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Riders shun motorcycle lanes along Federal Highway

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Violence leaving its mark on youth

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Recent Petaling Jaya school stabbing extreme but telling symptom of culture where bullying, dominance and rage are no longer shunned – they're being liked, shared and celebrated on social media: Experts



Unicef Malaysia has sounded the alarm over a worrying surge in school violence, from sexual assaults to brutal beatings, with some ending in tragedy. – ***ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN***

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School stabber bought murder weapons online: Cops

Incident reignites concern over easy availability of knives and other dangerous items on internet.

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Power plant fault triggers outage in Klang Valley, Johor

Widespread blackout lasting up to two hours cuts power to homes, shopping malls and major roads during peak hours.

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Technical fault at power plant triggers outage in Klang Valley, Johor

BY **IKHWAN ZULKAFLEE**
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PETALING JAYA: A technical fault at a power plant triggered yesterday's widespread blackout that plunged parts of the Klang Valley and Johor into chaos, cutting power to homes, malls and major roads during peak hours.

Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) said the outage was traced to an incident at the Edra Power Plant, an Independent Power Producer facility in Malacca.

The national utility company confirmed this in a statement on its Facebook page.

"TNB's technical teams are currently on the ground and working diligently to restore electricity supply in stages to all affected areas."

By 5.23pm yesterday, power had been successfully restored in Petaling Jaya.

TNB later confirmed that by 5.30pm, electricity had also returned to several other locations, including Damansara City, Sri Hartamas, Danau Desa, SPPK Cheras, Ampang, Bukit Jalil, Sri Damansara, Kota Puteri and Pasir Gudang Darat.

It also said electricity supply was fully restored at 5.54pm.

The outage, which lasted for about an hour in some areas, caused widespread disruption across the region.

Several major shopping malls were temporarily affected, including the high-profile Tun Razak Exchange in Kuala Lumpur, where retail and business operations were briefly halted.

The power failure also triggered traffic chaos, worsened by heavy rain in the afternoon.

With traffic lights not operating in several areas, major roads in the Klang Valley were severely congested, with vehicles crawling bumper to bumper.

A doctor at University Malaya Medical Centre, who requested anonymity, told *theSun* that the traffic lights surrounding the hospital were also down during the outage, worsening the gridlock.

"The traffic lights here are not working, and this has caused a massive traffic jam around the hospital area."

TNB has assured the public that it is closely monitoring the situation and will continue to provide updates.



Shazeli pointing at photographs of seized evidence from the incident during a press conference at the Selangor contingent police headquarters. – ***ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN***

Weapons used in stabbing case bought online: Police

Cops tracing platform used to make purchase

BY **HARITH KAMAL**
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SHAH ALAM: The 14-year-old boy who fatally stabbed his 16-year-old schoolmate in Bandar Utama on Monday bought the murder weapons online, a detail that has reignited concern over how easily minors could access knives and other deadly items on the internet.

Selangor police chief Datuk Shazeli Kahar said the suspect, currently under a seven-day remand until Oct 21, was in possession of two blades, a knife and a *kerambit* (small, curved knife), purchased online before the fatal attack.

"The suspect acquired the weapons by purchasing them online. We believe only one, the knife, was used in the incident," he told a press conference yesterday.

Police are tracing the online platform involved and believe the boy's parents were unaware of his purchases.

The attack took place between 9am and 9.30am in a school toilet, where the 16-year-old female student suffered multiple stab wounds to the neck and chest. A post-mortem confirmed she died at the scene.

"The victim was found in the toilet, and based on our investigation, we believe the suspect followed her inside."

A handwritten note was recovered from the suspect during his arrest.

"I can confirm that the note was found on the suspect, not in the toilet where the incident occurred. It is now being examined by our investigating officers."

The note, now making rounds on social media, allegedly carried a cryptic message: "The world is fake. I have already won".

Investigations so far suggest there was no prior relationship or known interaction between the suspect and the victim. Initial findings also ruled out bullying as a motive.

"Based on early investigation, the motive appears to be linked to emotional instability and possible influence from media or social media content."

He added that police have recorded 57 witness statements, including from students, teachers, family members and school counsellors.

The suspect, who had no record of disciplinary problems, was apprehended by teachers before being handed over to police. A urine test confirmed he was not under the influence of drugs, and no evidence has emerged of any diagnosed mental illness.

Further investigation revealed the suspect harboured unspoken romantic feelings towards the victim.

"He had feelings for her but never expressed them. It was more of a secret admiration, and the victim was unaware."

He added that the suspect, a Form One transition student, and the victim, a Form Three student, were from different classes and age groups, with no indication they had communicated before.

Police have not ruled out emotional impulses as a factor, and a psychiatric evaluation would be conducted to assess the suspect's mental state.

The case is being investigated under Section 302 of the Penal Code for murder.

Following the tragedy, police have stepped up coordination with the Selangor Education Department to tighten security in schools. Under a directive from the national police chief, Mobile Patrol Vehicle units will conduct regular rounds at schools, including the one where the incident occurred.

"Schools must be safe spaces. We will continue working with education authorities to ensure that any sign of risk is detected and acted upon swiftly."

The girl's family claimed her remains on Tuesday morning after a post-mortem at the University Malaya Medical Centre.

The case has sparked national debate over student mental health, online safety and the role of digital media in shaping young minds, issues now demanding urgent attention from parents, educators and policymakers alike.

Mandatory age limit for social media

SIPITANG: Malaysia will soon require all social media platforms to implement 'electronic Know Your Customer' (eKYC) identity verification to ensure users under 13 do not own accounts.

Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil said the move aims to protect children online and ensure that community guidelines set by the platforms are properly enforced.

"When I met representatives from social media platforms last month, I made it clear that Malaysia will make identity verification mandatory, especially to prevent children below 13 from having accounts.

"I will present the exact timeline to the Cabinet before making an announcement," he told reporters after officiating at the 'Nadi (National Information Dissemination Centre) on Wheels' programme at the Sindumin state constituency yesterday.

Also present were Communications Ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Mohamad Fauzi Md Isa, Sipitang MP Datuk Matbali Musah, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) deputy managing director (Regulation and Corporate) Datuk Zurkarnain Mohd Yasin and Bernama editor-in-chief Arul Rajoo Durar Raj.

Fahmi said MCMC would hold a meeting with social media companies next week to discuss immediate steps towards implementing the requirement.

Beyond child protection, he said eKYC is also crucial to curb online scams and harmful content such as gambling and fake advertisements.

"Many platforms have been misused by criminals for scams. As I mentioned in Parliament yesterday, 78% of all scam-related content taken down came from Facebook." – Bernama

Cabinet to discuss discipline, safety

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the Cabinet will discuss firm measures to address issues of discipline and safety in schools, including the influence of social media among students.

He added that recent serious incidents in schools called for immediate intervention.

"We will be holding a meeting on this matter. When we look at it closely, almost everything stems from smartphones, social media and apps.

"So, perhaps today or tomorrow, I will convene a Cabinet meeting to deliberate on the issue. Firm action must be taken. Of course, there will be various reactions (from the public), but action is necessary." – Bernama

Call for stronger child protection systems: Unicef

PETALING JAYA: Unicef Malaysia has sounded the alarm over a worrying surge in school violence, from sexual assaults to brutal beatings with some ending in tragedy.

Unicef Malaysia representative Robert Gass said no child should ever feel unsafe, least of all in a classroom and urged tougher action to stamp out violence, protect victims and make schools the safe havens they're meant to be.

"We commend the swift response of the Malaysian authorities and the support extended to victims, survivors and their families.

"No child should ever feel unsafe, particularly in a place of learning."

He stressed that prevention must be at the heart of all efforts, calling for comprehensive violence-prevention programmes, stronger support for parents and caregivers, and effective reporting and response mechanisms to protect children at home, in school and online.

Gass also warned against sharing videos, images or personal details of children on social media, saying such acts risk deepening trauma and violating children's rights to privacy and protection.

"The mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of survivors, families, peers and educators must be prioritised. Safety and confidentiality during investigations, as well as responsible reporting are essential."

Unicef further highlighted that girls are disproportionately affected by violence, noting that nearly one in three women and girls globally experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime – often driven by harmful gender and social norms that normalise abuse and silence survivors.

"Such violence inflicts devastating and long-lasting harm on children's physical and mental wellbeing and erodes trust in the institutions meant to protect them."

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia deputy director of the Institute of Inclusive Development and Advancement Dr Anuar Ahmad said the nation's education system is facing a critical moment.

"We have to admit that our education system is in distress – this is no longer about minor misbehaviour such as noisy classrooms or unfinished homework. We are now dealing with bullying, sexual assault and even murder. These are serious crimes taking place in schools."

Anuar said parents are increasingly anxious about their children's safety, while many students fear going to school. He urged the government to take immediate and long-term steps to restore public confidence in the education system.

Among the short-term measures, he suggested:

- **Installing** CCTV cameras in all schools;
- **Identifying** at-risk parents and students for professional counselling sessions; and
- **Conducting** safety audits in every school.

For the long term, he proposed:

- **Empowering** greater parental involvement in schools;
- **Prioritising** safety, health and character education from primary level;
- **Ensuring** at least one certified counsellor for every 250 students; and
- **Enforcing** disciplinary action against education officials who conceal cases of misconduct.

"When misconduct becomes extraordinary, the solutions must also be extraordinary," Anuar stressed. – By ***KIRTINEE RAMESH***

Culture of violence spreading among youth online

BY **QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI** AND **KIRTINEE RAMESH**
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: Violence has gone viral and is leaving its mark on Malaysian youth. The glamourisation of aggression across digital platforms has blurred the line between entertainment and real-life brutality.

Experts say the recent stabbing at a school in Bandar Utama, Damansara 4 is an extreme but telling symptom of a culture where bullying, dominance and rage are no longer shunned but being liked, shared and celebrated.

Universiti Teknologi Mara Social and Policy Studies lecturer Prof Dr Yarina Ahmad said entertainment now glorifies power and gangsterism, leading youths to believe respect comes from belonging to powerful or violent groups.

"The influence of Western and international media further complicates this. Youths are increasingly shaped by what they watch, from Korean dramas with violent plots to Western films such as the Fast and Furious film series which glorify speed, aggression and power.

"These portrayals often associate masculinity with dominance, thrill-seeking and even sexual desirability, sending a harmful message that strength and status come from reckless or violent behaviour," she said, adding that constant exposure to online violence has eroded empathy, as seen in the boy's apparent lack of compassion or awareness of the consequences of his actions.

> Experts warn exposure to aggressive content and digital trends is eroding empathy, normalising dominance and fuelling real-world harm

Yarina also noted that research has shown a strong link between media consumption and behavioural imitation among adolescents.

She said studies, including one conducted by her student, found that addiction to violent entertainment – whether on television, YouTube or social media – significantly increases aggressive tendencies and the intention to act violently.

"This doesn't always lead to extreme acts like murder, but it manifests in aggression through speech, behaviour and social interactions.

"This case shows how technology and media are changing the way people interact today. As technology advances, it is slowly replacing traditional values."

She stressed that heavy reliance on technology is unhealthy because it weakens critical thinking and empathy, as people begin letting algorithms think for them instead of reflecting on their actions.

Suka Society (Persatuan Kebajikan Suara Kanak-Kanak Malaysia) executive director Anderson Selvasegaram said all parties – from parents to educators and the wider community – must take collective responsibility to ensure such tragedies in schools never happen again.

He said the recent spate of disturbing events in schools should serve as a wake-up call for everyone to reflect on how children are guided, nurtured and protected.

"All efforts must be made to prevent a repeat of such incidents in our schools. Over the past few weeks, we have witnessed several deeply troubling events that must never be allowed to happen again," he said.

Anderson stressed that responsibility for prevention begins at home, with parents playing a central role in shaping their children's emotional and moral development from an early age.

"Parents must work hard to stay engaged with their children's lives and continue to help them manage emotions, challenges and life transitions, even though teenagers often withdraw during this stage of life."

He also called for stronger communication and trust between students, teachers and parents within schools, especially on issues of child safety and protection.

"Policies on child protection must not only be adopted but effectively implemented to ensure our schools remain safe and supportive spaces for all children."

Anderson further warned of the growing influence of social media and online gaming on youth behaviour, urging parents to remain vigilant and involved in their children's digital lives.

He said while the extent of social media and gaming influences in this recent incident is not yet clear, parents must be cautious when granting access to devices, online games and social platforms.

"The internet contains vast amounts of unregulated and harmful content that can shape young minds in negative ways.

"Without consistent, caring guidance and strong moral support, young people risk becoming isolated and vulnerable to negative influences during the critical years of development."

Quiet return to school after fatal stabbing

BY **KIRTINEE RAMESH**
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PETALING JAYA: Classes resumed at SMK Bandar Utama Damansara 4 yesterday morning, one day after a 16-year-old student was fatally stabbed on the school grounds — an incident that has left the whole nation reeling in grief and disbelief.

The usually lively compound was noticeably subdued with fewer than a hundred students seen entering by 7am.

Teachers greeted them at the entrance with faint smiles while a bouquet of white flowers seen placed at the school gate served as a quiet gesture of remembrance.

A parent, who wished to be known only as Amin, said the tragedy had deeply shaken parents and students alike.

"The school didn't tell anyone to stay home, so classes went on as normal," he said.

"My son wasn't in the same class as the boy but as a parent, of course I'm scared. Anything could happen."

He said his son had been sitting for an exam when the incident occurred.

"He told me he heard someone scream, then looked out and saw what had happened. He was just about to hand in his paper," Amin recalled.

"Now the exams have been postponed. His mother kept asking this morning if he really wanted to go to school, and he said he would go."

A Form Five student said he returned to school today "just to be present".

"We all knew her by face even if not close. It's really sad — it happened in our own school," he said.

He added that the Form Five graduation ceremony, scheduled to take place soon has been postponed.

"What should have been a happy farewell has turned into one of sorrow and disbelief. I'm still in shock. It feels unreal that something so tragic could happen within the walls of our own school."

A video that circulated online after the incident showed a terrified student who claimed the suspect had entered her classroom earlier when no teacher was present, leaving her shaken.

The fatal attack took place on Tuesday when a 16-year-old Form Three student was allegedly stabbed to death by a 14-year-old Form One student inside the school compound at 9.30am.

Police later arrested the suspect, who was reportedly armed with a knife.



Security presence at the school yesterday as the community grapples with the tragedy that claimed a student's life. – ***ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN***



Billions allocated to improve housing landscape

Measures under Budget 2026 address homeownership challenges, promote urban equity: Real estate economist

BY **QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI**
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PETALING JAYA: Efforts to uplift Malaysia's housing landscape are gathering pace under Budget 2026, with billions allocated to upgrade government quarters, expand housing access for young and contract civil servants, and improve public facilities in Kuala Lumpur.

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia real estate economist Dr Muhammad Najib Razali said these measures not only address homeownership challenges, but also strengthen community wellbeing and promote greater urban equity.

He said the government's latest housing initiatives, including a RM2.2 billion allocation to refurbish civil servant quarters, expand loan guarantees and enhance youth-friendly financing schemes, aim to improve living standards and raise urban liveability.

"By investing in dignified living spaces, especially in urban centres or hardship areas, the government affirms the importance of the civil service and ensures living conditions match professional expectations.

"This also serves as long-term compensation that could reduce financial strain on public workers, particularly those who are just starting their careers or posted far from home."

He also said raising the Public Sector Home Financing Board financing limit to "RM1 million and extending youth housing schemes would help young civil servants purchase homes amid rising property prices.

He added that the move gives young professionals more flexibility to buy quality homes near urban centres or transport hubs, encouraging early homeownership and improving financial stability, although its success depends on ensuring sufficient affordable housing supply.

"While expanded financing schemes improve access to homeownership, they also risk driving up prices in the affordable segment if not balanced with supply-side measures. Increased demand without matching supply could inflate prices, making 'affordable' housing less affordable."

He urged the government to back these initiatives with strong planning frameworks, fast-track approvals and firm enforcement of price ceilings in affordable projects.

"Affordable housing must be protected not just through subsidies, but also by addressing root socioeconomic factors such as wage growth, cost of living and regional disparities. Only by uplifting living standards alongside housing access can Malaysia realise its high-income vision."

He said extending similar schemes to private-sector workers is fair and necessary because while civil servants benefit from the Public Sector Home Financing Board and other support, most Malaysians work in the private sector and face equal or greater hurdles in buying homes.

He proposed rent-to-own arrangements, shared equity housing or expanded loan guarantees for low and middle-income private sector workers, especially those in urban, informal and gig economy roles.

"Ensuring housing access across all employment sectors is key to narrowing inequality and fulfilling national housing goals."

Budget 2026 also provides Kuala Lumpur City Hall with RM500 million to upgrade hawker centres, markets and People's Housing Project facilities.

Muhammad Najib said this would benefit small businesses and improve food safety.

He added that upgrades to People's Housing Project flats, such as safer lifts, cleaner surroundings and better lighting, would help reduce urban decay and strengthen community pride.

"Improving public housing and hawker centres could raise nearby property values and attract investors.

"Cleaner, safer areas make neighbourhoods more appealing and boost confidence among residents and businesses.

"However, rising property prices must be managed carefully to prevent long-time residents or traders from being priced out. Keeping housing truly affordable is key to inclusive growth."

Muhammad Najib welcomed the RM300 million allocation to upgrade People's Housing Project flats, calling it a good start to fix critical issues, such as faulty lifts, wiring and plumbing.

"Without a sustainable system, buildings could fall into disrepair again once the initial funds are used up."

'Rising cost of living outpacing financial aid'

BY **T.C. KHOR**
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PETALING JAYA: The Penang Hindu Association has warned that Budget 2026's cash handouts and targeted subsidies are losing their punch as the cost of living continues to outpace financial aid.

Its president Datuk P. Murugiah said while programmes such as Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah, Sumbangan Asas Rahmah and the Budi95 fuel subsidy remain in place, their real value has shrunk.

"The handout amounts have not increased in line with rising prices. With inflation expected at 3% to 3.5% next year, what RM100 buys today would be less tomorrow. The amount stays the same, but everything costs more.

"Many elderly people continue to face neglect or lack proper retirement support. Even with the Senior Citizens Fund, capacity must be increased to meet demand," he said.

He added that B40 families are struggling to make ends meet despite the aid.

Murugiah said tax incentives in Budget 2026, such as the RM4,000 EPF matching grant and stamp-duty exemptions, benefit only those with savings or plans to buy property.

"These measures do not help the poorest households because they simply do not qualify," he said.

He urged the government to review subsidy amounts annually to keep pace with inflation and ensure constituency funds are used transparently and reach those in need.

Murugiah called for a stronger social security scheme covering informal workers through a pension-style model, as well as free electricity for eligible households via rooftop solar installations under the Solar for Rakyat programme.

NGOs bemoan lack of funds for animal welfare in Budget 2026

BY **KIRTINEE RAMESH**
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PETALING JAYA: Animal welfare organisations have raised concern over the repeated omission of allocations for stray management and welfare in successive budgets, saying the continued oversight risks undermining efforts to improve public health and safety.

Persatuan Haiwan Terbiar Malaysia president Kalaivanan Ravichandran said the lack of dedicated funding reflects the government's continued under-recognition of animal welfare as a national responsibility.

"Stray animal management and welfare are matters of public health, road safety and community responsibility.

"Every year, NGOs and volunteers shoulder the full burden of rescuing and caring for thousands of strays, often without any government assistance. The absence of a budget allocation once again leaves these efforts unsupported and unsustainable."

He said animal welfare continues to be treated as a secondary issue despite its clear links to disease control, road collisions and disaster response.

"Issues such as rabies control, road crashes involving strays and post-disaster animal rescue are intertwined with public health and safety. As long as animal welfare is viewed purely as an NGO responsibility, Malaysia would continue to face preventable problems."

The association is urging the government to establish an official Animal Welfare Fund under the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry or in collaboration with the Veterinary Services Department.



Kalaivanan said with proper policy support, Malaysia could build a humane and sustainable model for stray management that protects both people and animals. – ***MASRY CHE ANI/THESUN***

He said such a fund would provide consistent and transparent support for key programmes, including large-scale trap–neuter–release (TNR) operations, shelter aid, veterinary care and disaster response.

"A formal fund would bring structure, accountability and long-term continuity, something *ad hoc* grants or corporate social responsibility donations cannot achieve," he said.

He added that an annual allocation of between RM20 million and RM30 million would be a practical start for coordinated programmes, such as a Stray Animal Healthcare Fund, shelter support and an Animal Disaster Response Unit.

"What matters most is that animal welfare finally receives its own line in the federal budget, recognising it as a legitimate public concern."

Before the budget announcement, the association had outlined a seven-point wish list, which included a nationwide TNR programme, a Stray Animal Healthcare Fund, shelter grants for NGOs, an Animal Disaster Response Unit, stronger enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act 2015, regulated feeding stations and a national pet registration system.

Kalaivanan said these measures would not only protect animals but also improve public health, road safety and disaster preparedness while promoting shared responsibility between citizens and the state.

"Animal welfare reflects a nation's values and compassion. How we treat the most vulnerable shows who we are as a society. With proper policy support, Malaysia could build a humane and sustainable model for stray management that protects both people and animals."

Malaysian Animal Welfare Association founder Mukunnan Sugumaran echoed the concern, saying the omission reflects gaps within the responsible ministry.

"The Agriculture and Food Security Ministry, which oversees the Veterinary Services Department, has failed to look at the full ecosystem needs," he said.

"The department has long claimed to be under-resourced, and without a budget allocation, the situation would only worsen. Their ability to investigate cruelty cases and uplift capabilities would remain limited."

He also called for a review of the Act, describing it as outdated and full of loopholes.

"The Act does not even cover the welfare of homeless or stray animals. A new team with real on-ground understanding is needed to draft an effective and compassionate policy."

He added that NGOs and activists should work more closely with authorities to raise awareness and educate younger generations about animal welfare.

"Malaysia should move towards a no-kill policy. If trap–neuter–release–manage is not ideal, then local councils should allocate land to house strays under NGO management, with adoption as a key priority," he said.

Officers under probe removed from duties

KUALA LUMPUR: Five senior Armed Forces officers arrested by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) in August for allegedly leaking military operational information to smugglers have been removed from operational duties.

Defence Deputy Minister Adly Zahari said the officers are assigned to their respective administrative headquarters pending probes by the Armed Forces and relevant authorities.

"We are firm in ensuring the investigation is conducted fairly. If they are found guilty, legal action would be taken because our priority is integrity. However, if proven innocent, they would be reinstated to operational duties," he said during question time in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He was responding to a question from Datuk Khlir Mohd Nor (PN-Ketereh) on the Defence Ministry's damage control measures to restore public confidence following media reports about the sale of the country's tactical security information by Armed Forces officers to external parties.

Adly said the ministry is fully cooperating with authorities and has established an internal investigation board to look into the alleged information leaks.

"The ministry continues to emphasise security awareness, strengthen integrity units across all formations and services, and enhance education programmes on security, ethics and integrity among Armed Forces personnel." –Bernama

Neglected motorcycle lanes endanger riders on highway

Debris, potholes, water puddles increase risk of collisions: Motorcyclist

BY **IKHWAN ZULKAFLEE**
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PETALING JAYA: Motorcycle lanes along the Federal Highway, once hailed as a model for rider safety, have become stretches that many motorcyclists avoid, citing potholes, flooding, poor lighting and crime risks that make them more dangerous than the main roads.



Although motorcyclists risk being fined for riding on major roads, many believe it is the lesser of two evils compared with the dangers of motorcycle lanes. – ***ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN***

Despite being designed to protect riders, the decades-old lanes are now plagued with neglect, forcing many to risk their lives by travelling on major roads alongside larger vehicles.

A Petaling Jaya-based executive Sakti Ganesh, 32, said debris, such as fallen branches or rubbish, could easily cause collisions and endanger riders.

"Sometimes, twigs or branches fall onto the lane. It may seem minor, but hitting them at speed could cause a bad crash."

He added that the lanes' poor condition, riddled with potholes and puddles after a downpour, makes riding risky even for experienced motorcyclists.

"It is risky to speed through these lanes as crashes could happen easily," he said.

Other hazards include poorly lit tunnels and stretches with no streetlights, raising concerns about visibility and crime.

"There have even been cases in which riders were robbed while using the motorcycle lanes," added Sakti.

Motorcyclist Rais Zulfahmi, 25, said the lack of sufficient exits along the lanes often forces riders to use the main carriageway for convenience.

"There are not enough exits close to where we want to go.

"That is why some of us choose regular roads," he said.

Although motorcyclists risk being fined for riding on the main roads, many believe it is the lesser of two evils compared with the dangers of the motorcycle lanes.

Muhammad Norazam Md Suri, 44, who works at KL International Airport, said safety concerns often outweigh the fear of enforcement.

"The lanes are sometimes slippery and at night they are completely dark.

"After 8pm, I never use the motorcycle lanes, I just stick to the main road," he said.

The motorcycle lanes along the Federal Highway, connecting Kuala Lumpur and Klang, were completed in 1974, making Malaysia one of the first countries to incorporate such lanes on a major highway.

They were designed to separate motorcycles from larger vehicles, reducing collisions and improving traffic flow.

However, decades of poor maintenance have turned them into collision-prone stretches.

Common complaints include potholes, flooding, debris and poor drainage, all of which make riding uncomfortable and hazardous, particularly during peak hours or bad weather.

A persistent lack of lighting, especially in tunnel sections, has worsened the problem.

Riders say the darkness not only increases the risk of crashes, but also exposes them to robbery and assault.

Expand access to influenza vaccine, urges pharmacists society

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Pharmacists Society (MPS) has proposed that access to the influenza vaccine be expanded nationwide and trained pharmacists be given full authority to implement community vaccination programmes.

It said the move is to curb the increase in infection cases in schools and reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments.

Its president Prof Amrahi Buang said the initiative is important to protect high-risk groups, maintain continuity of teaching in schools and ensure the health system remains resilient in the face of a surge in infectious disease cases.

"We could ease pressure on our emergency departments while protecting those most at risk.

"By fully authorising trained pharmacists as vaccination providers, working alongside our medical and nursing colleagues, and routing mild influenza-like illness to primary care, we add capacity where Malaysians live and work, without compromising safety."

MPS recommended that trained community pharmacists be given continued authorisation to administer adult vaccines, in accordance with the standards and SOPs of the Health Ministry.

It also recommended the implementation of a test-to-treat primary care initiative, as well as the issuance of standard school circulars on symptom screening, wearing of face masks when symptomatic, ventilation and a 24-hour fever-free period before returning to school.

It said such measures are part of a broader strategy of long-term prevention.

"More vaccination points in the community, consistent school protections and one safety standard for anyone who vaccinates. These are practical steps we could maintain beyond this wave so that families get timely protection and hospitals stay available for emergencies," he said.

According to MPS, these measures have been implemented in several regional countries.

For example, Singapore launched an influenza vaccination initiative by community pharmacists in 2024, and as of July more than 1,200 individuals have received the vaccine at retail pharmacies.

In the Philippines, pharmacists are legally authorised to administer adult vaccines, including influenza and pneumococcal, under the Philippine Pharmacy Act (RA 10918).

MPS also urged the government to publish weekly dashboards on vaccination rates, influenza clusters and severe acute respiratory infections to assist in the effective distribution of public information and management of health resources. – Bernama

Government slammed over poor upkeep of designated roads

PETALING JAYA: National Road Safety Council member Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye has taken the government to task over what he calls its "shocking neglect" of motorcycle lanes along the Federal Highway, warning that poor maintenance and lighting have turned the very lanes meant to protect riders into potential death traps.

He said the problem of motorcyclists avoiding dedicated lanes is not new, yet it remains unresolved due to inadequate upkeep and poor lighting despite repeated public complaints.

"This has been a long-standing issue. It is not true that all motorcyclists avoid using the motorcycle lanes, but it is true that most do, and their main reason is safety," he told *theSun*.

He said motorcyclists have often cited poor visibility, potholes and debris as reasons for choosing to ride on the main carriageways instead of the motorcycle lanes.

"There is a lot of darkness, especially at night. The lanes are not properly lit and there are pothole issues too. It is not safe.

"Frankly speaking, there is no point having a special lane if the authorities are not giving enough attention to its maintenance," he added.

The former parliamentarian noted that while some riders may genuinely fear for their safety, others could be using these shortcomings as a convenient excuse to travel on smoother, better-maintained main roads alongside larger vehicles.

"Some prefer the main lanes because the roads are smoother and better paved. But they must understand it is not safe for them. Motorcyles are two-wheelers and the slightest crash could cost the rider serious injury or even death."

He urged authorities to determine whether poor maintenance is discouraging motorcyclists from using the dedicated lanes.

"Authorities must get down to the ground and find out. If the lack of maintenance is a legitimate concern, then it must be addressed immediately. You cannot expect people to use a facility that is dangerous."

Lee also lamented Malaysia's long-standing "no-maintenance culture", calling it a systemic failure that extends beyond roads to public amenities and infrastructure.

"This poor or no-maintenance culture has existed for years. It is shocking to hear some local authorities say they do not have the budget for maintenance. Surely when they draw up their annual budgets, they should factor in the cost of maintaining existing infrastructure," he said.

He added that motorcyclists who refuse to use the designated lanes also pose risks to other road users, stressing the need for stricter enforcement.

"Traffic police need to enforce this. If there are dedicated lanes, then they should be used. But often, enforcement is lacking because there is no clear instruction from the top."

Lee also called on the Public Works Department and local authorities to take responsibility for the upkeep of the motorcycle lanes, which were built specifically to reduce collisions and fatalities among riders.

"Surely when these lanes were built, they were handed over to the relevant authorities for upkeep. So, why is nobody taking responsibility now?

"If nothing is done, these lanes would remain unsafe and unused. The government must stop wasting resources and start maintaining what is already built. It is high time we changed our no-maintenance culture." – *By* ***IKHWAN ZULKAFLEE***

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Deepavali prosperity shines via *vilakku*

Local company offers polishing, restoration services for traditional lamps



Letchumi arranging *vilakku* sent in by customers and lighting *thiri* after completing the day's polishing process. – ***BERNAMAPIC***

IPOH: Celebrating Deepavali, or the Festival of Lights, is not just about the victory of good over evil, but an act that focuses on aspects of cleanliness, prosperity and self-discipline.

These aspects are manifested through the glow of the *vilakku* (light), a traditional oil lamp, which for the Indian community is not just a decoration but an item that carries deep meaning.

As such, each time the festival approaches, the copper or brass lamp is essential and it must be polished to shine brightly.

Cleanstant Metal Polishing director K. Letchumi Devi, 69, who runs a traditional lamp repair and polishing service, said the lamp is considered an object that absorbs positive energy during religious ceremonies.

She said a polished lamp not only reflects the meticulous care and discipline of its owner, but also symbolises the readiness to receive prosperity and joy, while emphasising that Deepavali is a time to welcome the good things in life.

"Deepavali is like celebrating prosperity, your health and making your life bright. It is about life and happiness," she told Bernama recently.

She also said shiny lamps signify care towards tradition and culture, adding that there are various types of *vilakku*, including the *kamachi vilakku* (often placed in prayer rooms) and *man vilakku* (clay lamps).

She added that the multi-layered or multi-level lamp is also very popular because it is believed to symbolise multiple prosperity.

Cleanstat co-director B. Kanishen, 40, who is Letchumi's youngest son said there are no requirements regarding the cleanliness of the lamp itself, but it is better if it is polished.

He said the company, which began operations in 2015, offers polishing and restoration services for copper and brass using industrial-grade technology, adding that it also offers gold-plating services that provide a longer lifespan for the lamps.

"Apart from the shine, in terms of energy vibrations, we believe it absorbs energy faster," he said, adding that the prices start from as low as RM60 to thousands of ringgit, depending on the size of the item.

Kanishen said apart from the service of restoring old lamps, which the Indian community is reluctant to dispose of due to their spiritual significance, the company also produces products that have been patented.

He said more than 40,000 units of *thiri* (copper wick) holders have been sold since August last year.

"The *thiri* holder elevates the wick so that it does not touch the base of the lamp, thus preventing damage and darkening of the body (structure) of the lamp, especially the clay lamps.

"Other newly launched products include the *thiri* adjuster, a tool that allows users to adjust the wick without having to extinguish the flame."

He added that demand for polishing services at Cleanstant, which operates in Ipoh, Subang Jaya and Johor Bahru, would usually increase by about 50% ahead of major festivals such as Deepavali and Ponggal.

He also said the sale of patented products, such as the *thiri* holders, was stable throughout the year with an average of 150 to 250 units sold per day, adding that there is also demand for their services from Singapore, the United States and Australia.

Kanishen said his company is optimistic about continuing to grow, as many people are still unaware of the special services offered by the company.



Volcano spews ash 10km into the sky

JAKARTA: Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki erupted yesterday, shooting volcanic ash 10km into the sky, forcing authorities to raise the alert system to its highest level.

Located in East Nusa Tenggara province, the volcano erupted at 1.35am local time (2.35am in Malaysia) for around nine minutes, the Geological Agency said.

Late on Tuesday, the agency raised its alert level to the highest point after recording "significant rising of the volcano's activities" since Monday, its head, Muhammad Wafid, said.

"People living near the volcano should be aware of the potential volcanic mudflow if heavy rain occurs," Wafid said, adding that people should clear a 6-7km area around the site.

The volcano last erupted in August. It also erupted in July, causing flight disruptions to and from Bali.

Dozens of people living in villages nearest to the volcano were evacuated after the eruptions, according to Avelina Manggota Hallan, an official at the local disaster mitigation agency.

Most of the residents left their villages after Lewotobi Laki-laki's major eruption, which killed 10 people and damaged thousands of houses in November last year, Hallan said. – Reuters

ICC prosecutor barred from Duterte case

Court cites possible conflict of interest

THE HAGUE: International Criminal Court (ICC) appeals judges have disqualified chief prosecutor Karim Khan from the war crimes case against former Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte due to a possible conflict of interest, according to a copy of the decision seen by Reuters.

The ruling is yet another major blow to Khan, who stepped aside in May amid a UN inquiry into his alleged sexual misconduct.

He has now also been barred from taking part in the Duterte prosecution, the only major active case pending at the court, which is already reeling under US-imposed sanctions.

In August, Duterte's defence sought to disqualify Khan, arguing that his involvement in communications to the court from victims of Duterte's war on drugs was a conflict of interest.



Second blow for Khan. – ***REUTERSPIC***

The defence said Khan should have no further role in the case because he represented the Philippines Human Rights Commission (PHRC) in naming Duterte as a top suspect and could therefore not conduct an impartial investigation, a copy of the ruling seen by Reuters said.

Khan had asked the panel of judges to reject the defence request, saying there was "no conflict of interest arising from his representation of the chair of the PHRC and a group of victims in relation to" communications with the ICC.

The Appeals Chamber on Oct 2 granted the defence's request, saying in a decision that has not yet been made public that Khan might appear to be biased due to his previous role and so was disqualified from the case.

The ICC office of the prosecutor did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Duterte, in office from 2016 to 2022, was arrested and taken to The Hague in March on an arrest warrant that linked him to murders committed during his war on drugs in the Philippines, where thousands of alleged narcotics peddlers and users were killed.

He has maintained his arrest was unlawful and tantamount to kidnapping.

The case of the former Philippines president, who is 80 and whose lawyers say he is unfit to stand trial, is being handled by deputy prosecutor Mame Mandiaye Niang, who also faces sanctions by Washington due to the court's investigation into alleged war crimes by Israel in Gaza.

ICC judges issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, former Israeli defence chief Yoav Gallant, and Hamas leader Ibrahim al-Masri last November for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity during the Gaza conflict.

In August, Khan was ordered by judges to recuse himself from an investigation into Venezuela, ruling that his sister-in-law's role as a criminal lawyer representing the government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro was a potential conflict of interest.

In the inquiry into alleged sexual misconduct, Khan's attorneys have denied all allegations of wrongdoing. – Reuters

Nvidia chips probe widens

SAN FRANCISCO: Republican Senator Tom Cotton has asked the Commerce Department to investigate Singapore-based Megaspeed for allegedly diverting Nvidia chips used for artificial intelligence, according to a letter seen by Reuters.

The letter cites an October report in *The New York Times* that detailed the alleged diversion of Nvidia chips by Megaspeed, a cloud computing company.

According to the report, Megaspeed funnelled Nvidia chips to Malaysia and Indonesia that appeared to serve customers in China remotely.

Megaspeed did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Singapore police said on Tuesday that "investigations are ongoing into Megaspeed for suspected breaches of our domestic laws".

A Nvidia spokesperson said it had engaged with the US government regarding Megaspeed, performed its own inquiry, and had not identified any reason to believe products had been diverted.

The US has blocked high-end AI chips from export to China due to national security concerns.

In July, Reuters reported that demand for repairs of banned Nvidia products boomed, which was also cited by Cotton in his letter. Reuters reported last year that China had obtained high-end Nvidia AI chips in spite of a ban.

"As the Trump administration recently indicated, export controls are an important tool as he navigates America through perilous times against an increasingly aggressive and emboldened adversary," Cotton wrote.

"The pervasiveness of chip smuggling undermines the president and allows US adversaries access to advanced technology where the US maintains significant leverage."

Cotton said he would continue to work with Trump to curb illegal diversions of US chips. His letter was addressed to Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

Cotton previously introduced legislation that would require location verification of chips after they are sold. Last week, Trump unveiled levies of 100% on China's US-bound exports and new export controls on "any and all critical software" by Nov 1. – Reuters



TENDER LOVING CARE ... An Indonesian student recovering at a makeshift clinic after suffering from food poisoning at his school in Bandung, West Java, on Tuesday. Some families of affected students have urged for the flagship free meals programme to be suspended. Cases of food poisoning spiked last week in Bandung. – ***AFPPIC***

New Singapore commission to block harmful online content

SINGAPORE: The city-state will introduce a new online safety commission with powers to order social media platforms to block harmful posts, according to a new Bill that was tabled in parliament yesterday.

The new law comes after researchers from the Infocomm Media Development Authority found in February that more than half of legitimate user complaints about harmful posts relating to issues like child abuse and cyber-bullying had not been immediately addressed.

The new commission will be empowered under a new law to address local user reports of harms like online harassment, doxxing, online stalking, the abuse of intimate images and child pornography by the end of the first half of next year.

It will also have powers to direct social media platforms to restrict access to harmful material within Singapore, give victims a right to reply, and ban perpetrators from accessing their platform.

The commission will also be able to order internet service providers to block access to specific online locations, such as group pages or even a social media platform's website.

More harms, including the non-consensual disclosure of private information and "the incitement of enmity", will be introduced over stages following the initial launch.

The new commission will be set up under a new online safety bill that was introduced to lawmakers yesterday.

It will be debated at the next available session of parliament.

The setting up of an online safety commission was first mooted during the Ministry of Digital Development and Information's budget debate in March.

"More often than not, platforms fail to take action to remove genuinely harmful content reported to them by victims," said Digital Development and Information Minister Josephine Teo.

The government recently targeted Meta with the first order issued under the nation's new Online Criminal Harms Act, which came into force in February last year.

In September, the Home Affairs Ministry threatened Meta with a fine of up to S$1 million (RM3.26 million) and fines of up to S$100,000 per day after the end of the month if it failed to introduce measures like facial recognition to curb impersonation scams on Facebook.

The Home Affairs Ministry could not be reached to confirm if Meta complied with the order. – Reuters

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‘1,000 South Koreans working in scam centres’

SEOUL: About 1,000 South Koreans are believed to be working in online scam operations in Cambodia, Seoul said yesterday, with the country shaken by the torture and killing of a college student.

South Korea will send a special team to Cambodia to discuss cases of fake jobs and scam centres involved in kidnapping dozens of its nationals.

“It is believed that around 200,000 people of various nationalities are working in Cambodia’s scam industry, which targets victims worldwide, including in South Korea,” said National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac.

“A considerable number of South Koreans are also thought to be employed there. While the exact figure is difficult to verify, domestic authorities generally estimate the number at around 1,000.”

Seoul has said 63 South Koreans were believed to have been detained by authorities in Cambodia, who were among 80 reported missing. The government was “committed to bringing all South Korean nationals home”, Wi said.

“We are arranging a flight to bring them home ... We aim to complete this by the end of the week,” he said.

Of the 63 detained, there were both “voluntary and involuntary participants” in the scam operations, Wi said.

“Most of them should be regarded as having committed criminal acts,” he said.

Some 330 South Koreans had been reported missing or detained against their will in Cambodia between January and August, according to Seoul’s Foreign Ministry, before that number was whittled down to 80.

The government plans to make every diplomatic effort to secure Cambodia’s cooperation. – AFP

Civilians, troops killed in Pakistan border clashes

SPIN BOLDAK: Fifteen civilians were killed and dozens wounded in fresh clashes on Tuesday night at the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Clashes broke out in the southern Afghan district of Spin Boldak, according to Ali Mohammad Haqmal, spokesman for the local information department, who said 15 civilians had been killed.

The toll was confirmed by Abdul Jan Barak, an official at the Spin Boldak district hospital, who said more than 80 women and children had been wounded.

Afghan government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid accused Pakistani forces of carrying out attacks in Spin Boldak district.

Mujahid said in a statement that 12 civilians were killed and 100 others injured. The statement did not mention any casualties among security forces.

But it did say calm had returned to the area after Pakistani soldiers were killed and posts and weapons seized.

All businesses in the area are closed and many residents have fled, an AFP correspondent reported.

Pakistan did not immediately comment, but security sources said they had targeted Afghan positions from Kurram district, further north than Spin Boldak. – AFP

US indicts Cambodian tycoon

Accused of US$15b crypto scam empire

WASHINGTON: US authorities on Tuesday unsealed an indictment against Chen Zhi, a UK-Cambodian businessman accused of running forced labour camps in Cambodia where trafficked workers carried out cryptocurrency fraud schemes that netted billions of dollars.

The 37-year-old, known as Vincent, founded Prince Holding Group, a conglomerate that authorities say served as a front for “one of Asia’s largest transnational criminal organisations”, according to the US Department of Justice.

The Justice Department also filed the largest forfeiture action in its history, seizing approximately 127,271 Bitcoin worth around US$15 billion (RM63.4 billion) at current prices.

“Today’s action represents one of the most significant strikes ever against the global scourge of human trafficking and cyber-enabled financial fraud,” said Attorney General Pam Bondi.

Chen allegedly directed operations of forced labour compounds across Cambodia where hundreds of trafficked workers were held in prison-like facilities surrounded by high walls and barbed wire.

Under threat of violence, they were forced to execute so-called “pig butchering” scams – cryptocurrency investment schemes that build trust with victims over time before stealing their funds.

The schemes targeted victims worldwide, causing billions in losses.

Scam centres across Cambodia, Myanmar and the region use fake job ads to attract foreign nationals, many of them Chinese, to purpose-built compounds, where they are forced to carry out online fraud under threat of torture.

Since around 2015, Prince Group has operated across more than 30 countries under the guise of legitimate real estate, financial services and consumer businesses, prosecutors said.

Chen and top executives allegedly used political influence and bribed officials in multiple countries to protect the operation.

Proceeds were laundered in part through the Prince Group’s own gambling and cryptocurrency mining operations.

The stolen funds financed luxury purchases including watches, yachts, private jets, vacation homes and a Picasso painting bought at a New York auction house, authorities said.



Motorists ride past a branch of the Prince Bank in Phnom Penh. – ***AFPPIC***

Chen faces up to 40 years in prison if convicted on wire fraud and money laundering conspiracy charges.

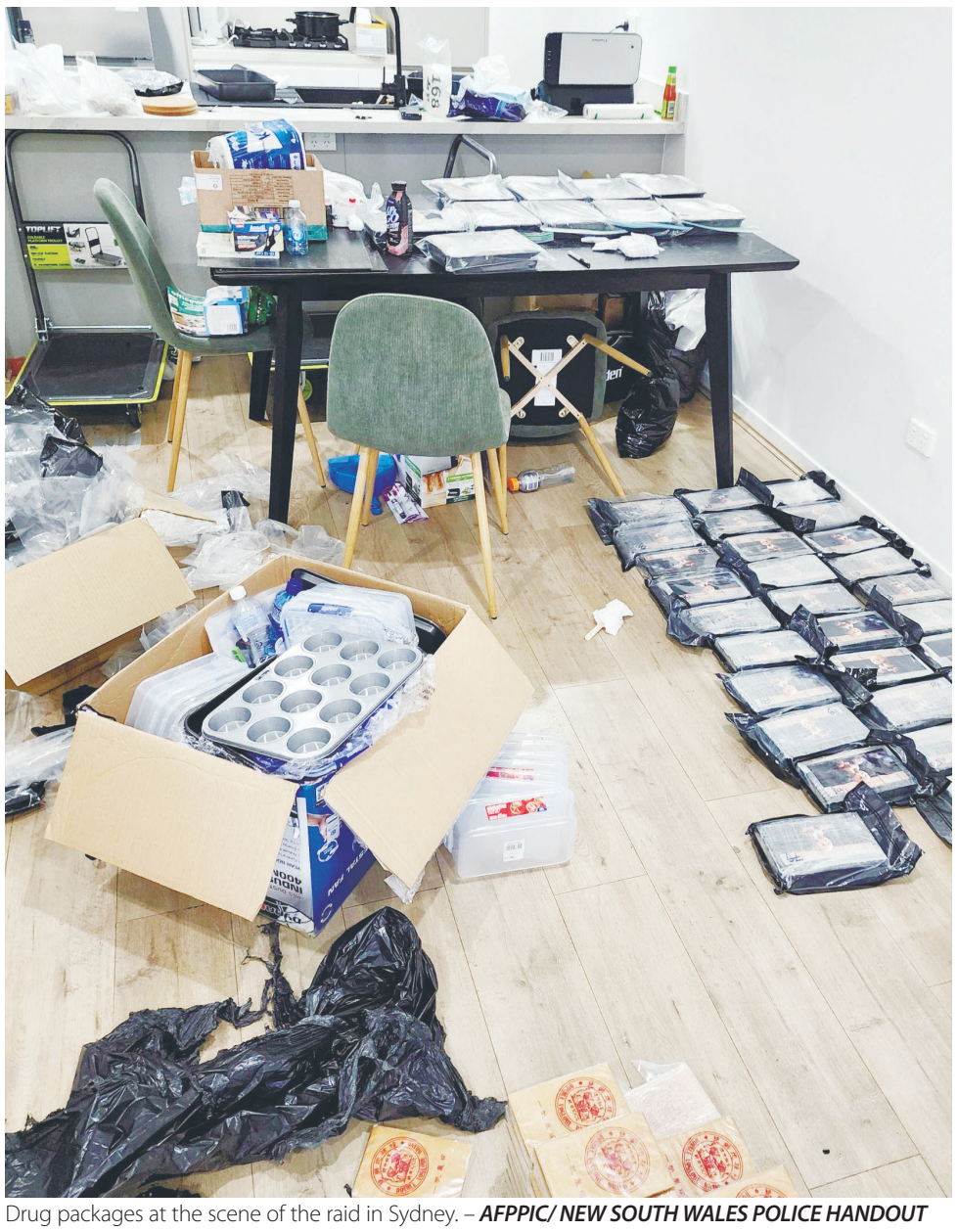
In coordinated action, British authorities on Tuesday froze 19 London properties worth over £100 million (RM564 million) linked to Chen’s network, including a £12 million mansion in North London.

The sanctions also target Chen’s associate Qiu Wei Ren, a Chinese national with Cambodian, Cypriot and Hong Kong citizenship.

An AFP investigation on Tuesday found that scam centres in neighbouring Myanmar were expanding rapidly just months after a crackdown there.

China, Thailand and Myanmar forced pro-government Myanmar militias who protect the centres to promise to shutter the compounds in February, freeing around 7,000 people – most of them Chinese citizens.

But the brutal call centre-style system is flourishing again in Myanmar, now using Elon Musk’s Starlink satellite system for internet access. – AFP


Drug packages at the scene of the raid in Sydney. – ***AFPPIC/ NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE HANDOUT***

Drugs, guns seized in Sydney ‘kill team’ raid

SYDNEY: Australian police said yesterday they had seized drugs worth US$170 million (RM718 million) and guns in a raid on a group likely linked to an attempted organised crime hit near a Sydney daycare facility last week.

New South Wales police last week said they had foiled an attempted murder by a so-called “kill team” and arrested three men involved.

Police said yesterday they had taken possession of some 400kg of drugs in a major bust targeting a transnational criminal syndicate they said was likely linked to that foiled hit.

Detectives found vacuum-sealed bricks of methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin stuffed inside duffel bags and stashed at Sydney safe houses.

They estimated the haul had a street value of US$170 million.

Police said the raids were part of a broader operation to dismantle a “transnational network believed to be run out of Southeast Asia”.

Organised Crime Squad Commander Peter Faux told local media the syndicate was “highly likely” linked to last week’s attempted killing.

“We believe highly likely there are some links between certain entities around that incident that occurred last week,” he said.

Faux also said there were “potentially some links” to the abduction and killing in April of a Sydney mother over her husband’s alleged connections to a Vietnamese-linked organised crime network.

Supplied police images yesterday showed a squad of armed officers searching one of the hideouts.

Sealed drug packages littered the floor, emblazoned with a picture of a cartoon bear made famous in the 2012 Mark Wahlberg comedy “Ted”.

Another bag featured red Chinese characters reading “smooth sailing”.

They also seized three pistols and more than 300 rounds of ammo.

Three men aged between 19 and 26 were arrested and charged with a raft of drug supply offences. – AFP


Trucks carry aid for Palestinians in Khan Younis on Tuesday. – ***REUTERSPIC***

Aid trucks roll into Gaza

Hamas continues crackdown on gangs

CAIRO: Aid trucks rolled into Gaza yesterday and Israel resumed preparations to open the main Rafah crossing after a dispute over the return of the bodies of dead hostages that had threatened to derail the fragile ceasefire deal with Hamas.

Israel had threatened to keep Rafah shut and reduce aid supplies because Hamas was returning bodies too slowly, showing the risks to a truce that has stopped two years of devastating warfare in Gaza and freed all living hostages.

However, the group returned more Israeli bodies overnight, and an Israeli security official said yesterday preparations were under way to open Rafah to Gazan citizens, while a second official said that 600 aid trucks would go in.

Hamas returned four bodies confirmed as dead hostages on Monday and another four bodies late on Tuesday, though Israeli authorities said one of those bodies was not that of a hostage.

The dispute over the return of bodies still has the potential to upset the ceasefire deal along with other major unresolved issues.

Later phases of the truce call for Hamas to disarm and cede power, which it has so far refused to do. It has launched a security crackdown, parading its power in Gaza through public executions.

Longer-term elements of the ceasefire plan including how Gaza will be governed, the make-up of an international force to take over there and moves towards the creation of a Palestinian state have yet to emerge.

Twenty-one bodies of hostages remain in Gaza, though some may be very hard to find or recover because of destruction during the conflict. An international task force is meant to find them.

The deal also requires Israel to return the bodies of 360 gunmen killed in battle. The first group of 45 was handed over on Tuesday.

Reuters video showed a first group of trucks moving from the Egyptian side of the border into the Rafah crossing at dawn yesterday, some tankers carrying fuel and others loaded with pallets of aid.

However, it was not clear if that convoy would complete its crossing into Gaza as part of the 600 trucks that were due to enter the enclave yesterday – the full daily complement required under the ceasefire plan. Aid trucks entered Gaza through other crossings.

"Humanitarian aid continues to enter the Gaza Strip through the Kerem Shalom Crossing and other crossings after Israeli security inspection," the Israeli security official said.

Israel's public broadcaster Kan reported aid deliveries would include food, medical supplies, fuel, cooking gas and equipment to repair vital infrastructure.

Underscoring the political challenges facing the truce, Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, an opponent of the ceasefire plan, said on X that the aid delivery was a "disgrace".

"Nazi terrorism understands only force, and the only way to solve problems with it is to wipe it off the face of the Earth," he said, accusing Hamas of lies and abuse over the return of hostages' bodies.

Rafah is due to be opened to Palestinian inhabitants of Gaza either entering or exiting the enclave. But Gazans awaiting medical evacuation told Reuters they had not yet received notification from the World Health Organisation to prepare for travel.

Several other Palestinian factions present in Gaza have backed the days-long Hamas security crackdown as it battles local clans that had tried to take over areas of the territory during the conflict.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of the groups backing the crackdown, described the clans being targeted as "hubs of crime".

The ceasefire envisaged Hamas initially restoring order in Gaza and President Donald Trump who brokered the deal endorsed Hamas' crackdown on rival gangs, while warning it would face airstrikes if it did not later disarm.

Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas condemned the public executions after a video showed gunmen shooting dead seven bound, kneeling men.

His office called the killings a crime and a "blatant violation of human rights".

Israeli forces inside Gaza have pulled back to what the truce deal calls a yellow line just outside the main cities. Defence Minister Israel Katz said it would enforce any violation of the line. – Reuters

Israel confirms absence from gymnastics meet

JAKARTA: Israel confirmed it will not take part in the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Jakarta after its athletes were denied visas, with the Israel Gymnastics Federation calling the decision shocking and heartbreaking.

Indonesia said on Friday it had denied visas to Israeli gymnasts amid an outcry over Israel's military offensive in Gaza, costing Israeli athletes a spot in the world championships that start on Sunday.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) confirmed on Tuesday that it had received two appeals submitted by the Israeli federation.

CAS dismissed the first appeal over Indonesia's visa refusal, citing lack of jurisdiction. The second case seeking to compel the International Gymnastics Federation to ensure Israeli participation or move the event remains pending.

The court, however, rejected requests for urgent provisional measures and IGF General Secretary Sarit Shenar confirmed to Reuters on Tuesday that Israel's hopes of participation were over.

"For this world championship, this is the end of the road. So we cannot, no matter what will happen for the gymnasts, we cannot fix their hearts," Shenar said.

"... for the future of world sports, I want to see a very strong decision that leaves no room for such decisions from any kind to any country, to any federation.

"I really hope that the CAS will give a very strong decision that will intimidate anybody that has such crazy ideas to discriminate against any athlete from any country for any reason."

Indonesia decided not to issue visas to the Israeli athletes, senior Legal Affairs Minister Yusril Ihza Mahendra said, citing objections from groups and the local government in Jakarta. – Reuters

Syria president to ask Russia to hand over Assad

DAMASCUS: Syrian interim president Ahmed al-Sharaa will ask Russia to hand over former ruler Bashar al-Assad during his first visit to Moscow, a government official said.

The official, who requested anonymity as they were not allowed to brief the media, told AFP "Sharaa will ask the Russian president to hand over all individuals who committed war crimes and are in Russia, most notably Bashar al-Assad".

The longtime ruler, who was toppled in December, sought refuge in Moscow.

SANA news agency said Sharaa arrived in Russia yesterday for "an official visit to hold talks with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, on bilateral relations between the two countries and regional and international developments of common interest".

The official had told AFP on Tuesday that Sharaa and Putin would also discuss "economic issues related to investment, the status of Russian bases in Syria, and the issue of rearming the new Syrian military".

Russia was a key ally of Assad during the 14-year Syrian civil war.

After providing him with diplomatic support at the UN Security Council, it intervened militarily to support Assad in 2015 with heavy air bombardments of rebel-held areas.

Despite this, Syria's new rulers have sought peaceful relations with Russia. Uncertainty has clouded the fate of Russia's naval base in Tartus and its air base at Hmeimim since Assad's ouster. – AFP

Draft law allows German retirees to earn tax-free

BERLIN: Germany's Cabinet agreed on a draft law yesterday to encourage work after retirement by allowing those who do so to earn up to €2,000 (RM9,841) a month tax-free in an effort to combat labour shortages in Europe's biggest economy.

The change is to take effect next year and is expected to cost the state €890 million per year in lost tax revenues from next year to 2030.

"We are setting further incentives for economic growth in Germany," Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil said.

"For this, business particularly needs older and experienced workers and skilled professionals."

In 2030, Germany's working population will probably have decreased by 6.3 million people from 2010, according to an Interior Ministry demography report.

This will push down gross domestic product (GDP) per person as there will be fewer workers for each retiree.

Economy Minister Katherina Reiche said the number of people of working age is decreasing by around 400,000 per year.

Eligible are employees who are subject to compulsory social insurance and who have passed the standard retirement age of 67.

With the existing obligation to pay social insurance contributions remaining in place, the social system will also benefit from the bonus, the Finance Ministry said. – Reuters

COMMENT by Dr Hafirda Akma Musaddad

Restoring the soul of education

SCHOOLS are meant to be places for learning, character building and the nurturing of humanity. Yet, the reality today is deeply unsettling.

Cases of student stabbings, rape and bullying that injure peers are not just sensational headlines; they are warning signs that our education system is hurting from within.

We are no longer merely talking about academic performance or school rankings but also about the very soul of education that has lost its direction.

When students become perpetrators of crime, teachers suffer under pressure and parents lose faith in educational institutions. We are witnessing not just a disciplinary crisis but also a crisis of values and humanity.

Education in pain

Violence in schools is not an isolated issue. Over the past decade, reports of physical bullying, sexual harassment and serious disciplinary violations have become increasingly frequent.

Unicef's (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) 2020 report on bullying among children found that Malaysia ranked second in Asia (after India) and sixth globally for cyberbullying, with three out of 10 children affected.

According to its U-Report, Unicef revealed that 28% of 7,000 Malaysian children had experienced cyberbullying while an IPSOS 2018 study found that 23% of parents reported their children being bullied.

When schools fail to be safe spaces, the effects ripple far beyond the victims, impacting the entire educational ecosystem. Traumatised students struggle to focus, teachers face mental stress and schools suffer reputational damage. In the long run, this erodes the quality of learning and weakens public trust in the national education system.

Scars on the nation's image and economy

A crisis of values in education is not merely a moral issue; it is also an economic and reputational one. Malaysia has long prided itself on education as the engine of national development.

Yet, when news of student violence circulates internationally, it raises questions about our education system's ability to nurture a disciplined, ethical and knowledgeable generation.

A tarnished education image directly affects foreign investment and global confidence. A country perceived as failing to instil respect, empathy and discipline in its youths risks deterring investors who seek social stability.

On a broader scale, this undermines the government's ambition to build a knowledge-based economy driven by skilled and ethical human capital. At the micro level, school-related crimes have economic costs, medical expenses, lost learning time, social stigma and diminished future opportunities for both victims and perpetrators. Each act of violence in school carries a multiplier effect that extends far beyond the school gates.

Role of every layer of society

Blaming schools or the government alone is not the solution. The truth is that education is a shared responsibility and a national one.

Every tragic incident in schools reflects a collective failure: families that have lost connection, communities that have lost compassion and systems obsessed with numbers but detached from the human spirit.

The Education Ministry must remain the primary guardian of our young generation. Student protection policies must go beyond paperwork; they require firm enforcement and continuous monitoring.

Concrete measures include installing CCTV cameras in high-risk areas such as corridors, toilets and school fields; conducting routine patrols and spot checks by schools and district officers; and providing anti-bullying and emotional safety training for teachers and support staff.



Violence in schools is not an isolated issue. Over the past decade, reports of physical bullying, sexual harassment and serious disciplinary violations have become increasingly frequent. – ***AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN***

Teachers, too, should be trained to read the emotional and physical cues of students under stress or trauma. In today's educational world, emotional intelligence is as vital as intellectual intelligence. Investing in teachers' well-being means investing in students' safety.

The Education Ministry can also establish student protection units in every school, serving as safe reporting channels and rapid response centres for any incidents. Annual school safety audits, including physical and psychosocial, should be made mandatory to assess the overall environment.

Schools must be the first line of prevention. A school is not just a place to study; it is also a community that shapes humanity. Teachers must be empowered to act as mentors and not merely as curriculum deliverers.

Mentorship programmes, counselling sessions and restorative discipline approaches which focus on rehabilitation and accountability rather than punishment can foster empathy, respect and care among students and staff.

Security guards and hostel wardens should also undergo safety awareness training to ensure constant vigilance. Every school should establish a "safe school zone" – a bully-free environment monitored by duty teachers and supported by early-warning systems.

Parents and guardians are the first educators at home. Many bullying and delinquency cases stem from a lack of attention, communication and affection. A child who grows up without guidance or boundaries at home will seek them elsewhere and sometimes in the wrong places.

Parents must be emotionally present – not just physically – to ask, listen and understand their children daily. A loving home is the first defence against the culture of violence.

Society and the media also carry great responsibility. Do not just spread tragedies but rather turn every report into an educational opportunity. Media coverage should build awareness, not fear; inspire action, not pity.

Social media, too, should serve as a platform for spreading values, not normalisng cruelty or mockery. On a broader level, corporate organisations and NGOs can play key roles in supporting value-based education and mental well-being through CSR programmes by funding digital literacy campaigns, anti-bullying initiatives and psychosocial support projects in schools.

In today's digital era, digital literacy is no longer optional; it is essential to help children think critically, manage emotions and act responsibly online.

Ultimately, this is a collective responsibility. Parents, teachers, leaders and communities hold the key to shaping the nation's educational direction. Whether schools become safe havens or social battlefields depends on how willing we are to act, listen and guide together.

Cultivating caring individuals

Education is not merely about examinations; it is the process of shaping human beings. Values like respect, patience and compassion must be instilled from an early age.

Moral and religious education must go beyond text books, it must be lived and practised as a school culture. If we aspire to build an ethical, competitive society, our education system must regain its soul. It cannot function as an academic factory alone. Teachers must be given space and support to teach with heart, not merely to finish the syllabus.

The wounds in our schools are not isolated; they mirror the condition of our society. Every case of bullying, stabbing or sexual assault among students is a crack in the moral fabric of our nation.

If left unhealed, we risk losing not just our students but also our future. Healing these wounds requires courage and sincerity from all parties – government, schools, teachers, parents and society alike.

Only when we collectively restore values in education can schools once again become safe spaces where knowledge, ethics and the nation's dignity are nurtured with love and responsibility.

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Bridging the skills gap

COMMENT
by Prof Dr Akram Al-Khaled



Ensuring that curricula are relevant in real-world contexts requires a collaborative approach. – ***BERNAMAPIC***

WITHIN the sphere of modern education, the problem of skills gap has continuously emerged as a significant problem – one that is affecting individuals, employers, industries and the entire economy.

Graduates leave the education system with credentials but not with the required knowledge and work experience.

The main negative outcomes include unemployability and diminished job readiness. To address this, educational management must play a key role in closing the gap – by aligning academic learning with the demands of the labour market

The conventional education system must be held accountable for its failure to develop and regularly update curricula that align with current skill and qualification demands.

The problem with the educational curricula lies in their rigidity. Updating university courses requires navigating a lengthy bureaucratic approval process before any changes can be implemented.

As a result, educational curricula are typically not reviewed for several years, rendering them slow and often sluggish in their ability to change.

Meanwhile, the labour market is evolving at a rapid pace – driven largely by digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data, machine learning and automation.

Graduates who have been trained in outdated curricula and are unfamiliar with the tools and techniques used in these sectors are struggling to find their place in the workforce.

For example, in the information technology sector in Malaysia, a student may graduate with a degree in programming, yet lack practical knowledge in high-demand areas such as Microsoft Azure, Amazon Web Services or cybersecurity certifications – all of which are currently highly valued in the job market.

As a result, employers are often forced to spend more money in retraining graduates in essential skills while graduates themselves face reduced job prospects without further training and experience. This underscores the responsibility of educational management to ensure curricula remain flexible, relevant and regularly updated.

Ensuring curricula remain relevant to real-world demands requires a collaborative approach.

Educational management cannot operate in isolation. If institutions design courses that don't align with the needs of the job market, those courses will hold little value in terms of employment outcomes.

Educational institutions must collaborate closely with employers, industry associations and policymakers to understand the skills sought in new graduates.

By establishing formal partnerships, educational management can ensure students gain relevant industry certifications as part of their learning experience.

Another example is cloud computing, a highly sought-after skill today, with certifications offered by companies like Amazon and Microsoft.

Educational management can integrate these certifications into undergraduate or postgraduate degree programmes by making them a graduation requirement.

Germany is known for its dual education system, where students spend one or two days working in the industry and the rest of the time in school or college.

This approach helps ensure that curricula remain closely aligned with industry needs, resulting in a much smaller gap between education and employment compared to other countries.

However, it is also the responsibility of educational management to equip students with hybrid skills – a combination of specialised technical expertise and essential soft skills such as leadership, communication, negotiation, problem-solving and analytical abilities.

A student can be highly proficient in programming languages, for example, but lack the soft skills needed to work effectively in cross-cultural teams. Employers widely acknowledge that soft skills are just as important – if not more so – than technical expertise.

Therefore, while educational management must ensure students gain the necessary technical skills, it should also embed soft skills development into the curriculum.

One effective approach is project-based learning, where students are assigned tasks that require them to demonstrate leadership, teamwork, negotiation, innovation and communication skills.

Singapore has a SkillsFuture policy, which is an excellent example of this type of educational policy.

Educational management also has a role in anticipating and proactively responding to future workforce requirements and trends. Rather than simply reacting to current skills shortages by updating curricula, it should proactively identify emerging sectors and fields and integrate them into educational programmes. This is where labour market analytics and foresight studies become essential tools.

The job market of tomorrow will be heavily influenced by emerging sectors such as renewable energy, fintech, biotechnology and other cutting-edge industries.

For instance, there is a huge opportunity for those who work in green energy and renewables – such as solar, wind and hydrogen – driven by the global push to transition to sustainable energy sources.

Educational management can and should include such subjects in the curricula today so that they have the skills and knowledge ready for jobs that may not even be fully developed yet.

The rapidly changing job market also requires educational management to encourage lifelong learning and retraining.

In the past, it was common for a student to graduate from university and go on to work in a single field for the rest of their life.

However, with the acceleration of technological change in recent decades, the life of the typical worker has been reduced to five to 10 years, meaning that the skills and qualifications they acquired at school or university are almost obsolete within a decade.

One way for educational management to address this is to create a flexible and seamless educational system that allows people to return to the university for further training and development.

Courses that have modular or stackable qualifications would be beneficial for the learners as well as employers.

For instance, a person working in marketing could take a micro-credential course on digital advertising and then, in a few years, take up another short course on data analytics and stack these onto a postgraduate certificate or diploma.

The increased competition in the job market as a result of globalisation also means that educational management should try to globalise the curricula to make them more in line with global standards.

A graduate will no longer be competing only for jobs in the local market but also in the global market. For instance, when multinational companies look to hire employees, they are looking for people with global skills. That means that graduates have to be prepared to work across cultures, adapt to changing technologies and collaborate remotely with teams and colleagues from other parts of the world.

Educational management can do this by incorporating international elements in their curricula, for instance, by studying cases from other countries, incorporating language learning into the course or facilitating foreign exchange and overseas internships.

Business management students in Malaysia, for example, can benefit from learning about European supply chain management while engineering students could look to Scandinavian countries for their approach to wind and solar power or Germany for their take on industrial strategy.

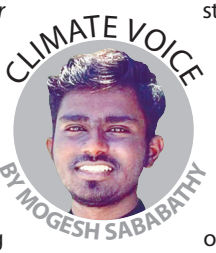
All of these have the effect of students being able to take the best of what other countries have to offer and adapt it to their own environments.

In conclusion, while there are many responsibilities, educational management needs to actively take on the role of bridging the gap between school and the workplace, as doing so has a range of important benefits.

Linking education and employment reduces the gap by making the curricula more relevant and up-to-date, incorporating hybrid skills, anticipating workforce requirements, encouraging lifelong learning and retraining, globalising the curriculum and digitalising the learning-teaching process, thereby creating a more future-ready workforce that will not just lead to more productive graduates but will also benefit the entire nation.

Prof Dr Akram Al-Khaled *is from the Faculty of Management and Hospitality, Spectrum International University College. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com*

We cannot keep forgetting what we love

CLIMATE VOICE

BY MOGESH SABABATHY

OVER the past month, since Merdeka, I have noticed something that has unsettled me more than I expected – stranded *Jalur Gemilang* flags along highways and drains. Some were torn and half-buried in puddles. They were once raised proudly from car windows and stalls, fluttering symbols of love for the country. Now, they lie forgotten.

It may be a small thing but to me, those abandoned flags say something about how we treat what we claim to love. We celebrate with passion, then move on. We raise awareness, then forget. And in that quiet forgetting lies a bigger national concern.

As Malaysia prepares to host the 47th Asean Summit in Kuala Lumpur later this month, where leaders such as Donald Trump and Xi Jinping are expected, the spotlight will be on geopolitics and trade.

Two weeks later, the world will gather in Belém, Brazil, for COP30, to decide the next steps in climate finance and adaptation.

Between those global stages sits our Budget 2026, announced just days ago with billions in allocation for flood mitigation, river restoration and environmental protection.

All of this sounds promising on paper but as I watch the flags fading on the roadside, I cannot help but think: Will our climate promises risk ending up the same way, raised high for a moment, then left to wither?

The climate crisis does not wait for summits or speeches. Floods, heat and haze are already changing how Malaysians live, work and even learn. Yet, we still treat climate action as a side issue, not one of survival.

And while we debate policies, darker stories are unfolding – four Form Five boys had allegedly raped a Form Three student in Melaka. And more recently, a Form Four girl has died after being stabbed by another student at a school in Selangor. It is horrifying, yes. But it is also telling. It speaks of something broken – on how we raise and protect our youths and how empathy and responsibility are slipping through the cracks. Climate resilience means little if our communities fracture from within.

The same disconnection that lets a river clog with plastic will also allow a classroom to become unsafe. It is the same habit of overlooking what does not scream for attention.

Malaysia wants to lead in climate diplomacy, and we can. But first, we have to lead at home. That means making Budget 2026 a living commitment: direct funds to community-led adaptation, enforce transparency in resilience spending and integrate social protection and education reform into our climate agenda.

If we can protect our rivers, shield our cities and empower our youths, then we deserve to lead. But if we let our symbols, our children and our environment fade into neglect, the rhetoric from these gatherings becomes hollow.

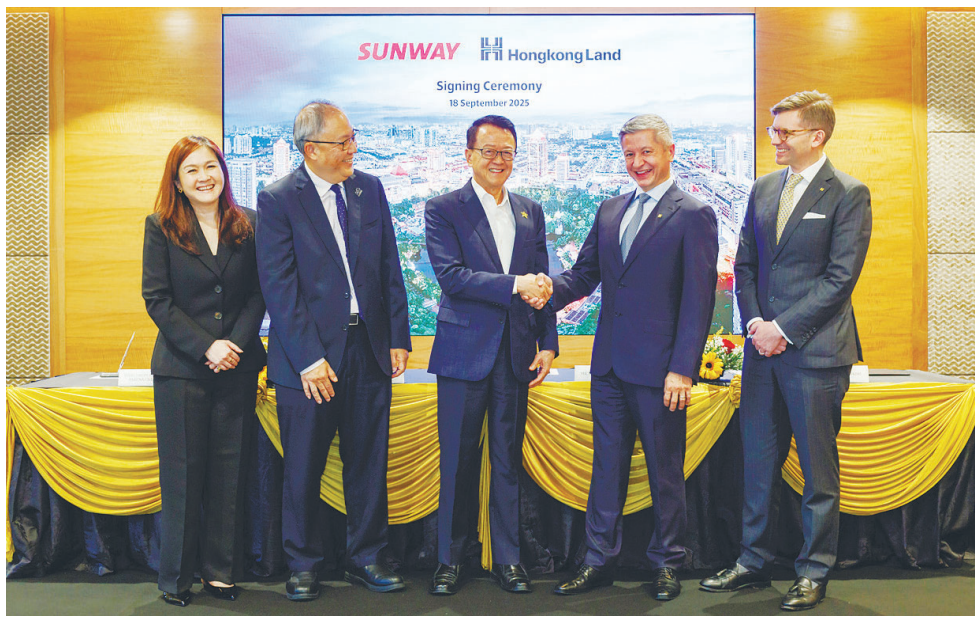
Let us choose otherwise. If patriotism means raising the flag, stewardship means keeping it flying. The *Jalur Gemilang* deserves better than to be left in the drain. So, do our children. So, does our planet.

We keep talking about growth and progress but the truth is this: we cannot build a strong nation on weak memory.

Mogesh Sababathy *is a youth climate advocate, member of the National Consultative Panel to the Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Ministry and PhD candidate at Universiti Putra Malaysia. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com*

Sunway buys MCL Land from Hong Kong firm for RM2.4b

Malaysian company's largest transaction to date lifts its Singapore investments to RM3.95 billion



From left: Sarena Cheah, Chung, Jeffrey Cheah, Smith and Simpkins.

PETALING JAYA: Sunway Group recently announced a RM2.42 billion deal with Hongkong Land Holdings Ltd to acquire the latter's Singaporean and Malaysian residential development business MCL Land.

This transaction marks Sunway's largest deal to date, lifting Sunway's Singapore investment to RM3.95 billion since July 2025, underscoring the group's strategic efforts and ambitious plans to expand its regional footprint.

MCL Land was established in 1963 and is a residential developer in Singapore and Malaysia, with a strong track record of quality residential projects.

Following the announcement, Sunway will assume ownership of MCL Land and its subsidiaries, including ongoing development projects in Singapore as well as its portfolio of income-generating and development assets in Malaysia.

All of MCL Land's development projects will proceed as planned, giving Sunway immediate earnings visibility and boosting its unbilled sales in Singapore from RM2 billion to nearly RM6 billion.

The agreement was signed between Sunway Group executive deputy chair Datin Paduka Sarena Cheah, Sunway Property managing director Chung Soo Kiong, Hongkong Land CEO Michael Smith and Hongkong Land executive director & general counsel John Simpkins. The ceremony was witnessed by Sunway Group founder and chairman Tan Sri Sir Dr Jeffrey Cheah.

Sarena Cheah said, "This acquisition marks a decisive expansion of our footprint in one of Asia's most competitive property markets. Our recent investments, including the Chuan Grove sites, underscore our confidence in Singapore's long-term fundamentals and our commitment to scale with purpose."

She added, "By integrating MCL Land's deep market expertise with Sunway's track record in sustainable, mixed-use developments, we are building a robust platform to accelerate growth, not only in Singapore but across key regional markets. This is not just a transaction; it's a strategic alignment that positions us to shape the future of integrated development and urban living in Southeast Asia."

Meanwhile, Smith said: Since announcing our new strategy last October, we have looked for the right steward for MCL Land and its people. This is a business Hongkong Land has grown for over 30 years, with a strong brand known for quality and a robust residential development pipeline. With the backing of Sunway Group, MCL Land's seasoned team will continue delivering exceptional homes for people and communities across Singapore and Malaysia."

Through this agreement, Sunway gains immediate access to a diversified pipeline of developments in Singapore that enable the group to participate in several projects at historical land costs, lowering execution risks compared to new land tenders.

The agreement also enhances Sunway's recurring income via Wangsa Walk Mall in Malaysia (99% occupancy as of June 30 with a projected NPI yield of 6.4%), underpinned by stable occupancy and asset enhancement opportunities.

In addition, MCL Land's landbank in Wangsa Maju and the Forest Heights township in Seremban, complement Sunway's expertise as a master community developer.

From a financial perspective, the combined portfolio provides immediate profit contribution from ongoing MCL Land projects, five of which are based in Singapore, comprising approximately 2,700 development units worth some S$2.9 billion (RM9.5 billion) in GDV, and another three in Malaysia, including Wangsa Walk Mall (NLA 330,000 sq ft) and development landbanks in Wangsa Maju and Forest Heights, Seremban.

The completion of the agreement is subject to standard closing conditions. This transaction is expected to close before the end of 2025.

Armani Hallson KLCC Phase 1 gets AmBank financing support

PETALING JAYA: AmBank Group has announced the signing of financing facilities with Armani Hallson KLCC Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Armani Group, for the development of Armani Hallson KLCC, a landmark residential project set to redefine luxury living in the heart of Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC).

The financing will fund Phase 1 of Armani Hallson KLCC, which was launched in August. Since opening for registration in March, the project has already recorded a 70% take-up rate. With an estimated GDV of RM3 billion, Armani Hallson KLCC represents Armani Group's most significant project to date within Kuala Lumpur's Golden Triangle.

Occupying a 2.61-acre prime parcel along Jalan Ampang, Armani Hallson KLCC will comprise approximately 2,215 residential units designed to blend modern architecture, sustainable features and premium lifestyle offerings.

Enhancing the sense of retreat, the 10th floor unveils a 30,000 sq ft tropical garden where elevated waterfalls, floating tea pavilions, tranquil lagoons and glass walkways come together to form a serene urban oasis.

AmBank Group Business Banking managing director Christopher Yap said: "Our partnership with Armani Group underscores AmBank's strategic commitment to financing property developments that contribute to Malaysia's urban transformation. Armani Hallson KLCC represents a compelling investment in the future of Kuala Lumpur's property market, a project defined by scale, ambition and long-term value creation. As a trusted financial partner, we are proud to support visionary developers in delivering landmark assets that elevate the nation's economic and real estate landscape."

Armani Group executive chairman Datuk Seri Bryan Wong said: "We are honoured to partner with AmBank on the development of Armani Hallson KLCC. Their support reflects a strong vote of confidence in our vision to redefine luxury living and deliver a transformative landmark in the heart of Kuala Lumpur City Centre."

Gamuda Land expands Singapore portfolio with Chencharu Close site win

PETALING JAYA: Gamuda Bhd's property arm Gamuda Land has formally executed the acceptance of the award for a significant land parcel at Chencharu Close, Yishun, Singapore.

The site, which was successfully tendered, carries a consideration of S$1.01 billion (RM3.3 billion) and was secured through a joint bid by Gamuda (Singapore) Pte Ltd (50% stake), Evia MCS Pte Ltd (30%), and H108 Pte Ltd (20%).

The project will deliver a mixed-use development comprising up to 875 residential units and 12,600 sqm of commercial space, anchored by community facilities such as a hawker centre and bus interchange.

Strategically located within the mature northern corridor at Yishun, the precinct is projected to yield 10,000 new homes by 2040, ensuring long-term housing demand.

The win underscores Gamuda Land's continued partnership with Evia and H108, who bring deep local expertise and proven market knowledge.

By combining its regional development capabilities with the partners' insights, Gamuda Land is well-positioned to deliver a project that resonates strongly with Singapore homebuyers while enhancing community vibrancy in Yishun. With Singapore's strong property take-up rates and limited land supply, the Chencharu Close development is expected to be a key contributor to the group's property division sales.

The Chencharu Close development is expected to strengthen group sale performance in the coming years, providing both revenue visibility and earnings diversification. Gamuda Land's 50% equity stake ensures a meaningful contribution to group performance, while also reinforcing its QTP strategy in high-demand urban markets.

Gamuda has been active in Singapore since 2015 through both infrastructure and property projects. Its fully sold GEM Residences and OLÁ developments (S$1.35 billion, RM4.4 billion combined GDV) proved its ability to deliver successful residential projects, while contracts such as the Cross Island Line MRT stations and tunnels, and the Gali Batu Multi-Storey bus depot underscore its infrastructure credentials.

Together with Evia and H108, Gamuda aims to deliver another project that integrates seamlessly into Singapore's urban fabric by working in close coordination with agencies such as the Land Transport Authority and the Urban Redevelopment Authority.


Joint venture to deliver 875 homes, retail space, hawker centre and bus interchange, strengthening Gamuda Land's long-term growth outlook. - ***GAMUDA LAND WEBSITE***

Aligned with Singapore's Green Plan 2030, the project will target BCA Green Mark Rating of Green Mark Platinum Super Low Energy, Gamuda's ESG commitments and its philosophy of creating communities that stand the test of time.

SCAN ME

the Sun Biz & Finance

THURSDAY | OCT 16, 2025

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ADB commits up to US$10b for Asean Power Grid projects

Asian Development Bank and World Bank jointly launch financing initiative to help accelerate region's clean energy transition

BY **HAYATUN RAZAK**
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KUALA LUMPUR: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is committing up to US$10 billion (RM42 billion) to support projects linked to the Asean Power Grid (APG), said ADB Southeast Asia Department director general Winfried Wicklein.

The ADB and the World Bank yesterday jointly launched the Asean Power Grid Financing Initiative (APGF) to help accelerate the region's clean energy transition.

Wicklein said it is committing up to US$10 billion for financing of the national grids that are related to the Asean Power Grid, as well as some of the clean energy generation infrastructure that will have to be built.

"We are working on project preparation through lending, project preparation loans, grants, technical assistance and blended finance," he told reporters at the Asean Energy Business Forum yesterday.

He said the financing initiative brings together multiple sources of funds from commercial and multilateral financiers to philanthropies to provide project-specific support.

"The whole financing initiative brings together many multiple sources of finance from commercial through multilaterals like the World Bank and ADB, through even philanthropies. You bring them together with the project sponsors and see what each project requires in terms of very specific, tailor-made financing."

Wicklein said the APG is "one of the most complex projects that the region has seen" due to its scale and cross-border nature.

"We have technical complexity, financial complexity, and then the institutional issues, the legal, regulatory and policy frameworks that need to be harmonised. This is why this larger partnership is required."

Wicklein said ADB has begun work on several bilateral projects, citing the Monsoon Wind Project in Laos, which exports power to Vietnam, as an example.

Meanwhile, Bernama quoted Wicklein saying that ADB has reaffirmed that it will not finance any nuclear power generation projects under its current energy policy.

He said the bank's existing framework does not permit funding for nuclear energy initiatives.

However, Wicklein noted growing interest among several Asean member states in exploring nuclear energy as part of their long-term energy strategies.

"At the moment, our energy policy does not allow our financing of nuclear energy."We recognise increasing demand and exploration of nuclear options in the region, and we are following those developments with interest, but we are not directly involved at this stage," he added.

Deputy Prime Minister cum Energy Transition and Water Transformation Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof said Malaysia is pleased to put the endorsement of the Enhanced APG memorandum of understanding (MoU) as one of the Priority Economic Deliverables under Malaysia's Asean Chairmanship 2025.

"The completion of the MoU will mark a renewed commitment of Asean to advance our energy cooperation through the APG," he added.

Fadillah said it will be a cornerstone of the initiatives to overcome the challenges in realising the APG dream, including for the financing aspect.

"Financing the APG matters ... because it is the foundation upon which our energy ambitions are built. Without adequate and innovative financing mechanisms, even the most promising projects may stall. We must mobilise both public and private 4 capital, de-risk investments, and create enabling environments that attract long-term commitments."

He said Asean have identified the enabling role of the APG to allow more energy cooperation between us, improve our energy security, and increase renewable energy adoption in the region."

Fadillah said the Ministerial Interface Meeting has reaffirmed and endorsed the APG's role in advancing the "Asean 2045: Our Shared Future" through strengthening multilateral power trade.

"The ministers noted the potential role of the APG Financing initiative to accelerate the progress of the APG. The meeting shall serve as a pivotal moment that represents the commitment of Asean to develop APG beyond just the energy sector."

Fadillah commended the proposal to develop the APG Financing Working Group, consisting of the Asean Secretariat, the Asean Centre for Energy, the World 5 Bank, and the Asian Development Bank.

"I expect the working group to work closely together in accelerating the progress of this initiative with the facilitation of ACE as the Working Group Secretariat."

Smart living firm Carabat AI eyes 50 outlets nationwide by end-2026

BY **JOHN GILBERT**
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Carabat AI, a Malaysian technology innovator dedicated to smart living solutions, expects to operate 15 outlets nationwide by year's end, increasing to around 50 by the end of 2026 and potentially reaching 150 by 2028.

Of these, about 30 will be in Sabah, with a smaller number planned for Sarawak.

Carabat AI CEO Shafiq Jailani said the company's expansion plan in Malaysia is progressing steadily.

"At the moment, our primary focus remains on Malaysia. We aim to strengthen our brand presence and establish a solid foundation locally before expanding into neighbouring countries in the future," he told *SunBiz* at the opening of the brand's flagship experience outlet in Wangsa Maju yesterday.

The opening ceremony was officiated by Datuk Johan Pahlawan Lela Perkasa Sitiawan Datuk Muhammed Abdullah, who was the guest of honour.

Besides Wangsa Maju, Carabat AI opened experience outlets in Sri Hartamas, Penang and Kota Bharu simultaneously yesterday.

The company is planning to open additional outlets in Wisma Sabah, Seremban 2 and Subang, targeted for November. These new locations will continue the company's mission to provide Malaysians with hands-on access to innovative, smart living solutions.

Elaborating, Carabat AI marketing manager Perakash Nair said the brand aims to strengthen its market presence by expanding its outlets across major Malaysian cities within the next year.

"This experience outlet marks the first step in our nationwide rollout strategy. We are projecting a 30% year-on-year growth as consumer adoption of smart home technology continues to rise. By providing accessible and practical smart living innovations, we believe Carabat AI can play a major role in shaping Malaysia's smart living future," he said.

Shafiq said Carabat AI's products are primarily positioned for the mass market, designed to be accessible and practical for everyday users.

While tech-savvy consumers are naturally drawn to the products' advanced features and appeal, the company's primary focus remains on serving regular users and making smart living technology accessible to the majority.

In reply to a question, Shafiq said Carabat AI's research and development activities are fully based in Malaysia, where the in-house team handles all aspects of product design and innovation.

Manufacturing is carried out in China to maintain competitive pricing and efficiency, a practice standard across the industry.

"Our R&D is entirely managed by our own Malaysian team, from design to product development. Manufacturing is done in China to ensure cost competitiveness, and our supply chain is managed directly between our teams in Malaysia and our partners abroad," Shafiq said.

During the launch, Carabat AI unveiled its product lineup, including a new range of smart home and kitchen appliances designed to integrate seamlessly with the company's proprietary Astana App.

The app was developed to simplify the management of multiple smart devices, addressing common challenges where devices are often incompatible or require numerous apps.

By serving as the central platform of Carabat AI's ecosystem, the Astana App enables users to automate, monitor, and personalise devices such as air solutions, smart switches, home and kitchen appliances, and CCTV and security systems, all from a single, intuitive interface.

"The Astana App and our smart appliances are more than just products. They form a complete ecosystem that brings smart living to life in Malaysian homes. Today's launch allows visitors to see how technology can seamlessly enhance comfort, convenience, and everyday living," Shafiq said.

The flagship outlet features interactive zones that showcase Carabat AI's diverse range of innovations.



Shafiq speaking at the opening of Carabat AI's flagship experience outlet in Wangsa Maju yesterday.

Visitors can explore AI-driven and smart wearable devices – such as smart glasses, rings and health-tracking tools – alongside the integrated smart home ecosystem, providing an engaging opportunity to experience the practical benefits of connected living first hand.

SINGER Since 1851

Asean targets first multilateral power trade by 2030 under APG

BY **HAYATUN RAZAK**
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Asean is targeting the first multilateral power trade by 2030 under the Asean Power Grid (APG), said Asean Centre for Energy executive director Datuk Razib Dawood.

Razib said Asean member states are working to harmonise minimum technical and operational standards to enable cross-border electricity trade while respecting national energy policies.

"The timeline depends on completing the key building blocks, physical links, harmonised frameworks, market readiness, and political will," he told reporters at the Asean Energy Business Forum yesterday.

He said Asean requires close to US$670 billion (RM2.8 trillion) in investment to realise its full grid integration vision.

"It's so huge that not one bank can do this alone. The Asian Development Bank is taking the lead through the Asean Power Grid Financing Framework, focusing on identifying visible, bankable projects and coordinating between major financiers and governments."

He said this initiative may bring together multilateral development banks such as Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and private financiers such as HSBC, Standard Chartered, Maybank and central banks to mobilise funding.

Razib said the integration is seen as a win-win that enhances energy security, attracts private investment, and positions Asean as a model for regional power cooperation.

He cited the Putra Heights natural gas pipeline explosion, where Thailand supplied emergency standby gas through an existing pipeline link.

"Luckily, we have a natural gas pipeline connected to Thailand. Otherwise, we would have been in trouble. Malaysia would have had to reduce supply, ration gas to factories and so on, which would have impacted the economy. But with an interconnected system, your neighbour can actually assist you."

Razib stressed that political commitment will be the decisive factor in achieving the 2030 target. "This is the new ingredient … political capital. Governments are now showing they are serious after years of talking."

He added that Asean's power grid integration could spur economic integration and renewable energy growth, allowing countries to share spinning reserves and support one another during crises.

Regional integration, he said, could also reduce infrastructure costs and optimise economic efficiency.

"We can avoid spending money locally by buying from your neighbours. The money saved can go to other infrastructure like schools or healthcare," he said.

Razib said Asean has shortlisted 18 interconnection projects deemed technically and financially viable.

"These include Sumatra interconnection projects, Sarawak-Peninsular Malaysia link, Vietnam-Laos-Thailand-Cambodia-Greater Mekong-Singapore corridors, Malaysia-Thailand and Malaysia-Singapore links, Indonesia's archipaelagic connections across Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei, and West Kalimantan and Future extensions to the Philippines."

SugarBun to expand to Peninsular Malaysia, abroad

BY **DEEPALAKSHMI MANICKAM**
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East Malaysia's iconic fast-food brand teams up with Sedaplycious as master franchise partner

KUALA LUMPUR: East Malaysia's iconic quick-service restaurant brand SugarBun Corporation Bhd has signed a regional partnership with Sedaplycious Sdn Bhd to expand into Peninsular Malaysia, marking a major milestone in its four-decade journey from Sarawak to the national and international stage.

The agreement was formalised through SugarBun subsidiary SB Supplies and Logistics Sdn Bhd, which appointed Sedaplycious as its master franchise partner.

Entrepreneur Development and Co-operatives Minister Datuk Ewon Benedick said the partnership exemplified how homegrown brands could scale while retaining their cultural roots.

"SugarBun is a proud East Malaysian success story and today's ceremony reflects the strength of our local enterprises in reaching wider markets. Expansion into Peninsular Malaysia will not only create new jobs but also showcase the diversity of East Malaysian culture through our rich culinary heritage," he said.

Ewon also praised the launch of Sabacco's newest creation, the Tuhau Wild Ginger Chilli Sauce, introduced at the event as part of SugarBun's effort to highlight Borneo's culinary heritage.

"Tuhau is a unique gift of nature, deeply rooted in the Kadazan-Dusun heritage of Sabah. Its bold, tangy flavour represents the rich biodiversity and creativity of East Malaysia. This innovation is what we want to see, heritage transformed into enterprise, and tradition transformed into opportunity. Congratulations to SugarBun, Borneo Oil Berhad and Sedaplycious on this meaningful milestone," he said.

Borneo Oil Bhd managing director Datuk Joseph Ambrose Lee said the partnership would accelerate SugarBun's expansion beyond its traditional stronghold in Sabah and Sarawak. Bursa Malaysia-listed Borneo Oil is the holding company for SugarBun.

"SugarBun will bring our signature Broasted Chicken, Savoury Rice and other East Malaysian favourites to new communities across the peninsula, while creating jobs, empowering local suppliers and opening franchise opportunities for entrepreneurs.

"This partnership represents a defining moment in SugarBun's journey. Peninsular Malaysia is a natural growth market with three times the population of East Malaysia. With Sedaplycious as our partner, we can expand the brand's reach, strengthen our supply chain and build a stronger platform for international growth."



From left: Ambrose, Ewon, Pernas CEO Datuk Nor Azam M. Taib and Leong at the signing ceremony. – ***ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN***

Sedaplycious founder Sean Leong said, "I have always loved SugarBun's juicy Broasted Chicken and Savoury Rice. At Sedaplycious, we are committed to expanding the SugarBun brand because I know Peninsular Malaysians will love it too. This agreement is not only a business venture but also a mission to create jobs, empower local suppliers and bring Borneo's unique flavours to more communities."

The company plans to open 42 outlets in the next 36 months, starting with Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, as the first location under the compact SugarBun Express concept, which Ambrose said would make the franchise more accessible.

Borneo Oil's portfolio remained diversified, with investments in food, mining, cement, property and carbon capture ventures, Ambrose said.

"We are an investment holding company. The revenue stream right now is coming from SugarBun, which would then, when it gets globalised, it would go on its own. While we have almost matured the cement plant, the cement plant is operating now. The moment it is operating fully, then it is another asset that we can have a restructuring on. And the gold mine, if we can get the plant running, it will be a main income contributor."

Ambrose said the company was focused on building long-term value. "So far, there is value, but people do not understand that we are a non-revenue-generating investment company until such time. But all our investments have an impact on human life. We only invest in things that are real."

He added that SugarBun's current expansion is about more than opening new stores.

Ambrose said the brand's benchmark in Peninsular Malaysia would pave the way for global recognition.

"Once you come to Peninsular Malaysia, it's an international market. Once you succeed in this international model, the whole brand will have a global valuation. Right now, people look at it as a Sabah and Sarawak niche. But once we establish that benchmark for Malaysian brands, and if we are successful in Peninsular Malaysia, we will be very successful globally," he said.

SC, Teraju to enhance capital market access for Bumiputera MSME and MTC

PETALING JAYA: The Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) and Teraju Bumiputera Corporation have jointly agreed to facilitate better access to capital market financing for Bumiputera micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) and mid-tier companies (MTC).

Both sides yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to help facilitate such access for Bumiputera companies. The MoU was signed by the SC Chairman Datuk Mohammad Faiz Azmi and Teraju CEO Junady Nawawi at the SC.

The two-year MoU supports the SC's 'Catalysing MSME and MTC Access to the Capital Market: 5-Year Roadmap (2024-2028)' (Roadmap), which is aimed at increasing MSME and MTC market-based fundraising to RM40 billion in 2028.

In addition, this partnership supports SC's capacity building initiatives as outlined under the Roadmap aimed at enhancing the readiness of MSME and MTC for capital raising.

Mohammad Faiz said that Bumiputera companies have significant potential to scale, and capital market financing can be an important catalyst for their next phase of growth.

"Through this collaboration with Teraju, we aim to build a stronger pipeline of investment-ready companies that can raise funds, expand their businesses and compete regionally," he said.

Junady said, "This collaboration opens up new pathways for Bumiputera companies to expand beyond traditional financing. By working together with the SC, we are preparing more Bumiputera enterprises to access capital market opportunities with stronger governance, sharper financial discipline, and the confidence to compete regionally and globally."

A key outcome from this collaboration is to strengthen the fundraising readiness and leadership capacity of Bumiputera companies. This will be achieved through targeted capacity building initiatives, including the creation of the Elevate–Teraju cohort under the SC's Elevate programme, led by Capital Markets Malaysia, an SC affiliate.

The Elevate programme is an executive leadership and fundraising readiness programme that help MTC and SME strengthen their business strategy, governance, and financial management to meet the standards expected by investors.

Since its launch, five cohorts, comprising 78 companies, have completed the Elevate programme.

Under this initiative, 20 Bumiputera companies from the manufacturing, healthcare, engineering and technology sectors have been selected for the inaugural Elevate-Teraju cohort, marking the first step toward broader participation in Malaysia's capital market.

Meta Bright expands EV charging network

KUALA LUMPUR: Meta Bright Group Bhd, a Main Market-listed diversified energy conglomerate, through its 51%-owned subsidiary Meta Bright ChargeSini Sdn Bhd (MBC), has entered into a conditional sale and purchase agreement with ChargeHere EV Solution Sdn Bhd to acquire a portfolio of operational EV charging assets.

Under the agreement, MBC will acquire 17 EV charging sites comprising 54 chargers (44 AC and 10 DC) from ChargeHere for a total consideration of RM2,006,528.

These chargers, installed at prime residential and mixed-use developments across the Klang Valley include key metropolitan locations such as North Kiara, Setia Eco Park and Titiwangsa, as well as major high-rise condominiums and retail spaces.

The acquisition price was derived based on the Net Book Value (NBV) of the assets, providing Meta Bright with a reasonable and value-accretive entry point into a growing segment of Malaysia's EV ecosystem. This structure excludes future earnings potential from the assets, thereby offering a prudent, low-risk acquisition that immediately enhances the group's recurring income base.

ChargeHere, operating under the "ChargeSini" brand, is Malaysia's largest Charging Point Operator, managing over 1,193 charging points across 473 stations with more than 61,000 active users.

ICT, e-commerce contribute 23% to GDP in 2024

PUTRAJAYA: The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and e-commerce contributed 23.4% to the Malaysia's economy, valued at RM451.3 billion in 2024 said chief statistician of Malaysia Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin.

He added the performance of ICT and e-commerce registered a further growth of 5.1% as against 3.5% recorded in 2023.

The ICT performance was driven by the ICT manufacturing industry, which accelerated to 7.4% from 2.4% in the preceding year, said Mohd Uzir, adding that this was followed by the ICT services industry and ICT trade industry with a growth of 3.3% and 4.6% respectively.

The ICT Satellite Account (ICTSA) is a statistical framework to measure the performance of ICT industry, as well as e-commerce, and its contribution to GDP. Besides that, ICTSA also provides data on exports and imports of ICT products and employment within the ICT industry.

The performance of e-commerce amounted to RM258.2 billion, a growth of 4.7% in 2024 compared to 3% in the preceding year. The growth was supported by manufacturing sector with an increase of 4.8% compared to 0.1% in 2023.

Socat, Archisen, CGS MY to build JS-SEZ agropolis

Partnership to develop Asean's leading agri hub via sustainable, tech-driven farming

PETALING JAYA: Southern Catalyst Sdn Bhd (Socat), a Ministry of Finance (MoF) Inc company and the master developer of a 2,940-acre site in Sedenak, Johor, and Archisen Sdn Bhd, a Singapore-based agritech company that specialises in designing, building, and operating innovative urban farming solutions, are collaborating with CGS International Securities Malaysia Sdn Bhd (CGS MY) via a MoU to establish a 200-acre agropolis in Sedenak, Johor in September.

CGS MY, as the financial partner to Socat and Archisen, is supporting the development of high-impact agriculture and agri-food projects aimed at establishing the largest integrated agriculture hub in the Southern Region.

Socat and Archisen are jointly advancing initiatives valued at approximately RM500 million, while CGS International – working in collaboration with a network of private equity and debt partners – is preparing to mobilise up to RM1 billion in agriculture related investments and financial solutions across the full value chain, spanning crop production, processing, logistics, and the creation of a regional inventory hub.

Collectively, these efforts under the Johor–Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ) framework represent a potential capital commitment exceeding RM1.5 billion, underscoring private-sector confidence and Malaysia's leadership in sustainable agri-economic development. The partnership also extends to investment structuring, capital-markets access, investor engagement, ecosystem development, and coordination with government agencies to attract institutional and cross-border capital.

The MoUs were inked at the 2nd JS-SEZ Joint Investment Forum, which gathered over 50 participants from global companies seeking to capitalise on the opportunities presented by the JS-SEZ.

Socat chief operating officer Mohd Nazree Abu Kassim said, "With Archisen and CGS MY as our partners, we look forward to executing our mandate to transform Ladang Air Manis into a modern and sustainable agriculture and food processing value chain ecosystem. By collaborating with like-minded investors, businesses and technology partners, we aim to not only supply the region with nutritious produce but also position Malaysia as a leading exporter of high-quality food to the world, as we strive to strengthen food security in the face of growing demand and escalating climate challenges."

Archisen CEO Vincent Wei said, "Archisen is eager to grow our presence and contribute our experience and expertise to design and deploy effective urban farming solutions in JS-SEZ as part of our mission to establish an urban farm network in Asia. Through the development of a plug-and-play agriculture ecosystem that leverages on shared resources, innovation and market access, we aim to transform the region's fresh food supply chain – from cultivation, farm management, storage, packaging, to logistics and more. We look forward to working with Socat and CGS MY to unlock the tremendous potential of agri-tech and support the region as it moves up the value chain."

CGS MY group CEO Carol Fong said, "Malaysia and Asean are blessed with abundant natural resources. As the country and region develops, we need to concurrently safeguard these resources while ensuring food security for all. JS-SEZ provides Asean with a strategic platform for Malaysia to collaborate with its neighbours to realise these goals, and at the same time build thriving economic centres with diverse industries in different regions. CGS International looks forward to working closely with governments, Socat, Archisen and the broader ecosystem to facilitate efficient and effective capital market advisory to support, promote and advance the plans. By leveraging our strong capital market capabilities, regional footprint and global linkages, especially with China, we are well-positioned to connect and bring in the right partners and stakeholders to accelerate the future of agriculture in Asean.

Launched earlier this year, JS-SEZ promotes and support investment and movement of goods and people between Malaysia and Singapore for strategic sectors such as manufacturing, logistics, digital industry, healthcare and education and new priority sectors such as aerospace, electrical and electronics, chemical, medical devices and pharmaceuticals.

The platform has recorded a total of RM37.1 billion in approved investment within the first quarter of 2025 and is expected to attract a further RM29.1 billion in new investment commitments as announced by the government last Friday during the tabling of Malaysia's Budget 2026 tabling.

Southern Cable plans private placement to fund expansion

KUALA KETIL: Cable and wire manufacturer Southern Cable Group Bhd proposed a private placement of up to 10% of its total number of issued shares, to fund the group's multi-year expansion plans to capture increasing opportunities from local and overseas demand for cables and wires.

The expansion, the company said will increase the group's annual cable and wire output by 25% to 65,000 km/year, from 51,980 km/year as at June 30, 2025. Concurrently, it will triple its aluminium rod production to over 60,000 MT/year, from approximately 20,000 MT/year as at June 30, 2025. These expansions will be carried out in stages and are targeted to complete by the end of 2027.

Managing director Tung Eng Hai said: "Southern Cable is expanding to meet rising demand for cables and wires, while also playing a role in supporting Malaysia's development through projects in power utility, renewable energy, construction, infrastructure, and data centres.

To achieve our long-term growth aspirations, we are also increasing our overseas revenue, with a target to have it contribute 30% of total revenue within the next three years. The funds raised will strengthen our manufacturing capabilities and support our vision of becoming a leading integrated cables and wires manufacturer in the region."

Of the total proceeds to be raised from the proposed exercise, RM129 million will be allocated for capital expenditure and expansion. This will fund the construction and renovation of factories and warehouse adjacent to the group's existing operations in Kuala Ketil, Kedah, acquisition of a warehouse, as well as the purchase of new machinery and equipment.



Southern Cable's private placement of up to RM259m will fund its multi-year expansion plan, increasing cable output and aluminium rod capacity to meet rising local and global demand.

The key investments in the expansion include two production lines—one for medium- to extra high-voltage cables and another for medium- to high-voltage cables—in addition to a high-capacity aluminium furnace.

Separately, RM5.1 million will be utilised to settle the balance purchase price of an industrial land previously acquired in July 2025, and related expenses.

The remaining proceeds will primarily be allocated for working capital to purchase raw materials such as copper, aluminium, and plastic compounds, supporting the group's growing cable and wire production capacity. A portion will also be used for repayment of borrowings and to defray estimated expenses from the proposed exercise.

At an indicative issue price of RM2.16 per placement share, the proposed private placement is expected to raise total gross proceeds ranging from RM218 million to RM259 million under the Minimum Scenario and Maximum Scenario, respectively.

RHB Investment Bank Bhd has been appointed as the principal adviser and sole placement agent for the proposed private placement.

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Rakuten weighing US IPO of credit card business

Listing considerations in early stages, other options include stake sale: Source

TOKYO: Japanese e-commerce and finance heavyweight Rakuten is weighing an initial public offering in the United States of its credit card business, according to two sources familiar with the matter.

Rakuten began considering a potential US listing of one of Japan's largest credit card businesses last month, the sources said.

The considerations are in the early stages, with other potential options including a stake sale to a strategic buyer, one of the sources said.

One trigger for considering a US IPO of Rakuten Card was rival SoftBank's plans to list app pay operator PayPay in the US, the source said.

The sources declined to be named as the information is not public.

The company's considerations of a US IPO had not been reported previously.

Rakuten did not respond to requests for comment.

The company's shares extended gains after the Reuters report and closed up 4.7%, compared with a 1.6% rise in the Topix index .

Mizuho Financial Group acquired a 15% stake in Rakuten Card for ¥165 billion (RM4.6 billion) last year, valuing the business at more than ¥1 trillion, or US$7 billion, with the two launching joint credit cards.

For PayPay, institutional investors see a baseline valuation of ¥2 trillion, but expect the valuation could exceed ¥3 trillion in the IPO that could take place as early as December, Reuters reported this week.

Rakuten, which is led by founder and CEO Hiroshi Mikitani, shook up Japan's finance sector by simplifying the process for applying for credit cards and making them available to a wider range of consumers.

Credit cards are an important part of a web of Rakuten businesses spanning online shopping, banking, travel and other services, with customers accruing loyalty reward points by making payments.

Rakuten listed Rakuten Bank in Tokyo two years ago as the group reeled from heavy losses due to launching a mobile network.

Rakuten also announced plans to list Rakuten Securities, but Mizuho injected funding by taking stakes in the brokerage and card businesses.

Rakuten Card has issued more than 30 million credit cards in Japan.

Non-GAAP operating profit at the business grew 20% to ¥62 billion last year but fell 4.5% in the April-June quarter of this year compared to the same period a year earlier due to higher costs.

Rakuten Card aims to expand profit to ¥100 billion over the medium term and is looking to expand its business with corporate customers, its CEO Koichi Nakamura said in March.

The IPO considerations come as companies around the world are looking to list in the US as they seek higher valuations.

The US IPO market has had its busiest quarter since the fourth quarter of 2021, with companies raising US$24 billion through first-time share sales in the third quarter, according to Dealogic. – Reuters



A man walking past a Rakuten shop along a street in Tokyo. – ***AFPPIC***

Thailand draws up measures to boost tourism

BANGKOK: Thailand will introduce new incentives to boost domestic travel, Finance Minister Ekniti Nitithanprapas said yesterday, as the government steps up efforts to revive a sluggish economy amid early signs of improving sentiment.

The incentives, which include soft loans and tax measures, were discussed at a meeting of the economic policy committee and will be put to cabinet for approval next week, Ekniti said.

Tax deductions of up to 20,000 baht (RM2,600) will be granted to citizens travelling domestically between Oct 29 and Dec 15, he added.

Tourism, a key growth driver, has seen arrivals fall 7.5% year-on-year to 25.1 million so far this year, well below the record of nearly 40 million before the pandemic.

The tourism measures are part of a stimulus package aimed at meeting a 2.2% growth target this year.

The government already launched a US$1.4 billion co-payment scheme subsidising living costs for about 20 million people, approved a US$49 billion budget for state enterprise investment plan expected to lift GDP by 0.3%, and plans to spend US$307 million to buy bad debt.

Thai industrial sentiment rose for the first time in seven months in September amid growing confidence in the government's swift policy rollout, the Federation of Thai Industries said earlier. Sentiment for the next three months was also optimistic, the group said.

Southeast Asia's second-largest economy is projected to expand by between 1.8% and 2.3% this year, the state planning agency said, with growth expected to slow in the second half of 2025 under pressure from US tariffs, high household debt, weak consumption, and a strong baht.

Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul's government has a short window to deliver results before he dissolves parliament by the end of January ahead of elections due by April. – Reuters

Scania launches new China manufacturing hub

SHANGHAI: Volkswagen's Swedish truckmaker Scania opened its first fully owned factory in China yesterday, in what it described as a hedge against global uncertainty and a move that will give it greater flexibility in delivering to Asian customers.

The factory, located in the eastern province of Jiangsu, will initially produce Scania's advanced "Super" trucks for customers in China and the Asia region, Scania chief executive Christian Levin told Reuters.

"It's really (producing in) China for Asia, if you'd like. So by getting the factory here we can start to operate the way we do in Europe or the way we do in Latin America, where we have big industrial hubs, meaning customers get both tailor-made product and short lead time," he said, compared with shipping standard trucks from its production base in Europe to Asia.

The project entails a €2 billion (RM9.7 billion) investment for the firm, and it will initially employ 3,000 workers.

The factory, alongside Scania's facilities in Sweden and Brazil, will eventually reach a production capacity of 50,000 vehicles – nearly double the number the Brazilian plant produced last year.

According to Levin, part of Scania's China production calculation is the success the world's second-largest economy has had forging free trade agreements with various countries.

"This factory can probably serve at least as many markets as the European factories under free trade regimes," he said, while acknowledging the continued uncertainty in global trade as a further reason for the firm to hedge its bets.

"What we take for granted today, 'Europe has a free trade agreement with country X', you know, it's not necessarily true tomorrow... (So) it is for us really good to have a third hub inside China, that increases our level of flexibility," Levin added.

Scania's bet on China comes amid rising trade tensions.

The US plans to impose a 25% tariff on all medium- and heavy-duty truck imports from Nov 1. – Reuters

India's palm oil imports hit four-month low

MUMBAI: India's palm oil imports in September dropped to their lowest since May as refiners shifted to cheaper soyoil, shipments of which hit a more than three-year high, the Solvent Extractors' Association of India said yesterday.

Lower palm oil imports by India, the world's largest buyer of vegetable oils, are expected to weigh on the benchmark Malaysian palm oil futures while supporting US soyoil futures.

India's palm oil imports in September dropped 16.3% to 829,017 metric tons, marking their lowest point since May, the industry trade body said.

Imports of soyoil surged 36.8% to 503,240 tons, the highest level since July 2022, while sunflower oil imports rose about 6% to 272,386 tons, the highest since January, it added.

The decline in palm oil imports dragged India's total edible oil imports in September down by 1% month-on-month to 1.60 million tons, the trade body said.

India's palm oil imports are likely to fall to around 600,000 tons in October, while soyoil imports will likely exceed 450,000 tons, said a Mumbai-based dealer with a global trade house.

India buys palm oil mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia, while it imports soyoil and sunflower oil from Argentina, Brazil, Russia and Ukraine.

India purchased 300,000 tons of soyoil from Argentina during Sept 23 and Sept 24, the largest ever purchase in a two-day period, dealers said, taking advantage of Buenos Aires' move to scrap export taxes on soybeans and other food products.

Demand for edible oil in India, particularly palm oil, typically rises during the festival season amid increased consumption of sweets and fried foods. – Reuters

Stocks rally, dollar weakens on Fed rate cut hopes

Investors take opportunity to bargain hunt despite trade war fears

HONG KONG: Stocks jumped and the dollar retreated yesterday as trade war fears were overshadowed by comments from Federal Reserve boss Jerome Powell that suggested the bank would cut interest rates again this month.

After a volatile couple of days characterised by a fresh flare-up in China-US tensions, investors took the opportunity to jump back into the market and resume a months-long, tech-fuelled rally.

Powell has for most of the year walked a fine line between trying to keep a cap on US inflation while also supporting the labour market, even as he faced a barrage of abuse from President Donald Trump for not lowering borrowing costs soon enough.

And while price gains continue to outpace the bank's target pace, a series of weak readings has forced him to turn his focus on jobs, and last month announced the first rate cut since December.

And on Tuesday he indicated more were on the way.

"In this less dynamic and somewhat softer labour market, the downside risks to employment appear to have risen," said Powell, adding that longer-term inflation expectations remained aligned with the Fed's two-percent goal.

"Rising downside risks to employment have shifted our assessment of the balance of risks," the chairman said, adding there was "no risk-free path for policy as we navigate the tension between our employment and inflation goals".

Powell also hinted that monetary policymakers could soon stop reducing the size of its holdings of bonds and other instruments bought in vast quantities during the pandemic to keep borrowing rates low and support the economy.

The bank has a dual mandate from Congress to act independently to tackle both inflation and employment.

No official jobs data has been published for September because of the US government shutdown, but private sector figures point to a marked slowdown in hiring last month.

US markets ended mostly down but well off their morning lows, and Asia was on the front foot.

Seoul soared 2.7%, while Hong Kong, Tokyo, Sydney, Taipei and Bangkok all climbed more than 1%.

Singapore, Mumbai, Manila and Wellington also advanced.

Shanghai also put on more than 1%, with little negative reaction to data showing Chinese consumer prices fell in September, indicating consumer sentiment remains weak.

Paris surged more than 2% on hopes for an end to political turmoil after Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu backed the suspension of an unpopular 2023 pensions reform, while he also got support of the Socialist Party in the National Assembly.

Frankfurt was on the front foot but London slipped.

Expectations that borrowing rates will drop weighed on the dollar, which was well down against its peers.

Powell's remarks helped investors turn from the latest trade salvos between Washington and Beijing, with Trump last week threatening 100% tariffs owing to China's new export controls on rate earths.

While the US President tempered his rhetoric on Sunday, China appeared to stoke the row by imposing sanctions on five American subsidiaries of South Korean shipbuilder Hanwha Ocean, accusing them of supporting Washington's investigation into the shipping industry.

Still, there are hopes the row can be defused, with Trump telling reporters at the White House that "we have a fair relationship with China, and I think it'll be fine".

"And if it's not, that's OK too.

"We have a lot of punches being thrown, and we've been very successful."

Meanwhile, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer told CNBC that senior officials had spoken on Monday on the rare earths dispute, and gave a broadly upbeat view.

"We've been pretty successful in finding a path forward with them in the past so we think we'll be able to work through it," he said in an interview. – AFP

Trump targets China cooking oil trade

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said he was considering terminating some trade ties with China, singling out cooking oil even though traders and analysts said such shipments have already spent the past year plummeting.

"I believe that China purposefully not buying our Soybeans, and causing difficulty for our Soybean Farmers, is an Economically Hostile Act. We are considering terminating business with China having to do with Cooking Oil, and other elements of Trade, as retribution," Trump wrote on social media on Tuesday.

"As an example, we can easily produce Cooking Oil ourselves, we don't need to purchase it from China."

The US was China's top market for used cooking oil (UCO), importing a record 1.27 million metric tons worth US$1.1 billion (RM4.6 billion) in 2024.

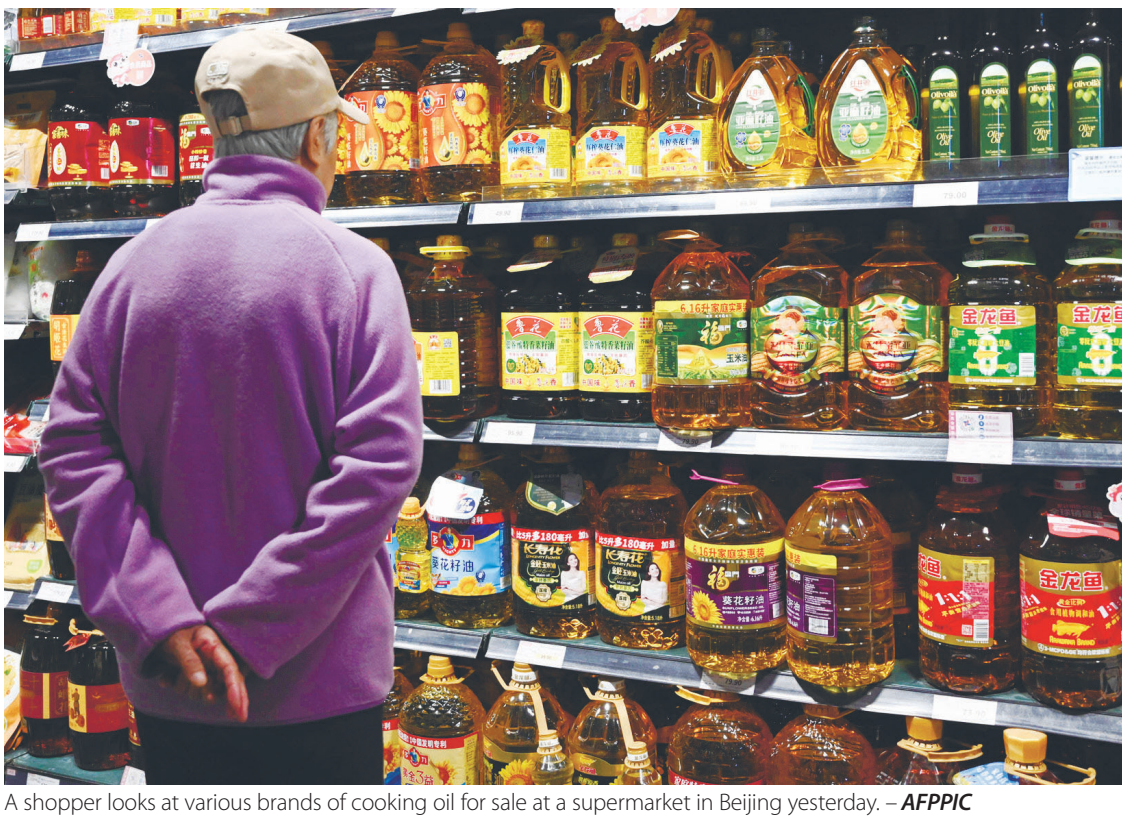
But after China cut tax rebates late last year and the United States imposed tariffs on Chinese goods this year, imports plunged 65% in January-August to 290,690 tons, or US$286.7 million.

As such, Trump's comments have had "minimal" impact on the market, two UCO traders in China said on condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to speak to media.

"The US pretty much stopped buying from China anyway, so the impact is as empty as his threats," said one of the traders, who deals with the American market.

"Domestic producers are now mainly taking orders for Europe and are no longer considering the US market," said the other.

UCO trade is small compared with that of soybeans.



A shopper looks at various brands of cooking oil for sale at a supermarket in Beijing yesterday. – ***AFPPIC***

China imported 22.13 million tons of U.S. soybeans last year, valued at US$12 billion.

"Used cooking oil is a niche trade, but it shows how the Trump Administration is standing up for American farmers, just as China shifts its agricultural purchases towards other suppliers," said senior analyst Chim Lee at the Economist Intelligence Unit.

China is the world's largest buyer of soybeans. In recent months it has slashed purchases of US soybeans in favour of Brazilian and Argentine produce.

Trump has called the shift a negotiation tactic.

He said this month he hoped to discuss soybeans with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping while also saying the US may halt a large share of imports from China.

The US president has targeted China with a cascade of tariff orders on billions of dollars worth of imported goods that he said is aimed at narrowing a trade deficit, bringing back lost manufacturing and crippling the trade in fentanyl.

The US and China have had strained ties for years, especially with Trump in office.

They have been at odds over issues including technology, human rights, the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic and geopolitical matters. – Reuters

China raises age limits for civil servants

BEIJING: China has increased the maximum hiring age for some civil service positions for the first time in three decades, from 35 to 38, a move that aims to keep older workers in the labour force longer and bolster a shrinking workforce.

Authorities announced the revision on Tuesday ahead of the opening of applications for the national civil service exam.

Candidates should be between 18 and 38 years of age to apply, while the age limit for those with master's or doctoral degrees has been extended to 43 from 40.

"China has appropriately adjusted the age requirements for applicants taking the 2026 national civil service examination, in line with the country's progressive approach to delaying the legal retirement age," the *Global Times* newspaper wrote yesterday.

The exam, which will take place on Nov 30, will recruit 38,100 new civil servants, according to a statement from China's State Administration of Civil Service.

In recent years, China has sought to curb age discrimination in the job market, where many older workers are rejected due to the perception of being too old or lacking energy to work efficiently. Netizens have dubbed the trend a "curse of 35".

Dwindling job opportunities for older applicants come as competition for coveted state sector jobs increases and has accelerated calls to ease age restrictions for government roles.

Ageing populations are a global phenomenon, but the issue is particularly stark in China due to the legacy of its one-child policy, which was in place for three decades and has exacerbated its demographic challenges.

China's cohort of those aged 60 and older is expected to account for at least 40% of the population or more than 400 million by 2035, equal to the populations of Britain and the UnS combined.

China has recently adjusted the retirement age for men to 63 from 60, while for women in white-collar work it has raised it to 58 from 55. For women in blue-collar work it has been increased to 55 from 50. – Reuters

Opec says oil and gas industry needs more investment

MOSCOW: Opec secretary-general Haitham Al Ghais reiterated yesterday that more investment is needed in oil and gas, saying oil will continue to account for about 30% of the global energy mix by 2050.

A growing economy, population growth and urbanisation all lead "to one clear signal that the world will need much more energy than it is consuming today", he said in remarks to the Russian Energy Week conference in Moscow.

He forecast 23% growth in primary energy demand by 2050.

"Yes, it's a turbulent world and a lot going on, but that's a constant. And for us in Opec the constant is the ability to keep all that noise away from the technical, sound, detailed analysis that we do."

Opec's demand forecasts are at the higher end of industry estimates, as it expects a slower energy transition than other forecasters, such as the International Energy Agency, which has forecast peak oil demand in 2029 and a supply glut of as much as 4 million barrels per day in 2026.

Opec+, which groups Opec, Russia and other allies, is adding more crude to the market after member countries decided to unwind some output cuts more rapidly than earlier scheduled. – Reuters

STARBUCKS®

Strong dealmaking boosts profits at US banking giants

Executives say consumers remain generally 'resilient'



A man walks from a branch of Wells Fargo bank in the University District of Seattle. – ***REUTERSPIC***

NEW YORK: Robust dealmaking activity and strong trading results helped boost US bank earnings on Tuesday despite lingering worries about a softening job market and a potentially overvalued stock market.

Profits rose in the third quarter at JPMorgan Chase and three other US lending giants, reflecting strength in core business areas and the still-healthy condition of many consumers even after a lengthy stretch of persistently high costs that have stretched low-income households.

At JPMorgan, profits were US$14.4 billion, up 12% from the year-ago level, with revenues of US$46.4 billion, up 9%.

The bank, the biggest US lender in terms of assets, reported somewhat higher credit costs in the quarter as it disclosed details about a US$170 million hit from the bankruptcy of Tricolor, a subprime auto lender.

But JPMorgan executives reiterated that consumers remain generally "resilient" and mostly on time with credit card payments, a tone echoed by other large banks.

"We've been waiting for the so-called consumer recession, but it doesn't materialise," said investment banker and author Christopher Whalen of Whalen Global Advisers.

The large banks "don't do business with subprime" customers, said Whalen, who suspects more troubles involving banks' corporate lending will surface in time.

More bank earnings will be released in the coming days, but Tuesday's batch showed increases all around with Citigroup profits rising 16% to US$3.8 billion, Goldman Sachs up 39% to US$3.9 billion and Wells Fargo up 9% to US$5.6 billion.

Goldman Sachs pointed to its role as the "exclusive advisor" to Electronic Arts in a US$55 billion deal to go private as it confidently described its merger and acquisition "pipeline" of pending and future deals.

Other banks also touted strong demand for financial advisory service.

But they expressed concern about weakening US job data.

"While there have been some signs of a softening, particularly in job growth, the US economy generally remained resilient," said JPMorgan chief executive Jamie Dimon.

"However, there continues to be a heightened degree of uncertainty," said Dimon, pointing to tariffs, the risk of "sticky" inflation and other factors.

Executives also acknowledged concerns that sky-high equity valuations for artificial intelligence companies may be out of hand.

Citigroup chief financial officer Mark Mason said the stream of stock market records suggests "some frothiness in different sectors", adding "we'll have to see how that ultimately evolves".

Heading into the results, one overhang facing the sector was the question of exposure to a pair of recent high-profile bankruptcies.

Accounts of the collapse of Texas-based Tricolor have pointed to "apparent or alleged fraud", JPMorgan chief financial officer Jeremy Barnum said on a conference call with reporters.

Barnum said it can be difficult to avert all cases where a "motivated party" is committed to deception, but that the firm was looking at fortifying its controls.

"This is not our finest moment," added Dimon, who said colleagues would "scour every issue" in light of the revelations on the case.

Citigroup also disclosed what it called "idiosyncratic downgrades" that more than doubled its corporate non-accrual loans compared with last year.

Mason said Citi had not experienced broad problems within its portfolio, noting the bank was not exposed to Tricolor or to First Brands, a US auto supply firm whose bankruptcy has hit some other lenders, including UBS and Jefferies.

"There's no particular concentration of exposure that I'm worried about," he said.

While the damage from such examples has been limited so far, more cases of problem corporate lending could surface.

Whalen said the financial system is still flush from a period of great liquidity due to central bank actions.

"There's been so much credit available," he said.

"It's just that they haven't gotten to the point where they're cleaning house." – AFP

OpenAI to allow erotica on ChatGPT for verified adults

SAN FRANCISCO: OpenAI announced plans on Tuesday to relax restrictions on its ChatGPT chatbot, including allowing erotic content for verified adult users as part of what the company calls a "treat adult users like adults" principle.

In a post on X, CEO Sam Altman said that stricter guardrails on conversational AI to address mental health concerns had made its chatbot "less useful/enjoyable to many users who had no mental health problems".

The stricter safety controls came after California teenager Adam Raine died by suicide earlier this year, with his parents filing a lawsuit claiming ChatGPT provided him with specific advice on how to kill himself.

The US Federal Trade Commission also launched an inquiry into several tech companies including OpenAI over how AI chatbots potentially negatively affect children and teenagers.

"Given the seriousness of the issue we wanted to get this right," Altman said on Tuesday, arguing that OpenAI's new safety tools now allow the company to ease restrictions while still addressing serious mental health risks.

OpenAI's plan includes the release of an updated version of ChatGPT that will allow users to customise their AI assistant's personality, including options for more human-like responses, heavy emoji use or friend-like behaviour.

The most significant change will come in December, when OpenAI plans to roll out more comprehensive age-gating that would permit erotic content for verified adults.

OpenAI did not immediately provide details on its age verification methods or additional safeguards planned for adult content.

The company launched a dedicated ChatGPT experience for under-18 users in September, with automatic redirection to age-appropriate content that blocks graphic and sexual material.

It also said it was developing behaviour-based age prediction technology that estimates whether a user is over or under 18 based on how they interact with ChatGPT. – AFP

ASML posts stable earnings, warns on China sales

THE HAGUE: Dutch tech giant ASML warned yesterday of a steep fall in its China business next year, as it booked flat net profits in the third quarter of 2025 compared with the same quarter last year.

"We expect China customer demand, and therefore our China total net sales in 2026, to decline significantly compared to our very strong business there in 2024 and 2025," said CEO Christophe Fouquet in a statement.

The firm, which makes cutting-edge machines that manufacture semiconductors, announced net profits of €2.125 billion (RM10.6 billion), after €2.077 billion in the third quarter of last year.

Net sales in the third quarter of 2025 came in at €7.5 billion euros.

ASML had forecast a figure between €7.4 billion and €7.9 billion.

"Our third-quarter total net sales ... were in line with guidance, reflecting a good quarter for ASML," said Fouquet.

In July, the firm had warned that geopolitical and trade tensions had clouded the near-term outlook for its growth.

ASML said then that it could not confirm it would be in the black in 2026.

But Fouquet said yesterday that "we do not expect 2026 total net sales to be below 2025", adding that the firm would give more details on next year's outlook in January.

"I think we have seen a flow of positive news in the last few months that has helped to reduce some of the uncertainties we discussed last quarter."

The CEO said he expected sales in the fourth quarter to come in between €9.2 and €9.8 billion.

For the full year 2025, the firm predicts a 15% increase in total net sales.

Net bookings, the figure most closely watched in the markets as a predictor of future performance, were €5.4 billion, compared to €5.5 billion in the second quarter.

Longer-term, ASML believes that the rapidly expanding AI market will push up its annual sales to between €44 and €60 billion by 2030.

ASML is a critical cog in the global economy, as the semiconductors crafted with its tools power everything from smartphones to missiles.

Semiconductors have become something of a global geopolitical battlefield, notably between China and the West.

Washington has sought to curb exports of high-tech chips to China, worried they could be used to fuel Beijing's military.

Last week, a US Congressional committee report said five companies, including ASML, had sold US$38 billion worth of critical tech to China in 2024, including to firms flagged as US national security threats.

"China is striving with all its might to build a domestic, self-sufficient semiconductor manufacturing industry," the report said.

Earlier this week, chip-related tensions grew between China and the Netherlands after the Dutch government took control of a Chinese-owned chipmaker.

Dutch officials invoked the Goods Availability Act to take control of Nexperia, citing national security concerns.

That meant while the company – based in the Dutch city of Nijmegen – can continue production, the Dutch government can block or reverse its decisions.

Parent company Wingtech said it was appealing to Chinese authorities for support and discussing legal action with international law firms. – AFP

MARKET ROUND-UP: OCT 15

15-Oct-2025 Bursa Malaysia
Trade Statistics

TOP ACTIVE STOCKS	VOL (M')	VALUE (M')
VELESTO	116.89	30.98
GENM	110.70	259.03
GENTING	72.34	245.94
DNEX	64.54	18.72
TANCO	62.04	53.66

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

QR Code to register for 1-to-1 Coaching

Inter-Pacific Securities Sdn. Bhd. is now rebranded as Berjaya Securities Sdn. Bhd.

BERJAYA Berjaya Securities

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 requests)

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	12,067.20	+30.21
FBMKLCI	1,611.55	+0.09
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	534.21	+4.95
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	173.94	+0.37
CONSTRUCTION	325.03	+1.22
FINANCIAL SERVICES	18,195.20	+17.21
ENERGY	800.03	+10.19
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	494.84	+7.64
HEALTH CARE	1,677.41	+16.91
TRANSPORTATION	1,010.08	+5.44
PROPERTY	1,051.07	+4.01
PLANTATION	7,846.35	+16.97
FBMSHA	12,142.10	+30.65
FBMACE	5,345.37	+151.90
TECHNOLOGY	62.20	+0.48

TURNOVER: 4.2606 bil **VALUE: RM3.6921 bil**

Bursa ends slightly higher, thanks to bargain-hunting

BURSA Malaysia pared earlier gains to close marginally higher yesterday, tracking the upbeat performance of regional peers amid continued bargain-hunting across the broader market.

At 5pm, the FBM KLCI edged up 0.09 of-a-point, or 0.01%, to 1,611.55 from 1,611.46 at Tuesday's close.

The benchmark index opened 3.61 points higher at 1,615.07 and moved between 1,611.12 and 1,619.58 throughout the trading session.

Meanwhile, the broader market was positive, with 726 decliners thumping 426 gainers, while 472 counters were unchanged, 1,048 untraded, and eight suspended.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd vice-president of equity research Thong Pak Leng said the local market closed broadly higher yesterday, in tandem with regional markets, as bargain-hunting emerged after recent losses.

IPPFA Sdn Bhd director of investment strategy and country economist Mohd Sedek Jantan said market reaction to Budget 2026 has been broadly positive, as reflected by the stronger performances across the broader indices.

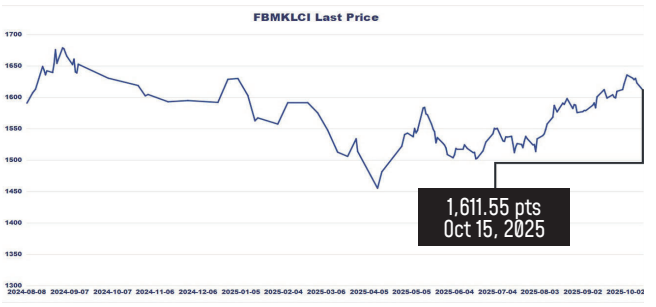
On the local bourse, heavyweights IHH Healthcare gained two sen to RM8.07. CIMB Group and Public Bank shed one sen each to RM7.34 and RM4.20, respectively, while Tenaga Nasional dipped two sen to RM13.18 and Maybank was unchanged at RM9.92.

On the most active list, Velesto Energy perked up one sen to 26.5 sen, Genting Malaysia rose two sen to RM2.34, Dagang NeXchange increased 3.5 sen to 29 sen, and Tanco Holdings and Zetrix AI edged up half-a-sen to 86.5 sen and 84.5 sen respectively.

Top gainers included Nestle which rose 60 sen to RM102.70, Genting Bhd jumped 39 sen to RM3.40, and Petronas Dagangan advanced 30 sen to RM23. – Bernama

Top 20 Actives

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/-(RM)	+/-(%)	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-PWJ8	0.130	-0.045	-25.71	2,045,155
HSI-CWI2	0.095	+0.010	+11.77	1,786,950
HSI-CWI1	0.255	-0.025	-8.93	1,572,665
HSI-CWKC	0.095	+0.015	+18.75	1,411,674
HSI-PWLQ	0.145	-0.030	-17.14	1,385,454
VELESTO	0.265	+0.010	+3.92	1,168,918
GENM	2.340	+0.020	+0.86	1,106,981
HSI-CWKS	0.070	+0.015	+27.27	1,100,844
DNEX-WE	0.140	+0.055	+64.71	1,008,808
GENTING	3.400	+0.390	+12.96	723,357
DNEX	0.290	+0.035	+13.73	645,366
TANCO	0.865	+0.005	+0.58	620,354
ZETRIX	0.845	+0.005	+0.60	554,450
TOPGLOV	0.685	-	-	548,038
PHARMA	0.265	+0.005	+1.92	458,604
TFP	0.040	+0.015	+60.00	406,999
VS	0.535	+0.005	+0.94	384,532
CMSB	1.480	+0.130	+9.63	365,529
TWL	0.025	-	-	361,266
ECOSHOP	1.630	+0.040	+2.52	341,983



Top 20 Gainers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
NESTLE	102.700	+0.600	1,222
GENTING	3.400	+0.390	723,357
KLCC	9.030	+0.300	1,526
PETDAG	23.000	+0.300	2,742
SPRITZER	2.400	+0.290	24,091
GOLDETF	5.790	+0.270	3,475
LSH	2.370	+0.210	60,863
CHINTEK	10.460	+0.180	220
FRONTKN	4.560	+0.170	89,066
MNHLDG-WA	1.670	+0.170	9,563
MNHLDG	1.890	+0.150	95,299
HLBANK	20.640	+0.140	11,056
SLVEST-WA	2.190	+0.140	2,309
CMSB	1.480	+0.130	365,529
INFOM	1.490	+0.130	61,091
HSI-CWIJ	0.585	+0.115	618
HSI-CWKG	0.730	+0.115	450
99SMART	3.140	+0.110	228,510
SAMAIDEN	1.590	+0.110	28,156
HSI-CWKO	0.525	+0.105	16,394

Top 20 Gainers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
GENTINGC3S	0.075	+650.00	177,353
GENTINGC3T	0.020	+300.00	19,530
CMSB-C63	0.080	+220.00	41,231
GENTINGC4A	0.070	+180.00	34,799
MRDIY-C39	0.065	+160.00	3,055
GENTINGC3M	0.025	+150.00	52,273
GENTINGC3Y	0.075	+150.00	325,810
GENTINGC3V	0.095	+137.50	24,858
GENTINGC3X	0.070	+133.33	22,208
GENTINGC4C	0.115	+109.09	73,040
GENTINGC3U	0.030	+100.00	551
INGENIEU-WB	0.010	+100.00	14,702
JADI-WB	0.010	+100.00	18,114
SCBUILD	0.010	+100.00	50,206
GENTINGC3Z	0.110	+83.33	12,340
DNEX-C40	0.045	+80.00	39,316
GENM-C3M	0.090	+80.00	976
CMSB-C68	0.125	+66.67	14,169
GENTINGC4B	0.200	+66.67	67,161
YENHER-WA	0.200	+66.67	2

World Stocks/Commodities

INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE (%)
DJIA (US)	46,270.46	202.88	0.44
S&P 500 (US)	6,644.31	-10.41	-0.16
NASDAQ (US)	22,521.70	-172.91	-0.76
NYSE (US)	21,500.25	118.46	0.55
EURO STOXX 50 (EUR)	5,622.48	70.43	1.27
FTSE 100 (UK)	9,420.17	-32.6	-0.34
DAX (GER)	24,242.08	5.14	0.02
NIKKEI 225 (JPN)	47,672.67	825.35	1.76
TOPIX INDEX (JPN)	3,183.64	49.65	1.76
HANG SENG INDEX (HK)	25,910.60	469.25	1.84
CSI 300 (CHN)	4,606.29	67.22	1.48
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	218.16	-2.89	-1.31
SHANGHAI SE COM (CHN)	3,912.21	46.98	1.22
KOSPI INDEX (SK)	3,657.28	95.47	2.68
SENSEX INDEX (IND)	82,579.18	549.2	0.67
ASX 200 (AUS)	8,990.92	91.5	1.03
ALL ORDINARIES INDX (AUS)	9,299.01	90.5	0.98
FBM KLCI	1,611.55	0.09	0.01
STRAITS TIMES INDEX (S'PORE)	4,368.22	13.7	0.31
WTI (US$/BBL.)	58.6	-0.09	-0.15
BRENT (US$/BBL.)	62.22	-0.17	-0.27
GOLD (COMEX) (US$/T OZ)	4,231.50	68.1	1.64
SILVER (COMEX) (US$/T OZ)	51.77	1.14	2.26
PLATINUM (US$/T OZ)	1,645.88	-6.88	-0.42
COPPER (COMEX) (US CENTS/LB.)	503.75	1.45	0.29
COPPER 3MO (LME) (US$/MT)	10,578.00	-242.5	-2.24
CORN (US CENTS/BU.)	412.5	-0.5	-0.12
WHEAT (US CENTS/BU.)	500	-0.25	-0.05
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) (US CENTS/LB.)	275.2	0.9	0.33
COCOA (ICE) (US$/MT)	5,739.00	-160	-2.71
RUBBER (S'PORE) (US CENTS/KG)	169.6	2.2	1.31

As at 6pm, Oct 15.

Top 20 Losers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
CARLSBG	15.420	-1.160	10,652
HEIM	19.800	-0.540	8,005
MPI	28.840	-0.200	1,424
UTDPLT	23.240	-0.200	25,250
HSI-CWKJ	0.225	-0.195	17,860
BAIDU-C5	0.240	-0.180	391
UNISEM	3.420	-0.170	22,062
PPB	10.900	-0.160	27,777
UCHITEC	3.020	-0.140	46,436
HSI-CWK2	0.540	-0.130	120
AJI	13.780	-0.120	82
ALLIANZ-PA	17.880	-0.120	92
MISC	7.180	-0.120	30,040
SUNCON	6.110	-0.120	39,072
HSI-PWLE	0.765	-0.115	5,960
HI	2.740	-0.110	35,068
QL	4.290	-0.110	30,500
D&O-C24	0.045	-0.105	11,000
NIKKEI-HT	0.740	-0.105	1,900
VS-C1E	0.045	-0.105	11,333

Top 20 Losers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
GCB-C28	0.005	-80.00	1,003
D&O-C24	0.045	-70.00	11,000
VS-C1E	0.045	-70.00	11,333
HSI-CWG9	0.005	-66.67	20
PBBANK-C2C	0.050	-66.67	11,000
KSL-CS	0.055	-63.33	2,000
BYD-C36	0.005	-50.00	1,000
HONGSENG	0.005	-50.00	2,734
PHB	0.005	-50.00	16,754
HSI-CWKJ	0.225	-46.43	17,860
BAIDU-C5	0.240	-42.86	391
MRDIY-C51	0.095	-36.67	1,200
HSI-PWJT	0.055	-35.29	3,797
NIKKEI-HQ	0.055	-35.29	671
D&O-C16	0.010	-33.33	15,120
HSI-PWH9	0.030	-33.33	1,500
SG	0.010	-33.33	37,784
SPSETIA-C97	0.010	-33.33	5,850
HSI-PWJG	0.045	-30.77	300
NEXG-C75	0.070	-30.00	280

MARKETS/FROM THE BROKERS

SUNBIZ presents extracts of a selection of commentaries and research reports received from stockbrokers on counters that could be of interest to investors.

Compiled by **SunBiz Team**

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BNM upbeat on ringgit amid strong fundamentals, reforms

KUALA LUMPUR: Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) remains optimistic about the trajectory of the ringgit, underpinned by Malaysia's strong economic fundamentals and structural reforms.

The central bank's Governor Datuk Seri Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour said that the ringgit has strengthened against the US dollar by 5.8% year-to-date amid a challenging global economic environment.

Previously, at the launch of the Global Islamic Finance Forum, he said the ringgit could appreciate to RM4 against the US dollar by the end of the year, given Malaysia's bright economic prospects.

"While we do not target any level for the ringgit, we remain committed to ensuring the foreign exchange market remains resilient and stable.

"Over the longer horizon, our continued structural reforms such as in labour markets and social protection, which are key to driving improvements in our productivity and competitiveness, will further unlock growth and provide enduring support to the ringgit," he responded to Bernama's query.

Abdul Rasheed added that Malaysia has been making good progress in attracting quality investments, with encouraging results being observed.

"Compared to previous investment upcycles, the current upcycle has been more private-sector driven with a notable increase in higher valued-added activities in the manufacturing and services sectors such as automation, digitalisation and data centre investments," he said.

Besides, he said the central bank views the government's continued commitment to fiscal discipline, with the target of further reducing the fiscal deficit to 3.5% of GDP in 2026. – Bernama

US dollar softens after dovish remarks by Fed chair

THE ringgit held steady against the US dollar yesterday amid a weaker greenback following dovish remarks by the US Federal Reserve (Fed) chair Jerome Powell.

At 6pm, the local note stood at 4.2305/2355 versus the US dollar.

According to reports, Powell told a conference that the US has a weak job market and above-target inflation, which creates a policy dilemma and economic uncertainty.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said Powell also has reignited expectation that an interest rate cut of 25 basis points is still on the table.

"The dovish remarks dampened the US Dollar Index (DXY) down by 0.21 per cent to 98.842 points. The rise in DXY of late has been largely associated with the US government shutdown which resulted in delayed key data point releases," he told Bernama.

The ringgit weakened against a basket of major currencies.

It slipped against the euro to 4.9213/9272 from 4.8879/8937 at Tuesday's close, softened versus the British pound to 5.6469/6535 from 5.6118/6184 yesterday, and declined vis-a-vis the Japanese yen to 2.7948/7983 from 2.7808/7843.

The ringgit also closed lower against Asean currencies.

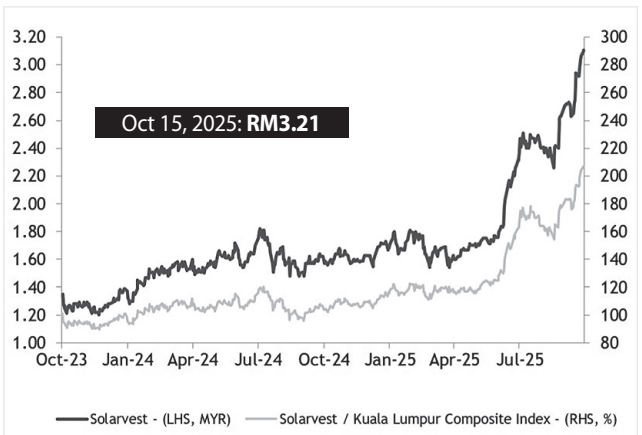
The local note depreciated versus the Thai baht to 12.9933/13.0151 from 12.8975/9182 at Tuesday's close, ticked down against the Singapore dollar to 3.2648/2689 from 3.2512/2553 previously, eased against the Indonesian rupiah to 255.2/255.6 from 254.8/255.2, and dropped versus the Philippine peso to 7.29/7.30 from 7.26/7.27 previously.

Exchange Rates

FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.2950	4.1500	4.1400
1 Australian Dollar	2.8020	2.6900	2.6740
1 Brunei Dollar	3.3080	3.2050	3.1970
1 Canadian Dollar	3.0530	2.9680	2.9560
1 Euro	4.9870	4.8280	4.8080
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.4610	2.3710	2.3550
1 Singapore Dollar	3.3080	3.2050	3.1970
1 Sterling Pound	5.7240	5.5450	5.5250
1 Swiss Franc	5.3910	5.1630	5.1480
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.5770	3.3580	3.1580
100 Chinese Renminbi	60.5400	58.0000	58.0000
100 Danish Krone	68.4600	63.0100	62.8100
100 Hongkong Dollar	55.7200	52.9500	52.750
100 Indian Rupee	4.9100	4.6100	4.4100
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0268	0.0242	0.0192
100 Japanese Yen	2.8420	2.7400	2.7300
100 Norwegian Krone	43.4400	39.9100	39.7100
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.5400	1.4400	1.2400
100 Philippine Peso	7.4900	7.0600	6.8600
100 Saudi Riyal	115.5600	109.7100	109.5100
100 South Africa Rand	25.6100	23.1300	22.9300
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.4500	1.3400	1.1400
100 Swedish Krona	46.4200	42.2900	42.0900
100 Thai Baht	13.7500	12.1900	11.7900
100 UAE Dirham	118.0800	111.9700	111.7700
100 Qatar Riyal	118.7300	112.7100	112.5100
100 New Taiwan Dollar	15.0000	N/A	N/A

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

Solarvest Holdings Bhd
Buy. Target price: RM3.60



Source: Maybank Investment Bank

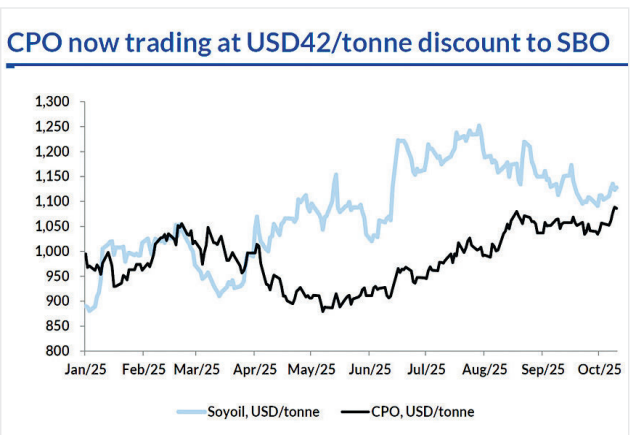
SOLARVEST'S outstanding order book stands at RM1.2 billion, comprising CGPP (RM414 million), LSS5 (RM504 million), residential and C&I (RM245 million) projects. The CGPP projects are expected to hit the peak in Q3'26 before tapering off from Q4'26. While LSS5 projects are expected to pick up momentum in Q4'26 to sustain earnings trajectory and provide robust revenue visibility into FY27-28. Nevertheless, Solarvest remains in active discussions to finalise several LSS5 and LSS5+ projects, which we estimate to add another RM1.2 billion new wins to Solarvest's order book by end CY25. We forecast RM2.5 billion/RM1.5 billion/RM1.6 billion job wins for FY26-28.

Solarvest's recently formalised joint investment partnership with Brookfield combines the best of both worlds, in our view, leveraging on Solarvest's strong expertise in developing local RE projects and Brookfield's extensive global corporate network. With Brookfield's on-going regional engagements with tech giants (as reported) such as Microsoft, Google, and Amazon, we see significant potential for Solarvest to capitalise on these connections to establish RE assets under the CRESS programme with the initial project expected to finalise in FY26.

We are positive on Solarvest's 1.5GW joint investment pipeline with Brookfield as Solarvest would be able to recognise both the EPCC earnings (excluding the 51% stake that it owns) and recurring income as the asset owner. Assuming EPCC cost of RM3.8m/MWac for the projects including BESS, the 1.5GW could unlock RM3 billion worth of effective orderbook for Solarvest over the next 5 years.

Buy with RM3.60 TP. – ***Maybank Investment Bank, Oct 15***

Plantation
Neutral



Source: Bloomberg

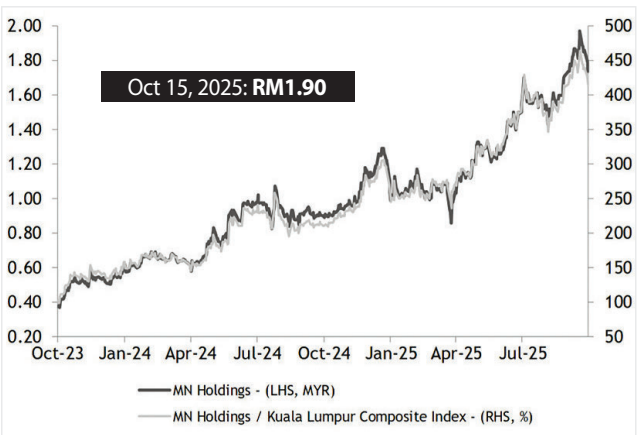
SPOT CPO prices have bounced back to current levels of RM4,400-4,500/tonne from a low of RM3,780/tonne in May. This was likely due to the postponement of US-China tariff decision which led to a recovery in soybean oil (SBO) prices (and therefore CPO). Meanwhile, Indonesia stated that it would continue to push through with its B50 biodiesel mandate in 2026, although the starting timeline would not be in January.

Despite the US-China tariff deadline extension, China is still not buying US soybean and continues to stock up on South American soybean. The latest 100% tariff US slapped on China exports is likely to make things worse, with China looking to retaliate. This was further exacerbated by Argentina temporarily eliminating export taxes on soybean, corn, wheat and biodiesel from Sept 22 to end-Oct 2025. China made up 76% of Brazil's soybean exports in the first eight months of the year, from the traditional level of 65-75%.

Should China not buy any US soybeans this season, the latter will be left with a lot of soybean stocks. Oil World forecasts end-Aug 2026 stock/usage ratio at 12%, which is a multi-year high. Global soybean stock/usage ratio is, therefore, expected to remain extremely high at 29.5% in 2026. This would put pressure on soybean and SBO prices – which would make CPO prices less competitive.

We have already seen the CPO-SBO price discount narrow by 55% over the last three weeks to US$42/tonne (from a high of US$263/tonne in June 2025). Should SBO prices decrease further, this could result in demand for PO being destroyed. – ***RHB Research, Oct 15***

MN Holdings Bhd
Buy. Target price: RM2.27



Source: Maybank Investment Bank

MNH is a Malaysia-based infrastructure contractor specialising in substation engineering and underground utilities, serving both public (TNB) and private clients including DC and solar developers. The company's core business focuses on power infrastructure works, including high-voltage substation Engineering, Procurement, Construction, Commissioning (EPCC) and 275kV underground cabling, which are critical enablers of Malaysia's energy transition and digital economy.

Post-Budget 2026, infrastructure contractors like MNH are among the most directly exposed to the grid investment cycle and renewable energy push, in our view. Several green initiatives in Budget 2026 such as green asset investment tax allowances, the reaffirmation of the NETR goals, and the focus on developing cross-border power infrastructure under the Asean Power Grid (APG), point to rising demand for substation and grid connection works. The programme mix, covering LSS6, BESS, FiT assets, and CRESS/ATAP, spans across the utilities sector as well as commercial and industrial segments, supporting MNH's tender flow and project visibility through 2026–28. Order book and tender pipeline remain robust at RM1.1 billion and RM1.2 billion respectively.

Given the robust jobs replenishment opportunity and faster DC-recognition, we raise our FY26–28 earnings forecasts by 7–12%. We expect one of the major DC project (substation EPCC project; RM180 million) to be completed and recognised in FY26 (~8% of net profit).

Buy with RM2.27 TP. – ***Maybank Investment Bank, Oct 15***

SCAN ME

theSun LYFE

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FROM THE MAKERS OF **JAGAT** ^ **SKYZEN STUDIOS** PRESENTS
A MULTIVERSE BY **SUN-J PERUMAL**

Multiverse saga

Director Sun-J Perumal returns with Jagat, Blues – P22



IN CINEMAS NATIONWIDE **13 NOV 2025**
IN CINEMAS NATIONWIDE **3 OCT 2025**
IN CINEMAS NATIONWIDE **4 DEC 2025**

JAGAT

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

INSIDE

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Opening *Jagat* Multiverse

Director Sun-J Perumal expands cinematic world with *Macai*, *Blues*

BY **AMEEN HAZIZI**

SINCE making waves in the Malaysian cinemas with his debut film *Jagat* a decade ago, director Shanjhey Kumar Perumal, better known as Sun-J Perumal, is returning to the world that had shaped his career.

This time, he is not just revisiting it but expanding it into what he calls the *Jagat* Multiverse, a three-film event that explores different paths of struggle, morality and identity, specifically the Tamil experience.

The multiverse introduces two new films – *Macai* releasing Nov 13 and *Blues* on Dec 4, both described as spiritual successors to *Jagat* (2015). Rather than direct sequels, they serve as thematic reflections of the same world and struggle seen through different lenses.

Macai explores the descent into crime, while *Blues* follows the pursuit of art and expression. Both expand upon the emotional and social core of *Jagat*, continuing its spirit while moving into new creative territory.

From one story to many

The idea for a multiverse came unexpectedly. Sun-J had been working on multiple scripts when a friend pointed out that the stories could exist within the same cinematic world. That suggestion became the foundation of what is now known as the *Jagat* Multiverse.

"All three movies have very morally grey characters. They are not just black and white. With varying nuance, each one highlights the Indian struggle in Malaysia," Sun-J told *theSun*.

While *Jagat* drew heavily from his own childhood experiences, *Macai* reflects the community he grew up in. *Blues*, meanwhile, mirrors his personal challenges as a filmmaker navigating Malaysia's film industry.

Real struggles, real stories

Macai tells the story of a drug pusher smuggling narcotics into Singapore from a neighbouring fictional country called Lingapura. The plot resonates with recent real-world headlines involving similar crimes.

"We are not trying to glorify drugs. It is a serious and relevant issue," Sun-J said.

In contrast, *Blues* explores themes of love, identity and freedom within the context of contemporary Malaysian Indian society. The film examines the dilemmas faced by a younger generation caught between cultural expectations, family pressures and the search for meaning in modern urban life. The story unfolds across six years, from 2004 to 2010, and required careful attention to continuity and character development.

In *Jagat*, Sun-J introduced audiences to Appoy, a young boy growing up in the 1990s who struggles to find his place between family expectations and the harsh realities of his environment.

Reflecting on that story, Sun-J said: "The films are about choices. They imagine what Appoy's life might have looked like if he had taken different paths, whether a life of crime or one in pursuit of art, each shaped by circumstance and consequence."

Beyond surface understanding

For Sun-J, telling stories rooted in Malaysian experiences remains essential in an age when global entertainment dominates screens.

"Most people know each other by race only on a surface level. It is important to go deeper into each other's struggles. Understanding one another is something sacred."

His films focus on the Malaysian Indian Tamil community but reach far beyond it. Both *Macai* and *Blues* were screened at the Rotterdam Film Festival, where they received strong responses.

Sun-J recalled an encounter there with an Indian woman who grew up in the Caribbean who said she related deeply to the circumstances in *Macai*. Another viewer, a recovering alcoholic, praised *Blues* for its realistic portrayal of addiction.

Growth through struggle

The journey from *Jagat* to *Macai* and *Blues* reflects the evolution of both a filmmaker and an industry.

"*Jagat* was a struggle as the production took 10 years. It is easier now because investors trust me more," Sun-J said.

Blues was completed in 2022 with a budget of RM650,000 funded by My Creative Ventures, while *Macai* was shot in 2023 with RM600,000 from a Finas Digital Content Fund grant. Although securing funds has become more feasible in recent years, Sun-J said the process remains uneven.

"There are more opportunities for independent films now, but Tamil-language productions still face difficulty in getting support. Some projects receive generous fundings while others struggle, and Tamil films often fall into the latter group," he said.

Casting was another challenge. The lead role in both *Macai* and *Blues* are played by Karnan G. Crack, but finding the right supporting actors required patience.

"It is hard to find actors in Malaysia who can deliver nuanced performances and not feel too Kollywood-like," he said.

Art, influence and control

Sun-J's creative influences are as diverse as his films. For *Macai*, he drew inspiration from noir and crime thrillers, citing filmmakers like Nicholas Winding Refn and Diao Yinan in shaping the gritty world of Lingapura. For *Blues*, he looked to the Polish master Krzysztof Kieslowski, whose work inspired the film's introspective tone.

Though Sun-J admits he rarely watches romantic films, the director spent a year studying the genre to understand its rhythm and emotional technique.

Despite the challenges of local censorship, he remains optimistic.

"Some kissing and violent scenes were censored, but nothing too serious. Censorship does not limit my creativity. It forces me to think of more creative approaches."

He quoted Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami, saying: "They do their work, we do our work."

Passion for cinema

Sun-J believes that cinema halls are the best way to experience a film, though he laments the lack of variety in Malaysian cinemas. To fill the gap, he has set up his own projector and screen at home to watch lesser-known international films.

His passion for storytelling is rooted in his childhood. He grew up listening to his grandmother recount Indian folklore and his father sharing local Malaysian tales. These early experiences shaped his belief that some stories like *Jagat* deserve to be retold for new generations.

Returning to where it began

Jagat was re-released in Malaysian cinemas on Oct 3, after nearly 10 years. The original 2015 film did not perform well at the box office due to high competition from *Star Wars* and major Bollywood titles, but its influence grew over time through word of mouth and critical acclaim, and has since become a staple in the Malaysian Tamil cinema.

For Sun-J, the re-release is both a celebration and a second chance.

"There are timeless stories that deserve to be retold. Some films speak to their time, but others grow more relevant as years pass," he said.

He views the *Jagat* Multiverse not as a conclusion but as a beginning.

"I see it as more of an opening. I already have a few scripts in the pipeline, including *Jagat* 2 and *Jagat* 3," he said.

Lasting legacy

What began as a personal story about an Indian boy in the 1990s has grown into a cinematic universe about identity, morality and resilience. Through *Macai* and *Blues*, Sun-J continues to explore how the individual choices of ordinary people shape larger truths about community and belonging.

"Find your own stories. They are out there. You just need to look for them. Most importantly, you have to be sensible," he advised young filmmakers.

With the *Jagat* Multiverse, Sun-J is not only revisiting the past but also redefining the future of Malaysian storytelling. His world may have begun small, but it now carries the weight of a legacy still being written.



Sun-J and Karnan on the set of *Blues*.



In *Jagat*, Sun-J introduces audiences to Appoy, a young boy growing up in the 1990s.



Blues releases on Dec 4.



Macai releases on Nov 13.



Drive-in theatres are a throwback to another era in a country where cars are king.



There are only 300 drive-in theatres remaining in the US today. – ***PICS FROM 123RF***

Quintessentially American, drive-in theatres going dark

FILM buffs sit snugly in cars watching a drive-in movie, munching popcorn on a lovely recent fall night.

Michelle Hutson, 52, has been coming to the Family Drive-In since childhood, enjoying what is now a dying form of quintessentially American entertainment.

With a sigh, she notes she might soon see the last picture show as the nearly 70-year-old outdoor theatre – one of the few remaining drive-ins in the Washington area – is on its way out, too.

"I'm about to be a grandma again for the second time. And it's heartbreaking to know that she may not be able to experience that," Hutson said.

The owners of the land under the Family Drive-In announced a few months ago they want to sell it, asking US$1.5 million (RM6.34 million), said theatre owner Andrew Thomas.

If he bought the land at that price, it would mean a mortgage payment three times what he pays now in rent, Thomas said.

"It's just not feasible for the business."

He launched a crowd-funding drive last month to save the theatre and so far has raised around US$30,000.

"It's overwhelming, in such a good way, that people care that much. Even in times of economic uncertainty, it means that this is a thing for them that's worth saving, and I agree with them. We have an opportunity to preserve a piece of history," said the 40-year-old.

More people watch TV at home

Attendance down

Drive-in theatres are a throwback to another era in a country where cars are king. In their heyday in the 1950s, there were more than 4,000 in America – but now only 300 or so remain, said Gary Rhodes, a movie historian.

They have died off because more people watch television at home and urban development has made the land needed for a drive-in theatre very expensive, Rhodes said.

Drive-ins enjoyed a spike in popularity during the pandemic, as people avoided crowded places like indoor movie theaters, but now "attendance is still going down," Rhodes said.

"I would say the majority of the drive-ins that are left in the world are there because the owner keeps them there. It's for the love of the business that they're there. Unfortunately, we are reaching a point where a lot of them want to retire," said D. Edward Vogel, co-owner of a drive-in and vice president of the United Drive-In Theatre Owners Association.

Because of TV streaming platforms and other factors, he said, "in my take of things, it's going to be a very rough road to hoe now."

To try to keep drive-in theatres alive, his association created a web site that seeks to match drive-in owners who want out with potential buyers who want in.

"We've been inspired by some brand new owners that understood the risk and came up to the challenge, and are determined to maintain a drive-in theatre business. That's really what's breathing faith into the fact that this can continue," said Vogel.

Mike White and Melissa Sims are examples of these new entrepreneurs. They invested US$500,000 to open a brand new drive-in in Louisiana and it is scheduled to open this autumn.

They have had to postpone the big day several times because of delays getting permits and other problems.

"We quizzed a lot of people before we started, and 99% of the people that we talked to said sure, they'd be glad to go," White said. – AFP

Samsung Art Store expands offering with new Tate collection

SAMSUNG Electronics Co Ltd has added 15 new artworks from Tate to Samsung Art Store, building on the platform's existing partnerships with renowned institutions like the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Modern Art, Thyssen-Bornemisza National Museum and more.

By integrating Tate collection, Samsung Art Store continues to bridge the gap between world-class museums and cultural institutions, bringing masterpieces directly into homes.

The new Tate collection includes iconic modern masters, such as Henri Matisse, Salvador Dalí, Mark Rothko and Roy Lichtenstein – the first pop art artists to appear on the Art Store – as well as leading contemporary artists like Peter Doig and Beatriz Milhazes.

Among the highlights are some of Tate Modern's most celebrated works: Roy Lichtenstein's *Whaam!* Henri Matisse's *The Snail*, a must-see in the Tate's permanent collection and Jackson Pollock's *Yellow Islands*.

The collection also offers a glimpse into the breadth and energy of modern and contemporary art by showcasing British painter Howard Hodgkin, alongside Peter Doig's dreamlike *Echo Lake* and *Ski Jacket*.



The Frame displaying *Metamorphosis of Narcissus* by Salvador Dali.



Samsung Neo QLED displaying *Dinner at West Hill* (1964-6) by Howard Hodgkin.

With these new additions, Samsung Art Store further expands its mission to democratise access to art, making it possible for anyone to enjoy museum-quality works from home, with ease. By bringing together partners from across the globe – from New York, to Madrid to London – the platform offers a unique opportunity to experience the depth and versatility of modern and contemporary art. And with Tate joining the lineup, art lovers can enjoy a collection that speaks to both heritage and innovation.

With Samsung Art Store available across the 2025 Samsung TV lineup – such as its QLED TVs and The Frame and The Frame Pro – art from the world's leading artists, museums and galleries is more accessible than ever.

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Autumn Blaze fuels lively conversations.



High-frequency shades such as Royal Carriage sharpen concentration and calm overthinking.

Colour therapy

Using paint for better mental, emotional well-being

MALAYSIA is facing a significant rise in mental health challenges, with the latest National Health and Morbidity Survey reporting over one million Malaysians, aged 15 and above, suffering from depression. Cases among children and adolescents have more than doubled in recent years, highlighting an urgent need for accessible and effective wellness solutions.

Amid these challenges, Malaysians are seeking more accessible ways to nurture emotional well-being, not just through professional care, but also within the comfort of their homes. One gentle yet powerful tool is colour therapy. More than just decoration, colours influence how we feel, heal and connect.

"Colour plays a profound role in shaping our mental and emotional well-being. As electromagnetic waves, colours interact with the brain's neural pathways, influencing mood, cognition and physiological responses. When we're exposed to certain hues, they can activate specific regions of the brain, helping to regulate emotional states and enhance mental clarity.

"For example, colours such as violet stimulate the hypothalamus, helping with focus and emotional maturity," neuroscience and colour therapy expert Prof Dr Norhisham explained.

Creating colour-smart homes

"Supporting mental health at home does not require drastic changes – it starts with awareness and intentional choices. In Colour Vibration Therapy, every colour carries a unique vibration that can influence emotions, hormones and even physiological balance. By choosing the right hues for each space, Malaysian families can create homes that not only look beautiful but also support emotional well-being," Norhisham added.

These colours can be applied at home in simple ways:

- Turn bedrooms, study areas into calming sanctuaries

Gentle hues such as Nippon Paint's Blue Pitcher bring peace and relaxation, while Green Heights restores balance and harmony. Together, they create safe, soothing spaces where children can focus during the day and sleep more restfully at night.

- Fill family spaces with joy, warmth

Cheerful tones such as Sunbeam spark optimism, Autumn Blaze fuels lively conversations and Peaking Pink nurtures love and affection. These shades brighten living rooms and dining areas, turning everyday moments into lasting memories.

- Create reflective corners for mindfulness

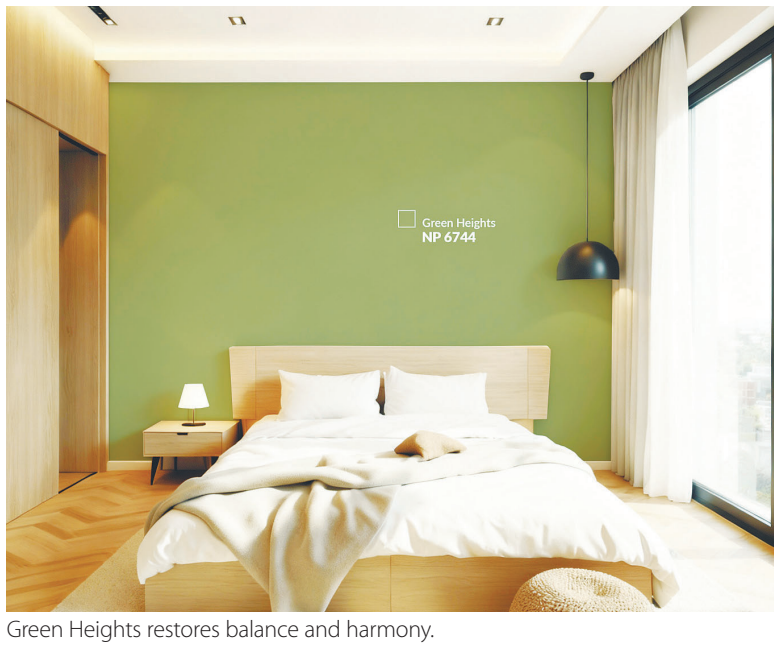
High-frequency shades such as Royal Carriage and Heather Ashes sharpen concentration and calm overthinking. Perfect for a meditation nook, prayer area or reading corner, these colours help restore mental clarity.

- Balance bold colours with neutrals, natural textures

While red can inspire energy and courage, too much may trigger restlessness or frustration. Pairing bold shades such as Liberty Blue with neutrals such as cream, grey or taupe – and incorporating wood or plants – grounds the space and prevents overstimulation.

- Maximise natural light to activate colour vibrations

Sunlight enhances the vibration of colour, making shades feel more vibrant and uplifting. Soft curtains, reflective walls painted in airy tones such as Bonito Flakes and open layouts invite brightness that lifts spaces and spirits.



Green Heights restores balance and harmony.

Smarter cooling, healthier homes

TODAY'S home appliances are expected to do more than just perform their basic function. Air conditioners, for instance, are no longer seen as machines that simply blow cold air.

With energy bills rising and environmental concerns becoming part of daily conversations, Malaysian households are starting to ask a different question: how can we stay cool in a way that is efficient and responsible?

Smarter cooling technology offers one answer. Instead of overworking compressors with constant stop-start cycles, inverter systems now maintain a steady temperature while consuming less power.

For users, this translates into quieter operation and lower monthly electricity costs. It is a small but meaningful shift that addresses one of the most common household worries: comfort at the expense of high bills.

Another priority is speed. From cooling bedrooms before bedtime to resetting the living room after a warm afternoon, fast cooling modes bring relief in minutes rather than hours.

The ability to cool a space quickly makes it easier to enjoy family time or wind down after a day outdoors without the discomfort of lingering heat.

Air quality is just as important as temperature. Washable HD filters that capture dust, allergens and airborne particles provide reassurance to families who want healthier indoor environments without constant maintenance costs. Cleaner air means fresher living spaces. Night-time cooling brings its own challenges, from keeping temperatures consistent to managing energy use until morning.

Sleep-optimised modes adjust cooling in line with the body's natural rest cycle, helping users drift off, stay comfortable and wake up refreshed while using less energy than standard settings.

And beyond the home, smarter appliances also consider their impact on the planet. With R32 refrigerant replacing older, more harmful gases, households can make choices that reduce environmental impact while still enjoying reliable cooling. For many, this adds a layer of reassurance: comfort at home does not have to come at the expense of the environment.



Inverter systems maintain a steady temperature while consuming less power.

Taken together, these innovations show how air conditioning has evolved from a luxury into a thoughtful part of modern living.

It is about more than escaping the heat – it is about creating homes that are comfortable, efficient and sustainable for the future.

Oscar-buzzy *Hamnet* changed me, actress Jessie Buckley says

Drama offers fictional account of relationship between William Shakespeare, wife Agnes

ACTORS Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal went on a transformative journey in *Hamnet*, a film that has received rave reviews and early award season buzz.

Directed by Academy Award-winning *Nomadland* filmmaker Chloe Zhao, the drama offers a fictional account of the relationship of William Shakespeare and his wife Agnes, and the death of their 11-year-old son Hamnet in 1596.

Set in Stratford-upon-Avon and London, it sees the young Shakespeare teaching Latin to pay off his father's debts and falling in love with the free-spirited Agnes, described by locals as the daughter of a forest witch.

With a focus on their family life, the emotion-filled film follows the highs and lows of their love story as well as the grief over the loss of their son, which leads Shakespeare to write *Hamlet*.

"What was revealed to me through her (Agnes) was a tenderness that I didn't know I needed to learn and live in. And that tenderness has changed me," Buckley said on Saturday at the movie's London Film Festival premiere.

"It really reminded me of how potent and powerful storytelling can be. And it's kind of set a bar, like, I only want to make films that are as brave and as human as this from now on," the Irish actress said.

Normal People, *Aftersun* and *Gladiator II* star Mescal said the movie gave him an opportunity to portray a maturing man. Its depiction of love that transforms through time was "very moving", he said.

"It's the first time that I've spanned the real length of time with him, early 20s all the way through to even a little bit in later life. It was lovely," the Irish actor said.

The film is adapted from Maggie O'Farrell's bestselling 2020 novel of the same name, with the author and Zhao co-writing the screenplay. It acknowledges that the names Hamlet and Hamnet were interchangeable in Shakespeare's day.

The project was an emotional one for Zhao, who was overwhelmed as she arrived at the premiere.

"If you see your DP (director of photography), your production designer, your costume designer and just start balling on the red carpet for like 20 minutes, I can't keep it together, I think it speaks for itself," she said.

Hamnet, which is produced by Steven Spielberg and Sam Mendes, will be released in cinemas globally in late 2025 and early 2026. – Reuters



From left: Mescal, Zhao, Buckley. – ***PIC FROM INSTAGRAM***



Kommodus' Lepidus Plague released his third full length album earlier this year. – ***PICS FROM INSTAGRAM @KOMMODUSWOLF***



Meridians of Sacrifice II is the perfect entry point into either band's body of work.

Martial, sonic prowess

ALBUM REVIEW

BY **MARK MATHEN VICTOR**

SURPASSING their 2023 split album, Kommodus and Koreltsak's *Meridians of Sacrifice II* (MOSII) is a metamorphosis of both Australian and American projects, with the album seeing the bands thread the needle in delivering an even sharper, searing barrage of songs that fortify their distinct foothold in the realm of black metal.

A continuation of what both forces introduced two years ago, MOSII has Kommodus' Lepidus Plague and Koreltsak P.T.S. take their self-experimentation to greater heights. Neither projects, particularly Kommodus, have ever been comfortable with complacency, but MOSII is a clear result of both creative figures pushing themselves to their (current) absolute limits.

The results are clear: Kommodus' side maintains the band's emblematic ferocity, with tracks like *Elegy for a Paladin Star* and *Osgiliath Seasons* being an even more heated theatre of war between raw black metal, hardcore and splashes of weird synthesisers and instruments.

On the American side of MOSII, Koreltsak draws from his scabbard songs like *Cracks in the Blade Howl from the Darkness* and *To Holy Ground*, melding raw black metal with Japanese motifs better than the project has done previously.

Like the drums on *The Crossroad of Corpses*, the session collaborators that contributed to both sides of the split are part of Kommodus and Koreltsak's array of sonic electric, electronic and acoustic arsenal that they deploy great effect, mirroring the prowess of Roman and Japanese warriors and commanders of old.

The split album also demonstrates why Kommodus nor Koreltsak may never perform live. Beyond the feverish anonymity both musicians have armoured their identities around, it would be a monumental task attempting to bring the full breadth of their music into a live music setting.

If 2023's *Meridians of Sacrifice* were rough chunks of steel of promising quality in the early stages of being forged into swords, *Meridians of Sacrifice II* is the culmination of two distinct blades fully forged, ready to be drawn and used to unfurl flesh from bone.

Guillermo del Toro backs Paris stop-motion animation studio

MEXICAN filmmaker Guillermo del Toro said recently he was teaming up with a Paris film school and Netflix to launch a training studio to help old-fashioned stop-motion animation techniques survive.

Stop motion is the oldest form of animation, involving manipulating real-life models to create films frame-by-frame.

It dates back to the late 19th century and is best-known nowadays through the *Wallace and Gromit* or *Chicken Run* films by British studio Aardman.

"The names that are important in stop-motion are all over 50 years old," del Toro told reporters in Paris at the Gobelins film school in southeast Paris.

"Stop-motion is perpetually on the brink of extinction. And it is perpetually preserved by slightly crazy people. It's a tiny cult with very devoted individuals," joked the filmmaker, who directed the 2022 animated film *Pinocchio* using the technique.

Del Toro, whose latest film *Frankenstein* starring Oscar Isaac is set to release on Netflix next month, said he valued stop-motion as a craft beyond the reach of artificial intelligence (AI).

"In an era in which you can have AI intruding in any other form of animation, this is AI-proof. So that is really good," he added in the presence of Netflix CEO Ted Sarandos.

The project's details, such as investment and equipment, are set to be finalised in the coming months. The launch date for the studio will be announced at a later date, according to school director Valerie Moatti. – AFP



Filmmaker del Toro says he values stop-motion as a craft beyond the reach of AI. – ***AFPPIC***

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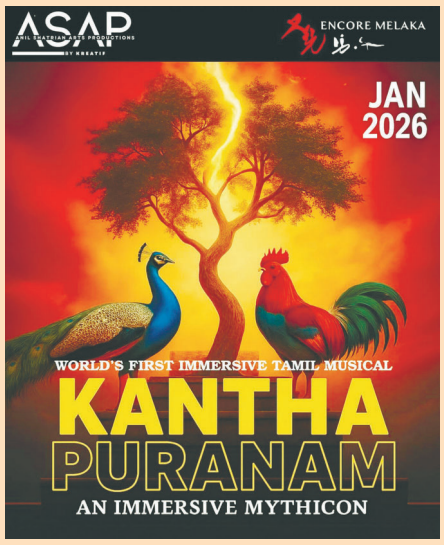


SeaShorts Film Festival 2025
Date: Until Oct19
Time: Various screenings and sessions throughout the day
Venue: GSC LaLaport BBCC, YWCA Kuala Lumpur
Entry fee: RM20–RM200
The ninth edition of the SeaShorts Film Festival returns to KL, spotlighting 40 of Southeast Asia's best short films selected from a record 703 submissions. This year's festival explores identity, borders and belonging across 11 Asean countries. Highlights include competition screenings and special showcases such as Shorts+, Beyond Indian Shores and Heatseeker Japan, as well as masterclasses and forums with leading filmmakers and actors. Directed by Dain Said, the event continues to serve as a key platform for emerging voices in regional cinema. Festival passes for the event are now available on CloudJoi, with special discounted passes for students.

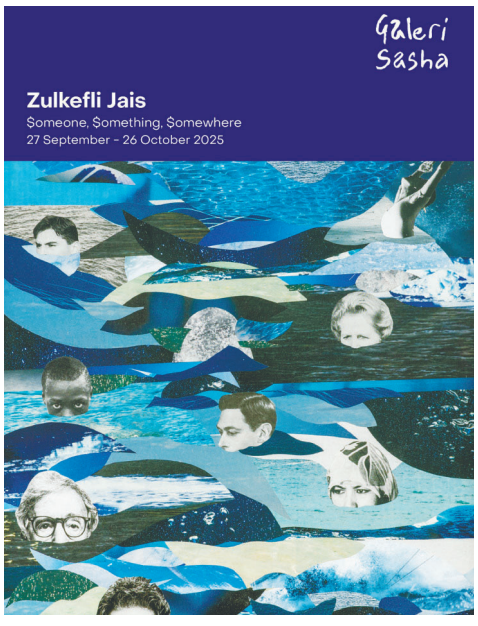


The MPO Presents Violinist Karen Gomyo
Date: Oct 25
Time: 8pm
Venue: Petronas Philharmonic Hall
Entry fee: RM229–RM499
The Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra will perform excerpts from Prokofiev's Romeo and Juliet under conductor Olari Elts at the Petronas Philharmonic Hall on Oct 25. The evening begins with Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* overture, followed by his *Violin Concerto in E Minor* featuring internationally acclaimed violinist Karen Gomyo. Known for her expressive artistry and collaborations with major orchestras worldwide, Gomyo will conduct a violin masterclass on Oct 23. The concert promises a stirring blend of passion, melody and classical splendour.

***Kantha Puranam*: An Immersive Mythicon**
Date: Oct 18
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Agenda Suria Communication Deepavali Carnival, Open Car Park B, Bukit Jalil
Entry fee: Free
Mythicon Studios, in collaboration with the Malaysian Performing Arts Society and Thrive Talent Tank, will host the digital soft launch of *Kantha Puranam*: An Immersive Mythicon on Oct 18 at Bukit Jalil. The event will unveil the world's first digital trailer for the production, which merges ancient Tamil mythology with modern immersive technology to create a new genre of performance combining 3D projection, extended reality and live theatre. Directed by Anil Shatrian, the project reimagines the 13th-century Tamil scripture *Kantha Puranam* as a digital legacy, ahead of its full-scale premiere at Encore Melaka in 2026.



Zulkelfi Jais solo exhibition: $someone, $something, $omewhere
Date: Until Oct 26
Time: Friday–Sunday, 12pm–7pm
Venue: Galeri Sasha, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Kuala Lumpur
Entry fee: Free
Galeri Sasha presents the debut solo exhibition by multidisciplinary artist Zulkefli Jais, also known as Kecik. Featuring mixed-media collages on plywood and an installation titled *Watchtower* (2025), the exhibition examines migration, displacement and ownership through the lens of surveillance and anonymity. Drawing from years of encounters with migrant workers, Zulkefli layers cut-out imagery from *Newsweek* magazines into dense compositions exploring power, conformity and identity. The gallery is open from Friday to Sunday, 12pm to 7pm, open by appointment on Wednesday and Thursday, and closed on Monday and Tuesday.





Kita Orang Art Exhibition 2025: Blue & White 400
Date: Until Oct 20
Time: 10am–10pm
Venue: The Linc Kuala Lumpur
Entry fee: Free
Lai Lai Art Gallery presents an international showcase featuring 400 artists from over 20 countries. The exhibition marks the 400th anniversary of the Wanli Shipwreck, a Portuguese vessel that once carried Chinese blue-and-white porcelain to Terengganu, and explores themes of cultural exchange through paintings, sculptures and installations. Curated by Alice Chang, Calvin Chua and Zaki Hadri, the event offers weekend art workshops, live demonstrations, storytelling sessions and a creative marketplace, creating a vibrant space for families and art lovers alike.



Pavilion Style: Bag It Up!
Date: Until Oct 31
Time: 10am–10pm
Venue: Level 3, Couture Pavilion, Pavilion Kuala Lumpur
Entry fee: Free
Pavilion Kuala Lumpur presents a curated exhibition celebrating the artistry, heritage and innovation behind luxury handbags from 11 global fashion houses. The showcase features highlights such as Hermes's Inside-Out Birkin and Delvaux's Le Brillant inspired by the 1958 Brussels World Expo and Bottega Veneta's 50th Anniversary Intrecciato collection. Also on display are designs from Dior, Bvlgari, Jimmy Choo, Miu Miu, Prada, Loewe and Thom Browne, each reflecting the craftsmanship and cultural storytelling that define contemporary luxury. Visitors can also enjoy exclusive shopping rewards throughout the exhibition period.

Nasam Colour Walk 2025
Date: Oct 25
Time: 6.30am–10.30am
Venue: Bukit Jalil Recreational Park
Entry fee: RM60
The National Stroke Association of Malaysia (Nasam) will host its annual Colour Walk on Oct 26 at Bukit Jalil Recreational Park in conjunction with World Stroke Day. The 2025 event promotes stroke awareness under the global call "Every Minute Counts". Participants can join a 4km public walk or a 1km survivor walk, while simultaneous events will take place across Nasam centres in Kuantan, Sabah, Perak and Johor. Registration closes on Oct 22 at the official Nasam website. Stroke survivors can take part in the 1km walk for RM60, which covers the survivor and one caregiver.



Borneo Jazz Festival 2025
Date: Oct 31–Nov 2
Time: From 6pm onwards
Venue: Eastwood Valley Golf & Country Club, Miri, Sarawak
Entry fee: RM100–RM600
The Borneo Jazz Festival returns, uniting local and international acts under the theme Jazzy Miri. Headliners include Aina Abdul, Aisha Retno, Amsyar Lee and Brunei's Jaz Hayat, alongside international performers such as NonaRia, Tabitha King and Ruiwen Yang & Kwangyong Kim Trio. The festival, hosted by Kim Goodburn and Melisha Lin, will also feature workshops, artisan markets and sustainability showcases.



302 Jobs

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322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016

and

IN THE MATTER OF DOMMAL RESTAURANTS SDN. BHD. Registration No. 198801001679 (169036-W)
(In Creditors' Voluntary Winding-Up)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Section 459(2) of the Companies Act, 2016, the Final Meeting of the creditors and contributory of the abovenamed Company will be held at the Liquidator's office at Wisma Goshen, 2nd Floor, 60, 62 & 64 Jalan SS 22/21, Damansara Jaya, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan on Monday, 17th day of November, 2025 at 9.30 a.m. for the following purposes:-

1. To lay before the meeting the Liquidator's statement of account and to give explanations thereof.
2. To decide under Section 518(3) (b) of the Companies Act, 2016, the manner in which the books, accounts and documents of the Company may be destroyed.

Dated this
16th day of October, 2025.

Lam Lee San (f)
Lee Yee Ching (f)
Liquidators

NOTE:

A creditor or contributory entitled to attend and vote at the abovementioned meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy who need not be a member of the Company to attend and vote in his stead. The instrument appointing a proxy must be duly deposited at the Liquidators' office, not less than 48 hours before the time of the meeting.

DALAM MAHKAMAH SESYEN DI KAJANG DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA (BAHAGIAN SIVIL) SAMAN PEMULA PENGANGKATAN NO. BH-58-20-07/2025

Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 3(1), Seksyen 8, Seksyen 10(1) dan Seksyen 25(2)(a), Seksyen 25(2)(b), Seksyen 25A(1)(a) dan Seksyen 25A(1)(b) Akta Pengangkatan 1952

Dan

Dalam perkara seorang anak Perempuan bernama LIEW ZHE HUI (No. Sijil Kelahiran: DAF64880)

ANTARA

1) LAM JI JUN
(No. K/P: 950513-01-7879)

2) CHAN KAR YEE
(No. K/P: 990216-05-5066)
... PEMOHON-PEMOHON

DAN

1) LIEW FATT CHOY
(No. K/P: 810710-71-5065)

2) LIEW ZHE HUI
(No. Sijil Kelahiran: DAF64880)

3) PEGAWAI KEBAJIKAN MASYARAKAT

...RESPONDEN-RESPONDEN

NOTIS

KEPADA:

LIEW FATT CHOY
(No. K/P: 810710-71-5065)

179, Kampung Baru,
Tronoh Mines,
31910 Kampar,
Perak

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu oleh **LAM JI JUN dan CHAN KAR YEE** yang beralamat di 13G, Jalan Wira Heights 1A, Bandar Sungai Long, 43000 Kajang, Selangor di Mahkamah yang tersebut diatas melalui Saman Pemula dan Afidavit Sokongan masing-masing bertarikh 19.07.2025 dan 29.07.2025 yang mana Pemohon-Pemohon memohon Perintah yang memberi kuasa penjagaan bagi anak tersebut yang bernama Liew Zhe Hui dan bahawa Pendaftar Bahagian Kelahiran, Kematian dan Anak Angkat mendaftar Perintah Pengangkatan ini di dalam Sijil Kelahiran Anak Angkat, nama bapa di ruang nama bapa digantikan dengan LAM JI JUN (No. K/P: 950513-01-7879), nama ibu di ruang nama ibu digantikan dengan CHAN KAR YEE (No. K/P: 990216-05-5066) dan nama anak digantikan dengan LAM ZHE HUI.

DAN BAHAWA ADALAH diperintahkan penyampaian Saman Pemula bertarikh 19.07.2025 dan Afidavit Sokongan yang diikrarkan pada 29.07.2025 kepada kamu dalam tindakan tersebut diatas hendaklah dilaksanakan dengan menampalkan sesalinan Saman Pemula bertarikh 19.07.2025 dan Afidavit Sokongan yang diikrarkan pada 29.07.2025 bersama sesalinan Perintah Untuk Penyampaian Ganti bertarikh 25.09.2025 diatas papan Notis Mahkamah Sesyen Kajang tersebut diatas dan di alamat yang terakhir diketahui iaitu di 179, Kampung Baru, Tronoh Mines, 31910 Kampar, Perak.

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa kamu dikehendaki memasukkan Afidavit Jawapan bagi Saman Pemula ini dalam masa dua puluh satu (28) hari dari tarikh penampalan dan jikalau kamu ingkar berbuat demikian perintah / penghakiman boleh dimasukkan terhadap kamu tanpa apa-apa pemberitahuan.

SILA AMBIL PERHATIAN, sekiranya Afidavit Jawapan difailkan dalam tempoh tersebut, kamu dikehendaki hadir untuk pengurusan kes pada **6hb November 2025 pada 2.00 petang di Mahkamah Sesyen Kajang secara fizikal.**

Bertarikh pada 13 Oktober 2025.

t.t
.....
Peguamcara Plaintif
Tetuan WK Wong & Co

NOTIS ini difailkan oleh TETUAN WK WONG & CO, peguamcara Pemohon-Pemohon yang beralamat penyampaian di K-3A-8, No. 2, Jalan Solaris, Solaris Mont Kiara, 50480 Kuala Lumpur.
[Tel No: 03-23893465
Email: wkwonglegal@gmail.com]
[Ruj: RW.25/.LIT.10333.Adoption.LZH]

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJISTRET DI KLANG DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA GUAMAN SIVIL NO.: BL-A72NCVC-439-08/2025

ANTARA

TENAGA NASIONAL BERHAD
[No. Syarikat : 199001009294 (200866-W)]
...PLAINTIF

DAN

PUI SIAW LING
[NO. K/P: 760723-13-5796]
...DEFENDAN

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN GANTI-BENTUK IKLAN

Kepada,

PUI SIAW LING
17, Jalan Mahligai 5E
Bandar Bukit Raja
41050 Klang
Selangor Darul Ehsan

Dan/atau

PUI SIAW LING
Lot 1003, Jalan Terusan 5, Pujut 4
98000 Miri
Sarawak

Dalam perkara Writ yang dikeluarkan pada 5 Ogos 2025.

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan Writ telah dikeluarkan terhadap Defendan dalam Mahkamah Majistret di Klang dalam Guaman No. BL-A72NCVC-439-08/2025 oleh Tenaga Nasional Berhad [No. Syarikat: 199001009294] (200866-W)] di mana tuntutan Plaintif ialah untuk bayaran bagi jumlah tunggakan bil elektrik bulanan yang dikeluarkan oleh Plaintif kepada Defendan sebanyak RM 28,450.45 setakat bil bertarikh 9/10/2024 untuk Nombor Akaun Pengguna 220203289001, faedah atas jumlah penghakiman pada kadar 5% setahun dari tarikh pemfailan tindakan ini sehingga tarikh penghakiman, faedah atas jumlah penghakiman pada kadar 5% setahun dari tarikh penghakiman sehingga tarikh penyelesaian penuh, kos dan adalah diperintahkan bahawa sesalinan Writ dan Pernyataan Tuntutan kedua-duanya bertarikh 5 Ogos 2025 ("Writ tersebut") disampaikan kepada kamu melalui Penyampaian Ganti iaitu dengan menampalkan sesalinan Writ tersebut di Papan Notis Mahkamah Majistret Klang, ditampal di alamat terakhir Defendan yang diketahui iaitu No. 17, Jalan Mahligai 5E, Bandar Bukit Raja, 41500 Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan (selepas ini "alamat Pertama Defendan") dan di Lot 1003, Jalan Terusan 5, Pujut 4, 98000 Miri, Sarawak ("selepas dari ini "alamat Kedua Defendan") berdasarkan kepada Perintah bertarikh 6 Oktober 2025 dan juga mengiklankannya sekali (1) dalam surat khabar tempatan dan saya percaya bahawa penyampaian itu menjadi penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup ke atas Defendan tersebut tujuh (7) hari selepas dari tarikh pengiklanan dan penampalan tersebut yang mana terkemudian.

Sekiranya kamu berhajat untuk membuat pembelaan terhadap tindakan tersebut, kamu mestilah diwakili oleh Peguambela kamu di hadapan Mahkamah Majistret Klang pada 27/10/2025 (secara E-Review), jam 9.00 pagi. Sekiranya kamu gagal berbuat demikian maka Penghakiman Ingkar boleh diberikan terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada 16 haribulan Oktober 2025

.....tt.....
Tetuan Sandosh Anandan
Peguamcara bagi Plaintif

Notis Penyampaian Ganti Bentuk Iklan ini dikeluarkan oleh Tetuan Sandosh Anandan, Peguamcara bagi pihak Plaintif yang beralamat di Unit A502, Blok A, Kelana Square, No. 17, Jalan SS7/26, Kelana Jaya, 47301, Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan.
Tel: 03-78065819 / 03-7804607
Fax: 03-78807409
(Ruj : SA/L/TNB/PUI SIAW LING/2127/2025/SA)

322 Notices

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KUALA LUMPUR
IN THE FEDERAL TERRITORIES OF MALAYSIA
COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) NO.: WA-28NCC-824-08/2025

In the matter of Section 465(1)(f) and/or (h) of the Companies Act 2016
AND
In the matter of the Companies (Winding-up) Rules 1972
AND
In the matter of Racing Tech Lubricants Sdn. Bhd. [Company Registration No.: 2011010003763 (928510-T)]

BETWEEN

IO TENG MENG
[NRIC NO.: 741219-14-5457]
...PETITIONER

AND

1. LAI CHOOI
   [NRIC NO.: 611226-10-5917]
2. FONG JIUN SHYONG
   [NRIC NO.: 741105-08-5599]
3. FONG JUEN MIN
   [NRIC NO.: 711202-08-5649]
4. FONG SHEAU PEY
   [NRIC NO.: 730827-08-5044]
5. RACING TECH LUBRICANTS SDN BHD
   [Registration No.: 2011010003763 (928510-T)]

...RESPONDENTS

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for the Winding-Up of **RACING TECH LUBRICANTS SDN BHD**, the above-named Company by the High Court was, on the 12th day of August 2025, presented by **IO TENG MENG** the above-named Petitioner and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the High Court of Malaya at Kuala Lumpur, on the 25th day of November 2025, 9.00 o'clock; and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desiring to support or oppose the making of an order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said Company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's residential address is at No. 62, Jalan Awan Kecil 3, Overseas Union Garden, 58200 Kuala Lumpur.

The Petitioner's solicitors are Messrs. Justin Faye & Partners of Unit 21-1, Menara 1MK, Kompleks 1 Mont' Kiara, No. 1 Jalan Kiara, Mont' Kiara, 50480 Kuala Lumpur.

.....t.t.....
Messrs. Justin Faye & Partners
Solicitors for the Petitioner

NOTE - Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said petition must serve on or send by post to the above-named Solicitors for the Petitioner notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than twelve o'clock noon of the 24th day of November 2025 (the day before the day appointed for the hearing of the petition). [Tel: 03-64209096 / e-mail: general@jfplawyers.com]
[Ref: JO/CY/25000724]

Vacherot relishing start of 'second career'

SHANGHAI CHAMPION Valentin Vacherot said yesterday he was ready to start a "second career" after receiving a wild card for the ATP Basel tournament and submitting a request to enter the main draw at the Paris Masters days after his surprise win in China.

"Thanks to a wild card, spectators will have the opportunity to see one of the biggest sensations of the season," organisers of the Swiss indoor tournament scheduled for Oct 20-26 announced.

On Sunday, Vacherot beat his cousin Arthur Rinderknech to win the Shanghai Masters, becoming at world No. 204, the lowest-ranked player to win an ATP 1000 tournament.

Paris Masters director Cedric Pioline confirmed that the 26-year-old Monegasque, now ranked 40, had submitted an invitation request for the tournament in the French capital which starts on Oct 27.

"It would be a dream for me. Less than two weeks ago, I didn't think I'd be playing Paris-Bercy at all," Vacherot said after a ceremony in his honour attended by Prince Albert at the Monte-Carlo Country Club.

"I thought I'd be playing in Asian challengers like I'm used to, after Shanghai. But no, finding myself at this new *La Defense* venue would be crazy for me."

Vacherot did not have a ranking that would allow him to directly enter the main draw in Basel, nor the ninth and final Masters 1000 of the season, when the list of participants was finalised.

"Two weeks ago, with all due respect, not many people knew him," said Pioline, himself a former world No. 5.

"Now, I think he has a name that speaks, that's in the news, he's identifiable," in addition to having made "a stratospheric leap" in the ATP rankings.

His victim in the Shanghai final, his French cousin Rinderknech, "will also need an invitation" to directly enter the main draw, Pioline pointed out.

In addition to the four wild cards for the main draw the French Tennis Federation (FFT) also plans to award four invitations to the qualifiers on Oct 25 and 26.

"This changes everything in my career," continued Vacherot of his first title.

"You could say I'm starting a second career, even though I'm not complaining at all about the first half.

"I'm really going to play in all the tournaments I want, right into the main draw.

"What's great is that this title comes very close to the end of the season. So the last few tournaments will be the cherry on the cake.

"I'll be able to enjoy myself afterward, with a little vacation, digest all this, and above all, take a lot of time to prepare for 2026, because it's going to demand even more of me." – AFP

NOTIS

NAMA PEMOHON : NIOO CHEE CHON
NAMA PREMIS : RUPERT DROP F&B SDN BHD
ALAMAT PREMIS : LOT 397 & 398, JALAN BAGAN LALLANG MUKIM 14, 13400 BUTTERWORTH, PULAU PINANG
JENIS LESEN : RUMAH AWAM KELAS 1

Permohonan lesen minuman keras telah dikemukakan kepada Lembaga Pelesenan (Eksais) Negeri Pulau Pinang seperti maklumat di atas.

Sesiapa yang ada bantahan terhadap permohonan ini hendaklah menghantar bantahannya secara bertulis dalam masa 14 hari dari tarikh iklan ini ke alamat: Pengerusi, Lembaga Pelesenan (Eksais), Bahagian Pelesenan, Jabatan Kewangan Negeri, Tingkat 18, KOMTAR, 10990 Pulau Pinang.

PERISYTIHARAN JUALAN
DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG
PERMOHONAN UNTUK PERLAKSANAAN NO: PA-38-1166-08/2025

Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 256 dan 257 Kanun Tanah Negara, 1965
Dan
Dalam perkara mengenai Gadaian Perserahan No: 0799SC2021005811 (bertarikh : 26/01/2021) ke atas semua bahagian tanah yang dipegang di bawah **GRN 61846/ M2/2/149, Lot 4200, Mukim Bandar Tanjong Bungah, Daerah Timor Laut, Pulau Pinang**
Dan
Dalam perkara mengenai Aturan 83 Kaedah-Kaedah Mahkamah, 2012

ANTARA
PUBLIC BANK BERHAD (No. Syarikat : 6463-H)
...PLAINTIF
DAN
KOH WEI LIN (No. Syarikat : 930226015426)
...DEFENDAN

Menurut Perintah Mahkamah Tinggi Malaya di **PULAU PINANG** mengenai Perintah Jualan dan Perintah bertarikh **21 Ogos 2023** dan **25 September 2025,** adalah dengan ini diisytiharkan bahawa Timbalan Pendaftar/Penolong Kanan Pendaftar Pusat Operasi e-Lelong di Kuantan

AKAN MENJUAL SECARA LELONG AWAM
Pada Hari Khamis, 6 November 2025, Pada Jam 11:00 pagi,
SECARA ELEKTRONIK DI LAMAN WEB e-LELONG, PUSAT OPERASI e-LELONG, KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KUANTAN, PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR

NOTA: Bakal pembeli adalah dinasihatkan agar membuat carian Hakmilik secara rasmi di Pejabat Tanah dan memeriksa semua tanggungan, bebanan serta mengenai pasti dengan tepat hartanah tersebut sebelum jualan lelongan dijalankan.

Sila layari https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb

BUTIR-BUTIR HAKMILIK:

No. Hakmilik	:	GRN 61846/M2/2/149
No. Lot	:	Lot 4200
Mukim / Daerah / Negeri	:	Bandar Tanjong Bungah / Timor Laut / Pulau Pinang
Pegangan	:	Hakmilik Kekal
No. Petak/No. Tingkat/ No. Bangunan	:	149 / 2 / M2
Keluasan Tanah	:	1141.0000000000 kaki persegi 106.0000000000 meter persegi
Pemilik Berdaftar	:	KOH WEI LIN
Syarat Nyata	:	Petak ini hendaklah digunakan untuk tujuan pangsapuri sahaja
Sekatan Kepentingan	:	Tiada
Bebanan / Lain-Lain	:	Charged to Public Bank Berhad vide Persn. No. 0799SC2021005811 and registered on March 17 2021.
Kawasan Rizab	:	
Kaveat	:	

LOKASI DAN PERIHAL HARTANAH :
Hartanah tersebut adalah **A 3-bedroom condominium unit** yang beralamat pos di **No. 1B-1-E, Jalan Chee Seng 13, Taman Pemimpin (Leader Garden), 11200, Tanjong Bungah, Pulau Pinang.**
HARGA RIZAB :
Hartanah tersebut akan dijual atas **"sepertimana sedia ada"** tertakluk kepada satu harga rizab sebanyak **RM 295,250.00 (RINGGIT MALAYSIA: DUA RATUS SEMBILAN PULUH LIMA RIBU DUA RATUS LIMA PULUH SAHAJA)** dan kepada syarat-syarat jualan yang dilampirkan. Pembida yang berminat hendaklah mendepositkan 10% daripada harga rizab dalam bentuk **Bank Draf** di atas nama **PUBLIC BANK BERHAD 1 HARI BEKERJA** sebelum tarikh lelong awam. Baki harga belian hendaklah dibayar oleh pembida yang berjaya kepada **PUBLIC BANK BERHAD** dalam tempoh **seratus dua puluh (120) hari** dari tarikh jualan. Untuk butir-butir selanjutnya, sila berhubung dengan:-

Firma Guaman	:	**WONG-CHOOI & MOHD NOR**
Alamat	:	**NO. 27, 1ST & 2ND FLOOR JALAN MAJU JAYA PUSAT PERNIAGAAN MAJU JAYA, 14000, PG, MY**
No. Telefon	:	**04-5398855**
No. Fax	:	**04-5395855**
No. Rujukan	:	**WCMN(BM)/PBB-HL/2023-273/KWL(RS/j)**

Real shame for F1

Horner played a character at Red Bull, claims F1 Academy head Susie Wolff

BY **LUKE BAKER**

SUSIE WOLFF *(pic)* has suggested that Christian Horner "played a character very well" during his time running the Red Bull team and that the allegations surrounding him were "a real shame" for F1.

Horner was relieved of his duties as Red Bull F1 team principal back in July after 20 years and 14 world titles at the team he built from the bottom up.

He officially left last month, having received an £80 million (RM464m) payoff, and Laurent Mekies was installed as his replacement as both chief executive and team principal.

As part of his settlement, it is believed the 51-year-old can return to the sport next spring and Horner is keen on a role back in the paddock, although he would expect a team ownership-style position, not dissimilar to the type that Wolff's husband Toto holds at Mercedes – where he owns a third of the team as well as being chief executive and team principal.

Horner was at the midst of a media storm in early 2024 when he was accused of inappropriate behaviour by a Red Bull colleague.

He has always denied the accusations and has twice been cleared of the claims – firstly by an internal investigation conducted by a lawyer and then secondly by another lawyer who dismissed the complainant's appeal.

And Susie Wolff – who is head of the F1 academy in addition to being married to the Mercedes F1 boss and Horner's bitter rival – is convinced that scandal damaged the sport.

"Christian was supportive of F1 Academy, and for that I'll always be grateful," Wolff said in an interview with the *Sunday Times*.

"It was a real shame for the sport – the whole drama that was created with the allegations.

"We were getting so much positive momentum with F1 Academy, and that all kicked off and suddenly everyone wanted to interview me about that.

"He was someone that played a character very well. But I do think that incident maybe wasn't the best for the image of the sport and showed that we've still got work to do."



Toto Wolff's rivalry with Horner really came to a head during the 2021 season when Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen were engaged in a bitter battle for the Drivers' Championship title, which ended with Verstappen narrowly pipping the Brit after a hugely controversial end to the final race of the campaign, the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

When Horner was let go by Red Bull this summer, the Mercedes chief was quick to reveal his true feelings, which were inevitably a mixed bag.

Wolff said: "What do I think (of Horner)? Well, that over the last 12-15 years, he has often behaved like an a**hole.

"He operates according to completely different values, but even the greatest enemy has a best friend.

"On the other hand, he was extremely successful in what he did. Now that he's gone, at least for a while, a real personality has left the sport.

"He was controversial and divisive, but he was one of the main characters here. We can safely say that he was as significant as a great driver.

"Looking at it purely from an F1 perspective, I don't think there are many old-style team boss dinosaurs left here. Maybe just me. Maybe Fred (Vasseur, Ferrari team principal) is a bit of a dinosaur too!" – The Independent

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI KOTA BHARU
DALAM NEGERI KELANTAN DARUL NAIM, MALAYSIA
PENGGULUNGAN SYARIKAT
NO.: DA-28NCC-55-09/2025

Dalam perkara Seksyen 465 (1) (e) Akta Syarikat 2016, peruntukan-peruntukan dalam Akta Syarikat 2016 dan Kaedah-Kaedah (Penggulungan) Syarikat 1972

Dan

Dalam perkara IMAMAN TRADING SDN. BHD. (No. Syarikat: 201101044092 [972212-A])

ANTARA

PERBADANAN USAHAWAN NASIONAL BERHAD
(No. Syarikat: 199101010745 [221057-V])
... PEMPETISYEN

DAN

IMAMAN TRADING SDN. BHD.
(No. Syarikat: 201101044092 [972212-A])
... RESPONDEN

IKLAN PETISYEN

NOTIS adalah dengan ini diberikan bagi suatu Petisyen untuk Penggulungan Syarikat yang dinamakan di atas oleh Mahkamah Tinggi di Kota Bharu adalah pada 22 September 2025, dikemukakan oleh Perbadanan Usahawan Nasional Berhad (No. Syarikat: 199101010745 [221057-V]) yang beralamat di Tingkat 7, Block 1B, Plaza Sentral, Jalan Stesen Sentral 5, Kuala Lumpur Sentral, 50470 Kuala Lumpur. Petisyen tersebut telah ditetapkan untuk didengar di Mahkamah Tinggi Malaya di Kota Bharu pada **19 haribulan November 2025,** jam 9 pagi. Mana-mana pemiutang atau penyumbang kepada Syarikat tersebut yang berhasrat untuk menyokong atau membantah pengeluaran perintah ke atas Petisyen tersebut boleh hadir semasa pendengaran dengan sendiri atau melalui Peguamcara masing-masing untuk tujuan tersebut. Suatu salinan Petisyen akan diberikan kepada mana-mana pemiutang atau penyumbang kepada Syarikat tersebut yang memerlukan, dengan bayaran caj yang ditetapkan oleh pihak yang bertandatangan di bawah ini.

Alamat Pempetisyen adalah di Tingkat 7, Block 1B, Plaza Sentral, Jalan Stesen Sentral 5, Kuala Lumpur Sentral, 50470 Kuala Lumpur.

Peguamcara Pempetisyen adalah Tetuan Ghazi & Lim, yang mempunyai alamat di Tingkat 12, Unit 8, Wisma New Asia, Jalan Raja Chulan, 50200 Kuala Lumpur.

Bertarikh pada 7hb Oktober, 2025.

TT
.....
Tetuan Ghazi & Lim
Peguamcara bagi Pempetisyen

NOTA:
Mana-mana pihak yang berhasrat untuk hadir pada pendengaran Petisyen tersebut hendaklah menyampaikan atau menghantar melalui pos notis secara bertulis tentang niatnya kepada Peguamcara Pempetisyen yang dinamakan di atas. Notis tersebut hendaklah menyatakan nama dan alamat pihak tersebut, atau, jika sebuah firma, nama dan alamat firma tersebut dan hendaklah ditandatangani oleh pihak tersebut, firma atau Peguamcaranya (jika ada) dan notis tersebut hendaklah disampaikan atau jika dihantar melalui pos, hendaklah diposkan dalam masa yang mencukupi supaya sampai kepada pihak yang dinamakan di atas **tidak lewat daripada jam dua belas (12:00) tengah hari pada 18 November 2025** (iaitu sehari sebelum tarikh yang ditetapkan bagi pendengaran Petisyen tersebut)
[RUJ: P80/24/MRG/NSA/arz]

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJISTRET DI KUALA LUMPUR
DALAM NEGERI WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN, MALAYSIA
GUAMAN NO.:
WA-A72NCVC-2935-08/2025

ANTARA

ESPRIT ESTATE AGENT SDN BHD
[No. Syarikat: 201301006857 (1036697-P)]
... PLAINTIF

DAN

NG TIONG TAT
(No. K/P: 781211-14-5627)
... DEFENDAN

NOTIS

KEPADA:

NG TIONG TAT
(No. K/P: 781211-14-5627)

No. 25, Jalan Wangsa Murni 7,
Wangsa Melawati,
53300 Kuala Lumpur

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu oleh **ESPRIT ESTATE AGENT SDN BHD** yang beralamat di 38C-2, Jalan Radin Anum, Bandar Baru Seri Petaling, 57000 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan di Mahkamah yang tersebut diatas melalui Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan masing-masing bertarikh 08.08.2025 yang mana Plaintif memohon untuk Penghakiman terhadap Defendan untuk jumlah wang sebanyak RM11,660.00 berserta dengan kos guaman RM500.00 bersama-sama dengan faedah pada kadar 5% setahun keatas jumlah RM11,660.00 dari tarikh penghakiman sehingga penyelesaian penuh dan kos.

DAN BAHAWA ADALAH diperintahkan penyampaian Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut kepada kamu dalam tindakan tersebut diatas hendaklah dilaksanakan dengan menampalkan sesalinan Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut bersama sesalinan Perintah Untuk Penyampaian Ganti bertarikh 26.09.2025 diatas papan Notis Mahkamah Majistret Kuala Lumpur tersebut diatas dan di alamat yang terakhir diketahui iaitu di **No. 25, Jalan Wangsa Murni 7, Wangsa Melawati, 53300 Kuala Lumpur.**

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa kamu dikehendaki memasukkan Memorandum Kehadiran bagi Writ Saman ini dalam masa dua puluh satu (21) hari dari tarikh penampalan dan jikalau kamu ingkar berbuat demikian penghakiman boleh dimasukkan terhadap kamu tanpa apa-apa pemberitahuan.

SILA AMBIL PERHATIAN, sekiranya Memorandum Kehadiran difailkan dalam tempoh tersebut, kamu dikehendaki hadir untuk pengurusan kes pada **28hb Oktober 2025 pada 9.00 pagi di Mahkamah Majistret Kuala Lumpur secara E-review.**

Bertarikh pada 13 Oktober 2025.

t.t
.....
Peguamcara Plaintif
Tetuan WK Wong & Co

NOTIS ini difailkan oleh TETUAN WK WONG & CO, peguamcara Plaintif yang beralamat penyampaian di K-3A-8, No. 2, Jalan Solaris, Solaris Mont Kiara, 50480 Kuala Lumpur.
[Tel No: 03-23893465
Email: wkwonglegal@gmail.com]
[Ruj: RW/25/10382/LIT/Esprit/NTT]

Aussies worst since 2010-11 Ashes, says Broad

AUSTRALIA are heading into the Ashes with their worst team in over a decade and all the pressure will be on the hosts when the five-match series begins next month, former England bowler Stuart Broad said.

England last won the Ashes in 2015 and have not won in Australia since 2011, with Australia winning their last three home series 5-0, 4-0 and 4-0.

Australia will once again be favourites, but they have suffered a significant setback with captain Pat Cummins saying on Monday that he was more likely than not to miss the first Ashes test.

"It's very, very difficult to win in Australia as an England side, or any side - it just is. Australia have to be massive favourites," Broad said in an episode of his *For The Love Of Cricket* podcast released yesterday.

"The question really is 'which team's under the most pressure?' Australia are under the most pressure because they're expected to win.

"They're brilliant at home, but they've got question marks over their team and question marks over the captain's fitness.

"It's actually not an opinion, it's fact, it's probably the worst Australian team since 2010 when England last won, and it's the best English team since 2010. So those things match up to the fact it's going to be a brilliant Ashes series."



Broad, who retired from playing after the Ashes series in England in 2023 when Australia kept hold of the urn with a 2-2 draw, pointed to the uncertainty over the hosts' lineup as another factor that could tilt the balance of power.

"Australia have been so consistent for a long period of time," said Broad, who has long been cast as a villain in Australia over his refusal to walk after edging a ball to slip during a Test match at Trent Bridge in 2013.

"You just knew who was going to open the batting, who was going to bat where, what bowlers there were – and they don't have that.

"It's very much a similar situation to 2010-2011 when England went and won there.

"The fact of the matter is Australia generally have to be bad to lose in Australia and England have to be very good.

"England have a great chance of being very good and Australia have a decent chance of being bad."

The first Test starts on Nov 21 in Perth. – Reuters

Stuart Broad.
– REUTERSPIC

England Ashes preparations borderline arrogant: Botham

FORMER England all-rounder Ian Botham has criticised the team's Ashes preparations, saying their decision to play only one warm-up game "borders on arrogance" and could leave them undercooked for the test series in Australia.

Botham, who featured in England's victorious Ashes tours of 1978-79 and 1986-87, said he was concerned that Brendon McCullum's side were not giving themselves enough time to adapt to Australian conditions.

England will play one three-day warm-up match against the England Lions at Lilac Hill before the first Test begins in Perth.

"I'm worried. We're going to wander in and have a little game with the 'A' team," Botham said on *The Old Boys, New Balls* podcast.

"'Alright mate, how are you? Good on ya' and we're going to go and perform? Not one (state match) which borders on arrogance.

"You've got to give yourself the chance. They are saying we play too much cricket… I don't think you play enough."

Botham cited the heat, hard bouncy pitches and the home crowds among the difficult factors to cope with.

"You're not playing against the Australian cricket team, you're playing against Australia – 24.5 million people," he said.

Botham also voiced concern about England's fitness management, particularly with their pace attack.

"Bowlers don't get fit in gyms, that's been proven," he said. "Look at the record with injuries – (Mark) Wood, (Jofra) Archer, Stokes, Brydon Carse… they don't play enough. You get fit by playing."

Former skipper Alastair Cook, whose runs guided England to their last series win in Australia in 2010-11, said it was an 'interesting choice' of schedule but could only be judged after the series was over.

"I would feel more comfortable with them having a four-day game against Australia A as well, leading into it, because I think playing against Australian batters is important as a bowling side," Cook told reporters at an event to announce *TNT Sports*' coverage plans for the Ashes on Tuesday.

"You have to trust them, don't you? They've obviously made this decision as a group, and they'll get judged on how well it goes." – Reuters

Merino at the double for Spain



Spain's Mikel Merino (left) in action with Bulgaria's Martin Minchev yesterday. – *REUTERSPIC*

La Roja cruise past Bulgaria to maintain flawless start

MIKEL MERINO scored twice as Spain eased to a 4-0 victory over Bulgaria yesterday, maintaining their flawless start to Europe's World Cup Qualifiers and moving closer to securing a spot at the 2026 World Cup in North America.

Merino opened the scoring with a header in the 35th minute and doubled Spain's lead in the 56th with another header.

Bulgaria's woes deepened in the 79th minute when defender Atanas Chernev turned a cross into his own net while Mikel Oyarzabal completed the rout in added time, converting a penalty after Merino was brought down in the area.

Spain's dominance in Group E remains unchallenged, with Luis de la Fuente's side leading the standings with 12 points from four matches, scoring 15 goals and conceding none.

They are followed by Turkey on nine points, while Georgia sit third on three points. Bulgaria remain bottom of the group after suffering their fourth consecutive defeat.

Spain will travel to Georgia in November before hosting Turkey in Seville in their final qualifier with a potentially massive goal-difference advantage.

"We are edging closer (to securing a World Cup spot), but until it's 100% certain, nothing is final," Merino told *TVE*.

"All the teams are very well prepared tactically nowadays and the number of chances our team creates is commendable.

"This is the way forward. On the day we're on target, we'll score lots of goals. When we're not, we'll still have the game under control."

Despite missing several key starters like Lamine Yamal, Rodri and Nico Williams, the European champions dominated the match in Valladolid, enjoying nearly 80% possession and creating 33 chances against a Bulgaria side that offered little resistance.

Despite the lopsided scoreline, Spain could have won by an even larger margin but for wasteful finishing and a string of outstanding saves from goalkeeper Svetoslav Vutsov.

Spain came close to breaking the deadlock early on, with Pedri hitting the crossbar in the 19th minute and Samu Aghehowa twice denied by Vutsov from close range.

The Bulgarian keeper was also called into action to make a superb save to tip Merino's strike over the bar in the 34th minute.

The breakthrough finally came a minute later when Pedri delivered a pinpoint cross from the left to Robin Le Normand at the far post. The defender cushioned a header back into the centre for Merino, who nodded home to the goalkeeper's left.

After the break, Spain brought on Borja Iglesias to replace Samu, who had missed several first half chances.

Iglesias nearly scored twice early in the second half, but it was Merino who doubled Spain's lead in the 56th minute. Alex Grimaldo delivered a perfectly placed cross from deep on the left, and Merino met it with a stooping header at the far post, sending the ball into the net to the goalkeeper's right.

Spain's third goal came in the 79th minute when Chernev was trying to prevent Aleix Garcia's cross reaching Iglesias inside the six-yard box, with Oyarzabal wrapping up the easy win from the spot. – Reuters

SIDENETTING

Japan coach hails win over Brazil

COACH Hajime Moriyasu said Japan's first win over Brazil had been decades in the making and backed his players to use it as a springboard to World Cup success.

Japan stunned Brazil with three second-half goals to claim a 3-2 friendly victory in Tokyo yesterday, their first win over the South Americans in 14 attempts.

Moriyasu hailed his players for finally making the breakthrough but also paid tribute to the teams that had paved the way for the historic victory.

"Japan had never beaten Brazil until now but the players who went before us always took on the challenge of trying to beat them and it's because of them that we were able to win today," said the coach.

"This result connects the efforts of the current and previous generations of Japanese players."

Moriyasu urged his players to keep improving and welcomed the confidence boost less than a year before the tournament begins.

"We will keep doing what we have been doing, trying to raise our level one step at a time," said Moriyasu.

"The World Cup will not be easy and I think Brazil will come back even stronger, so we need to keep taking it one step at a time."

Son tells South Korea to ignore reputations

SON HEUNG-MIN said South Korea need to show the big teams less respect at next year's World Cup after recovering from being "punched" by Brazil to beat Paraguay.

The captain Son and his teammates were hammered 5-0 by Brazil in a friendly in Seoul last week but got back on track with a 2-0 home win over Paraguay yesterday.

Son urged his side to ignore their opponents' reputations at the World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

"When we go up against strong teams we have to think about how we can be more aggressive," said Son.

"For instance, I think we respected Brazil too much and that had a big influence on the result.

"We now know it hurts to get punched like that and we have to learn how to fightback."

Reggae Boyz grab group lead in Concacaf qualifiers

JAMAICA beat Bermuda 4-0 on Tuesday to seize the lead in Group B of Concacaf World Cup qualifying as Curacao slipped to second after a 1-1 home draw against Trinidad and Tobago.

Jamaica have nine points with two matches remaining, a point clear of Curacao, while Bermuda are out after four straight defeats

Trinidad and Tobago kept their hopes alive with the draw at Curacao's Ergilio Hato Stadium which put them on five points.

Concacaf's United States, Canada and Mexico have already qualified as co-hosts.

The final 12 teams have been drawn into three groups, with the winners of each also qualifying for next year's showpiece.

The two second-place teams with the best records will still have a chance to qualify via playoffs with teams from other regions

The Reggae Boyz took the lead in Kingston in the 24th minute when Bermuda centreback Dante Leverock deflected a cross into his own net.



Jamaica's Kasey Palmer (left) in action with Bermuda's Roger Lee yesterday. – ***REUTERSPIC***

Two minutes later Bobby De Cordova-Reid added a second and Shamar Nicholson gave the hosts a 3-0 cushion by halftime. Dujuan Richards completed the rout in the 76th minute.

In Curacao, Kenji Gorre gave the hosts the lead in the 19th minute with a superb right-foot finish into the top right corner, but Tyrese Spicer equalised in the 58th minute for Trinidad and Tobago.

In Group A, Panama's Ismael Diaz scored in the sixth minute of second-half stoppage time to give the hosts a dramatic 1-1 draw with group leaders Suriname.

Richonell Margaret had fired Suriname into the lead with a right-foot shot into the bottom left corner on 21 minutes.

It means Panama are level at the top of the group on six points, with an identical goal difference, but Suriname lead by virtue of having scored one more goal.

Guatemala are a point behind in third after Oscar Santis scored the only goal in the first minute of the second half to give his team a 1-0 victory in El Salvador. – AFP

South Africa, Ivory Coast, Senegal secure WC places

SOUTH AFRICA, Ivory Coast and Senegal all won convincingly yesterday to fill the last three automatic places reserved for Africa at the 2026 World Cup.

Senegal were the most impressive winners, hammering Mauritania 4-0, while Ivory Coast beat Kenya 3-0 and South Africa were also 3-0 winners, against Rwanda.

The trio will join Algeria, Cape Verde, Egypt, Morocco, Senegal and Tunisia at the global showpiece in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon and Nigeria kept alive hopes of swelling the African representation to 10 nations by finishing as the four best-ranked runners-up.

They will meet in two single-match semifinals and a final in Morocco in November and the winners advance to inter-continental play-offs in March with two World Cup places up for grabs.

Former Liverpool star Sadio Mane scored just before and after half-time for Group B table-toppers Senegal, with Iliman Ndiaye and Habib Diallo also netting for the Teranga Lions.

Senegal finished with 24 points, two more than DR Congo, who edged Sudan 1-0 in Kinshasa through a Theo Bongonda goal.

Manchester United winger Amad Diallo completed the scoring for the Ivory Coast, who led from the seventh minute in a convincing triumph over Kenya in Abidjan.

Franck Kessie put the reigning African champions ahead and Yan Diomande added the second goal soon after halftime.

Ivory Coast topped Group F with 26 points, one more than Gabon. Gambia overwhelmed the Seychelles 7-0 to come third.

Thalente Mbatha and Oswin Appollis scored for South Africa in the first half and Evidence Makgopa sealed victory with a goal midway through the second period in Mbombela.

South Africa topped Group C with 18 points, one more than Nigeria, who hammered third-placed Benin 4-0 in Uyo with Victor Osimhen claiming a hattrick.

It will be the fourth appearance by South Africa at the global showpiece. They qualified for the 1998 and 2002 tournaments and were automatic participants in 2010 as the host nation.

"We all knew that we could do it, we believed in ourselves. We are going to the World Cup and it is fantastic," said Belgium-born South Africa coach Hugo Broos.

"In the last three years we changed players and every time it was the right choice. What happened tonight is the work of three years and the future looks very bright for South African football.

"We have the Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco during December and then the World Cup. There are no words to express how I feel." – AFP

Mountain to climb

Ireland boss knows scale of World Cup task despite win over Armenia

BY **DAMIAN SPELLMAN**

HEIMIR HALLGRIMSSON admits the Republic of Ireland may need to do something special against Portugal next month if they are to make it to next year's World Cup finals.

Ireland's relief at a hard-fought 1-0 Group F victory over 10-man Armenia was tempered by the news of Hungary's late equaliser which means they will have to at least deny Cristiano Ronaldo and company at the Aviva Stadium next month before targeting victory in Budapest three days later.



Armenia's Tigran Barseghyan (left) in action with Republic of Ireland's Finn Azaz (centre) during their World Cup qualifying match yesterday. – *REUTERSPIC*

Asked if the 2-2 draw in Lisbon had changed anything, Hallgrimsson said: "Not really, it doesn't change anything. We always knew that we needed to go to Hungary and have a win there.

"This looks like we need a point against Portugal, or Armenia to do us a favour in Yerevan.

"We all see that this Armenian team is no roll-over. There's a big heart, there's aggression and a spirit that is noticeable."

Evan Ferguson's 70th-minute header – his fourth goal in five competitive games for his country – ultimately sealed a vital win at the Aviva Stadium which could, and perhaps should, have been more comfortable after Armenia skipper Tigran Barseghyan's 52nd-minute dismissal for a headbutt on Finn Azaz.

Ireland were largely passive and uninspired during a lukewarm first half but, aided and abetted by Barseghyan's premature exit, forced their way across the finishing line to fulfil their head coach's pre-match prophesy.

Hallgrimsson said: "Listen, we said before this camp we would take a scrappy 1-0 win and it probably was kind of a scrappy 1-0 win, so we can't be unhappy.

"We've been complaining about the second game syndrome – we must be happy that we won the second game; we've been complaining about conceding early – we didn't concede early, we didn't concede at all, so we kept a clean sheet, that's a good step.

"We'll take the positives and carry on to the next window. It's just a new dawn, it's a new day next window – this result today doesn't matter at all.

"We just needed the three points to be alive and have a chance, that's number one, so we cannot be reading too much into that performance today.

"It was always going to be a tough match for us – we needed to win – and again it's going to be tough, just a different opponent, players playing higher quality next time."

Armenia boss Yegishe Melikyan admitted Barseghyan's rush of blood had cost his side dear, but refused to condemn his indiscipline.

Melikyan said: "Of course, the red card changed the game. It was a mistake.

"He took responsibility. He said sorry to the whole dressing room. But, if a player makes a mistake, it is also my mistake and for that I apologise.

"If there was no red card and we played 11 vs 11, I think we could have got a good result. I thought we could have won, but we must go forward and I think we can get good results in the near future." – The Independent

SIDENETTING

Hungary deny Portugal early World Cup berth

CRISTIANO RONALDO set a new record for World Cup qualifying goals but Hungary grabbed a late 2-2 draw to stop Portugal from reaching next year's tournament with two games to spare. After Attila Szalai netted for the visitors, Ronaldo's first half brace put Roberto Martinez's side on the verge of qualification for the 2026 World Cup. However, Dominik Szoboszlai struck in stoppage time to make Portugal wait and boost his nation's hopes of making it to the tournament in the United States, Mexico and Canada. "We are getting closer to our goal! Let's go, Portugal," said Ronaldo on *X* after the game. Martinez's side top Group F with 10 points, five clear of Hungary. "We didn't manage the game in the last 10 minutes well enough," admitted Spanish coach Martinez. "If you don't kill the game you need to know how to manage it until the end. Today we stopped playing and Hungary equalised."

Gattuso not underestimating anyone in playoffs

GENNARO GATTUSO said that Italy will not underestimate anyone if they have to take part in qualification playoffs for the 2026 World Cup after his team beat Israel 3-0 yesterday. Mateo Retegui netted twice and Gianluca Mancini headed home the third late as Italy made sure of at least second place in Group I, with only top spot offering automatic qualification for next year's finals in the USA, Canada and Mexico. Italy trail leaders Norway by three points with two games remaining. However, the Norwegians have a vastly superior goal difference and will be expected to beat fourth-placed Estonia ahead of their clash with Italy. Norway, who visit the San Siro in their final group fixture next month, have a perfect 18 points from their six matches and hammered Italy 3-0 in June. "Football has changed, these days you can lose to anyone, you understand that we can't afford to underestimate anyone… especially after what we've been through," Gattuso told reporters.

Sweden sack Tomasson

SWEDEN have sacked manager Jon Dahl Tomasson following a string of disappointing performances and results. The former Blackburn boss, who took the reins in February 2024, was at the helm of a team brimming with attacking quality. Arsenal's Viktor Gyokeres and Liverpool's summer signing Alexander Isak spearhead a talented squad aiming for World Cup qualification next year. However, a shocking loss to Kosovo on Wednesday leaves them languishing at the bottom of their group with a mere one point from four qualifiers.

SPORTS TOTO RESULTS

DRAW NO: 6034/2025 DATE: 15/10/2025 (WED)

STM LOTTERY SDN. BHD.
196901000090 (8420-D)

TOTO 4D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

1st Prize	1873
2nd Prize	6844
3rd Prize	2442

Special		Consolation	
6603	0001	2559	4186
0572	4552	9537	8541
2029	0945	1151	1385
4032	5858	1371	9972
3263	4920	3138	9117

4D JACKPOT

Jackpot 1 RM 18,884,221.16

1873 6844	6844 1873
1873 2442	2442 1873
6844 2442	2442 6844

Jackpot 2 RM 248,429.83

Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

4D Zodiac

1st Prize	1873 +	DOG
2nd Prize	6844 +	
3rd Prize	2442 +	
4th Prize	Special Prize +	
5th Prize	Consolation Prize +	
6th Prize	Any 4D drawn number	

TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

5D

1ST 4 9 0 7 8
2ND 9 5 1 9 0
3RD 3 1 4 8 1
4TH 9 0 7 8
5TH 0 7 8
6TH 7 8

6D

1ST 4 9 4 4 8 4
2ND 4 9 4 4 8 or 9 4 4 8 4
3RD 4 9 4 4 or 4 4 8 4
4TH 4 9 4 or 4 8 4
5TH 4 9 or 8 4

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SUPREME TOTO 6/58: 3 10 23 29 38 39
Jackpot RM 18,888,238.12

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Jackpot RM 3,538,358.91

STAR TOTO 6/50: 9 16 17 25 34 45 + 26
Jackpot 1 RM11,391,382.58
Jackpot 2 RM100,000.00

Toto 4D Jackpot 2
RM450,881
Toto 4D Jackpot 1 (i-System)
RM318,506
Toto 4D Jackpot 2 (i-System)
RM6,262 won on 12/10/2025 !

Visit **www.sportstoto.com.my** for e-Results and more info.

WINNING NUMBERS da ma cai

PAYMENT GUARANTEED IN FULL

Draw Date: 15/10/25 (Wed) Draw No: 5981/25 Venue: WISMA GENTING, KL

1+3D SUPER1+3D

1st Prize	6851
2nd Prize	7638
3rd Prize	9102

Starters		Consolation	
9195	8665	7282	8597
9882	8448	2955	5953
1698	4921	6314	0496
9717	4372	6311	3572
6048	2297	8223	9676

1+3D Jackpot

Jackpot 1 RM3,011,714.90

6851 + 7638	7638 + 6851
6851 + 9102	9102 + 6851
7638 + 9102	9102 + 7638

Jackpot 2 RM100,000.00

Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of 10 Starter Prizes.

3+3D Bonus

1st Prize	Bonus	1st Prize Bonus
656 851 +	OX	RM260,000.00
2nd Prize	Bonus	2nd Prize Bonus
347 638 +	RABBIT	RM410,000.00
3rd Prize	Bonus	3rd Prize Bonus
499 102 +	MONKEY	RM579,097.10

Starters		Consolation	
719 195	588 665	457 282	998 597
659 882	368 448	772 955	575 953
341 698	904 921	016 314	670 496
139 717	364 372	066 311	173 572
256 048	102 297	858 223	419 676

3D

1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
851	638	102

3D Jackpot

Jackpot RM753,858.10

851 + 638 + 102	638 + 102 + 851
851 + 102 + 638	102 + 851 + 638
638 + 851 + 102	102 + 638 + 851

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1+3D Jackpot 2 RM145,498.30 won on 12/10/25!

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RESULTS

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

EUROPE

Group E: **Spain 4** *(Merino 35, 57, Chernev 79-og, Oyarzabal 90+2-pen)* **Bulgaria 0, Turkey 4** *(Yildiz 14, Demiral 22, 52, Akgun 35)* **Georgia 1** *(Kochorashvili 64)*.

Group F: **Republic of Ireland 1** *(Ferguson 70)* **Armenia 0, Portugal 2** *(Ronaldo 22, 45+3)* **Hungary 2** *(Szalai 8, Szoboszlai 90+1)*.

Group I: **Estonia 1** *(Kait 12)* **Moldova 1** *(Bodisteanu 64)*, **Italy 3** *(Retegui 45+2-pen, 74, Mancini 90+3)* **Israel 0.**

Group K: **Latvia 0 England 5** *(Gordon 26, Kane 44, 45+4-pen, Tonisevs 58-og, Eze 86)*, **Andorra 1** *(Lopez 17)* **Serbia 3** *(Garcia 19-og, Vlahovic 54, Mitrovic 77-pen)*.

AFRICA

Group B: Senegal 4 Mauritania 0, Congo 1 Sudan 0.

Group C: South Africa 3 Rwanda 0, Nigeria 4 Benin 0.

Group E: Morocco 1 Congo Brazzaville 0.

Group F: Seychelles 0 Gambia 7, Gabon 2 Burundi 0, Ivory Coast 3 Kenya 0.

Group G: Guinea 2 Botswana 2, Somalia 0 Mozambique 1, Algeria 2 Uganda 1.

CONCACAF: Curacao 1 Trinidad and Tobago 1, Jamaica 4 Bermuda 0, Panama 1 Suriname 1, El Salvador 0 Guatemala 1.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES: Japan 3 Brazil 2, Korea Republic 2 Paraguay 0, Iran 2 Tanzania 0, Norway 1 New Zealand 1, Albania 4 Jordan 2, Russia 3 Bolivia 0, Puerto Rico 0 Argentina 6, Colombia 0 Canada 0, United States 2 Australia 1, Mexico 1 Ecuador 1.

Sivasangari on fire in Silicon Valley

MALAYSIA'S squash ace S. Sivasangari is one step away from glory at the Silicon Valley Open in Redwood City, United States after powering into the final today (Malaysian time).

The world No. 8 and third seed was in good form, sweeping aside Egypt's seventh seed Salma Hany 3-0 in just 22 minutes in the semifinals.

Sivasangari displayed her trademark precision and composure throughout the match by sealing the victory 11-3, 11-9, 11-5 to earn a well-deserved spot in the title decider.

After the match, Sivasangari said: "It means a lot. Salma is a very tricky player; she's very skilful.

"I remember the last time we played I was 2-0 up and I lost the match. So today I just tried to focus on every point, every rally and try to do my best. I followed the game plan well today.

"I'm pleased to be through to the final here this year after getting knocked out at this stage last year.

"It give me a lot of confidence because I'm trying to challenge the top players and try to be consistent by beating those players just beneath me."

Standing between her and the championship is top seed Olivia Weaver of the United States, a familiar rival who has triumphed in seven of their eight previous encounters.

Weaver advanced to the final after defeating England's Georgina Kennedy 3-0 (11-5, 11-3, 11-4) in the other semifinal. – Bernama

Malaysian fans urged to get behind Hakim Danish

THE debut of young Malaysian rider Muhammad Hakim Danish Ramli in the Moto3 competition at the 2025 Malaysian Motorcycle Grand Prix (GP Malaysia) at the Sepang International Circuit (SIC) is not only eagerly awaited by Malaysian motorsports fans but also has excited Youth and Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh.

Yeoh said she not only wants to see Hakim Danish's ride but also wants to see the Terengganu rider rock the SIC by winning the 2025 Malaysian GP Moto3 competition, scheduled to take place from Oct 24-26.

In this regard, she called on Malaysians to support Hakim Danish, who will be competing on a wildcard, by immediately grabbing tickets that are still on sale.

"We urge every Malaysian to buy a ticket and come out and support MotoGP. A lot of times we hear people want us to bring international events here, but when it's here, then Malaysians don't really want to buy tickets.

"So please, it's not often that we get to see a Malaysian riding, and so we really hope that you will buy a ticket and come out and support Hakim Danish," she said at a press conference of the Aeon Credit SIC Racing MSI team and machinery represented by Hakim Danish in Sepang yesterday.

Hakim Danish's mentor, Muhammad Zulfahmi Khairuddin emerged as the best national representative in the Moto3 race at SIC by finishing second in the 2012 season.

Yeoh at the same time said that the participation of the 18-year-old rider symbolises Malaysia's confidence in the great potential that can be achieved when the government, private sector and motor sports community work together.

She said that the support from Aeon Credit is the best example of how the corporate sector can make a big impact by not only helping riders like Hakim Danish go further, but also inspiring youth that big dreams can be realised.

Meanwhile, Aeon Credit chairman Ng Eng Kiat said that the company was proud to channel a donation of RM1 million to Hakim Danish to support his appearance in his first Moto3 action.

He said that the donation was also his company's first step into the world of motorsports, thus strengthening their long-term commitment to the development of the country's youth, community and talent.

SIC chief executive officer Azhan Shafriman Hanif said that Hakim Danish's appearance at the 2025 Malaysian GP was not just a personal success for the rider but also for the entire technical team, mechanics and partners like Aeon Credit who believed in their talent development programme. – Bernama

Harimau Malaya maul Laos



Malaysia's Harith Haiqal (right) in action against Laos. – *BERNAMAPIC*

Cklamovski hails players after spirited second half fightback

MALAYSIA produced a stunning second-half comeback to crush Laos 5-1 in their fourth Group F match of the 2027 Asian Cup Qualifiers at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday night.

The first half saw the Harimau Malaya dominating possession but failing to convert their chances, as Laos goalkeeper Kop Lokphathip stood firm to deny several clear opportunities from the home side.

Malaysia were stunned in the 20th minute when Chanthavixay Khounthoumphone's long-range strike deflected off Shahrul Saad and beat goalkeeper Ahmad Syihan Hazmi Mohamed, giving Laos a surprise 1-0 lead.

The national side, however, came roaring back after the break, with Mohamad Faisal Abdul Halim curling in a superb free kick in the 59th minute to level the score.

Romel Morales then combined with Arif Aiman Mohd Hanapi for Malaysia's second in the 65th minute before slotting in his second of the night six minutes later off a Dion Cools assist.

A Khammanh Thapaseut own goal in the 79th minute and a late strike from substitute Paulo Josue three minutes later sealed the 5-1 rout, maintaining Malaysia's unbeaten record after four matches and keeping them top of Group F with 12 points, followed by Vietnam (nine), Laos (three) and Nepal (none).

Head coach Peter Cklamovski said the Harimau Malaya performance in the first half was rather blunt after conceding the opening goal but the versatility in achieving a perfect finish was successfully executed by his players in the second half to stage a comeback.

"It was a good challenge, I give credit to the players. Stay patient and believe in our game.

"First half a bit blunt, not sharp performance while Laos kept working out," he said at a press conference after the match.

The coach praised his players for maintaining focus amid external distractions, commending their unity despite the absence of seven mixed-heritage players suspended by Fifa.

"It shows the mentality of the players," he added.

Cklamovski dismissed suggestions that he is facing the toughest coaching challenge of his career.

Instead, the Australian said he takes pride in leading Harimau Malaya.

"I don't even think about that (being the toughest coaching challenge). I don't look back. It's a simple process – connect to what's important today," he said.

"That's a life philosophy I try to instil in the players, and focus on the day and get better every day."

Laos coach Ha Hyeokjun acknowledged the quality of the Harimau Malaya squad, stating that the Malaysian team was better in all aspects.

"We felt like we played according to our plan in the first half, but in the second half, the mentality and focus were not there until we lost 5-1.

"I believe my players are improving but compared to them, they have a league with more quality," he said.

Malaysia is scheduled to face Nepal on Nov 18, and will conclude the group stage against Vietnam in Hanoi next March.

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8198	4580	9304	9854
7729	6032	4967	4317

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6938 + 8501	6938 + 4279
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Jackpot 2 - Group 2 + Golden Number

GROUP 1	0 1 3 8 7 9		
GROUP 2	0 1 3 8 7 _	OR	_ 1 3 8 7 9
GROUP 3	0 1 3 8 _ _	OR	_ _ 3 8 7 9
GROUP 4	0 1 3 _ _ _	OR	_ _ _ 8 7 9
GROUP 5	0 1 _ _ _ _	OR	_ _ _ _ 7 9
		OR	_ _ 3 8 _ _
GOLDEN NUMBER	1 5		

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Lions roar

Tuchel takes taunts from fans on the chin as England book World Cup ticket



England's Harry Kane (centre) celebrates with fellow teammates after qualifying for the World Cup at the Daugava Stadium in Riga, Latvia yesterday. – ***REUTERSPIC***

THOMAS TUCHEL took the taunts from England fans on the chin as his side booked their place at next year's World Cup.

Harry Kane's first half double along with goals from Anthony Gordon and Eberechi Eze and a Maksims Tonisevs own goal earned a 5-0 victory over Latvia which guaranteed them a place at the tournament in North America.

But Tuchel was on the receiving end of light-hearted chants from England's travelling fans who were responding to the German's criticism of the atmosphere during last week's 3-0 friendly win over Wales.

He was subject to taunts of "we sing when we want", "are we loud enough for you?" and others while former England international Gary Neville was also on the receiving end following his recent comments about "middle-aged white men".

Tuchel said: "I got a bit of stick today, in the first half, pretty much in every song. So fair enough. Well done. I take it and good humour, good sense of humour.

"They had a reason today from my last comments and I guess that's fair enough. I got a bit of stick and I found it quite creative.

"It made me smile and this is how it has to be. It's British humour and I surely can take it. No harm done.

"It's so important. They are here and I said the support in Serbia was brilliant, and we are very sure the support in America will be absolutely brilliant.

"We need it. It makes such a difference if you go out as a player or as a coach and you see the fans behind the team and singing.

"We want to make them proud, we want to make them happy. They should be happy to watch us and they should be able to identify with how we play.

"We are on our way to build something and top performance from them."

Tuchel has done the first part of his job in getting England to the tournament and if they continue the upward trajectory of their last three matches, they will be contenders to win it.

"We had in the group six matches. We won all six matches. We didn't concede a goal," said Tuchel.

"It's a very special moment today. I think we stepped up in the last two camps and it was another team effort."

Bayern Munich striker Kane led the way with two goals as he extended his red-hot start to the season to 21 goals in 13 games for club and country.

The two in Riga, which took his international tally to 76, helped make England the first European team to qualify.

"It's a pleasure to have him. He's in excellent shape, mentally, physically, in top form, top shape," Tuchel said.

"Apart from scoring another two goals, look at the goal in the 85th minute from Ebs, we have a ball loss and Harry goes all the way back to his own half and puts his head down in another sprint defensively.

"As a captain, as the No. 9. There's no real need to do this. No one will ever blame him if he didn't do it.

"But he does it, and that sets the standards. That is so brilliant to see, because he helps us win the ball and this in the end results in the goal from Ebs.

"Harry is ready to put in the intensity and the shift that is needed. "

Kane believes he is in the best form of his career. The Bayern Munich striker has scored 21 goals in 13 matches for club and country this season.

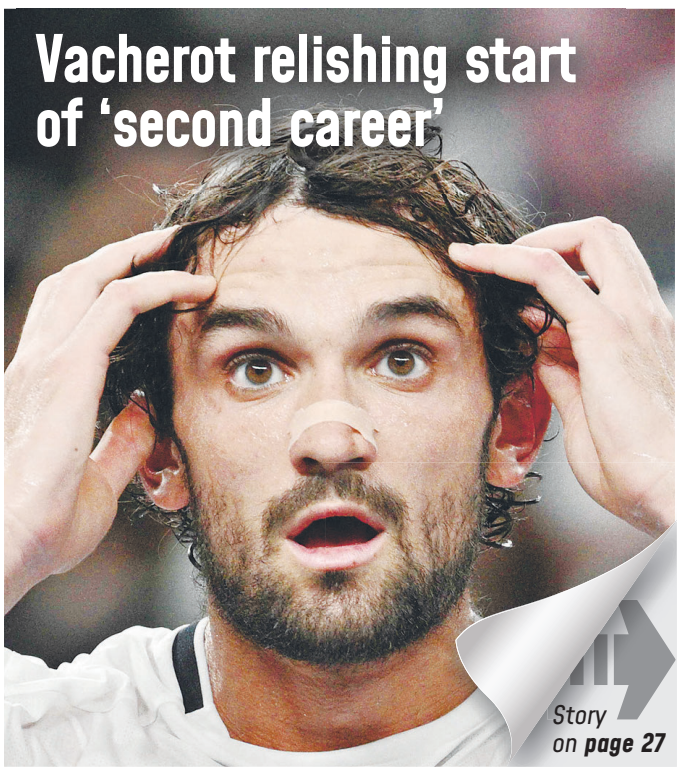
After being asked if he was producing his very best, Kane told *ITV*: "I'd say so. The numbers are there.

"But it's the way I'm feeling on the pitch, the way I'm seeing the passes and the runs, physically I'm in a good place, in a good moment."

Kane felt securing a spot in next summer's tournament in the United States with two matches to spare was impressive.

"We make it look easy but these groups can be tough and we have to be fully focused in every game," he added.

"Qualifying with two games to go is a great achievement, zero goals conceded, playing some great football." – The Independent







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