billion to entrepreneurs, he said, emphasising that this exponential rise in financing reflected growing interest among Malaysians to venture into business.

Tengku Ahmad Badli Shah said nearly 12,000 clients – comprising more than 8,000 micro and small entrepreneurs, with the remainder from the medium-sized enterprise segment – have benefited from SJPP financing through the bank.

He added that the SJPP also recorded a healthy repayment rate with a low non-performing loan ratio.

SJPP, which provides guarantees of up to 80% of the total financing amount, has proven highly beneficial, particularly for SMEs, by supporting investment expansion in strategic sectors, digitalisation and job creation.

"We evaluate each financing application based on the entrepreneurs' sales and profit records. However, many small and micro traders do not maintain proper records of their finances because they rely on cash transactions instead of banking systems.

"Under SJPP, Agrobank would provide training to clients and entrepreneurs to adopt proper accounting and management systems, enabling them to better understand and manage their company's financial affairs," he said.





A REFRESHING RETREAT
NEAR KUALA LUMPUR
colmartropicale.com.my



DNeX Energy achieves key business milestones

➤ Firm secures PDB contract, approval on Greater Abu Development and offtake arrangement with PETCO

CYBERJAYA: Dagang NeXchange Bhd (DNeX) has achieved key progress across its energy business, marking further inroads in both the downstream and upstream oil and gas sectors.

These developments underscore DNeX's strategic focus on expanding its presence and driving revenue growth within Malaysia's dynamic energy landscape.

DNeX, through subsidiary OGPC Sdn Bhd, has been awarded a Proof of Concept (PoC) contract by Petronas Dagangan Bhd (PDB) for comprehensive Station Equipment Full Service Maintenance.

This PoC contract commenced on July 1, 2025 and will conclude on July 1, 2026 where OGPC will be responsible for 50 of Petronas stations in the Klang Valley region. PDB has over 1,000 stations across Malaysia and there are about 3,500 stations of all brands throughout the country.

"Our contract with PDB perfectly aligns with DNeX's strategic goal to boost revenue by expanding our footprint in the retail downstream oil and gas sector. At the same time this opportunity enables DNeX Energy to leverage on DNeX Group's capability and expertise to offer a suite of services through POC model before embarking on a full fledge opportunity upon the conclusion of the POC," said DNeX group CEO Faizal Sham Abu Mansor (pic).

Further solidifying its position in the upstream sector, DNeX through subsidiary Ping Petroleum Sdn Bhd (PPSB), has received

approval from Petronas Malaysia Petroleum Management (MPM) for its Field Development and Abandonment Plan (FDAP) for the BETA cluster and undeveloped fields within the Abu cluster.

This key approval greenlights the development of five fields, collectively referred to as the Greater Abu Development Area, significantly expanding Ping's production capabilities in Malaysia.

The approved FDAP covers the Bubun, Enau, and Bunga Tasbih fields within the BETA cluster, as well as the Abu Kecil and Abu South-West fields within the Abu cluster. All these fields are strategically located between four to seven kilometres from the existing Abu Central Processing Platform (Abu CPP).

Hence, this expanded development can leverage shared infrastructure hence creating substantial operational expenditure (OPEX) synergies, making the combined project significantly more profitable and valuable than the Abu field on its own.

The Greater Abu Development falls under Malaysia's Late-Life Asset (LLA) and Small Field Asset (SFA) Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), introduced by Petronas to encourage operators to develop and maintain production from brownfields and untapped marginal fields.

In addition to the FDAP approval, Ping also recently secured a crude oil offtake arrangement for its crude from both Anasuria and Abu with Petronas Trading Corporation (PETCO).



"This arrangement and the FDAP approval for BETA cluster highlight the trust and belief that Petronas has with Ping on its capacity and capability to execute the development of the Greater Abu Development area and ensure sustainable delivery of crude to PETCO.

"The Greater Abu Development will follow the successful playbook we implemented with the Anasuria Cluster in the UK North Sea, where we acquired a

brownfield asset, improved its efficiency, and then brought in additional volumes through infill wells and tiebacks of nearby resources through effective resource allocation by leveraging on existing infrastructure that are available.

"Our development plan and the offtake arrangement entered with PETCO will also ensure sustainable cashflow coming into Ping, once the first oil is produced in the Abu field," said Faizal Sham.

Ping operates through two arms namely PPSB for its Malaysian operations and Ping Petroleum UK PLC (PPUK) for its UK operations.

The immediate focus will be on the reactivation of the Abu Cluster, where field work is progressing toward a targeted first oil in 2026 with an expected initial production rate of 3,000 barrels per day.

The Abu and BETA developments represent the next phase in DNeX's plan to replicate its successful low-cost operating model in the UK where the group has operated the Anasuria Cluster profitably since 2016.

MIA adopts IESSA, ISSA 5000 to enhance credibility of sustainability reporting

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA) has approved the adoption of the International Standard on Sustainability Assurance (ISSA) 5000 and the International Ethics Standards for Sustainability Assurance (IESSA), taking a significant step towards enhancing the credibility and reliability of sustainability reporting and assurance in Malaysia.

The new standards provide a robust framework to guide sustainability assurance practitioners in upholding public trust and aims to equip practitioners in addressing ethical issues in relation to sustainability.

Issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB), ISSA 5000, General Requirements for Sustainability Assurance Engagements, is a new global sustainability assurance standard designed to strengthen the global sustainability disclosure ecosystem.

The ISSA 5000 is effective for assurance engagements on sustainability information reported for periods beginning on or after Dec 15, 2026 or as at a specific date on or after Dec 15, 2026, with earlier application permitted.

The IESSA, issued by the IESBA, are the landmark global sustainability ethics standards providing an ethical framework for assurance on sustainability-related information.

The IESSA is slated to come into effect in Malaysia for sustainability assurance engagements on sustainability information for periods beginning on or after Dec 15, 2026, with the exception of Sections 5405 and 5406 of the standards which will become effective from July 1, 2028.

MIA president Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Zabidi Ahmad said the adoption of these new ethics and assurance standards is both timely and essential for firms expanding into sustainability assurance.

MIA Auditing and Assurance Standards Board chair Teoh Soo Hock said ISSA 5000 sets a new global benchmark for sustainability assurance and is flexible, scalable and built for all assurance providers.

MIA Ethics Standards Board chair Dr Veerinderjeet Singh said with the adoption of the IESSA, MIA is equipping the profession with ethical guidance in a progressively more complex assurance environment.

Bursa Malaysia records RM577m net foreign inflow for week to Oct 3

KUALA LUMPUR: Bursa Malaysia was among three Asian markets to record net foreign inflows last week, posting RM577.1 million and reversing the previous week's outflow.

MBSB Investment Bank Bhd's *Fund Flow Report* for the week ended Oct 3, 2025, showed foreign investors were net buyers on three of five trading days, with Thursday contributing the largest single-day net inflow of RM503.9 million – the highest since May 25.

This was followed by Wednesday (RM154.0 million) and Monday (RM52.8 million), while the largest outflows occurred on Friday (RM80.5 million) and Tuesday (RM53.0 million).

Sector-wise, technology, healthcare, and construction led inflows, each recording RM339.7 million, RM313.6 million, and RM313.6 million respectively.

However, local institutions returned to

net selling after the previous week's inflow, posting a net outflow of RM304.7 million, while local retailers extended a four-week net selling streak with RM272.4 million.

MBSB IB noted that average daily trading volumes rose broadly last week, with local retailers and institutions up 10.1% and 5.6% respectively, while foreign investors increased 12.2%. – Bernama

UOB prices RM455m sukuk for Exsim amid strong investor interest

KUALA LUMPUR: UOB Malaysia has priced a RM455 million Islamic medium-term notes under Tranche 7 of Exsim Capital Resources Berhad (ECRB)'s RM2.0 billion Sukuk Musharakah Programme, structured as an Asean Green SRI Sukuk Musharakah.

The issuance saw strong investor demand, achieving a competitive profit rate of 4.80% per annum and attracting orders nearing RM1.2 billion, resulting in a bid-to-cover ratio of 2.6 times.

UOB Malaysia acted as Lead Arranger and Joint Lead Manager, alongside NewParadigm Securities, for Exsim Group's largest Sukuk issuance to date, executed via private placement.

The proceeds will fund the Group's latest green residential developments – The Kingswoodz in Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur, and



Noordinz Suites in Georgetown, Penang.

UOB Malaysia commercial banking country head Beh Wee Khee (pic) said: "We congratulate Exsim on the successful pricing of its seventh sukuk tranche and the strong investor demand it attracted. This achievement reflects continued market confidence in Exsim's commitment to sustainable development and the strength of our longstanding partnership.

"UOB is proud to have supported Exsim throughout its Sukuk Musharakah Programmes, helping to mobilise capital for green commercial and residential projects. By structuring sukuk aligned with ESG principles under the Asean Green SRI framework, we continue to advance our shared vision of responsible growth and innovative Islamic finance."

The sukuk was issued on July 8, 2025 and

supported by a RM100.0 million Islamic Commercial Papers Tranche underwritten by UOB Malaysia. The transaction involved the monetisation of progress billings from residential development projects governed by the Housing Development Act.

The bank has played a leading advisory role in all issuances under ECRB's RM2.0 billion Sukuk Musharakah Programme. The Programme, established in 2019, was structured in collaboration with NewParadigm Securities.

The collaboration combined UOB's Islamic and sustainable financing strengths with NewParadigm Securities' structuring expertise to efficiently execute the issuance in line with ASEAN Green SRI Sukuk standards, demonstrating the impact of pairing innovative structuring with strong distribution capabilities.

Exsim managing director, Lim Aik Hoe said: "This milestone issuance reflects the market's confidence in our vision and projects. We are grateful for the continued trust and partnership

of UOB Malaysia and NewParadigm Securities. With that, we remain committed to advancing our pillars towards creating impactful and sustainable projects while ushering in greater value to our stakeholders."

NewParadigm Securities is a leading capital markets and stockbroking firm in Malaysia.

As the country's sole remaining Universal Broker, the firm is committed to innovation and excellence, NewParadigm Securities specialises in structuring Shariah-compliant financial solutions that drive sustainable economic growth.

NewParadigm Securities group chief executive Charanjeet Singh said the successful completion of this issuance reflects the capital markets' strong confidence in Exsim Group's ability to deliver high-quality projects and execute its vision.

"We are pleased to have played a key role in structuring a transaction that advances both sustainable development and innovative financing in Malaysia," he added.

Japan stocks soar, yen sinks on Takaichi victory

French stocks tumble after newly-appointed prime minister resigns

HONG KONG: Tokyo stocks surged almost five percent to a record high yesterday and the yen sank on bets that the new leader of Japan's ruling party will embark on a new era of loose monetary policy to kickstart the country's economy.

The gains, however, came on a mixed day for the rest of Asia, while Paris tumbled more than 2% on news that France's newly appointed prime minister had stepped down, compounding a political crisis in the country.

News of the victory for Sanae Takaichi - who is expected to become prime minister this month - fanned a fresh wave of optimism on Japanese trading floors as she has previously backed aggressive monetary easing and expanded government spending.

Expectations the Federal Reserve will cut interest rates this month continue to support risk assets, with the S&P 500 and Dow both hitting peaks along with bitcoin and gold.

After her victory on Saturday, Takaichi pledged first to implement measures to address inflation and boost Japan's economy, rural areas and primary industries.

Takaichi "looks more inclined than the others to juice the economy", said Taro Kimura

at Bloomberg Economics.

"Still, with inflation rising and long-term (bond) yields climbing, she will have to balance her stance with reality, in order not to accelerate cost-of-living squeeze and jolt the rate market," Kimura added.

The Nikkei 225's surge came as the yen weakened more than 1% to top 150 per dollar, while it hit a record low against the euro, touching 176.25 to the single currency.

"An immediate market reaction is likely to be a return of a so-called 'Takaichi trade,' which means higher equity prices (except banks), yen depreciation, and higher super-long bond yields," said Masamichi Adachi, UBS Securities chief economist for Japan.

Yields on 30-year Japanese bonds also rose sharply, reflecting fears the country's already colossal debt will balloon further.

Takaichi's win also raised questions about the chances of more Bank of Japan rate hikes, adding to downward pressure on the yen.

There were also gains in Singapore and Mumbai, but Hong Kong, Sydney, Wellington, Manila and Bangkok were all in the red.

Sentiment remains up, though, as bitcoin hit a new peak of US\$125,689 on Sunday.

Gold pushed past US\$3,945 and closer to US\$4,000 yesterday, with the US shutdown and expected rate cuts boosting its attractiveness.

The plunge in Paris's CAC 40 index came after France's President Emmanuel Macron accepted Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu's resignation, plunging the country further into political deadlock.

Macron appointed Lecornu last month but the largely unchanged cabinet lineup he unveiled late on Sunday was met with fierce criticism across the political spectrum.

London's FTSE dipped in the morning, after ending last week at a record, while Frankfurt also sank.

US futures were all up.

The closure of parts of the US government dragged into a second week after senators voted for a fourth time to reject a funding fix proposed by Republicans.

Federal agencies have been out of money since Wednesday - with several public services crippled - as a result of deadlocked talks.

The row meant key jobs data used by the Fed to guide it on monetary policy was not released when due on Friday.

Still, observers say recent reports indicating the labour market is slowing would likely be enough to cut rates at the next meeting at the end of the month, with other readings on inflation due beforehand.

"It's still likely that the shutdown will end in relatively short order, allowing for the release of the September jobs report before the October (policy) meeting," said economists at Bank of America.

"But even if the first print of September payrolls is solid, doves on the committee will likely point to the recent trend of downward revisions to make the case to keep cutting.

"And given (Fed chief Jerome) Powell's recent dovish pivot, that argument is likely to carry the day." - AFP



People looking at an electronic board displaying the Nikkei Stock Average on the Tokyo Stock Exchange along a street in Tokyo yesterday. - AFPIC

Eli Lilly to invest over US\$1 billion in India

MUMBAI: Eli Lilly will invest more than US\$1 billion (RM4.2 billion) in India in the coming years to boost manufacturing and supply through local drugmakers, the company said yesterday, as it seeks to tap into skilled workforce to bolster its global manufacturing expansion.

The collaborations aim to increase the availability of Lilly's key drugs, including those for obesity, diabetes, Alzheimer's, cancer and autoimmune conditions, the company said.

"We are making significant investments to increase manufacturing and medicine supply capacity around the world," Patrik Jonsson, president of Lilly International, said, adding, India is a hub for capability building within its global network.

The company, which launched its blockbuster weight-loss drug Mounjaro in India this year, currently does not operate its own manufacturing facility in the country, which

hosts several firms that develop and manufacture complex drugs, vials, injectables for larger pharmaceuticals on a contract basis.

"Lilly is actively engaging with contract manufacturers in India," the company told Reuters, but did not divulge any further details.

Lilly's investment plans in India come at a time when global drugmakers are rushing to bolster US manufacturing capacity after the Trump administration imposed a 100% tariff on imported branded and patented drugs from Oct 1.

Last month, Lilly announced a US\$5 billion investment in a new facility in Virginia, part of a US\$27 billion expansion plan to build four new US plants over the next five years.

Meanwhile, the India launch of Mounjaro, alongside Danish drugmaker Novo Nordisk's Wegovy, has increased patient awareness of obesity treatments in a country projected to

have the world's second-largest obese population by 2050.

Sales of both drugs doubled within months of their launch.

Lilly is also preparing for increased competition from India's generic drugmakers, who are racing to launch cheaper versions of Wegovy once its main chemical ingredient, semaglutide, goes off patent next year.

Separately, Lilly is setting up a manufacturing and quality facility in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad to expand its presence beyond the city's global capability centre.

The new hub will oversee the firm's contract manufacturing network across India and provide technical capabilities.

Recruitment for the new site "will begin immediately", Lilly said, with plans to hire engineers, chemists, analytical scientists, quality control and assurance experts and managers. - Reuters

Foxconn Q3 revenue hits record but misses market forecast

TAIPEI: Taiwan's Foxconn, the world's largest contract electronics maker, reported record third-quarter revenue on strong demand for artificial intelligence products, though it missed the market forecast and offered caution about exchange rates.

Revenue for Nvidia's biggest server maker and Apple's top iPhone assembler jumped 11% from the same quarter last year to T\$2.057 trillion (RM285 billion), Foxconn said in a statement on Sunday.

While that was below the T\$2.134 trillion LSEG SmartEstimate, which gives greater weight to forecasts from analysts who are more consistently accurate, Foxconn said the result was better than expected.

On a US dollar basis, Foxconn said third quarter revenue rose 16.1% on year. The Taiwan dollar has strengthened some 8% so far this year against the greenback.

Strong AI demand led to robust revenue growth for its cloud and networking products division. Smart consumer electronics, which includes iPhones, posted a slight revenue decline, affected by exchange rates, the company said.

September revenue rose 14.2% on year to T\$837.1 billion, a record for that month.

Operations are expected to "maintain sequential quarterly growth as AI server shipments continue to ramp up in the fourth quarter" and due to the traditional peak season ahead of year-end holidays in major Western markets, the company said.

"However, the impact of the global political and economic situation and exchange rate fluctuations will need continued close monitoring," it added, without elaborating.

Foxconn, formally called Hon Hai Precision Industry, does not provide numerical forecasts. It will report third quarter earnings on Nov 12.

Foxconn's shares have risen 23% this year, outperforming the 16% rise for the Taiwan market. - Reuters

Maynilad files preliminary prospectus for IPO

MANILA: Maynilad Water Services Inc said it had submitted a preliminary prospectus for its planned initial public offering to the Philippine Stock Exchange and corporate regulator, moving closer to what could be the country's biggest listing this year.

The filing contains details on its business and financial accounts and kicks off preparations for institutional investor roadshows in the coming days, the Philippine water utility said in a statement late on Sunday.

The submission of its preliminary prospectus marks another step in its mission to deliver safe, sustainable and reliable water and wastewater services, Maynilad president and CEO Ramoncito Fernandez said in the statement.

The company's statement did not say how much it planned to raise in the IPO.

Reuters in January reported that Maynilad had enlisted banks, including Morgan Stanley and UBS, to assist with a more than US\$500 million (RM2.1 billion) IPO in the Philippines.

The company initially targeted a July debut but later postponed the listing, first to October and then to no later than Nov 7, according to disclosures on its website.

Under its 25-year concession, Maynilad must list shares by January 2027.

Majority owned by Metro Pacific Investments, DMCI Holdings and Japan's Marubeni, the utility serves Metro Manila's west zone and Cavite province.

The IPO proceeds will fund water and wastewater projects, network expansion and system upgrades, according to its preliminary prospectus. - Reuters



Fund managers want BoE to stop selling gilts

➤ Central bank's quantitative tightening adds significant costs to UK gov't finances

LONDON: Asset managers whose companies oversee more than US\$1.5 trillion are urging the Bank of England (BoE) to scrap bond sales they believe place unnecessary strain on Britain's government debt, while they also rack up tens of billions of pounds of taxpayer costs.

Reuters spoke to 10 investors who had wanted the central bank to halt the sales before it pledged on Sept 18 to slow its overall runoff, which includes bonds that mature.

They do not think the BoE has gone far enough and recommend changing the policy, including a complete halt to sales.

As Finance Minister Rachel Reeves' annual budget looms in November, Britain's long-term borrowing costs are the highest among G7 advanced economies.

Sticky inflation and fiscal worries are depressing the value of bonds, known as gilts, while the BoE is also actively selling its holdings into weak UK debt markets, recording losses.

The Treasury compensates the central bank for bond-market losses.

While taxpayers previously benefited from gains on the bonds, the arrangement now costs the government £22 billion (RM125 billion) annually, research by former BoE economist Carsten Jung shows.

"Many investors including ourselves have been saying to the Bank of England you're making the problem worse, not better. Stop doing this," said RBC BlueBay Asset Management fixed income CIO Mark Dowding, who directly oversees assets of about US\$154 billion.

He said he does not own gilts and is betting on the pound weakening against the euro.

Dowding had shared his view with BoE officials before the central bank announced it would reduce the pace of the gilt runoff to £70 billion from £100 billion annually.

He is still expecting gilt market instability and has since suggested to the UK debt office to stop issuing long-dated bonds to raise funds.

The BoE declined to comment while a Treasury spokesperson declined to comment on whether the government would consider changes to reduce the strain on public finances.



A man walks past the Bank of England building in London. — REUTERSPIC

The BoE hoovered up £875 billion worth of government bonds between 2009 and 2021 to support the UK economy and then moved to offload them faster than other major central banks.

This so-called quantitative tightening followed years of easing by central banks in the aftermath of the global financial crisis and the pandemic.

A 2024 Treasury Committee report called the QT plan a "leap in the dark" with more public money at stake than was ever envisaged.

One 40-year gilt issued in 2020 is now trading at 24% of its original issue price, in a sign of the potential losses the BoE faces.

The BoE has said that the net cash flow benefit to taxpayers since 2012 is still £34 billion, funds used for government spending amid pressure to boost growth for increasingly disillusioned voters.

And while losses push up one measure of Britain's debt, gilt sales improve the current budget deficit measure that Reeves targets.

That is because they reduce bank reserves on the BoE's balance sheet on which it pays interest.

Data crunched by Columbia Threadneedle's Christopher Mahon, head of dynamic real return for multi-asset and with a neutral position on gilts, shows the extra debt interest costs from active quantitative

tightening were between £1 billion and £3 billion annually.

He will "continue to push the topic" at future meetings with the BoE because the announced reduction is too small to make an impact on wobbly gilt markets, he said.

Central banks moving in lockstep to end quantitative easing since 2021 has lifted debt yields globally but the effect has been amplified in the UK, a 2024 study published by the National Bureau of Economic Research estimated, with the BoE's active sales raising yields by up to 70 basis points (bps).

One basis point is one-hundredth of a percentage point, or 0.01%.

The US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank have instead allowed debt to roll off their books as bonds mature, with the effect of raising yields by about 20 bps, the NBER paper said.

The BoE said in August that its debt sales added 15 to 25 bps to gilt yields.

For Paul Flood, head of mixed assets at BNY Investments Newton, active UK QT affected UK debt sustainability via a "fiscal feedback loop" of higher public sector costs and higher gilt yields.

"I think it's madness," Artemis' head of fixed income Stephen Snowden said.

"Active quantitative tightening should be stopped altogether. It's ruinous for the taxpayer." — Reuters

Gold sails past US\$3,900 on safe-haven bids

NEW YORK: Gold surged past the US\$3,900-an-ounce level for the first time yesterday, driven by safe-haven demand following a fall in the yen and a US government shutdown, while growing expectations of additional Federal Reserve rate cuts also lent support.

Spot gold was up 1% at US\$3,925.91 per ounce by 0631 GMT (2.31pm in Malaysia), after hitting all-time high of US\$3,944.63 earlier in the session.

US gold futures for December delivery climbed 1.1% to US\$3,951.60.

"Yen weakness on the back of the Japanese LDP elections has left investors with one less safe-haven asset to go to, and gold was able to capitalise," said KCM Trade chief market analyst Tim Waterer.

"The enduring US government shutdown means that a cloud of uncertainty still hangs over the US economy, and the potential size of any GDP impact."

Gold is a go-to asset for investors under these circumstances, particularly with the Fed expected to cut rates further this month, Waterer said.

The yen tumbled against the US dollar by the most in five months after fiscal dove Sanae Takaichi was elected to lead the ruling party and become the next prime minister.

The Trump administration will start mass layoffs of federal workers if US President Donald Trump decides negotiations with congressional Democrats to end a partial government shutdown are "absolutely going nowhere", a senior White House official said on Sunday.

Fed governor Stephen Miran pressed for an aggressive rate cut trajectory again on Friday, citing the impact of Trump administration's economic policies.

Gold has climbed 49% so far this year after a 27% rise in 2024, helped by strong central bank buying, increased demand for gold-backed

exchange-traded funds, a weaker dollar and growing interest from retail investors seeking a hedge amid rising trade and geopolitical tensions.

The rally found fresh support last month after the Fed cut rates by a quarter of a percentage point and indicated it would steadily lower borrowing costs for the rest of the year.

According to the CME FedWatch tool, investors are pricing in additional 25-basis-point cuts in both October and December, with probabilities of 95% and 83%, respectively.

Non-yielding gold thrives in a low interest rate environment and during economic uncertainties.

Spot gold broke the US\$3,000-per-ounce level for the first time in March and US\$3,700 in mid-September. Many brokerages have turned bullish on the rally.

Elsewhere, spot silver climbed 1% to US\$48.46 per ounce, platinum rose 0.2% to US\$1,608.65 and palladium gained 0.3% to US\$1,264.43. — Reuters

Opec+ to raise oil production by 137,000 barrels a day

VIENNA: Saudi Arabia, Russia and six other members of Opec+ on Sunday decided to raise their production quotas by 137,000 barrels per day in November, as they continue to push for greater market share.

"In view of a steady global economic outlook and current healthy market fundamentals, as reflected in the low oil inventories, the eight participating countries decided to implement a production adjustment of 137 thousand barrels per day" from October's levels, the group said in a statement after an on-line meeting.

The increase was less than many analysts expected, with the cartel seeking to avoid pressuring prices amid weak demand.

"Opec+8 stepped carefully after witnessing how nervous the market had become" in light of market rumours that production could be hiked by 500,000 barrels a day, said Jorge Leon, analyst at Rystad Energy.

"The group is walking a tightrope between maintaining stability and clawing back market share in a surplus environment," he added.

In the past few months, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Oman and Algeria have already raised their quotas by more than 2.5 million barrels a day.

Opec+'s priority at the start of the year was to maintain prices high by limiting supply, but it changed strategy starting in April and is now seeking to gain market share from other producers such as the United States, Brazil, Canada, Guyana and Argentina.

The production increases come as the International Energy Agency forecasts that oil demand will only increase by 700,000 barrels a day between 2025 and 2026.

Opec, generally more optimistic in its reports, expects global oil demand to increase by 1.3 million barrels a day in 2025 and by another 1.4 million in 2026. — AFP

Italy working hard to prevent extra US tariffs on pasta

ROME: Italy has appealed to Washington and the European Commission in an attempt to dissuade the US from imposing a punitive tariffs on pasta imports, a deeply unpopular measure among producers.

In early September, the United States' Department of Commerce announced plans to impose provisional anti-dumping duties of over 91% on pasta from January 2026, on top of the 15% already in place.

The decision was part of an investigation into "dumping": alleged commercial practices by certain brands involving exports to the United States at prices below market value.

Italy's Foreign Ministry said it was "working closely with the companies involved and in consultation with the European Commission to ensure that the US department reviews the provisional duties imposed on our companies".

The Italian embassy in Washington has also intervened to "assist companies in asserting their rights", according to a statement.

The same source underlined the "full willingness of our producers to cooperate with the ongoing investigation".

The prospect of a surcharge has provoked sharp criticism on the peninsula.

Italian Agriculture Minister Francesco Lollobrigida denounced "a hyper-protectionist mechanism against our pasta producers".

Italy's largest agricultural association Coldiretti called the decision a "fatal blow".

These "unacceptable and abusive" measures are "linked to (Donald) Trump's plan to relocate production to the US," it said on Saturday. — AFP

MARKET ROUND-UP: OCT 6

6-Oct-2025 **Bursa Malaysia**

Trade Statistics

	Net (in RM million)	Participation
Retail	55.36	19.75%
Institutions	233.35	44.31%
Foreign	-288.71	35.94%



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

Inter-Pacific Securities Sdn. Bhd. is now rebranded as **Berjaya Securities Sdn. Bhd.**



Berjaya Securities (formerly known as Inter-Pacific Securities Sdn Bhd)

- 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

DISCLAIMER: The data and reports are provided as a service to investors. Sun Media Corporation Sdn Bhd shall not be liable or responsible for any consequences resulting from usage of the information.

Bursa Indices

INDEX	CHANGE
FBMEMAS	12,180.90 -0.75
FBMKLCI	1,638.09 +3.03
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	519.27 -2.48
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	173.52 -0.83
CONSTRUCTION	329.36 -2.37
FINANCIAL SERVICES	18,635.90 +33.51
ENERGY	786.13 -1.53
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	500.34 +1.76
HEALTH CARE	1,602.86 -3.27
TRANSPORTATION	1,021.63 +4.39
PROPERTY	1,068.34 -11.65
PLANTATION	7,820.03 +23.39
FBMSHA	12,197.70 +3.98
FBMACE	5,333.47 -13.65
TECHNOLOGY	62.95 +0.03

TURNOVER: 3.688 bil **VALUE: RM2.605 bil**

FBM KLCI ends at intraday high, broader market softens

BURSA Malaysia closed at its intraday high yesterday, in line with stronger regional markets, coupled with continued buying interest in the healthcare and financial stocks, an analyst said.

The FBM KLCI gained 3.03 points, or 0.19%, to 1,638.09 from Friday's close of 1,635.06.

However, across the broader market, decliners outpaced gainers 729 to 403, while 464 counters were unchanged, 968 were untraded, and seven were suspended.

Turnover declined to 3.69 billion units worth RM2.61 billion, compared with 4.03 billion units valued at RM2.50 billion on Friday.

Rakuten Trade vice-president of equity research Thong Pak Leng said regional equities traded broadly stronger, with Japan's Nikkei 225 reaching new record highs on speculation that newly elected Liberal Democratic Party leader Sanae Takaichi will pursue a more accommodative fiscal stance.

"Trading sentiment was quiet overall; mainland China markets stayed closed for Golden Week and Hong Kong is set to be on holiday tomorrow (Tuesday). Back home, we remain positive on the local market with the return of foreign funds and improved trading volume.

"Attention now turns to the 1,650 resistance level. The brief consolidation period is a sign of strength, indicating that the market is digesting gains before resuming its advance. As such, we anticipate the FBM KLCI to trend within the range of 1,620-1,650 for the week," Thong told Bernama.

Among the heavyweights, Maybank added two sen to RM10.02, Public Bank was three sen higher at RM4.37, Tenaga Nasional rose eight sen to RM13.36, IHH Healthcare added 22 sen to RM8.35, while CIMB dropped one sen to RM7.67.

Top 20 Actives

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
KNM	0.005	-0.025	-83.33	2,124,965
HSI-CWKS	0.120	-0.015	-11.11	1,946,113
HSI-PWJY	0.180	+0.005	+2.86	1,238,944
HSI-CWI3	0.140	-0.035	-20.00	1,195,032
HSI-PWLB	0.125	+0.005	+4.17	1,018,409
BORNOIL	0.005	-	-	747,097
NEXG	0.520	-	-	715,609
VS	0.550	-0.020	-3.51	649,846
TANCO	0.885	-0.005	-0.56	648,387
XOXTech	0.110	-0.005	-4.35	415,321
HSI-CWKC	0.195	-0.025	-11.36	412,704
NEXGBINA	0.090	-0.005	-5.26	402,295
HSI-PWJ8	0.100	-0.005	-4.76	401,468
ZETRIX	0.850	-	-	373,153
VELESTO	0.250	-	-	366,720
HHRG	0.085	-0.015	-15.00	299,302
PHARMA	0.285	+0.005	+1.79	292,309
HSI-CW12	0.220	-0.040	-15.39	274,502
ZETRIX-C9Y	0.070	-	-	270,000
IHH	8.350	+0.220	+2.71	262,400



Top 20 Gainers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
PPB	10.520	+0.300	11,199
NIKKEI-CR	0.830	+0.295	40
NESTLE	97.300	+0.280	305
PETGAS	18.820	+0.240	2,941
PIE	3.490	+0.230	23,020
IHH	8.350	+0.220	262,400
F&N	28.000	+0.200	4,492
KLK	20.400	+0.200	6,236
VITROX	4.440	+0.190	39,527
UTDPLT	23.480	+0.180	10,245
SLVEST-CM	0.495	+0.165	6,300
KLUANG	5.700	+0.150	150
CHINTEK	10.140	+0.140	390
EG	1.450	+0.130	157,938
BKAWAN	18.980	+0.120	139
IHH-C59	0.230	+0.105	699
DIN045801028	103.800	+0.100	2
EUPE	1.060	+0.100	12,745
HLFG	17.500	+0.100	492
GOLDETF	5.110	+0.100	1,755

Top 20 Gainers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
BINACOM-WA	0.010	+100.00	80,069
BIOHLDG-WB	0.010	+100.00	1
DNONCE-WB	0.010	+100.00	3,027
EAH	0.010	+100.00	12,163
ZENTECH	0.010	+100.00	46,151
IHH-C59	0.230	+84.00	699
INARI-C3M	0.205	+64.00	1
FINTEC-PA	0.055	+57.14	719
NIKKEI-CR	0.830	+55.14	40
AIM-WA	0.015	+50.00	14,401
BURSA-C1C	0.090	+50.00	50,006
HARTA-C2X	0.015	+50.00	2,002
JADI-WB	0.015	+50.00	15,086
MTRONIC	0.015	+50.00	6,045
PPB-CT	0.015	+50.00	1,566
RL-WA	0.015	+50.00	6,494
SG	0.015	+50.00	640
SLVEST-CM	0.495	+50.00	6,300
SUPERMX-C4Z	0.015	+50.00	10
YONGTAI-PA	0.030	+50.00	6

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]	5,626.20	-25.51	-0.45
FTSE 100 [UK]	9,474.58	-16.67	-0.18
DAX [GER]	24,364.59	-14.21	-0.06
NIKKEI 225 [JPN]	47,944.76	+2,175.26	+4.75
TOPIX INDEX [JPN]	3,226.06	+96.89	+3.10
HANG SENG INDEX [HK]	26,957.77	-183.15	-0.67
CSI 300 [CHN]	4,640.69	+20.64	+0.45
SHANGHAI SE COM [CHN]	3,882.78	+20.25	+0.52
KOSPI INDEX [SK]	3,549.21	+93.38	+2.70
SENSEX INDEX [IND]	81,787.46	+580.29	+0.71
ASX 200 [AUS]	8,981.43	-5.94	-0.07
ALL ORDINARIES INDX [AUS]	9,280.02	-8.06	-0.09
FBM KLCI	1,638.09	+3.03	+0.19
STRAITS TIMES INDEX [S'PORE]	4,421.71	+9.76	+0.22
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	224.24	+1.62	+0.73
WTI [US\$/BBL.]	62.04	+1.16	+1.91
BRENT [US\$/BBL.]	65.71	+1.18	+1.84
GOLD [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	3,962.80	+53.90	+1.38
SILVER [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	48.35	+0.39	+0.83
PLATINUM [US\$/T OZ]	1,615.9100	+10.73	+0.67
COPPER [COMEX] [US CENTS/LB.]	505.75	-5.15	-1.01
COPPER 3MO [LME] [US\$/MT]	10,715.50	+225.00	+2.14
CORN [US CENTS/BU.]	419.25	+0.25	+0.06
WHEAT [US CENTS/BU.]	516.25	+1.00	+0.19
SOYBEAN OIL [CBOT] [US CENTS/LB.]	50.44	+0.39	+0.78
COCOA [ICE] [US\$/MT]	6,172.00	-18.00	-0.29
RUBBER [S'PORE] [US CENTS/KG]	170.60	+0.50	+0.29

As at 6pm, Oct 6.

Top 20 Losers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
HEIM	21.060	-0.360	3,657
KSL	2.990	-0.340	66,299
PETDAG	23.040	-0.340	1,760
MPI	31.000	-0.220	1,278
ALLIANZ-PA	17.800	-0.200	1,223
CARLSBG	16.600	-0.200	1,325
KSL-CO	0.690	-0.165	3,107
KSL-CN	0.685	-0.160	12,514
FAREAST	4.100	-0.150	42
AJI	13.660	-0.140	322
ALLIANZ	18.360	-0.140	854
EUROSP	2.780	-0.120	249
YTLPOWR	4.190	-0.120	39,756
KSL-CP	0.485	-0.115	2,414
BURSA	8.100	-0.110	9,344
PLENITU	2.160	-0.100	9,346
BAT	5.040	-0.090	2,228
HSI-CWKG	1.020	-0.090	330
SCGBHD	2.290	-0.090	48,857
HSI-CWIQ	0.850	-0.085	21,881

Top 20 Losers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
KNM	0.005	-83.33	2,124,965
GCB-C25	0.005	-66.67	701
ARTRONIQ-WA	0.005	-50.00	7,915
CMBSB-C63	0.010	-50.00	1,500
CTOS-C17	0.010	-50.00	13,602
FAST-WA	0.005	-50.00	1
HM-WC	0.005	-50.00	200
PHB	0.005	-50.00	7,133
TECHBASE-WB	0.005	-50.00	60
HSI-PWH9	0.020	-42.86	150
D&O-C16	0.035	-36.36	20,798
AHB-WC	0.010	-33.33	5,897
DIGISTA-WD	0.010	-33.33	166
PARKWD-WA	0.030	-33.33	212
YB-LA	0.010	-33.33	2,531
HSI-CWIM	0.055	-31.25	47,639
ZETRIX-C9J	0.090	-28.00	6,500
GDEX-WC	0.015	-25.00	19
HARTA-C2Y	0.015	-25.00	80
NATGATE-CO	0.015	-25.00	6,480

MARKETS/FROM THE BROKERS

SUNBIZ presents extracts of a selection of commentaries and research reports received from stockbrokers on counters that could be of interest to investors.

Compiled by **SunBiz Team**

DISCLAIMER: The information is extracted from stockbrokers' commentaries and research reports and do not represent the views or opinions of Sun Media Corporation Sdn Bhd. It is not a solicitation, recommendation or an offer to buy or sell the equities featured. Sun Media Corporation shall not be liable or responsible for any consequences resulting from usage of the information.

Perdana Petroleum seeks capital investment incentives

KUALA LUMPUR: Offshore support vessel (OSV) operator Perdana Petroleum Bhd has urged the government to introduce targeted fiscal incentives in Budget 2026 to sustain Malaysia's marine support services sector amid rising operational costs and the industry's transition towards decarbonisation.

"We need a policy framework that encourages marine service providers to renew their OSV fleet, as the average fleet age now stands at about 14 years. Fleet renewal is vital for the sector's long-term sustainability," managing director Jamalludin Obeng told Bernama.

He proposed tax measures such as accelerated capital allowances or targeted reliefs, noting that the high cost of new vessels is often misaligned with volatile charter rates.

The company also backed the introduction of green vessel financing and other initiatives to promote investment in hybrid or low-emission assets, in line with Malaysia's 2050 net-zero target.

"The cost of adopting green or hybrid assets remains a barrier. Incentives would help companies move forward and accelerate industry decarbonisation," Jamalludin said.

He added that government-backed financing schemes, co-funded with commercial banks, could help ease capital constraints for local offshore operators.

On taxation, Jamalludin noted that the current application of the sales and service tax (SST) on OSV services adds to cost uncertainty, and called for a more streamlined and transparent framework.

"While we understand the government's aim to broaden the tax base, a fairer and more consistent SST regime is needed," he said.

Perdana Petroleum further urged the government to maintain capital expenditure commitments from Petronas and production sharing contractors, saying this would provide revenue visibility.

Ringgit extends losses as US Dollar Index strengthens

THE ringgit extended Friday's losses against the US dollar, closing lower yesterday following a 0.70% rise in the US Dollar Index (DXY) to 98.406 points.

At 6pm, the local note eased to 4.2135/2180 versus the greenback compared with Friday's close of 4.2055/2125.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said the US dollar-ringgit exchange rate moved in a narrow range yesterday, hovering around RM4.2103 to RM4.2180.

He also noted that the Japanese yen weakened the most against the US dollar with the dollar-yen rate surpassing 150 yen, as incoming Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is likely to favour pro-growth policies.

"Such situation appears to have benefitted the US dollar. Regional currencies also depreciated against the US dollar," he told Bernama.

At the close, the ringgit was traded mostly higher against a basket of major currencies.

It increased versus the euro to 4.9155/9207 from 4.9360/9442 at Friday's close and appreciated against the Japanese yen to 2.8019/8051 from 2.8537/8586 at the end of last week, but weakened vis-à-vis the British pound to 5.6608/6669 from 5.6577/6671.

The local note was traded mixed against Asean currencies.

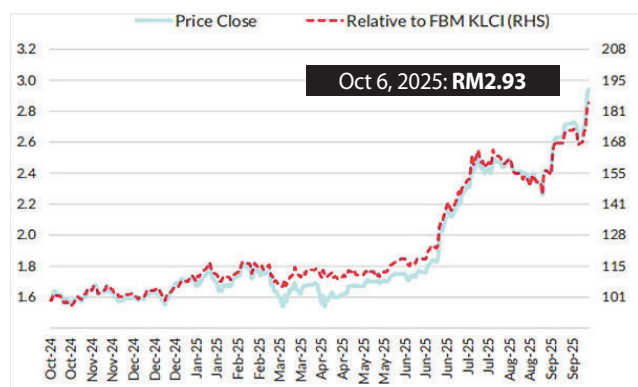
It inched up vis-à-vis the Singapore dollar to 3.2562/2599 from 3.2621/2678 at Friday's close and rose versus the Philippine peso to 7.22/7.23 from 7.26/7.28 previously.

However, it slipped against the Thai baht to 12.9810/13.0009 from 12.9807/13.0084 on Friday and slid versus the Indonesian rupiah to 254.0/254.4 from 253.9/254.4.

Exchange Rates			
FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.2880	4.1410	4.1310
1 Australian Dollar	2.8390	2.7230	2.7070
1 Brunei Dollar	3.3130	3.2100	3.2020
1 Canadian Dollar	3.0640	2.9780	2.9660
1 Euro	5.0180	4.8550	4.8350
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.5030	2.4100	2.3940
1 Singapore Dollar	3.3130	3.2100	3.2020
1 Sterling Pound	5.7570	5.5720	5.5520
1 Swiss Franc	5.4060	5.1760	5.1610
100 UAE Dirham	117.8700	111.7300	111.5300
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.5740	3.3510	3.1510
100 Chinese Renminbi	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Danish Krone	68.9000	63.3800	63.1800
100 Hongkong Dollar	55.5700	52.7900	52.5900
100 Indian Rupee	4.9000	4.6000	4.4000
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0268	0.0242	0.0192
100 Japanese Yen	2.8670	2.7630	2.7530
100 New Taiwan Dollar	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	44.0900	40.5500	40.3500
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.5400	1.4400	1.2400
100 Philippine Peso	7.5000	7.0600	6.8600
100 Qatar Riyal	118.7100	112.6900	112.4900
100 Saudi Riyal	115.3400	109.4900	109.2900
100 South Africa Rand	25.6900	23.1900	22.9900
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.4500	1.3400	1.1400
100 Swedish Krona	47.0000	42.7900	42.5900
100 Thai Baht	13.7900	12.2200	11.8200

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

Solarvest Bhd Buy. Target price: RM3.58



Source: Bloomberg, RHB Research

WE remain upbeat on Solarvest following its latest project win - the development and operation of a 100MWac large-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) plant in Mukah, Sarawak. This milestone marks its first asset in Borneo and adds to its growing asset portfolio with recurring income, while reinforcing its position as a key solar energy player. The group's record-high EPCC orderbook, robust project pipeline, and expanding asset ownership continue to underpin visible earnings growth over the next few years.

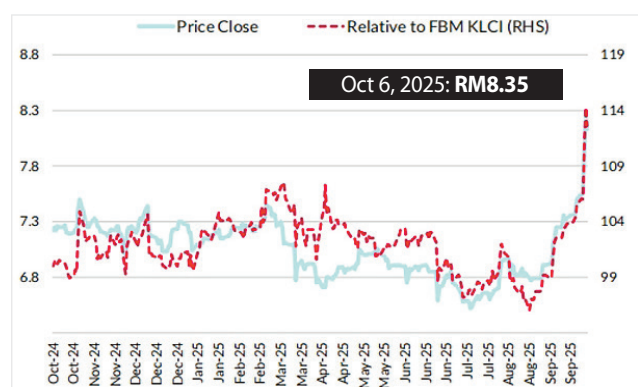
Solarvest will hold a 60% stake in Mukah Solar Powerplant (MSP), which has entered into a 30-year power purchase agreement (PPA) with Syarikat SESCO to develop and operate the 100MWac plant, slated for commercial operation on 30 Nov 2027. Press Metal Aluminium Holdings (PMAH, BUY, TP: MYR6.26) owns the remaining 40%. The equity portion will be funded by internally generated funds.

Assuming an IRR of 7-8%, total capex of RM380m, and debt/equity ratio of 4x, the project could generate an average net profit of RM6.5m pa (8-9% of FY26F earnings), based on Solarvest's 60% stake. The expansion of its asset portfolio aligns with the group's strategy to achieve 30% recurring income. As commercialisation is slated for 4QFY28 (Mar), full contribution should materialise by FY29.

The latest project raises Solarvest's effective large-scale solar (LSS) ownership and under-development capacity to 204MWp, comprising the LSS PETRA 5+ project, LSS5, Brunei's renewable energy projects, the Corporate Green Power Programme (CGPP), and its fully commissioned LSS4 Kerian project in Perak. These projects anchor Solarvest's long-term earnings visibility and recurring income growth.

Keep BUY, new RM3.58 TP - **RHB Research, Oct 6**

IHH Healthcare Bhd Buy. Target price: RM9



Source: Bloomberg, RHB Research

THE Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) approval removes a 7-year regulatory overhang and reopens IHH Healthcare's India growth story. While near-term financials hinge on open offer acceptance and funding structure, the long-term case for India as a core growth market is intact. IHH will announce further details once finalised. We see two key angles for IHH: i) A fast-growing KLCI stock (2-yr PATAMI CAGR: +11%), and ii) a cheaper alternative to Fortis.

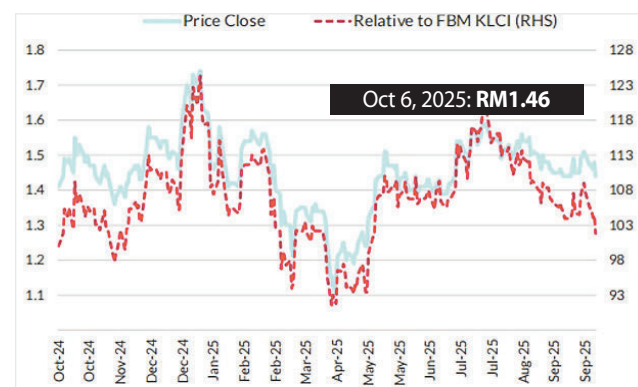
IHH announced that SEBI has approved its request to proceed with the long-pending mandatory open offers for Fortis Healthcare (Fortis) and Fortis Malar Hospitals (Malar). The open offers are for: i) up to 197m Fortis shares (26.1% of expanded share base), and ii) up to 4.9m Malar shares (26.1%). This follows IHH's earlier subscription of 235m new shares in Fortis via Northern TK Venture (a wholly-owned subsidiary). The decision resolves a multi-year regulatory overhang that began in 2018 due to litigation involving Fortis' prior promoters.

IHH currently owns 31% of Fortis through NTK. Should the open offer be fully taken up, its stake will rise to 57%. Depending on the acquisition price and acceptance level of the mandatory cash offer, we estimate the total funding requirement for the open offer to potentially reach up to INR251.5bn (RM11.9bn), assuming full take-up and a 30% premium to Fortis' last closing price. While details remain limited, we expect IHH to fund the acquisition via debt facilities. On a fully-drawn basis, FY26F net gearing (including leases) could increase to 0.55x, by our estimates.

We like IHH for its solid execution strategy, reputable regional footprint, and focus on affluent clientele which underpins earnings resilience.

Keep BUY, new RM9 TP. - **RHB Research, Oct 6**

Sime Darby Property Bhd Buy. Target price: RM2.33



Source: Bloomberg, RHB Research

WE stay confident on Sime Darby Property's long-term growth prospects, particularly on its ambition to transform into a real estate firm. Over the near term, investors should expect more aggressive efforts by management on accumulation of industrial property assets while also rolling out new industrial park projects. A fund management platform and asset recycling exercise will potentially be the avenue to house investment property assets over the medium term.

We recently brought the senior management - Group MD Datuk Seri Azmir Merican, Township Development COO Appollo Leong, and Operations Support COO Melissa Tan - and investor relations teams for a half-day NDR, meeting 20 fund managers. Many were upbeat with management's firmed commitment to build a solid industrial property portfolio over the next 2-3 years, as this is important to realise SDPR's vision to transform into a real estate company, sustaining its long-term growth and providing monetisation opportunities.

Acknowledging the growth prospects of Iskandar Malaysia and Malaysian Vision Valley 2.0 (MVV 2.0), SDPR is actively looking for new land to enhance its landbank exposure, which is currently very much concentrated along Selangor's western corridor. As SD Guthrie is a major landowner, we do not rule out the possibility that SDPR may JV with the former for industrial and township developments in these new areas; this could be a re-rating catalyst.

In the pipeline, SDPR will activate three industrial projects: i) Vision Business Park at MVV 2.0 (already launched), ii) Bandar Bukit Raja Business Park (BBRBP; previously known as BBR 4), and iii) Elmina North (previously known as Lagong). These three projects are set to drive SDPR's industrial property sales from 2026 onwards. Interest has been strong despite the unfriendly US trade policies.

Maintain BUY and RM2.33 TP. - **RHB Research, Oct 6**



Stormy clouds for vaping

**Growing social acceptance
clashes with calls for ban – 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

BY YASMIN ZULRAEZ



BLISSFUL
ESCAPE AMIDST NATURE
berjayahotel.com

BERJAYA
LANGKAWI RESORT
MALAYSIA

VAPING in Malaysia has grown far beyond a passing trend. Once marketed as a “safer” alternative to cigarettes, it has entrenched itself in two key demographics: the youth and the working class.

Cheap devices, an endless range of flavoured juices and a culture of accessibility have made vaping a lifestyle accessory as much as a nicotine delivery system.

Statistics may vary, but anecdotal evidence paints a clear picture. From school toilets to workplace canteens, the vape has become an everyday sight. Teenagers as young as 13 are reported to be experimenting with it, while blue-collar and entry-level white-collar workers often see it as a cheaper and more socially acceptable fix compared to cigarettes. Aggressive marketing, sleek gadgets and candy-like flavours have only deepened its hold.

The Health Ministry’s recent announcement that Malaysia is aiming to implement a total vape ban by mid-2026 marks the latest chapter in a long-running saga. Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad’s insistence that “the question is no longer if we ban vaping, but when” signals urgency. Yet, the phased approach, starting with open-system vapes and eventually expanding to all products, reflects hesitation.

Addiction dilemma

For young Malaysians, the short-term effects of vaping are already visible. Teachers report declining concentration in classrooms, while parents observe changes in mood and dependency.

The Malaysian Medical Association (MMA) has sounded



A variety of vape devices, which will face a phased nationwide ban by 2026.

State of **vaping** in Malaysia

» Nationwide prohibition faces hurdles as youth addiction, working class dependency grow

has created jobs, shops and a tax revenue stream. On the other, the future cost of treating vape-related illnesses will dwarf short-term gains. For the working class, the cycle of spending on vape paraphernalia perpetuates financial strain, making it less of a savings alternative and more of a hidden expense.

Culturally, vaping has normalised nicotine use in spaces once free of smoke. Cafes, colleges and even family gatherings now witness clouds of flavoured vapour. Unlike the stigma attached to cigarettes, vaping is often perceived as trendy, even harmless, a perception that could hinder public acceptance of any upcoming ban.

Will it stick?

Malaysia’s plan for a phased ban raises hope and scepticism. On paper, starting with open-system devices makes sense: these allow users to refill with unregulated liquids, making them a priority target. Expanding later to cover closed systems would complete the prohibition.

However, history offers caution. Previous attempts to regulate or ban vaping since 2015 faltered due to industry pushback, enforcement challenges and wavering political will. Even now, the health minister admits the timeline depends on cabinet approval, leaving room for delay.

Enforcement also looms as a stumbling block. With thousands of vape shops nationwide and a thriving black market, banning the product outright may push sales underground. Neighbouring Singapore provides a telling example – despite its strict ban, contraband vapes continue to enter through land and sea checkpoints. Malaysia, with its porous borders and less stringent enforcement record, may face even greater difficulties.



Public frustration grows over the government’s decision to delay the vape ban.

Public acceptance will be another test. For youths and workers already dependent, sudden prohibition could spark resistance. Without parallel measures, such as cessation programmes, public education campaigns and accessible healthcare support, the ban may achieve compliance on paper while fuelling underground demand in reality.

Between health, habit

At the heart of Malaysia’s vape dilemma lies a clash between health imperatives and entrenched habits. The youth see vaping as modern and fashionable, while the working class view it as a relief and routine. A total ban by mid-2026, if implemented, will be a defining moment for Malaysia’s public health policy. But whether it sticks will depend on the government’s ability to back prohibition with education, enforcement and empathy.

In the short term, Malaysians will continue to live in limbo, with warnings ringing louder than regulations. In the long term, the choices made today will determine whether the country breaks free from a nicotine-fuelled culture or inherits a public health burden that outlasts any cabinet timeline.

alarm bells, noting that even children as young as eight can identify vape juices. Cases of lung injury linked to e-cigarettes, as well as the disturbing rise of drug-laced vapes, have added urgency to the warnings.

Among the working class, the device plays a dual role. On one hand, it is seen as a stress reliever during long shifts and a cheaper alternative to cigarettes in the short term. On the other hand, the constant need to refill, recharge and restock juices perpetuates a cycle of dependency. In both demographics, the short-term relief masks long-term harm, from respiratory complications to the risk of transitioning to more dangerous substances.

Postponing the ban, critics argue, only prolongs this harm. MMA president Dr R Thirunavukarasu called the delay “unacceptable,” stressing that public health cannot afford “another year of preventable harm.” Every month without regulation risks more young Malaysians being hooked for life.

Health, economy, culture

The long-term health effects of vaping mirror those of traditional smoking, with added complications due to unregulated ingredients. Beyond nicotine addiction, Malaysians are now exposed to risks from illicit substances such as fentanyl, which has been detected in local vape devices. Should the trend continue unchecked, Malaysia may face a generation grappling with chronic health conditions, increased hospital admissions and spiralling public healthcare costs.

Economically, the vaping industry represents a paradox. On one side, it

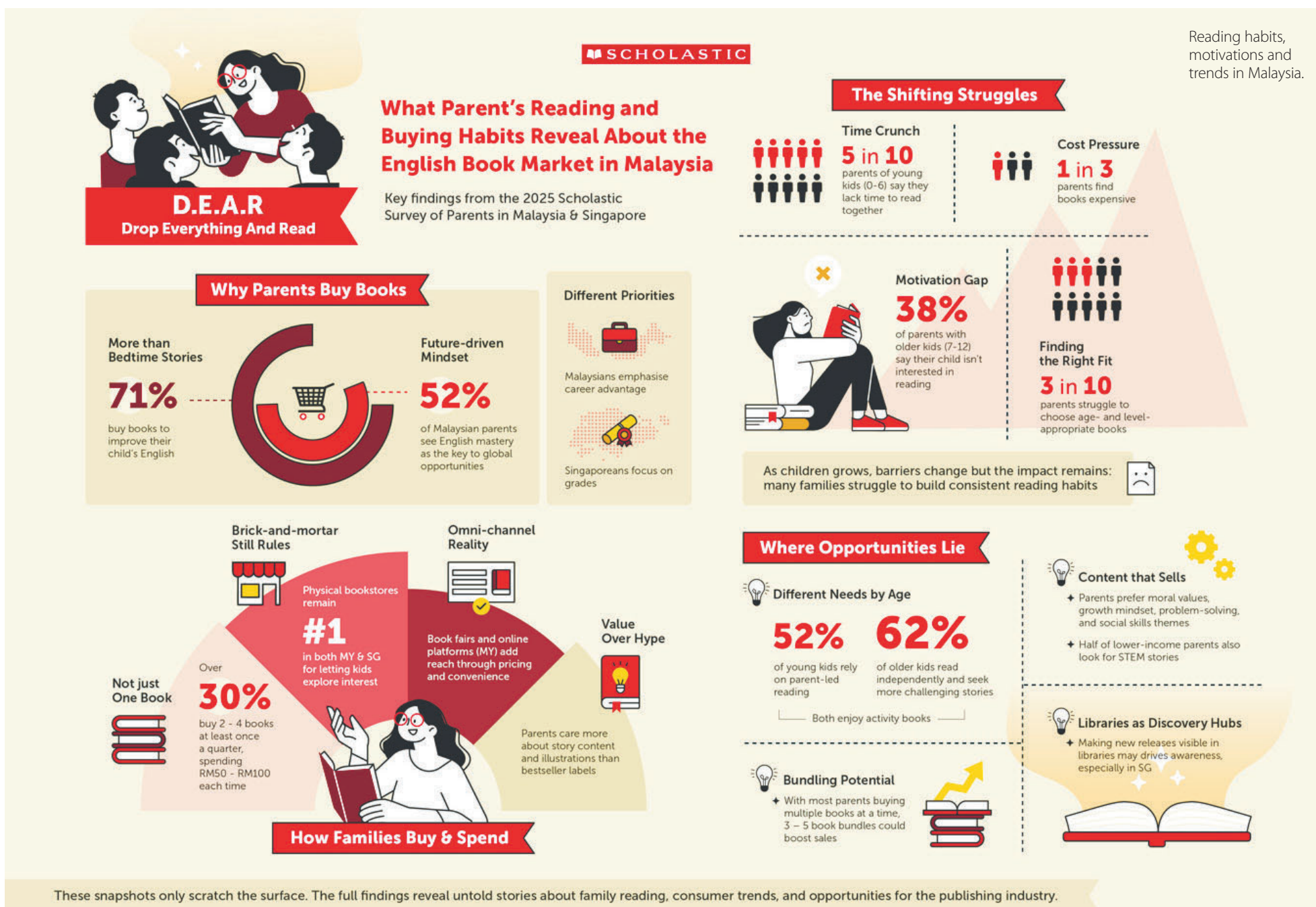


Health advocates warn of long-term effects, as young Malaysians already show signs of dependency.



There is rising concern over youth addiction to vaping in Malaysia.
– ALL PICS FROM 123RF

Reading habits, motivations and trends in Malaysia.



LITERACY, a concern? Not for us – after all, Malaysia's literacy rate currently sits at an impressive 96%. But here is the catch: being able to read words on a page is not the same as truly understanding them. The latest Programme for International Student Assessment (Pisa) results reveal a worrying truth: Malaysian students are falling behind in reading, math and science, ranking among the top five countries with the steepest declines globally. In reading alone, we have lost the equivalent of 1.4 years of learning since 2018.

To put things into perspective, imagine this: Your child reads a sentence aloud, and it is flawless but something is off. When you ask them what it means, they pause, unsure and hesitant. Even worse, they cannot even guess what it is from its contextual meaning, in spite of gentle prompting.

This is no longer an exception. Instead, it is becoming the rule as functional literacy – the ability to interpret, think critically and apply knowledge – slips away. More than the impact on test scores, the real concern is the decline of these skills in real time – skills that define future success in an artificial intelligence-driven world.

How did we get here?

Once, Malaysians prided themselves on a strong reading culture. Today, the average person reads just five books a year, while hours are lost to TikTok, Instagram and endless scrolling. The average child today spends hours glued to a device, but before we point fingers, consider this: when they look up from their screens, what do they see? Us, doing the exact same thing (especially when factoring in that Malaysian adults rank second in Asia for highest screen time).

Children are mirrors. They copy what we do, not what we say, and they inherit our habits and

Spending time with books again

➤ Functional literacy key to our children's future

our version of what is normal. If their first role models are constantly scrolling, notifications buzzing and screens lighting up the dinner table, then that is precisely what becomes their definition of "normal".

This matters because habits shape futures. If a child grows up thinking that entertainment always comes in quick, 10-second bursts, how will they ever build the patience for deep thinking? We are already seeing the impact; a generation that can read, but struggles to fully comprehend.

In 2024 alone, over 62,000 Year One students were categorised as illiterate, accounting for 27.2% of their cohort nationwide. And this issue is not just ours. Globally, eight million students in developed countries are now considered functionally illiterate as of 2025.

Reading is the very foundation of creativity and critical reasoning. It requires focus. It demands attention. And without it, comprehension and reasoning takes a back seat.

Per the Pisa report, Malaysia now ranks below the Asean-6 average (Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia), signalling future challenges for

human capital development and economic growth. School closures during the pandemic, the digital divide and uneven education quality have only widened the gap.

This is not a warning – it is a blaring alarm, one that signals the risk of raising a generation of surface readers in a world that demands deep thinkers.

Reviving reading culture

So, how do we reclaim the culture of reading? One way is through Scholastic's Drop Everything And Read (Dear) initiative – a simple yet powerful idea: trade screen time for storytime by setting aside 20 minutes a day... just to read.

No tests. No pressure. Just reading for pleasure at your leisure. And for parents wondering where to start, Scholastic's Dear Reading Roadmap has several helpful guides, including:

- Age-appropriate book recommendations (0-3, 4-8, 7+) thoughtfully curated with input from child development consultants, taking into account physical, cognitive and social-emotional development.
- Fun activities such as Book Bingo to spark excitement across different age groups.

- Journaling sheets to help children (and parents) track their reading journey.
- The Dear Reading Challenge, where families can log their reads and share entries.

Families that participate in the Dear Reading Challenge can also compete to become one of Malaysia's top three Dear ambassadors and win a year's supply of books.

Shared journey

Now, here is why this approach works: Because it focuses on building habits naturally, and habits are contagious. If parents scroll, children will too. But if children see parents reading, they will follow. Reading becomes a shared journey, where every story opens doors to imagination, new ideas and a window into who they can become. It also helps by:

- Breaking screen dependency with intentional offline time
- Building future-ready skills such as comprehension and critical thinking
- Strengthening family and community bonds through shared reading moments

Imagine the impact if every home, every school paused for just 20 minutes a day to read. In a year, that is 20 books finished. In five years, we would see sharper minds, stronger problem-solvers and a generation ready for the future. The question now is not whether we can make time to read. It is whether we can afford not to.

By dropping everything and reading, we can ensure Malaysians do not just stay literate, but stay functionally literate, equipped to think critically, communicate effectively and navigate the complexities of a rapidly evolving world. So today, make the switch: drop everything and read.

This article is contributed by Scholastic Asia Children's Book Publishing and Distribution president Neeraj Jain.

SOME Nobel laureates were straight-A students from the get-go. But others recounted how they cut class, got expelled and had doubts about their future.

Perhaps the most illustrious Nobel Prize winner, Albert Einstein, was once a mediocre student at Zurich Polytechnic School, now ETH Zurich. The young Einstein skipped classes, wanted to study physics exclusively and finished second-last in his class in 1900. After graduating, he was the only student not offered a research assistant position, according to the Swiss university's website. Einstein went on to win the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921.

Frances Arnold, who won the 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, also cut classes after a turbulent start to her education in the US during the 1960s and 1970s.

"I was disruptive. I was just bored and well beyond what the rest of the kids in the class were doing. And the teachers often gave me little projects decorating the classroom and things like that," she recalled in an interview.

At the age of 10, she was allowed to take high school courses such as

Not all 'A's: Unconventional paths that led to Nobel Prizes

➤ Some winners cut classes, got expelled

geometry - a challenge she appreciated at first. But by the time she reached her teens, she was not enjoying school anymore to the point that she stopped going and was expelled.

"I guess I wasn't interested in what they had to teach us. Or if I was interested in it, I just learned it on my own from a textbook. So I managed to pass all my classes despite many absences, I would say."

Now aged 69, she acknowledged hers is not a model to follow, but believes schools should show

more flexibility.

"They don't have the wherewithal to do anything special for the kids who really would benefit," she lamented.

Overcoming challenges

David Card, the 2021 Nobel economics laureate, also had unconventional educational beginnings.

"There's almost nobody I've met... in an economics PhD programme that has a background like mine where they went to a rural school,"

he said.

Born on a farm in Canada in the 1950s, he was enrolled in a small one-room schoolhouse, where one teacher taught around 30 students at different grade levels.

"The way the teacher did it was she would spend some time with each row, which was one of the grades. I actually paid attention to a couple of grades beyond mine for most of the material. So you could kind of accelerate very quickly, very easily," he said.

The system was less ideal for students who needed more individualised support, he acknowledged.

According to the Nobel Foundation, other laureates had to overcome major academic challenges before going on to win the prestigious Nobel. The first woman to win the economics prize, Elinor Ostrom, was turned down when she applied for a PhD in economics. 2009 medicine prize laureate Carol Greider struggled with dyslexia as a child. And 2015 chemistry prize winner Tomas Lindahl failed chemistry in high school.

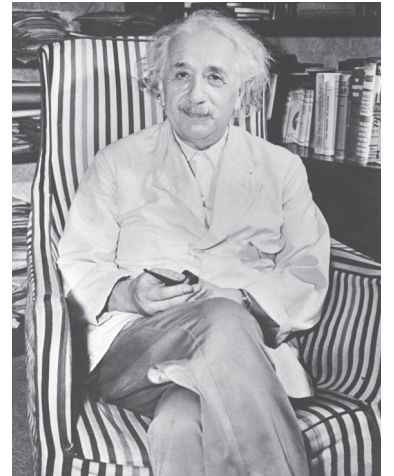
Humble beginnings

Arnold and Card started working at a young age, which the two consider an important life experience. In her teens, Arnold held odd jobs as a waitress, receptionist and taxi driver.

"You appreciate more what the university education can give you, in terms of getting a job you actually might want to have for the rest of your life. It also teaches you how to organise your time."

Similarly, Card juggled school and farm life very early on.

"I don't think there was that much homework back then in my schools.



This photo taken in 1950 shows German-born Swiss-US physicist Einstein, author of the theory of relativity, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921.

So there was lots of time. I helped my father. I learned to drive a tractor when I was about 11. Every morning I got up at 5am and helped him milk the cows and then I would have a shower and go to school," he recalled.

Both prizewinners also studied other subjects before discovering their respective passions. Arnold pursued studies in mechanical engineering and aeronautics before turning to chemistry.

"I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with my life. I went into mechanical engineering because it had the fewest requirements for engineering," she admitted.

And Card initially studied physics before switching to economics.

Despite their unconventional paths, both ultimately found their way to brilliance. - AFP



US chemist Frances Hamilton Arnold, awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, speaks during the Nobel Prize banquet in Stockholm City Hall, Sweden.

Prince William opens up about family, says his kids not allowed phones

BRITAIN'S Prince William likes to zip about the grounds of Windsor Castle on an electric scooter, his children have not been given phones and he is ready for "change", he revealed in a rare interview about his future role as king.

"Change is on my agenda - change for good. Not overly radical change, but changes that I think need to happen," the prince, 43, declared in his encounter with Hollywood star Eugene Levy.

"Tradition has a huge part in all of this (royal life) but there's also points where you look at tradition and go: 'Is that still fit for purpose today?'" he added.

A helicopter pilot and horseman, William surprised Levy by arriving on two wheels when they met at Windsor Castle, west of London.

The prince lives on the sprawling royal estate with his wife Catherine, Princess of Wales, and their three children George, 12, Charlotte, 10, and Louis, seven.

He is seen whizzing through an

ancient archway into a castle courtyard, prompting the 78-year-old Canadian actor and comedian to ask if this is his usual mode of transport.

"It is around here," he replied with a laugh.

"It gets around quite nicely... it's fun."

The interview with Levy, for his Apple TV+ series *The Reluctant Traveller*, is one of the most personal William has ever given. Levy, star of the hit series *Schitt's Creek*, is seen enjoying a walk with William and his pet cocker spaniel Orla through the grounds. The pair also enjoy a pint in the local pub The Two Brewers.

Hardest year

Asked whether he finds Windsor's past overwhelming, William responded: "History can be a real weight and an anchor around you" but it is "important to live for the here and now".

Family matters are another question, he said, adding that 2024 was the "hardest year" of his life.

His wife and father King Charles III were diagnosed with cancer last year.

"Life is said to test us as well and being able to overcome that is what makes us who we are."

Catherine is making a gradual return to public life after announcing she is in remission. Charles is still undergoing treatment.

"When it's to do with family and things like that, then that's where I start getting a bit overwhelmed - as I think most people would," William said.

"Because it's more personal, it's more about feeling, it's more about upsetting the rhythm," he said, adding he was "so proud" of how his wife and father had handled their illnesses.

"My children have managed brilliantly as well."

The prince said part of his and Catherine's strategy for protecting their children included a phone ban.

The family "sit and chat, it's really important. None of our children have any phones, which we're very strict about". - AFP



Britain's Prince William attends the launch of the Global Humanitarian Memorial in London. - ALL PICS FROM AFP

MOVIE REVIEW

When **revenge** becomes family tradition

► *Kitab Sijin & Illiyyin* weaves morally unsettling horror tale where lines between victim, villain are repeatedly blurred



Kitab Sijin & Illiyyin, a horror tale of curses, betrayal and vengeance.

BY YASMIN ZULRAEZ

KITAB *Sijin & Illiyyin* is an emotional demolition derby where grief, revenge and black magic slam into each other until no one walks away clean. Directed by Hadrach Daeng Ratu, this Indonesian chiller stitches together folklore, family melodrama and ritualistic terror with a story that is tragic at its core.

At its surface, it is the tale of Yuli, a woman pushed past breaking point after decades of humiliation and betrayal. Her solution? Summon a black magic ritual that could make even seasoned horror fans say, “Maybe therapy was cheaper.” But the film does not let audiences rest comfortably on her side. While Yuli is undeniably wronged, her path of vengeance spirals into decisions so desperate and dark that rooting for her feels like cheering for a tornado – it is destructive, but you understand how it formed.

Villains all the way down

The twisted beauty of *Kitab Sijin & Illiyyin* is that it offers no clean hero to rally behind. Instead, it presents a moral chessboard where every player is a shade of villain. Yuli, though sympathetic, chooses black magic as her weapon of justice. Her so-called family, meanwhile, are a walking lesson in cruelty, selfishness and generational trauma. The irony? The grandmother, the supposed matriarch of wisdom and order, is revealed to be the root of the family’s rot.

By the time the credits roll, the audience is left with the uncomfortable realisation: this is not about good versus evil. It is about bad versus worse and the winner is... well, whoever manages to survive the curse the longest. Watching the film with the mindset of “you will either root for the villain or the other villain” is the only way to get through it without crying into the popcorn.

Horrific story

There is no delicate way to phrase it – the



Yuli delves into forbidden black magic rituals in her pursuit of revenge.

narrative is just plain messed up. Betrayal, cruelty, black magic rituals involving freshly dead bodies and family ties used as chains rather than bonds – all these ingredients make for a story that feels more like a nightmare than a drama.

Yet that is also what makes it so effective. The film leans hard into its melodrama, painting Yuli’s tragic backstory in broad, emotional strokes. It is the kind of storytelling that makes the audience mutter “Oh no” every ten minutes – not because the scares are cheap, but because the human decisions are horrifying enough on their own. When characters suffer, it is not just the supernatural at play – it is the weight of years of cruelty finally crushing them.

Performances that sell madness

The cast elevates what could have been a one-note revenge tale into a genuinely gripping tragedy. Yunita Siregar delivers a layered portrayal of Yuli, moving smoothly between victim, avenger and tormented soul. Dinda Kanyadewi’s Laras is sharp, fiery and infuriatingly believable as the daughter who thrives on cruelty.



Laras clashes bitterly with her husband Rudi (Budiman) as tensions erupt.

Cast: Yunita Siregar, Dinda Kanyadewi, Tarra Budiman, Djenar Maesa Ayu, Kawai Labiba
Director: Hadrach Daeng Ratu

E-VALUE 8
ACTING 7
PLOT 8

The supporting roles add texture: Tarra Budiman as the indifferent husband Rudi, Kawai Labiba as the well-meaning but powerless Tika and Sultan Hamonangan as Dean, the mischievous grandson who represents innocence and inherited malice. Together, they make the “family from hell” feel uncomfortably real and that realism is what makes the horror cut deeper.

Rituals, corpses, consequences

Of course, this being a horror film, the supernatural elements are just as important as the family drama. The black magic ritual at the heart of the film is one of the most unsettling premises in recent horror, requiring the names of victims to be inserted into a fresh corpse within a strict seven-day timeline. Fail and the caster pays the price.

This ticking-clock device injects urgency into the story, keeping the suspense taut. The film does not shy away from the grotesque either, corpse rituals are presented with just enough detail to make audiences squirm without tipping into gratuitous gore. The result is horror rooted in ritualistic dread rather than



Yuli (Siregar) carries years of pain that twist her into a vessel of vengeance.

jump scares, creating a suffocating atmosphere that lingers long after the lights go up.

Sympathy, condemnation in equal measure

What sets *Kitab Sijin & Illiyyin* apart is its refusal to let anyone off the hook. The audience is forced into a contradictory position, feeling sorry for Yuli while simultaneously condemning her actions. The film practically dares viewers to ask themselves: “What would you do after decades of abuse?” The answer, thankfully, is not “black magic corpse rituals”, but the film’s effectiveness lies in making that path feel, however briefly, understandable.

This tension between sympathy and condemnation drives the emotional weight of the story. It is tragic not only because of what happens but because every character had choices and nearly all of them chose cruelty, silence or revenge.

Should you watch it?

Absolutely, but with the right mindset. Go in expecting a neat moral divide between hero and villain and disappointment awaits. Approach it knowing that every character is flawed, damaged or downright monstrous, and the film reveals itself as a chilling study of how generational trauma festers. It is horror not just because of curses and corpses, but because families can destroy each other in ways more terrifying than ghosts.

At 99 minutes, the pacing is sharp, ensuring the melodrama does not overstay its welcome. The film manages to juggle atmosphere, performances and ritualistic dread without slipping into campy territory. It is messy, yes, but it is the kind of deliberate mess that sticks in the memory.

Tragedy with no innocents

Kitab Sijin & Illiyyin is a tragic story altogether. The grandma may have been the true architect of the family’s suffering, but everyone else ends up wronged in the fallout of her death and decisions.

Yuli’s descent into black magic is as horrifying as the abuse that led her there, creating a story where right and wrong collapse into one tragic blur.

It is a film where rooting for the protagonist feels dangerous, condemning her feels unfair and the only real winner is the audience – if they manage to stomach the ride.



Laras (Kanyadewi) becomes possessed as the family curse takes hold. –



Tika (Labiba), the family’s quiet voice of faith, struggles against the rising darkness.



Disney+ Hotstar to be rebranded

STARTING Thursday, Hulu becomes the global general entertainment brand on Disney+, replacing Star. In Malaysia, Disney+ Hotstar will be branded Disney+.

With these branding updates, subscribers can continue to enjoy and explore content they know and love on Disney+, from award-winning general entertainment and gold-standard family programming to a growing collection of Apac Originals.

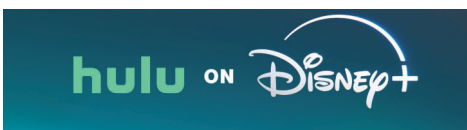
Hulu is known for its break-out, award-winning originals and its recognisable green colour.

Malaysian fans can look forward to an exciting slate of US, Korean and Japanese originals arriving soon on the Hulu tile. Among the highly-anticipated titles are Ryan Murphy's stylish and high-stakes legal drama *All's Fair*, featuring an ensemble cast led by Glenn Close, Kim Kardashian and Niecy Nash, the lighthearted and warm Korean romantic comedy *Would You Marry Me*, starring Choi Woo-shik and Jung So-min, the gritty action-packed Korean thriller *The Manipulated* with Ji Changwook and Doh Kyungsoo, and the visually dynamic coming-of-age Japanese anime *Wandance*.

This lineup adds to global hits such as *Grey's Anatomy*, *Modern Family*, *Shogun*, *High Potential*, alongside well-loved Korean and Japanese content, including *Tempest*, *Nine Puzzles*, *The Judge from Hell*, *A Shop for Killers*, *Moving* and *Gannibal*.

"Disney+ is known to have the most beloved library of content in Malaysia. With Hulu as our new general entertainment brand on Disney+, we will continue to deliver unparalleled storytelling to families, friends and fans," said The Walt Disney Company Southeast Asia vice president and general manager Vineet Puri.

With hundreds of films, exclusive original movies and series, and thousands of television episodes from Disney, Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, National Geographic and Hulu, Disney+ is a streaming destination for families, friends and fans to discover new worlds and new stories.



Hulu will become the global general entertainment brand on Disney+.

M'sia screens Lahad Datu film at festival

MALAYSIA has strengthened its cultural diplomacy with Timor-Leste by showcasing the action film *Conquer: Lahad Datu (Takluk: Lahad Datu)* at the 7th Dili International Film Festival (DIFF) in Dili.

The Malaysian embassy in Dili said the screening, held at the Platinum Cineplex in Timor Plaza, drew about 170 spectators and lasted 120 minutes.

The movie, directed by Zulkarnaen Azhar, is inspired by the real-life 2013 Lahad Datu standoff and highlights the bravery of the Malaysian armed forces and police in defending the nation's borders.

"The embassy's partnership with DIFF is part of its ongoing cultural diplomacy engagement, showcasing Malaysia's vibrant film industry while fostering mutual understanding and closer ties between Malaysia and Timor-Leste, and beyond," the embassy said in a statement.

Now in its seventh edition, DIFF runs until Oct 12, featuring more than 70 films under the patronage of Timorese President Jose Ramos-Horta.

At last year's edition, Malaysia screened *Airforce The Movie: Selagi Beryyawa (As Long As Alive)*, which was well-received by audiences. - Bernama

Siti Nurhaliza to mark 30 years of music with concert



➤ Songstress says performance symbolises her artistic journey, sacrifices

NATIONAL songstress and Asian music icon Datuk Seri Siti Nurhaliza Tarudin will celebrate three decades of her artistic journey through the mega concert Legacy 30 Siti Nurhaliza at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium on Jan 10, 2026.

Organised by SN Legacy Sdn Bhd, the concert is expected to draw around 60,000 spectators, marking the pinnacle of her 30-year involvement in the music industry.

Siti said Legacy 30 is not just a concert but a symbol of her artistic journey, sacrifices and achievements over three decades.

"I want the fans who have supported me all this while to be part of this special moment, to relive the works that have become part of the memories and history of my career.

"Holding it at this iconic stadium is not aimed at breaking the record attendance of 70,000 from the Fantasia Tour Concert in 2004, but rather a carefully planned effort to provide a comfortable, epic and meaningful concert experience for all fans," she said in a statement.

The singer of *Menamakanmu Cinta* said the timing of the concert is ideal as it coincides with Visit Malaysia Year 2026.

"This momentum is hoped to attract fans from various countries to come to Malaysia, enjoy the beauty of local music, art and culture, while supporting efforts to promote Malaysia as a world-class cultural and entertainment tourism destination," she said.

The Legacy 30 Siti Nurhaliza concert is expected to be a historic performance that reflects her gratitude and appreciation to fans who have been the backbone of her career.

The concert is presented by Cuckoo with Affin Bank as the main organiser.

Tickets are now available, with prices starting from RM69 to RM1,599 depending on seating category. - Bernama

Siti is set to perform at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium on Jan 10, 2026. - PIC FROM FACEBOOK @SITINURHALIZAOFFICIAL

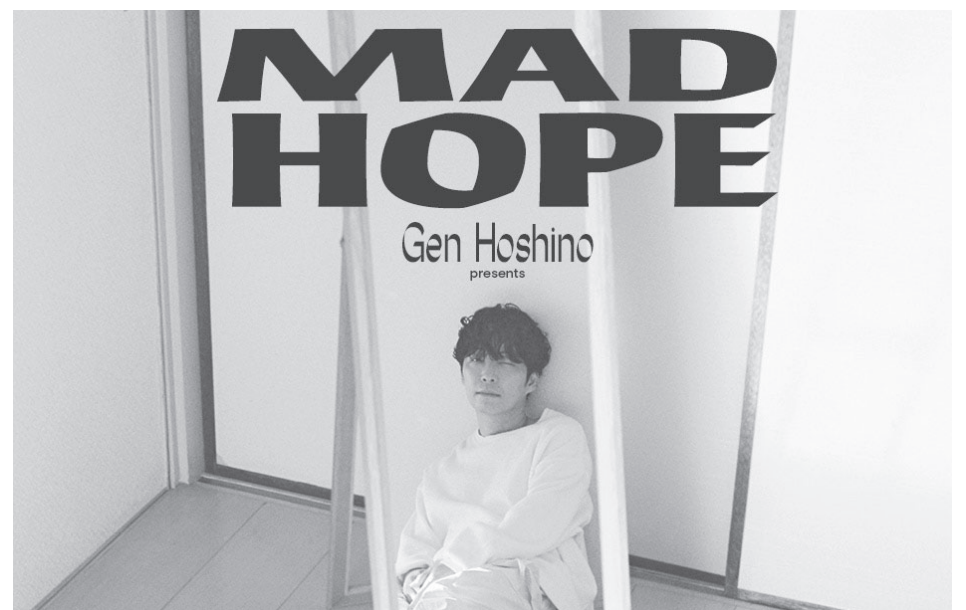
Gen Hoshino gig to be broadcast to Kuala Lumpur cinema

ON Oct 19, the final performance of Gen Hoshino presents *Mad Hope* at K-Arena Yokohama (Kanagawa, Japan) will be broadcast live to cinemas nationwide in Japan, as well as to a cinema in Kuala Lumpur.

Gen Hoshino's first nationwide tour in six years drew enormous attention, with every show - including additional dates - selling out immediately upon release. The tour later expanded to Asia with performances in Taipei, Shanghai and Seoul, each city swept into a wave of excitement.

The grand finale at K-Arena Yokohama has captured the attention of fans in Japan and abroad.

Fans can catch Gen Hoshino's live performance on the big screen at TGV Sunway Velocity at 3pm.



Gen Hoshino's performance at K-Arena Yokohama will be broadcast live to a KL cinema. - PIC FROM LIVE VIEWING JAPAN



302 **Jobs**

theSun WE ARE HIRING!
Malaysian Paper

1) MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN - PRINTING PRESS

Responsibilities:

- 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.
- 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
- Inventory & Reporting
 - Check and maintain adequate spare parts for presses and auxiliary equipment.
 - Record daily work in the maintenance logbook.
 - Report worn or faulty parts requiring replacement to the Maintenance Supervisor.
- 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 condition
 - Confirm no cotton rags, tools, or debris remain on machines after servicing.
- 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.

3. Inventory & Reporting

- Check and maintain adequate spare parts for presses and auxiliary equipment.
- Record daily work in the maintenance logbook.
- Report worn or 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 condition
- Confirm 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 work rotating shift and respond to urgent repair calls.
- Strong troubleshooting and problem-solving skills.

2) ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND HEALTH OFFICER

Responsibilities:

- Equipment Maintenance & Repair
 - Responsible for theSun compliance with the relevant 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 & Health 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 Environment, 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

302 **Jobs**

theSun WITH OUR DIGITAL EXPANSION, WE ARE HIRING!
Malaysian Paper

**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.

Send in your CV with your photo via email to:
thesun.hr2@gmail.com / hr@thesundaily.com

theSun WE ARE HIRING JOIN OUR TEAM

MEDIA SALES - Specialist

Job Description

- Building and sustaining strong working relationship with advertising agencies and clients.
- New business development and business retention.
- Conceptualise, plan and execute creative and innovative marketing campaigns to enhance brand visibility and engagement.
- Create, develop and continuously improve marketing material, presentations and proposals that showcase our products/services effectively.

Requirements

- SPM level with at least two years of experience.
- Diploma or Bachelor's degree in business, marketing or other related fields.
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply, training will be provided.
- Good communication, presentation, problem-solving and organisational skills.
- Passionate in client servicing.
- Possess own transport and willing to travel.
- Able to start work immediately.

Office based in Petaling Jaya (Five-day week)

MEDIA SALES - Representative/Agent (Freelance)

Requirement

- Minimum one year sales experience in classified ad, print and digital advertising.
- Those without sales experience but with media advertising knowledge may also apply.
- Attractive commission package and incentives.
- Able to start immediately.
- Central, Northern, Southern, East Coast and Sabah/Sarawak.

Send in your CV with your photo via email to : thesun.hr2@gmail.com

322 **Notices**

DALAM MAHKAMAH SESYEN DI SELAYANG
DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA
GUAMAN SIVIL NO.:
BD-A52NCVC-28-07/2025

ANTARA
SYED MOHD NOOR FAZIL BIN HABIB OMAR
(NO. K/P:831118-12-6299)
...PLAINTIF

DAN
WAN SHARIZAL BIN ABU BAKAR
(NO. K/P: 760721-10-5083)
...DEFENDAN

NOTIS IKLAN

KEPADA:
WAN SHARIZAL BIN ABU BAKAR
No. 26, Jalan 6, Kampung Melayu Sri Gombak
Pinggir Batu Caves, 68100, Batu Caves Selangor.

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa satu Writ dan Pernyataan Tuntutan bertarikh 17.7.2025 ("Writ") telah dikeluarkan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Sesyen, Selayang oleh Plaintiff yang dinamakan di atas dan Mahkamah telah memerintahkan bahawa Writ ini disampaikan kepada kamu secara penyampaian ganti, iaitu dengan menampalkan sesalanan Writ dan Perintah Penyampaian Ganti di Papan Notis Mahkamah Sesyen di Selayang, serahan melalui pos berdaftar ke alamat terakhir serta melalui notis diiklankan ini, dan bahawa penyampaian Writ dianggap sempurna dan mencukupi selepas empat belas (14) hari dari tarikh penampalan/serahan pengesahan/pengiklanan tersebut, mana yang terkemudian.

SELANJUTNYA AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa Pengurusan Kes Writ telah ditetapkan pada **17.11.2025 pada pukul 9.00 pagi secara atas talian (e-Review)**. Jika kamu bermati untuk menentang dan/atau membela diri, kamu mestilah dalam tujuh (7) hari selepas penyampaian sempurna Writ tersebut kepada kamu, memohon kepada Mahkamah untuk memasukkan kehadiran di Mahkamah ini. Jika tidak, suatu Penghakiman boleh dikeluarkan terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada 17 September 2025.

.....t.....
Mohd Erman Bin Che Mat
Penolong Pendaftar Mahkamah Sesyen Selayang.

Notis Iklan ini dikeluarkan oleh Tetuan Liz Yap & Ng Chambers, peguacara Plaintiff yang beralamat di Unit 20-6, Binjai 8, Lorong Binjai, 50450 Kuala Lumpur. (Tel: 03-2704 6338)

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJISTRET DI PETALING JAYA
DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA
GUAMAN SIVIL NO.:
BB-A72NCVC-502-05/2025

ANTARA
TENAGA NASIONAL BERHAD
(No. Syarikat : 199001009294 (200866-W))
...PLAINTIF

DAN
MUHAMMAD HELMY BIN MOHAMAD
(NO. K/P: 921026-03-5743)
...DEFENDAN

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN GANTI-BENTUK IKLAN

KEPADA,
MUHAMMAD HELMY BIN MOHAMAD
B-20-1, Jalan Atmosphere 4,
Pusat Perniagaan The Atmosphere, Bandar Putra Permai,
43300 Seri Kembangan,
Selangor Darul Ehsan.

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu Writ telah dikeluarkan terhadap Defendant dalam Mahkamah Majistret di Petaling Jaya dalam Guaman No. BB-A72NCVC-502-05/2025 oleh Tenaga Nasional Berhad (No. Syarikat: 19901009294) (200866-W) di mana tuntutan Plaintiff ialah untuk bayaran sebanyak RM 58,723.35 bagi jumlah kehilangan hasil termasuk kos operasi dan cukai berkaitan berkenaan pemeriksaan pemasangan meter/meter yang dijalankan di Premis tersebut pada 21/9/2021, secara alternatif, restitusi bagi jumlah sebanyak RM 58,723.35 bagi jumlah kehilangan hasil termasuk kos operasi dan cukai berkaitan berkenaan pemeriksaan pemasangan meter/meter yang dijalankan di Premis tersebut pada 21/9/2021 sehingga tarikh penghakiman, faedah atas jumlah penghakiman pada kadar 5% setahun dari tarikh pemeriksaan pemasangan meter/meter pada 21/9/2021 sehingga tarikh penghakiman, dan/atau jumlah penghakiman pada kadar 5% setahun dari tarikh penghakiman sehingga tarikh penyelesaian penuh, kos dan adalah diperintahkan bahawa sesalanan Writ bertarikh 29 Mei 2025 dan Pernyataan Tuntutan bertarikh 29 Mei 2025 ("Writ tersebut") disampaikan kepada kamu melalui Penyampaian Ganti iaitu dengan menampalkan sesalanan Writ tersebut di Papan Notis Mahkamah Majistret Petaling Jaya, diampal di alamat terakhir Defendant iaitu di B-20-1, Jalan Atmosphere 4, Pusat Perniagaan The Atmosphere, Bandar Putra Permai, 43300 Seri Kembangan, Selangor Darul Ehsan (selapas dari ini "alamat Pertama Defendant") dan No. 2, Hujung Blok, Wakaf Mek Zainab, 15300 Kota Bharu, Kelantan ("alamat Kedua Defendant") secara Pos Berdaftar berdasarkan kepada Perintah bertarikh 9 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 Defendant tersebut tujuh (7) hari selepas dari tarikh pengiklanan dan penampalan tersebut yang mana terkemudian.

Sekiranya kamu berminat untuk membuat pembelaan terhadap tuntutan tersebut, kamu mestilah diwakili oleh Peguambela kamu di hadapan Mahkamah Majistret Petaling Jaya pada **15/10/2025 (secara E-Review), jam 9.00 pagi**.

Sekiranya kamu gagal berbuat demikian maka Penghakiman Ingkar boleh diberikan terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada 7 hariulan Oktober 2025
.....t.....
Tetuan Sandosh Anandan
Peguacara bagi Plaintiff

Notis Penyampaian Ganti Bentuk Iklan ini dikeluarkan oleh Tetuan Sandosh Anandan, Peguacara bagi pihak Plaintiff yang beralamat di Unit A502, Blok A, Kelana Square, No. 17, Jalan S57/26, Kelana Jaya, 47301, Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Tel: 03-78065819 / 03-7804607 Fax: 03-7807000 (Ruj : SML/TNB/MUHD HELMY/2099/2025/SA)

322 **Notices**

PERISTYTHARAN JUALAN
DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG
PERMHDHAN UNTUK PELAKSANAAN NO. PA-28-1063-07/2025

Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 256 dan 257 Kanun Tanah Negara, 1965
Dan Dalam perkara mengenai Gadaian Peralihan No. 0799SC2022015690 bertarikh : 27/04/2022 ke atas semua bahagian tanah yang dipegang di bawah Geran 58573/M1C/10/564, 9768, Mukim 13, Daerah Timor Laut, Pulau Pinang

Dan Dalam perkara mengenai Aturan 83 Kaedah- Kaedah Mahkamah, 2012

ANTARA
Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad (No. Syarikat : 198401003274(115793-P))
...PLAINTIF

DAN
Loh Wei Hoong (No. Kad Pengalanan: 771008087047)
...DEFENDAN

Menurut Perintah Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia di PULAU PINANG mengenai Perintah Jualan dan Perintah bertarikh 13 Mei 2024 dan 3 September 2025, adalah dengan ini diisytiharkan bahawa Timbalan Pendaftar/Penolong Kanan Pendaftar Pusat Operasi e-Lelong di Kuantan
Pada Hari Rabu, 15 Oktober 2025, Pada Jam 11:00 pagi,
SEKARA ELEKTRONIK DI LAMAN WEB e-LELONG, PUSAT OPERASI e-LELONG, KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KUANTAN, PASIRANG DARUL MAKAUR

NOTA: Bakal pembeli adalah dinasihatkan agar membuat carian Hakmilik secara rasmi di Pejabat Tanah dan Injeneri semasa tempoh... bebahan serta mengenal pasti dengan tepat hartanah tersebut sebelum jualan lelongan dijalankan.

Sila layari <https://elelong.ketahkaman.gov.my/bidderweb>

BUTIR-BUTIR HAKMILIK:
No. Hakmilik : Geran 58573/M1C/10/564
No. lot : 9768
Mukim / Daerah / Negeri : 13 / Timor Laut / Pulau Pinang
Pegangan : Hakmilik Kekal
No. Petak/No. Tingkat/ :
No. Bangunan : 564/10/M1C
Keluasan Tanah : 700.0000000000 kali persegi
Pemilik Berdaftar : Loh Wei Hoong
Syarat Nyata : Petak ini hendaklah digunakan untuk tujuan rumah pangsapuri sahaja.
Seksyen Kepentingan : Tidak
Behanan / Lain-Lain :
Kawasan Rizab :
Kewat :
Lokasi dan Perihal Hartanah :
Hartanah tersebut adalah Pangsapuri 3 Bilik yang beralamat pos di Unit No. 3C-10-03, Jalan Batu Uban, N-Park, 11700, Gelugor, Pulau Pinang

HARGA RIZAB:
Hartanah tersebut akan dijual atas "seperlimana sedia ada" terbakuk kepada satu harga rizab sebanyak RM 259,200.00 (RINGGIT MALAYSIA: DUA RATUS LIMA PULUH SEMBILAN RIBU DUA RATUS SAHAJA) dan kepada syarat-syarat jualan yang diisytiharkan. Pembida yang bermati hendaklah mendeponasikan 10% daripada harga rizab dalam bentuk Bank Draft di atas nama STANDARD CHARTERED BANK MALAYSIA BERHAD 1 HARI BEKERA sebelum tarikh lelong awam. Baki harga belian hendaklah dibayar oleh pembida yang berjaya kepada STANDARD CHARTERED BANK MALAYSIA BERHAD dalam tempoh seratus dua puluh (120) hari dari tarikh jualan. Untuk butiri-butiri selanjutnya, sila berhubung dengan:-
Firma Guaman : SEE RAMSUN & TAN
Alamat : 8 TAYOY ROAD, 10050, PG, MY
No. Telefon : 04-2255811
No. Fax : 04-2265988
No. Rujukan : CKN/LCS/ER/SCB/23/3791

Redemption for Russell

Mercedes ace buries demons from 2023 with victory at Marina Bay

GEORGE RUSSELL'S pole-to-flag victory at the Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday was all the sweeter for the Mercedes driver because it came at the site of one of the most ignominious moments of his Formula One career.

The 27-year-old was fighting with Lando Norris for second place on the last lap at the Marina Bay circuit two years ago when he crashed into the barrier on turn 10 and failed to finish the race.

His misfortune continued on Friday when he ploughed his Mercedes into another barrier in practice, but he was flawless from qualifying through to the chequered flag to claim his second win of the season and fifth in Formula One.

"It feels amazing, especially after what happened a couple of years ago," he said.

"That was a bit of a missed opportunity, but we more than made up for it today."

With the departure of Lewis Hamilton for Ferrari and arrival of teenager Kimi Antonelli for this season, Russell has had to take up the role of senior driver at the Mercedes team.

The maturity of his drive on Sunday suggested it is a position he is growing into.

"This track has not been my best friend over the years, and that's often been my own doing," he added.

"I'm a very different driver today to what I was a couple of years ago, and I feel more complete, more confident I know exactly what I need to do."

"I was nervous before the race, as you'd expect, but I didn't feel any additional nerves or any additional pressure. It just felt like another race, and I knew I had a chance to win, and I felt comfortable with that."

Russell still does not have a contract with Mercedes beyond the end of this season but both he and team principal Toto Wolff said in Singapore that it was just a matter of negotiating the finer details.

"There's a driver and a team, they're clear they want to continue with each other," Wolff told Reuters.

"But sometimes it's important to carve out detail that maybe hasn't been talked about in a previous contract, that is important for their joint objectives."

Russell remains fourth in the drivers' standings after Sunday's win but if Mercedes can give him a car that can compete with the frontrunners more frequently, the Englishman is confident he can deliver.

"I've said it for a while, I feel ready to fight for a championship," he said.

"I feel ready to take it to my next step." - Reuters



Mercedes' F1 driver George Russell celebrates after winning the Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday night. - REUTERS/SPIC

RESULTS & STANDINGS

1. George Russell (Mercedes), 2. Max Verstappen (Red Bull), 3. Lando Norris (McLaren), 4. Oscar Piastri (McLaren), 5. Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes), 6. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari), 7. Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin), 8. Lewis Hamilton (Ferrari), 9. Oliver Bearman (Haas), 10. Carlos Sainz (Williams), 11. Isack Hadjar (Racing Bulls), 12. Yuki Tsunoda (Red Bull), 13. Lance Stroll (Aston Martin), 14. Alex Albon (Williams), 15. Liam Lawson (Racing Bulls), 16. Franco Colapinto (Alpine), 17. Gabriel Bortoleto (Sauber), 18. Esteban Ocon (Haas), 19. Pierre Gasly (Alpine), 20. Nico Hulkenberg (Sauber).

World championship standings:
Drivers: 1. Oscar Piastri (AUS) 336pts, 2. Lando Norris (GBR) 314, 3. Max Verstappen (NED) 273, 4. George Russell (GBR) 237, 5. Charles Leclerc (MON) 173, 6. Lewis Hamilton (GBR) 125, 7. Kimi Antonelli (ITA) 88, 8. Alex Albon (THA) 70, 9. Isack Hadjar (FRA) 39, 10. Nico Hulkenberg (GER) 37, 11. Fernando Alonso (ESP) 36, 12. Pierre Gasly (FRA) 20, 17. Yuki Tsunoda (JPN) 20, 18. Gabriel Bortoleto (BRA) 18, 19. Oliver Bearman (GBR) 18.

Constructors: 1. McLaren 650pts (Champions), 2. Mercedes 325, 3. Ferrari 298, 4. Red Bull 290, 5. Williams 102, 6. Racing Bulls 72, 7. Aston Martin 68, 8. Sauber 55, 9. Haas 46, 10. Alpine 20.

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KUALA LUMPUR (Bahagian Dagang) PETISYEN PENGUJUTAN 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 (710336-TJ)) ...PIMPETISYEN

DAN

DYNAMIC NAVIGATION SDN BHD (No. Syarikat: 201401011427 (1087503-DJ)) ...RESPONDEN

IKLAN PETISYEN

NOTIS dengan ini adalah diberikan bahawa Petisyen untuk mengemukakan Syarikat Responden tersebut di Mahkamah Tinggi Kuala Lumpur telah pada 22 September 2025 diperserahkan di Mahkamah Tinggi 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 Pemiliutang 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 sesialan Petisyen akan diberikan kepada mana-mana Pemiliutang 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 niatinya untuk berbuat begitu. Notis tersebut mestilah menyatakan nama dan alamat orang tersebut, atau, jika itu adalah 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 Penggugutan 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: rbs@ralaw.com.my) (Our Ref: RBA/RS/1214/23/wcw)

SALE BY TENDER

Interested parties are hereby invited to tender on "as is where is" basis for the asset as described below :

NO	CODE PARCEL	PARCEL DESCRIPTION	BUILT-UP AREA	PARCEL USAGE	STRATA NO.
1	TC/62-10	BLOK 6-2-10 TAMAN D'PINGGIRAN KOTA, MK JIMAH, DAERAH PORT DICKSON, NEGERI SEMBILAN	59 SQ METER	RESIDENTIAL	GRN 238668/ M1/3/34
2	TC/62-11	BLOK 6-2-11 TAMAN D'PINGGIRAN KOTA, MK JIMAH, DAERAH PORT DICKSON, NEGERI SEMBILAN	59 SQ METER	RESIDENTIAL	GRN 238668/ M1/3/35
3	TC/62-14	BLOK 6-2-14 TAMAN D'PINGGIRAN KOTA, MK JIMAH, DAERAH PORT DICKSON, NEGERI SEMBILAN	59 SQ METER	RESIDENTIAL	GRN 238668/ M1/3/38
4	TC/62-15	BLOK 6-2-15 TAMAN D'PINGGIRAN KOTA, MK JIMAH, DAERAH PORT DICKSON, NEGERI SEMBILAN	59 SQ METER	RESIDENTIAL	GRN 238668/ M1/3/39
5	TC/78-08	BLOK 7-8-08 TAMAN D'PINGGIRAN KOTA, MK JIMAH, DAERAH PORT DICKSON, NEGERI SEMBILAN	59 SQ METER	RESIDENTIAL	GRN 238669/ M1/1/7
6	TC/71-02	BLOK 7-1-02 TAMAN D'PINGGIRAN KOTA, MK JIMAH, DAERAH PORT DICKSON, NEGERI SEMBILAN	59 SQ METER	RESIDENTIAL	GRN 238669/ M1/2/31
7	TC/71-03	BLOK 7-1-03 TAMAN D'PINGGIRAN KOTA, MK JIMAH, DAERAH PORT DICKSON, NEGERI SEMBILAN	59 SQ METER	RESIDENTIAL	GRN 238669/ M1/2/30
8	TC/72-02	BLOK 7-2-02 TAMAN D'PINGGIRAN KOTA, MK JIMAH, DAERAH PORT DICKSON, NEGERI SEMBILAN	59 SQ METER	RESIDENTIAL	GRN238669/ M1/3/47
9	TC/72-03	BLOK 7-2-03 TAMAN D'PINGGIRAN KOTA, MK JIMAH, DAERAH PORT DICKSON, NEGERI SEMBILAN	59 SQ METER	RESIDENTIAL	GRN 238669/ M1/3/46
10	TC/72-04	BLOK 7-2-04 TAMAN D'PINGGIRAN KOTA, MK JIMAH, DAERAH PORT DICKSON, NEGERI SEMBILAN	59 SQ METER	RESIDENTIAL	GRN238669/ M1/3/45
11	TC/72-06	BLOK 7-2-06 TAMAN D'PINGGIRAN KOTA, MK JIMAH, DAERAH PORT DICKSON, NEGERI SEMBILAN	59 SQ METER	RESIDENTIAL	GRN238669/ M1/3/43
12	TC/72-15	BLOK 7-2-15 TAMAN D'PINGGIRAN KOTA, MK JIMAH, DAERAH PORT DICKSON, NEGERI SEMBILAN	59 SQ METER	RESIDENTIAL	GRN238669/ M1/3/40
13	TC/81-02	BLOK 8-1-02 TAMAN D'PINGGIRAN KOTA, MK JIMAH, DAERAH PORT DICKSON, NEGERI SEMBILAN	59 SQ METER	RESIDENTIAL	GRN238670/ M1/2/31
14	TC/81-05	BLOK 8-1-05 TAMAN D'PINGGIRAN KOTA, MK JIMAH, DAERAH PORT DICKSON, NEGERI SEMBILAN	59 SQ METER	RESIDENTIAL	GRN238670/ M1/2/28
15	TC/81-13	BLOK 8-1-13 TAMAN D'PINGGIRAN KOTA, MK JIMAH, DAERAH PORT DICKSON, NEGERI SEMBILAN	59 SQ METER	RESIDENTIAL	GRN238670/ M1/2/21
16	TC/82-08	BLOK 8-2-08 TAMAN D'PINGGIRAN KOTA, MK JIMAH, DAERAH PORT DICKSON, NEGERI SEMBILAN	59 SQ METER	RESIDENTIAL	GRN238670/ M1/3/39

Tenderer is to conduct the land search prior to the submission of tender. Tender Form must reach the Liquidator before 12 noon on 08 before 31 OCTOBER, 2025, in sealed envelope stated "TRUE/04/25". A forfeitable deposit of 10% of the tender price by way of Bank Draft in favour of "TRUE CREATION SDN BHD (IN LIQUIDATION)" shall be enclosed together with the Tender Form and will only be refunded if the tender is not successful. Tender Forms can be purchased at RM50.00 per set at the address stated below. Any queries and questions can be addressed to Mr Tiong at 012-4218218.

The Liquidator is not bound to accept the highest offer or any tender.

THE LIQUIDATOR ,
TRUE CREATION SDN BHD (309008-V) (IN LIQUIDATION),
28-2 MEDAN ANGSAANA 4,
BANDAR BARU AIR ITAM,
11500 PULAU PINANG

TAKE NOTE that any owner(s)/purchaser(s) who has/have interest in these said assets are to notify the Liquidator not later than 20th October, 2025 with the relevant documents for verification.
Any claims after this date will not be entertained.

Gloves off at McLaren as Piastri, Norris clash

CHAMPIONSHIP leader Oscar Piastri's back-and-forth on the team radio after being passed by Lando Norris at the Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday suggests the remainder of McLaren's season might not be smooth sailing as the duo fight it out for the title.

Third place for Norris and fourth for Piastri on Sunday secured the team a 10th constructors' title with six races remaining.

Notwithstanding the eternal ambitions of Max Verstappen, the drivers' title should also be theirs and the team have consistently maintained they will allow their drivers to race.

Race they did on the opening corner on Sunday when Norris charged up the inside of Piastri from fifth on the grid, clipping the back of Verstappen and forcing his Australian teammate so wide that he almost hit the wall.

Piastri was livid, saying that Norris had barged him out of the way and complaining of unfairness when the team said they were going to take no action during the race.

He later accepted that the tension of the first lap of the race had contributed to his anger in the cockpit and said he would reserve

further comment until he had watched it again.

"I don't think obviously there was any intention of contact but there was, and again I need to look at the replay and see what exactly happened," said Piastri, who now has a 22-point lead over Norris and 63 over Verstappen.

Norris said the contact with the Red Bull had forced him into Piastri but, as was the case when Verstappen accused him of obstructing his lap in qualifying on Friday, flatly dismissed the idea that he had done anything wrong.

"Anyone on the grid would have done exactly the same thing as what I did," he said.

"So I think if you fault me for just going on the inside and putting my car on the inside of a big gap, I think you shouldn't be in Formula One.

"I don't think there was anything wrong that I did. Of course, I misjudged a little bit how close I am to Max, but that's racing."

McLaren team principal Andrea Stella said the team would review the incident but also thought Piastri's initial comments were down to race context. - Reuters

Sinner out, Djokovic digs deep in Shanghai

DEFENDING CHAMPION Jannik Sinner retired yesterday from the Shanghai Masters after suffering from cramps in his third-round match against the Netherlands' Tallon Griekspoor, easing the way for Novak Djokovic's shot at a record-extending fifth title.

The 38-year-old Serb battled through to the last 16 with a 4-6, 7-5, 6-3 win over qualifier Yannick Hanfmann, despite admitting that he had been "hanging by a rope" early in the match.

It was a sorry end for Sinner, who had been hoping to add to his China Open victory.

The world No. 2 began to experience issues in the fourth game of the third set, trying doggedly to persevere before abandoning the match at 6-7 (3-7), 7-5, 3-2.

Sinner ended the fourth game crouched over in pain and limping around the court. He tried to play through it but did not

improve, hitting the ball into the net multiple times to provide an easy break for his opponent.

He could barely walk at the end of the fifth game and had to be helped to his chair before accepting reality and calling it quits.

"(It was) a very unfortunate ending to what I thought was a high-quality match," Griekspoor said.

"Not the way you want to win - brutal conditions here... I wish him a speedy recovery."

Earlier, 24-time Grand Slam winner Djokovic was given a mighty scare by the 150th-ranked Hanfmann. The Serb fired two aces to start, delighting the crowd, but soon ran into trouble as Hanfmann found his range.

The German broke in the third game and held serve after that to clinch the first set. "I was just outplayed by a better player for a set and a half," Djokovic said. - AFP

SPANISH champions Barcelona collapsed in a shock 4-1 demolition at Sevilla yesterday in La Liga, with Alexis Sanchez scoring against his former side and Robert Lewandowski missing a penalty for the visitors.

The Catalans sit second in the table after their first league defeat of the campaign, two points behind bitter rivals Real Madrid following *Los Blancos'* victory over Villarreal on Sunday, while Sevilla rise to sixth.

Real Betis moved fourth with a 2-1 win at Espanyol, thanks to a stoppage-time penalty save by their goalkeeper Pau Lopez, who formerly played for the Catalans.

Atletico Madrid stumbled to a 1-1 draw at Celta Vigo after having Clement Lenglet sent off in the first half and sit fifth.

Veteran Chilean winger Sanchez put Sevilla ahead from the penalty spot early on against Barca and Isaac Romero doubled the hosts' lead after having already missed two good chances.

Marcus Rashford pulled a goal back before halftime, but Lewandowski fired wide from the spot to spurn his team's best chance of an equaliser.

Jose Carmona and Akor Adams wrapped up

Rashford's goal in vain

Sevilla rout 'horrendous' Barcelona, Atletico drop points in La Liga

Sevilla's emphatic win in the final stages, as Hansi Flick's side fell to an unusually heavy defeat.

"The team's first 45 minutes were horrendous. I think we've not played a game as bad as that and we must be self-critical," Barca midfielder Pedri Gonzalez told the club's media channel.

Flick defended his team despite their loss, saying that he was pleased with their reaction in the second half.

"It's one match and we lost it, and we have to keep going," he said.

Barcelona were still licking their wounds after Paris Saint-Germain beat them late on in the Champions League on Wednesday, and were without injured teenage star Lamine Yamal.

"In the first half we didn't know how to

defend well or attack well," Pedri told *Movistar*, of his team's sluggish display.

The rout began when Ronald Araujo clumsily grappled with Romero in the box and conceded a penalty.

Sanchez dispatched it, with the 36-year-old sending Wojciech Szczesny the wrong way to fire Matias Almeyda's side ahead.

Romero swept into the bottom corner from Ruben Vargas's cutback for the second as Barca were opened up easily again.

Rashford was the first Barcelona player to awake from their slumber and pulled the champions back into the game deep in first half stoppage time, volleying home Pedri's cross for his first La Liga goal.

Having won just one league game at the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan in 2025 before

Barcelona's visit, the hosts' nerves began to shake.

Sevilla substitute Adnan Januzaj conceded a penalty for felling Balde as he flew into the box, granting Barca a golden chance to level.

Veteran Polish striker Lewandowski stuttered twice in his run-up before firing wide of the post.

Youngster Rooney Bardghji could have equalised but fired straight at the goalkeeper after Lewandowski's flick-on sent him in on goal.

Sevilla wrapped up their win late on through fullback Carmona, who drilled a low effort past Szczesny and into the far corner, and Adams.

"I'm very happy for the victory, we needed to win at home," said Sevilla coach Almeyda.

"We couldn't give them a metre of space... we knew what we had to do and we're on a good path." - AFP

Hojlund fires Napoli into Serie A top spot

RASMUS HOJLUND struck again for Napoli with the winning goal in yesterday's 2-1 victory over struggling Genoa, a strike which alongside AC Milan drawing 0-0 at Juventus lifted the Serie A champions into top spot.

Fresh from his midweek double against Sporting Lisbon, Hojlund was on hand to score on the rebound with 15 minutes remaining as Napoli came from behind to claim three points in Naples.

The 22-year-old pounced after Andre-Frank Anguissa's powerful shot was pushed out by Genoa goalkeeper Nicola Leali, taking his club tally to four goals since moving to Napoli from Manchester United.

Napoli have 15 points from their six league matches and lead Roma, 2-1 winners at Fiorentina, on goal difference.

"It's my job and the team's job to win as many games as possible so it's just important to keep working hard, recovering and focussing on the next match," Hojlund told *DAZN*.

Coach Antonio Conte had been considering taking off Hojlund before the Denmark

striker netted the winner, due to his midweek exertions in the Champions League.

"I think he asked me if I was tired and if I could keep playing and I just said that I had good energy and I was still fresh, and I said 'yeah, just let me play,'" added Hojlund.

But Antonio Conte's team had to do it the hard way, with Anguissa bundling in the leveller in the 57th minute after teenager Jeff Ekhator had given Genoa a halftime lead with just his second Serie A goal.

Napoli will stay top through the international break thanks to Christian Pulisic blasting a penalty over the bar as Milan were held by fifth-placed Juve in yesterday's drab headline clash.

"We should have won, we had chances but something was missing. We have to do more," said Adrien Rabiot, who returned to the Allianz Stadium with Milan

after five years at Juve.

"It's only the start of the season but winning here would've been significant." - AFP



Napoli's Rasmus Hojlund (left) fights for the ball with Genoa's Johan Vasquez (right) and Sebastian Otoa during their Italian Serie A match yesterday. - AFP/IC

Mbappe returns to haunt PSG

KYLIAN MBAPPE'S brother Ethan haunted his former club Paris Saint-Germain as he came off the bench to grab a late leveller for Lille in Ligue 1 yesterday, while Lyon went down to a surprise 2-1 defeat at home to Toulouse.

The 1-1 draw at Lille's Stade Pierre-Mauroy was, however, enough for injury-plagued PSG to go one point clear at the top of the French league.

A much-changed PSG side made the trip north and substitute Nuno Mendes's sublime second half freekick looked to have secured all three points for the reigning champions until 18-year-old Mbappe had the last laugh.

"We prioritised the players' health... It's been a difficult week. After the match in Barcelona (in the Champions League), we're feeling the fatigue," said PSG coach Luis Enrique of his starting XI.

A first half short on goalscoring opportunities culminated in Bradley Barcola passing up a gilt-edged chance to break the deadlock for PSG as he raced through on goal from distance but fluffed his finish.

Luis Enrique made a slew of changes on the hour and was rewarded six minutes later as usual first-choice leftback Mendes whipped a fantastic free-kick into the top corner from 30 yards.

Mbappe then entered the field of play under the watchful eye of his older brother Kylian, now of Real Madrid and who was up in the stands, with eight minutes remaining.

Achraf Hakimi, also off the bench, could have put the match beyond Lille in the 83rd minute but fired wide when well-positioned.

But the headlines went to Mbappe, who two minutes later cut inside on his left foot and fired a shot through the legs of Lucas Beraldo, which flashed beyond the unsighted Chevalier.

"Ethan has character, good self-confidence, and also qualities for the highest level," said Lille boss Bruno Genesio. - AFP

PIN HIGH

Hwang extends unique LPGA winners' streak

THE 2025 LPGA Tour's streak of unique winners was extended yesterday when South Korean Hwang Youmin won the Lotte Championship with a late surge in Ewa Beach, Hawaii. A Korea LPGA member competing on a sponsor's invitation, Hwang birdied five of the last six holes including the final four at Hoakalei Country Club for a closing 5-under 67. Her 72-hole aggregate of 17-under 271 was just enough for a one-shot victory over compatriot Kim Hyo-Joo. 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's maiden LPGA Tour

victory made her the 26th different winner through 25 events this year, matching the tour's record for the most unique winners in a single season - a benchmark that was set in 1995 and met again in 2018 and 2022. "It was an honour for me to play with strong players on the LPGA Tour, and I actually watched their play and learnt a lot," the 22-year-old Hwang said.

MacIntyre wins Dunhill Links

ROBERT MACINTYRE became the first Scot to win the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship in 20 years yesterday, just a week after featuring in Europe's Ryder Cup triumph over the United States. MacIntyre, who won one-and-a-half points at Bethpage Black, secured victory in Scotland with a

round of 66 at the Old Course at St. Andrews to finish 18-under for the weather-hit tournament. Tyrrell Hatton, who secured the half-point that saw Europe win the Ryder Cup, finished four shots back in second place after going 7-under on the day. MacIntyre's victory saw him follow Colin Montgomerie, the last Scottish winner of the Dunhill Links back in 2005, as he chalked up a fourth European Tour title. "It's brilliant but I don't know how I'm going to celebrate after the (European) celebrations we had last Sunday... but we'll try our best," said MacIntyre. "It's a beautiful end to a good week."

Fisk reels in Higgs in Mississippi

STEVEN FISK outdueled South Africa's Garrick

Higgs down the stretch to capture his first PGA Tour title yesterday with victory at the Sanderson Farms Championship in Mississippi. Fisk, who started the day two shots adrift of third round leader Higgs, took advantage of costly errors by the South African to claim a deserved win at the Country Club of Jackson. The 28-year-old American carded a final round 8-under 64 to finish with a 24-under aggregate 264, two shots clear of Higgs, whose closing 68 left him on 22-under. "I came out today with an attitude that nothing was going to stop me from what I wanted, no matter what happened, no matter what shots I hit," Fisk said. "I just felt like I'd be standing right here, right now before today started," Fisk added, attributing his win to "self-belief and grit." Denmark's Rasmus Hojgaard finished tied for third on 19-under alongside Vince Whaley.



Defiant Ange

BY DAMIAN SPELLMAN

ANGE POSTECOGLOU came out fighting as speculation over his future at Nottingham Forest intensified after a 2-0 Premier League defeat at Newcastle.

The Forest boss has won none of his first seven games since taking over the City Ground hotseat and rumours suggest he could face showdown talks with owner Evangelos Marinakis just weeks into his reign.

However, Postecoglou was in defiant mood as he faced the media at St James' Park.

Asked if his self-belief had been dented by a difficult start at Forest, he said: "I started in Australia when I was 32 years old in semi-professional football and I'm here in the Premier League at the age of 60. Do you reckon I lack self-belief or don't like a fight?"

"I didn't get here because of my connections. In fact, I've picked fights. I have, even in the schoolyard.

"I've picked fights with people who I knew would beat me up. That's the kind of person I am, so that's fine."

He added: "If people want to make an assessment of me after three and a half weeks in which I've had six or seven games, there's nothing I can do about that.

"But at the same time, there's nothing wrong with things being tough. That's okay. I'll say it a million times, I did have an option.

"I could have been sitting on the couch watching the game today and not be in the middle of it.

"I'd rather be, much rather be... I love a fight. So it's a fight, so it's a struggle - so what? That's okay.

"Now, if people outside don't think I'm the right person, or even internally don't think I am, it makes no difference for me."

Postecoglou says he loves a fight as pressure builds at Forest after defeat against Newcastle

Forest were commendably well-organised on Tyneside and frustrated the hosts until 13 minutes into the second half when Bruno Guimaraes fired past Matz Sels from distance with the visitors appealing in vain for a foul on Morgan Gibbs-White by Dan Burn in the run-up.

Postecoglou said: "Look, I think it's just the world we've created where referees I just don't think are going to make those decisions anymore, particularly against the home side. They're going to let it run and let VAR pick the slack up."

Thereafter, the Magpies threatened to add to their tally at regular intervals, but had to wait until six minutes from time for their advantage from the penalty spot.

Head coach Eddie Howe was delighted with his side's performance and the result after Wednesday night's 4-0 Champions League victory at Union Saint-Gilloise.

Howe said: "It was a huge win for us, huge, huge. The players have done really well this week to recover from the Arsenal game in the way that they have and the speed to put that game to the back of our minds and to re-focus on two hugely important games.

"In the Champions League to get our season going in that competition and then the importance of the Premier League, it's such an important competition for us.

"We maintained very good standards the last few years. We needed to maintain them, so at home I thought it was vital we won today." - The Independent

Moyes counts his lucky stars

BY CARL MARKHAM

EVERTON manager David Moyes admitted his team were fortunate to still be in the game at home to Crystal Palace before their late turnaround culminated in Jack Grealish's added-time winner.

The visitors looked comfortable at 1-0 but did not make the most of their chances after Daniel Munoz's first half goal and, when Iliman Ndiaye converted a 76th-minute penalty, the hosts sensed their chance.

On-loan Manchester City winger Grealish was then in the right place to block a Munoz clearance and see it rebound into the net in the third minute of stoppage time.

"I thought Crystal Palace should have been out of sight, they should have been 3-0 up, but we stuck at it," said Moyes, whose side maintained their unbeaten start to life at Hill-

Dickinson Stadium while also ending Palace's 19-match run without defeat.

"Jack's done great again; he had a couple of shots on target which were comfortable for the goalkeeper to save. I have been pushing him to get goals and assists - he's on the spot, that is the key.

"Ndiaye's cross was incredible and really Beto should have buried it, the keeper saves it and Jack is in and around to get it."

Grealish has been playing through the pain for the last two matches, having had a scan last week, but it was not enough to hamper him having a decisive impact.

"Jack has had a couple of minor injuries which we have had to nurse a bit and he has had to miss the odd day's training, but I don't think his performance is in question," Moyes added.

"The team didn't play particularly well in the first half and Jack was part of

that as well.

"At half-time we needed to change the mentality because we started the game so poorly. We never got to grips with the game.

"The subs (Charly Alcaraz, Beto and Tim Iroegbunam) all made an incredible impact because we needed them to change it around."

Palace boss Oliver Glasner agreed with Moyes about his side's shortcomings.

"Massively disappointed, it hurts, how the game was played," he said.

"I have seen 60 to 70 minutes of fantastic performance of our team and we didn't decide the game when we could have done. It has happened a few times.

"As long as it is 1-0 everything is possible and then we made one mistake in defence - we don't make many - and they got the penalty. It really hurts. We all feel it was our fault." - The Independent



Everton's Iliman Ndiaye (left) in action with Crystal Palace players during their English Premier League match yesterday. - REUTERS/PIC

Seagulls deserved more at Wolves: Hurzeler

BY SUNNY BADWAL

BRIGHTON boss Fabian Hurzeler feels his side deserved more than a point after Jan Paul van Hecke's late header secured them a 1-1 draw at Wolves.

Vitor Pereira became the second Premier League manager to be shown a red card at the weekend - after Enzo Maresca - when he kicked the ball in frustration towards the fourth official's seated area after what he thought was a foul on Joao Gomes from Carlos Baleba.

Bottom club Wolves took the lead for a third straight game when Marshall Munetsi's volley bounced off the goalframe onto Bart Verbruggen and into the goal.

However, they surrendered the three points for a second straight week when Van Hecke headed home from a corner four minutes from time, prolonging the hosts' winless start to the campaign and ensuring they remain in 20th place.

Pereira's side picked up their first point in front of their own fans at the fourth attempt while Brighton extended their unbeaten run to four matches across all competitions.

Hurzeler knows his side can play better than what they showed at Molineux.

He said: "We conceded a goal out of nowhere, we have to defend that better.

"We got the belief and confidence back, tried hard in the second half, created danger and in the end we deserved more but have to accept a point.

"It's not an easy place to come here. If you look at the table you can say Wolves only have two points but when we look at the games they deserve more than what they have.

"Overall, it was a good performance but not a great performance. We can play better football but they are not machines so we have to accept it in good moments.

Wolves assistant manager Luis Miguel apologised for Pereira's sending off and insists the players gave everything in their draw.

"It's the same as last week against Spurs. We will see at the end of the League whether it is one point won or two points lost," he said.

On Pereira, he said: "He kicked the ball in frustration with something that happened to our team, not the referee. I want to apologise for Vitor. These things happen when we are under pressure." - The Independent

Villans still work in progress, says Emery

BY JONATHAN VEAL

ASTON VILLA boss Unai Emery says there is still work to do after his side continued their revival with a 2-1 win over Burnley.

Villa's campaign had got off to a difficult start but they followed up Europa League victories over Bologna and Feyenoord and a Premier League success against Fulham with another three points at Villa Park.

Netherlands international Donyell Malen was the hero, getting off the mark for the season with a goal in each half, to mark boss Emery's 150th game in charge with a fitting three points.

"I'm very happy with how we are progressing, the development of some and we planned it being serious and being disciplined," Emery, who has won 80 of his 150 games in charge, said.

"The players responded very well and we achieved three points. I am very happy with the players.

"We are getting balance in the league, we are under expectation for our demands.

"We know the Premier League is so, so difficult, and to keep the same consistency that we had the last in the last three years is not easy.

"But we want to feel comfortable, getting the way progressively after our poor start.

"There is still work to do, and still players to add to us, getting better, getting confidence."

Burnley got back into the game through Lesley Ugochukwu, but lost for a fifth time in seven matches amid a tough run of fixtures, having played Tottenham, Manchester United, Liverpool, Manchester City and now Villa.

Boss Scott Parker believes the international break has come at the right time for his side.

"The break's come a good time for us, a good time for us to review, look over and see where it is," the former England international said.

"I feel like I know where it is. I know where exactly it is. And like I said, it's a young team, young players, talented. I'm immensely proud of them. I'm always proud of them.

"There's no denying we've had an incredibly tough start. But in saying that, the huge positive side is that as tough as this start has been, we've been hugely competitive.

"But we're here to win, and I'm here to win, and this team is. We want to be here to stay. So there's learning from it that we need to improve on." - The Independent

RESULTS & STANDINGS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Aston Villa 2 (Malen 25, 63) Burnley 1 (Ugochukwu 78), Everton 2 (Ndiaye 76-pen, Grealish 90+3) Crystal Palace 1 (Munoz 37), Newcastle 2 (Guimaraes 58, Woltemade 84-pen) Nottingham Forest 0, Wolves 1 (Verbruggen 21-og) Brighton 1 (Van Hecke 86), Brentford 0 Manchester City 1 (Haaland 9).

	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
Man City	7	4	1	2	15	6	13
Crystal Palace	7	3	3	1	9	5	12
Chelsea	7	3	2	2	13	9	11
Everton	7	3	2	2	9	7	11
Sunderland	7	3	2	2	7	6	11
Man Utd	7	3	1	3	9	11	10
Newcastle	7	2	3	2	6	5	9
Brighton	7	2	3	2	10	10	9
Aston Villa	7	2	3	2	6	7	9
Fulham	7	2	2	3	8	11	8
Leeds	7	2	2	3	7	11	8
Brentford	7	2	1	4	9	12	7
Nottm Forest	7	1	2	4	5	12	5
Burnley	7	1	1	5	7	15	4
West Ham	7	1	1	5	6	16	4
Wolves	7	0	2	5	5	14	2

SPANISH LA LIGA: Alaves 3 (Vicente 76-pen, Martinez 81, Boye 90+5) Elche 1 (Silva 90+3), Sevilla 4 (Sanchez 13-pen, Romero 37, Carmona 90, Adams 90+6) Barcelona 1 (Rashford 45+7), Espanyol 1 (Lozano 15) Real Betis 2 (Cucho 54, Abde 63), Real Sociedad 0 Rayo Vallecano 1 (Pacha 84), Celta Vigo 1 (Aspas 68) Atletico Madrid 1 (Starfelt 6-og).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	8	7	0	1	19	9	21
Barcelona	8	6	1	1	22	9	19
Villarreal	8	5	1	2	14	8	16
Real Betis	8	4	3	1	13	8	15
Atletico	8	3	4	1	15	10	13
Sevilla	8	4	1	3	15	11	13
Elche	8	3	4	1	11	9	13

ITALIAN SERIE A: Bologna 4 (Cambiasi 24, Moro 38, Orsolini 40, Odgaard 53) Pisa 0, Fiorentina 1 (Kean 14) AS Roma 2 (Soule 22, Cristante 30), Juventus 0 AC Milan 0, Napoli 2 (Anguissa 57, Hojlund 75) Genoa 1 (Ekhatov 34), Udinese 1 (Kabasele 58) Cagliari 1 (Borrelli 25).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Napoli	6	5	0	1	12	6	15
Roma	6	5	0	1	7	2	15
AC Milan	6	4	1	1	9	3	13
Inter Milan	6	4	0	2	17	8	12
Juventus	6	3	3	0	9	5	12
Atalanta	6	2	4	0	11	5	10

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA: Borussia Moenchengladbach 0 Freiburg 0, Hamburg 4 Mainz 0, Stuttgart 1 Heidenheim 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B. Munich	6	6	0	0	25	3	18
Dortmund	6	4	2	0	12	4	14
RB Leipzig	6	4	1	1	8	8	13
Stuttgart	6	4	0	2	8	6	12
Leverkusen	6	3	2	1	12	8	11
Cologne	6	3	1	2	11	9	10

FRENCH LIGUE 1: Lyon 1 Toulouse 2, Strasbourg 5 Angers 0, Le Havre 2 Rennes 2, Monaco 2 Nice 2, Lille 1 Paris Saint-Germain 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris SG	7	5	1	1	13	5	16
Marseille	7	5	0	2	15	5	15
Strasbourg	7	5	0	2	14	7	15
Lyon	7	5	0	2	9	5	15
Monaco	7	4	1	2	16	12	13
Lens	7	4	1	2	10	6	13

Imigresen FC coach welcomes break

IMIGRESEN FC (IFC) head coach Yusri Che Lah wants his team to fully utilise the three-week break before their match against Sabah FC on Oct 26 to fix weaknesses and restore the team's confidence level.

Yusri said the 3-1 defeat to Selangor FC on Sunday was not the desired outcome but described it as an important lesson for a team currently in the formation phase.

"I feel this loss came at the right time for us to learn and improve. We faced a strong team that has been in the league for a long time, while IFC is still new and needs to exert maximum effort to compete.

"Furthermore, the team is also plagued by injury issues involving several players that need monitoring, but the level of confidence is also crucial and needs to be restored immediately," he said at a press

conference after the match ended at the Batu Kawan State Stadium in Penang.

Commenting on the match against Selangor, the 49-year-old former national player said the goal scored by his team should have been a catalyst for a comeback, but that momentum was lost when the opponent managed to score soon after.

Yusri also admitted that the fragility of the defence was the reason the Mighty Tigers squad was easily breached, and IFC cannot continue to lose points, especially with a large goal difference.

Therefore, they need to work harder by reviewing all their weaknesses and bouncing back to secure a win in the next match.

In the meantime, he hopes the long break can be used effectively to reinforce their spirit and enhance their understanding of the playing style he

is implementing.

Meanwhile, Selangor FC head coach Christophe Gamel described Sunday's win as a positive sign of the team's development but admitted that many aspects still need improvement ahead of the next match.

Gamel also praised the fighting spirit shown by the players despite playing in the hot weather and a demanding match schedule.

"Today, we felt that the mentality was there. Everyone wanted to give their best and provide a good game. Of course, it wasn't perfect but nobody is perfect, myself included.

"I will continue to work hard with the team to build on this and maintain a positive and above all, attacking mindset because I believe strongly in an attacking style of play," he said. – Bernama

Two-thumbs up

LTdL 2025 hailed as best-ever organised event in Malaysia

THIS year's Le Tour de Langkawi (LTdL) cycling race, which ended on Sunday, has been hailed as one of the best-ever organised.

This is after the evaluation of the technical and race aspects received excellent grades, and even the president and panel of commissars, as well as the race director, gave the LTdL 2025 the thumbs up.

This clearly proves that no significant weaknesses were detected throughout the race and LTdL remains as one of the most prestigious international-level cycling races.

However, there is a question mark over the organisation of the race under the banner of the

Ministry of Youth and Sports and the National Sports Council (NSC), which ends this year.

As far as NSC director Jefri Ngadirin is concerned, any decision regarding the organisation of LTdL will be made by the Cabinet once he has tabled a full report of the race.

"The mandate given by the Cabinet was for three years, which is from 2023 to 2025. So, we will revert to the Cabinet after this event to get the mandate for the coming years.

"The UCI (International Cycling Union) had also given us the licence for three years, and we have to apply for it every three years. So, we still have until March of next year to apply for the three-year organising

licence," he said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Jefri said that whoever is given the trust to organise the LTdL, be it the NSC or an external party, would not have any problems running the show, as the NSC already has the blueprint for the successful organisation of Asia's most prestigious road race event.

"We received feedback from the UCI stating that this is one of the best races organised in Malaysia. They even felt that the organisation of the LTdL could set an example to other countries on how to run such races.

"So, any organiser or stakeholders, if they take over the organisation of the LTdL, can use the template used by us and also by the ministry.

"We will hand over the manual if there are any parties interested in organising the race. That is not a problem," he said.

On Sunday, French rider Joris Delbove was crowned the overall champion despite finishing 17th in the final 180.2km stage from Tangkak to Kuala Lumpur.

Delbove, 25, from the Totalenergies team dominated the Green Jersey from the fifth to eighth stages to record an overall time of 27:17:38s.

He edged out his closest challengers Ander Halland Johannessen of Uno-X-Mobility Tudor Pro Cycling Team rider in second and third place respectively.

"I will treasure the wonderful memories I've made here in Malaysia and at Le Tour de Langkawi. It has truly been an amazing experience.

"The country's beauty and scenery are absolutely breathtaking, and at the same time, the racing has been incredibly intense.

"So, this victory means a lot to me, and I'm really happy," said Delbove when met after the race.

The Orange Jersey (King of Sprint) in this edition was won by Uno X Mobility rider Erlend Blikra while the Polka Dot Jersey was won by Patrick Eddy of Team Picnic PostNL.

The white jersey as the best Asian rider went to Nicolya Vinoukorov from XDS Astana and the best overall team went to Team Polti VisitMalta.

Meanwhile, the best Asian team went to Nusantara BYC and national rider Tsen Ren Bao from the St George team became the best Malaysian rider in this edition when he finished 34th overall. – Bernama



FROM LEFT: Team Picnic PostNL rider Patrick Eddy (King of the Hill Award); 2025 LTdL champion Joris Delbove (TotalEnergies); Uno-X rider Erlend Blikra (King of the Sprint Award) and XDS Astana rider Nicolya Vinoukorov (Best Asian Rider). – BERNAMAPIC

National Juniors aiming for podium finish

THE National Juniors aim to make up for last year's disappointment by getting on the podium in this year's Sultan of Johor Cup (SOJC) International Hockey Tournament that will be held at the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium in Johor Bahru from Oct 11-18.

National head coach Nor Saiful Zaini Nasiruddin said that would require his players to perform to their best throughout the prestigious U-21 tournament.

However, he acknowledged that their main goal is not just result-based, but the overall improvement in terms of player performance.

"Our focus is on team performance, discipline and consistency throughout the tournament," he said in a statement issued by the Malaysian Hockey

Confederation yesterday.

"Our target is to get on the podium. It's not easy, but it's crucial to set lofty goals for the team to be positive and competitive.

"I want the players to prove themselves capable of competing with any team, including the best, and not be categorised as just 'so-so' players.

"The key to success is self-confidence, not making mistakes and capitalising on goal-scoring chances," Nor Saiful said.

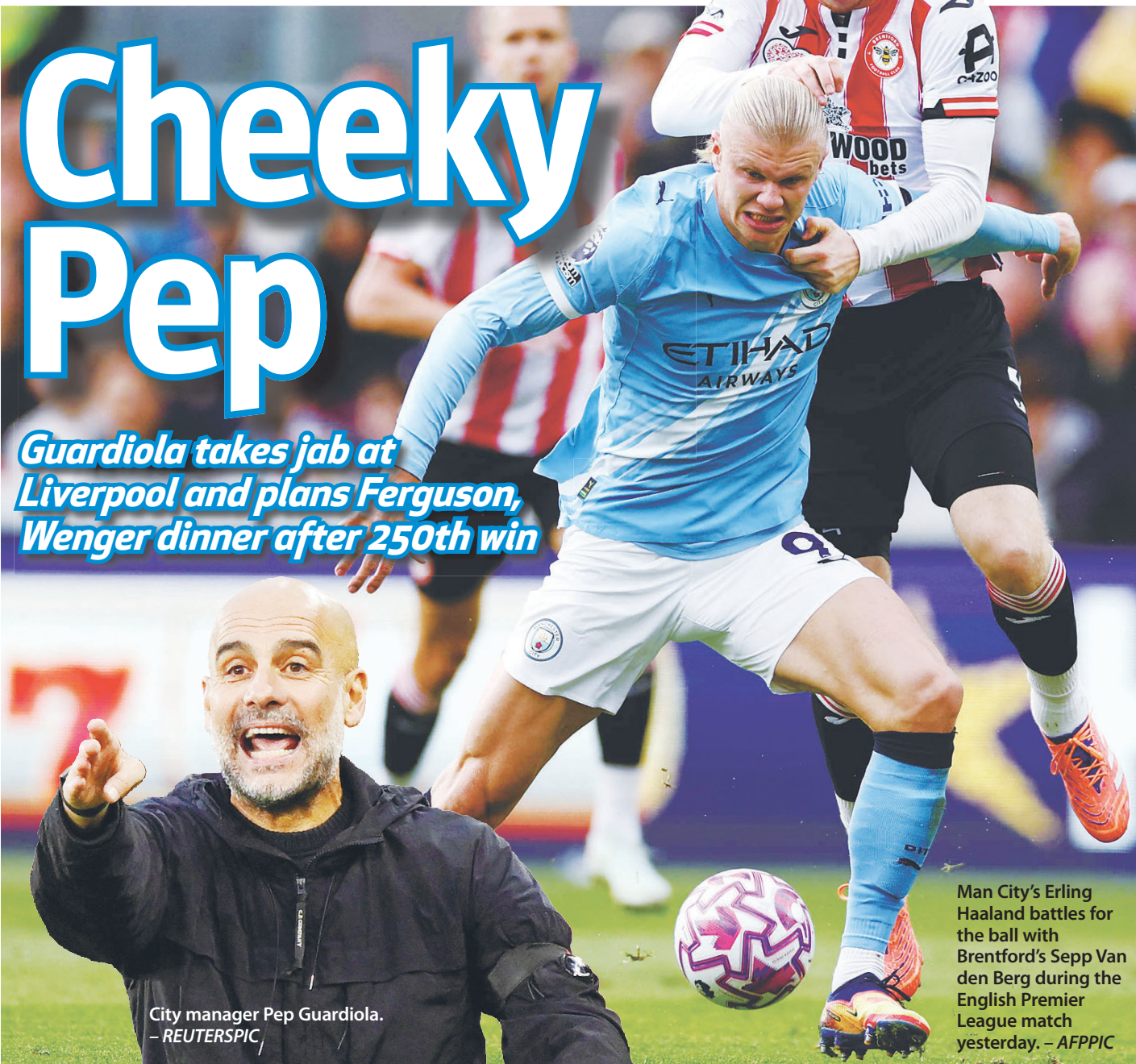
Commenting on the squad, Nor Saiful said player selection was made based on their ability to adapt to the team's style of play, their determination to succeed and a high level of discipline on and off the field.

For this year's edition, Nor Saiful has included five 21-year-old players and retained nine players from last year's edition.

Six countries are taking part in SOJC 2025, including Malaysia, who will view this as a crucial platform in their preparation for the Men's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup in India next month.

Malaysia are slated to start their SOJC campaign against Pakistan on Oct 11, followed by matches against Australia (Oct 12), New Zealand (Oct 14), defending champions Great Britain (Oct 15) and India (Oct 17).

Malaysia won the inaugural tournament in 2011 and finished as runners-up in 2013. Last year, they finished sixth. – Bernama

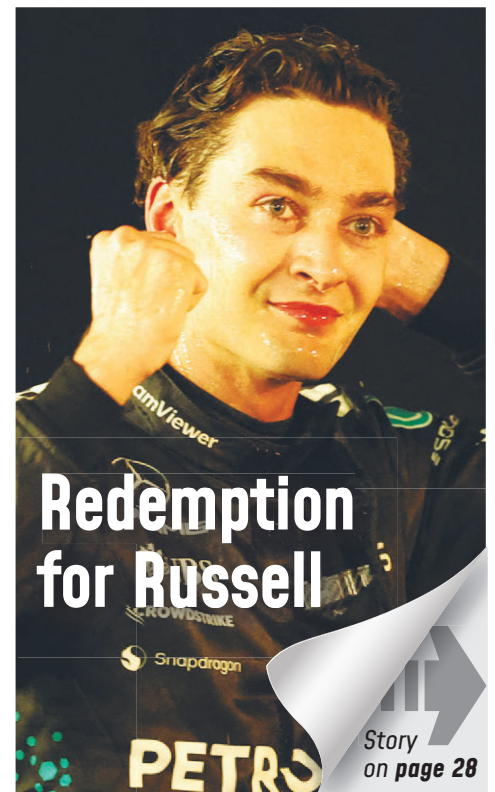


Cheeky Pep

Guardiola takes jab at Liverpool and plans Ferguson, Wenger dinner after 250th win

City manager Pep Guardiola.
- REUTERS/PIC

Man City's Erling Haaland battles for the ball with Brentford's Sepp Van den Berg during the English Premier League match yesterday. - AFP/PIC



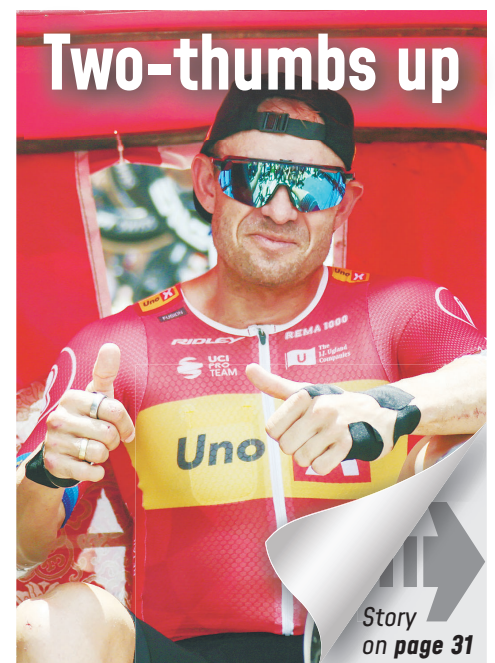
Redemption for Russell

Story on page 28



Rashford goal in vain

Story on page 29



Two-thumbs up

Story on page 31

AS Manchester City reasserted themselves as challengers, Pep Guardiola cheekily reminded Liverpool of the fact some were ready to crown them Premier League champions mere weeks ago before their sharp downturn in form.

Erling Haaland's fine first half finish secured a 1-0 win away at Brentford as City moved two points behind reigning champions Liverpool and three off of table-toppers Arsenal.

City had earlier been discounted in the title race after losing two of their first three games - to Tottenham and Brighton. But four unbeaten since, including a draw away at Arsenal, has reignited their belief.

Guardiola made Premier League history at Brentford by reaching 250 wins in just 349 games, faster than any other manager in the division's history.

The Catalan coach has surpassed Arsene Wenger and Sir Alex Ferguson, who took 423 and 404 games respectively to reach the same milestone.

City jumped to fifth place in the League table, and Guardiola appears optimistic his side will be title contenders once again after a barren season last year.

As they seek to reclaim their crown from Liverpool, he rubbed salt in the wounds after the Reds suffered back-to-back losses to squander an eight-point gap to the Citizens.

Guardiola praised match-winner Haaland as "the best" striker in the business and expressed

his belief that his team will be serious contenders again because they are only improving.

"It's just seven games for the Premier League," said Guardiola. "I would say three weeks ago Liverpool apparently won the Premier League and now they have not."

"It's important to see the team better and better. Liverpool is an incredible team, like Arsenal, the question is to improve and improve, the way we play, the way we defend, will help us to be close to fight."

"I'm really pleased for this month since the Man United game. We are there and I have the feeling we are getting better and better."

Haaland revealed that becoming a father has helped improved his game, telling *Sky Sports*: "I have never felt better than I do now."

"With a kid it makes me even better because I disconnect more than ever - I don't think about football at all."

Reacting to his 250-win milestone, Guardiola said: "We won a lot! Otherwise you cannot take this accolade without winning a lot of games."

"It's an honour for me to be alongside Sir Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger so I will invite them to a good dinner."

"Maybe not in Manchester, maybe somewhere with more sun. No, we'll do it in Manchester. It's an honour, a pleasure to be part of that in the Premier League history."

"I want to say thank you to the club, the organisation, the players and the staff that I had

because we did it quicker, faster, better and really, really pleased. Now, let's go for 250 more."

City were unable to add to their tally and were almost pegged back when Igor Thiago raced through on goal, only for goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma to come to their rescue.

"Away when you are 1-0 up always you suffer," added Guardiola. "In first half we were at our best and could have scored more goals to make it a little easier."

"We knew at halftime they would push more. Throw-ins, corners, freekicks, always you suffer. But the game was well played."

Sadly, City's afternoon in the west London sunshine was soured when midfielder Rodri suffered more injury misery.

In the 20th minute the disconsolate Spaniard, still making his way back from almost a year out due to an ACL injury, sat down in the centre circle holding his hamstring and eventually limped off to be replaced by Nico Gonzalez.

"It looks like a hamstring but we don't know the damage yet," said Guardiola.

For Brentford it was a first home defeat of the season as their chaotic brand of long throws and set-pieces came up short.

"We made it very uncomfortable in the second half," said boss Keith Andrews.

"It was a game of very few chances and when you restrict them to very few chances you're doing well. I'm not sure many other strikers in the world score that goal." - Express Newspapers/The Independent