



Death of hiker highlights deadly risks of hypothermia

Altitude, rain and wind can cause core body temperature to drop below critical level even in tropics, warn experts.

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Teen charged with schoolmate murder

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Court orders psychiatric evaluation for 14-year-old accused to assess his fitness to plead and state of mind at time of alleged offence.



Fatally stabbed student Yap Shing Xuen was cremated on Monday after a funeral service attended by hundreds of relatives, friends and schoolmates. — **BERNAMAPIC**

The less you delay, the less you pay: Loke

Discount campaigns unfair to those who act responsibly and pay their traffic summonses early, says transport minister.

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Few parties have clear leadership succession plans: Analysts

DAP, once seen as 'Lim dynasty', shows an intentional shift towards new leaders as evidenced in election of current central executive committee.

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Higher discounts for paying traffic summonses early

► Motorists who settle fine within 15 days from date of issue to get 50% off: Minister

BY IKHWAN ZULKAFLEE
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KUALA LUMPUR: The government would standardise traffic offence compound rates under the principle of “the less you delay, the less you pay,” effective Jan 1, 2026.

Transport Minister Anthony Loke said the Cabinet made the decision on Oct 17 to streamline the payment system for summonses issued by police under the Home Ministry and the Road Transport Department (RTD) under the Transport Ministry.

“This is because discount campaigns are unfair to those who act responsibly and pay early. Under this new principle, the sooner you settle, the less you pay,” said Loke.

Also present was Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail.

Loke said motorists who pay their summonses within 15 days from the date of issue would receive a 50% discount.

“Those who pay between 16 and 30 days would get a 33% reduction while payments made between 31 and 60 days must be at the full rate,” he said.

Motorists who fail to pay after 61 days may face court action or be blacklisted.

“However, this incentive would not apply to non-compoundable or serious offences that endanger road users’ safety, such as driving without insurance or a valid licence, or using fake licences.”

He also announced that the RTD would continue offering a 50% reduction for summonses settled between Nov 1 and Dec 30.

Saifuddin said the Cabinet’s decision followed a joint proposal by the Home and Transport ministries to align the compound structures of both enforcement agencies.

“Early payments would enjoy higher discounts while late payments must be settled in full and could face legal action.”

He added that the new system would take effect on Jan 1, 2026, after observing that previous discount campaigns encouraged motorists to delay payment until the next offer.

“This system had unintended effects as many chose to wait for discounts before paying. So, the Cabinet decided to standardise the process completely starting next year.”

Under the new system:

The earlier a payment is made, the lower the compound rate.

Payment Period	Discount Rate
1 - 15 days	50% reduction
16 - 30 days	33% reduction
31 - 60 days	Maximum rate
61 days and above	Court action/ blacklist

Goal: To encourage responsible behaviour by rewarding prompt settlement of summonses.

Exceptions:

No discount will be given for the following offences:

- Non-compoundable offences.
- Serious road safety violations

including:

- Driving without valid insurance
- Driving without a valid licence
- Using a fake licence

As a final opportunity, police would offer discounts of up to 70% from Nov 1 to Dec 30.

Saifuddin said since 2022, police have launched several traffic summons discount initiatives, collecting over RM640 million in payments.

Between 2022 and 2025, more than 5.4 million

summonses were settled through discount schemes ranging between 30% and 60%.

“From January to September, 1.73 million summonses were paid, generating RM249 million,” he said, adding that total unpaid summonses currently amount to about RM6.6 billion.

Flood risk vital in appraisal of new housing projects

KUALA LUMPUR: Flood risk is a key factor in the technical assessment of new housing projects nationwide to ensure buyers are not caught in developments within flood-prone areas, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.

He said development applications submitted through the One Stop Centre (OSC) must undergo detailed evaluation by technical agencies, including the Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID), to ensure proper drainage and flood mitigation measures before approval.

“This assessment refers to the Flood Mitigation Master Plan and Annual Flood Report to ensure local infrastructure can withstand the impact of climate change, which has led to heavier rainfall and rising sea levels,” he said in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He was responding to Datuk Muhammad Bakhtiar Wan Chik (PH-Balik Pulau), who asked about the flood-risk status of housing projects.

Fadillah said development control also takes into account the State Structure Plan and Local Plan, which outline land-use policies and identify flood-risk zones.

For new projects, drainage designs must comply with the Environmental Friendly Drainage Manual which promotes integrated rainwater management through retention ponds and green infrastructure to reduce flash floods.

“However, older housing areas built before the manual was enforced lack proper flood control systems and remain vulnerable during heavy rainfall.”

He said upgrading such systems requires cooperation from state governments and local authorities to assess and improve drainage.

He added that the National Physical Planning Council’s 41st meeting in April 2023 agreed that the Environmentally Friendly Drainage Master Plan be adopted by all state governments and local authorities to guide more sustainable land development.

“The master plan serves as a reference for upgrading and building drainage systems, and for planning future developments in a structured way to reduce flash flood risks and control pollution,” he said.

On the Flood Forecasting and Warning Programme, Fadillah said 38 major river basins are being monitored to strengthen early warnings and protect high-risk residential zones.

The programme, implemented by the DID under the National Forecasting and Warning System, can predict floods up to seven days in advance and issue alerts two days before they occur.

“Phase one, involving Sungai Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang, is operational. Phase two, covering 33 basins in the peninsula and five in Sabah and Sarawak, is expected to be completed in 2028, while phase three would cover another 33 basins from 2025 to 2030,” he said. – Bernama

Govt respects court ruling on Sabah claim to public funds: PM

BY HARITH KAMAL
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PETALING JAYA: The government respects the Kota Kinabalu High Court’s decision on Sabah’s entitlement to 40% of federal revenue and would study the ruling before taking further action, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said Putrajaya would decide whether to appeal the decision after obtaining advice from the attorney-general, stressing that the matter remains under judicial consideration.

“The Madani government respects the judicial process and would examine the written grounds of judgment once received before taking any further action, for the good and interest of Sabah and Malaysia,” he said in Parliament yesterday.

Anwar said the Sabah High Court’s ruling,

delivered on Oct 17, directed the federal government to conduct a review with the state government under Article 112D of the Federal Constitution to give effect to the 40% special grant entitlement.

He clarified that the decision did not contradict his previous statements, noting that it highlighted shortcomings of past federal administrations when current opposition members were in power.

“The decision also made observations towards the federal government when the honourable members opposite (the opposition) were ministers. Let us not forget that.”

While awaiting legal developments, Anwar said the federal government would continue to uphold its obligations to Sabah under the Constitution and strengthen cooperation through the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63).

He said the Madani government has resolved 13 MA63-related demands, including transferring regulatory authority over electricity and Sabah Electricity Sdn Bhd to the state government.

“Although authority has been transferred, the government continues to provide RM1.2 billion to ensure a stable power supply in Sabah,” he said.

Other achievements include recognising the Sabah Public Works Department, Department of Irrigation and Drainage and Sabah Water Department as technical departments under Treasury Instruction 182, enabling them to approve federal projects worth up to RM50 million.

On the special grant, Anwar said reviews were conducted and gazetted in 2022 and 2023, and would continue until this year, in line with Article 112D.

He said the annual grant for Sabah has

increased from RM26.7 million before 2021 to RM53.4 million in 2019, RM125.6 million in 2022 and RM300 million in 2023.

“Under the Madani government in 2025, the grant has again been raised to RM600 million, compared with only RM27.7 million when the opposition was in government,” he said, adding that the full amount was paid in September.

Anwar said the figure remains interim as both governments work on a new formula for future calculations.

He added that federal allocations to Sabah rose from RM13 billion in 2022 to RM17 billion under Budget 2025 and 2026, exceeding total revenue collected from the state.

“The Madani government has spent more in Sabah than the revenue collected, reaffirming our commitment to the state’s development.”

Teen faces **murder charge** over death of schoolmate

■ BY FAIZ RUZMAN
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PETALING JAYA: A 14-year-old student was charged at the Magistrate's Court here yesterday with the murder of a schoolmate, Yap Shing Xuen, 16, in a case that has gripped the nation and reignited public debate over school safety and mental health.

The teenager, clad in a t-shirt and long trousers, was escorted under tight police supervision into the Petaling Jaya Court Complex.

His parents remained in the courtroom and avoided the media outside the building until proceedings concluded.

The charge, framed under Section 302 of the Penal Code, was read out before Magistrate Amira Sariaty Zainal.

The boy is accused of murdering Yap between 9.20am and 9.35am on Oct 14 in the female students' toilet on the ground floor of SMK Bandar Utama (4).

➤ Magistrate orders psychiatric assessment to determine mental state and fitness to plead, case to be heard in High Court

Following a request by defence counsel Anwar Ezzad Zainal, the court ordered the accused to undergo psychiatric evaluation at Hospital Bahagia in Ulu Kinta, Perak, under Section 342 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC).

Lawyer Kitson Foong, appearing as *amicus curiae* (friend of the court), confirmed the order and said the application was made in the boy's best interests.

"The psychiatric report must address his fitness to plead, whether he is capable of entering a plea and understands the nature of the proceedings today.

"More importantly, it must assess his state of mind at the time of the alleged offence," Foong

told reporters.

He added that the evaluation was also necessary to safeguard the accused's wellbeing and ensure he receives treatment if any condition affecting his mental state is identified.

The charge was read out in Mandarin and the accused nodded to indicate he understood.

No plea was recorded as the Magistrate's Court does not have the authority to hear murder cases. The trial will be transferred to the High Court.

According to the charge sheet, the offence is punishable under Section 302 of the Penal Code, which carries the death penalty or imprisonment of between 30 and 40

years, and not less than 12 strokes of the cane if death is not imposed.

The court fixed Nov 21 for case management and the submission of forensic and pathology reports.

The prosecution team was led by DPP Raja Zaizul Faridah Raja Zaharudin, assisted by Aqharie Durrane Aziz, Nur Sabrina Zubairi and Nurul 'Izzati Mohamad.

Yap, a Form Three student, was found dead inside the school washroom on Oct 14 after reportedly being attacked by a male schoolmate.

Her death sent shockwaves nationwide, prompting calls for stronger safety protocols and mental health support in schools.

She was cremated on Monday after a funeral attended by hundreds of relatives, friends and schoolmates.

On Tuesday, the Attorney-General's Chambers confirmed it found sufficient grounds to charge the boy after reviewing investigation papers submitted by the police.



Installation of more CCTVs, especially in high-risk schools, are among the new measures to tighten safety and curb disciplinary problems, said the Education Ministry.
– AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN

Education Ministry rolls out new safety measures

PETALING JAYA: The Education Ministry has unveiled a series of new measures to tighten safety controls in schools and curb disciplinary problems following a wave of violent incidents involving students across the country.

In a statement, the ministry said the steps include a RM5 million allocation for installing closed circuit television (CCTV) systems in high-risk schools, bringing the total budget for surveillance installations to RM8 million nationwide.

The ministry will also deploy 10,096 new teachers, among them over 500 guidance and counselling teachers, by November.

"This will help meet current needs and strengthen psychosocial support for students," the ministry said.

To address safety in boarding schools, 600 full-time assistant wardens will be appointed from

among the personnel of MySTEP (short-term employment programme) allowing closer monitoring and easing the workload of existing wardens.

The ministry added that cooperation with the police will be expanded under a strengthened school-level consensus committee, with police liaison officers tasked to assist in on-ground safety monitoring.

"The police will conduct safety monitoring across all educational institutions under the ministry."

The ministry also confirmed that smart support teams at state and district education offices will be reinforced to respond to psychosocial and crisis situations, while teachers will continue receiving training for emergency preparedness.

The ministry said the student discipline

regulations, which include provisions for caning, suspension and expulsion, are now under review.

"Principals and headmasters may delegate disciplinary authority to teachers based on the needs of the situation.

"The ministry is in the process of redrafting the regulations to make them more effective and relevant to current challenges."

The student character system will also undergo a review to ensure disciplinary issues are addressed promptly, while schools will hold regular dialogues and feedback sessions with students through the Student Voice Box initiative.

The ministry said the Child Protection Policy will be finalised soon, alongside new mental health screening programmes for students from Year One to Form Six in collaboration with the Health Ministry. – By Faiz Ruzman

'Worker welfare must be at heart of AI progress'

■ BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI
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KUALA LUMPUR: The world must not lose sight of workers' welfare amid rapid advances in artificial intelligence (AI) and global trade shifts, said Human Resources Minister Steven Sim Chee Keong.

Speaking at the Asean Year of Skills 2025: Global Skills Forum (GSF) opening ceremony, he said while technology continues to reshape industries and economies, workers' rights, protection and dignity must remain central to progress.

"As the world focuses on new trade alignments and power shifts, we must ensure the hard-won gains of workers over the past century are not only safeguarded but advanced further."

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi was also present.

Sim cited the gig economy as an example of how millions still lack basic protections traditionally granted to employees.

"The more I reflect on the gig economy, the more I realise we are using 21st-century technology to generate profit while relying on 10th-century labour concepts of feudal serfdom."

He stressed that protecting workers also means preparing them for the future, with dignity depending not only on fair treatment but on access to education and upskilling.

Many universities, he noted, still follow outdated systems that no longer meet workforce demands.

"This is not to dismiss universities – they are improving, as seen in Malaysian institutions' rise in the QS World Rankings. However, IR 4.0 must also become a TVET revolution, as it is ultimately driven by skills."

Training, Sim said, must be agile and flexible to match industry needs, guided by three key principles – learning on the job, by practice and continuously.

Under Zahid's leadership, the National TVET Council and the Human Resources Ministry are developing a national training platform offering industry-approved local and international courses.

"Malaysia has already laid a strong foundation through HRD Corp, where employers contribute 1% of payroll to fund employee training."

Between 2023 and August this year, HRD Corp collected RM6.17 billion in levies, with RM5.77 billion used to train more than four million workers.

Sim said employers now have greater flexibility to use these funds for a wider range of practical and continuous learning programmes.

"In Budget 2026, the prime minister announced extra tax deductions for companies training workers in AI, showing Malaysia's commitment to a future-ready workforce."

Since 2023, the National Training Week has promoted lifelong learning through free courses, expanding from 130,000 participants to nearly four million in 2025.

"This initiative builds a culture of continuous learning that ensures no Malaysian is left behind."

Sim said Malaysia envisions Asean as a 700 million-strong skilled region united by shared cultures and traditions, making regional integration easier than ever.

The GSF, held for the first time in Malaysia, marks the culmination of the Asean Year of Skills 2025.



'Few political parties have clear succession plans'

➤ DAP possesses well-defined scheme but PKR and Umno do not: Analysts

■ BY IKHWAN ZULKAFLEE
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PETALING JAYA: Political analysts have observed that only a handful of major parties have well-defined leadership succession plans, while the rest remain constrained by dynastic politics.

Iseas-Yusof Ishak Institute senior fellow Dr Syaza Shukri said DAP stands out among mainstream parties for having a clearly articulated succession plan.

She said what was once seen as the "Lim dynasty" has evolved in recent years, particularly after veteran leaders Lim Kit Siang and Lim Guan Eng stepped aside.

"Besides party secretary-general Anthony Loke, they have others, such as Hannah Yeoh. The election of the current central executive committee also shows an intentional shift towards new leaders," she told *theSun*.

Syaza said by contrast, PKR once had a viable succession trajectory,

with figures such as former deputy presidents Datuk Seri Rafizi Ramli and Datuk Seri Azmin Ali, but its current leadership dynamics appear more dynastic.

"With Nurul Izzah Anwar as deputy president, it looks dynastic and it is hard for others to come into the picture. PKR has someone like Johor Bahru MP Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir, but it is unclear if he is being groomed for succession," she added.

The International Islamic University Malaysia political analyst also said as for Umno, another key component of the Madani government, the picture is even more uncertain.

"They talk about the need for younger leaders but we do not see active efforts. Former president Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak's dynasty is not firmly established nationally and Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar is out."

Syaza added that PAS leadership remains anchored in its *ulama*-based structure.

Even with the rise of younger voices, such as Pasir Mas MP Ahmad Fadhlil Shaari, it is unlikely they would overtake senior figures, such as the party's deputy president Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man, any time soon, she said.

Focusing on PKR, Nusantara Academy for Strategic Research senior fellow Prof Azmi Hassan said the party lacks a clear succession plan, especially compared with Umno, which has multiple vice-presidential figures seen as "prime minister material".

"PKR president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is already 78 years old. Most probably, this would be his last term as prime minister."

He questioned whether Nurul Izzah is ready to take the helm of either the party or the country.

"She is too young. The next in line should be the deputy president, which is Nurul Izzah. But again, she is too young. The next in line I think is Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, but he is only a senator and does not hold any critical position in PKR."

"So, it is difficult to say he will be Anwar's backup."

Azmi argued that because PKR lacks a strong leadership pipeline, the next prime minister after Anwar may not come from PKR at all but from Umno, whose vice-presidents and deputy president are seen as credible contenders.

The Umno deputy president is Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan while its vice-presidents are Pahang MB Datuk Seri Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin and Plantation and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani.

Airline offers special fare to Sabah for state election

KUALA LUMPUR: AirAsia is offering a special one-way fixed fare of RM299, inclusive of all charges, for flights from the peninsula to Sabah from Nov 26 to 28.

This offer is being made in conjunction with the Nov 29 state election.

The airline said the promotion covers more than 4,300 seats across eight routes and 24 flights from key domestic destinations to Sabah.

The deal began yesterday and bookings are available until Sunday via *airasia.com* and the AirAsia Move app.

The offer includes flights from Kuala Lumpur to Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan, Tawau and Labuan; from Johor Bahru to Kota Kinabalu and Tawau; and from Kota Bharu and Penang to Kota Kinabalu.

"This initiative reflects the airline's ongoing commitment to connect communities and support Malaysians during meaningful moments, especially in Sabah, one of AirAsia's most important domestic markets."

AirAsia CEO Datuk Captain Fareh Mazputra said as the people's airline, AirAsia would always stand alongside the communities it serves.

"Elections are moments that bring communities together to shape the future."

"This initiative is our way of making it more affordable for people to return home and take part."

He added that Sabah remains one of AirAsia's key domestic markets, with the airline continuing to strengthen connectivity between the state and other destinations in Malaysia and abroad through affordable fares.

The Election Commission has set Nov 29 as polling day for the 17th Sabah election, with nomination on Nov 15 and early voting on Nov 25. – *Bernama*



Syaza said the election of DAP's central executive committee shows an intentional shift towards new leaders. – *BERNAMAPIC*

Ruling coalition insists future leaders being groomed

PETALING JAYA: While critics claim political parties have neglected grooming young successors, several rising leaders from the ruling coalition insist that their parties are actively preparing the next generation of leadership.

Selangor Executive Councillor Mohd Najwan Halimi of PKR said the party is among the few with a strong youth presence at state and federal levels.

"For example, in Selangor, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari is still in his 40s. At the federal level, we have rising figures such as Dr Taufiq Johari, who is only in his early 30s," he told *theSun*.

He said while there are no shortcuts to national leadership, the party's structure remains open to young leaders.

"There is a clear and transparent process. We are not giving fast-tracks. We are providing space and grooming potential leaders, such as Youth and Sports Deputy Minister Adam Adli and others, at the state level," said Najwan, 40.

The Shah Alam PKR division chief added that while DAP's succession efforts may appear more visible, PKR is steadily building its own transition.

"Yes, our president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is almost 80 years old, but those directly under him, such as the deputy president and vice-presidents, are mostly in their 40s. This shows that a clear leadership transition is under way," he said.

Najwan cited leaders such as Amirudin, now serving his second term as *menteri besar*, and other rising names such as Science,

Technology and Innovation Minister Chang Lih Kang, who is also a vice-president, as well as Energy Transition and Water Transformation Deputy Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir.

"These are the next generation of leaders being groomed to take over when the time comes."

Meanwhile, nearly 50% of Amanah's national leadership comprises young leaders, said its secretary-general Faiz Fadzil.

He said Amanah's relatively recent establishment has created vast opportunities for youth involvement and leadership development.

"Amanah is a young party with strong potential to produce future political figures. About half of our national leadership consists of youth, making it a promising platform for

young people to sharpen their skills and step forward in politics," said Faiz, 48.

He described Amanah as a party that naturally appeals to young Malaysians, with a leadership structure that includes many young figures and provides space for more to play active roles.

Faiz said Amanah's open and inclusive culture encourages participation from members at all levels, particularly the younger generation, and the party is preparing its second-echelon leadership to take over in the next five to 10 years.

"The next generation is already in place. Apart from myself, there are emerging leaders such as Defence Deputy Minister Adly Zahari, former Cabinet member Dr Mujahid Yusof

Rawa, MP Suhaizan Kaiat, Selangor assemblymen Anfaal Saari and Abbas Salimi Azmi, and our youth chief Hasbie Muda, who is a senator."

"These are young leaders already active at the top. In the next general election, we will showcase even more young candidates."

Faiz said Amanah's progressive and reformist ideals align closely with the values and aspirations of young Malaysians, stressing that the party backs its youth empowerment talk with action.

"For instance, our youth chief plays a direct role at the national level and many young members serve in key decision-making bodies."

He added that several state Amanah chapters are led by youth, including in Pahang, Kedah, Penang and Sabah. – *BY IKHWAN ZULKAFLEE*

■ BY HARITH KAMAL
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PETALING JAYA: The recent death of a hiker at Gunung Liang in Perak has renewed awareness about the dangers of hypothermia, a condition often linked to cold countries but one that could occur even in Malaysia's highlands or during wet weather.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia public health medicine specialist Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh said hypothermia happens when the body's core temperature drops below 35°C, causing it to lose heat faster than it is able to produce.

"Hypothermia is defined as a body core temperature below 35°C, in which the body could no longer generate enough heat due to factors such as prolonged exposure or unconsciousness," she said, adding that normal body temperature is about 37°C.

She said mild hypothermia could be hard to detect as its symptoms may appear subtle.

"In mild hypothermia, there is shivering, impaired judgment and mental confusion. A person may appear pale, have a rapid heartbeat, cold skin and visible shivering, early signs that are often overlooked."

She also said moderate or severe hypothermia could quickly turn deadly.

"In moderate hypothermia, shivering stops, speech becomes slurred and confusion worsens. In severe cases, hallucinations may set in,

Hiking tragedy renews hypothermia concerns

➤ Altitude, rain and wind could pose danger even in tropical climate, says expert

blood pressure drops and the heart rate slows."

Sharifa said while hypothermia is not a major public health concern in Malaysia, hikers and the elderly remain vulnerable, especially at high altitudes.

"Temperature drops about 6°C for every 1,000m rise. If movement stops due to injury, the risk increases as the body can no longer produce its own heat."

Universiti Malaya Institute of Ocean and Earth Sciences senior research fellow Prof Dr Datuk Azizan Abu Samah said altitude, rain and wind could create dangerous conditions even in tropical climates.

"Increases in altitude, wind chill and humidity can make the temperature feel lower than it actually is."

He added that wet clothing, poor insulation and direct contact with the

ground could accelerate heat loss.

"If your clothes are wet, your body loses heat faster. Cotton absorbs water, unlike wool which retains warmth. Sleeping without insulation or a fire also worsens heat loss."

Drawing from his survival training in Antarctica, he stressed the need for proper gear.

"In cold conditions, wear layered clothing made of wool or other insulating materials with a windproof outer layer. Areas that lose heat easily, such as the head and neck, should always be covered."

Experienced hiker Ahmad Firdaus Reezal, 34, said many underestimate the risk of hypothermia, believing it only happens in snowy countries.

"It could happen here too. In highlands such as Mount Irau, Murud or during long treks in Cameron

Highlands, if you are wet, tired and exposed to wind, your body temperature could drop fast. It does not have to hit 0°C for hypothermia to set in.

"Whether it is sunshine or rain, always prepare for the worst. An emergency blanket, dry clothes and a waterproof jacket should be standard in your pack. Some thermal blankets cost just RM10 and they could save your life."

The tragedy at Gunung Liang underscores this warning. Last week, a hiker was found dead at the mountain's peak. The victim was discovered unresponsive by fellow hikers after enduring hours of rain and wind.

Prolonged exposure and inadequate clothing are believed to have caused his death, with rescuers confirming signs of severe hypothermia.

In Ipoh, Bernama reported that the Gunung Liang climbing site in South Perak has been closed to the public with immediate effect until further notice following the incident.

Two boys drown in lake

JOHOR BAHRU: The bodies of two boys were found on Tuesday night, believed to have drowned in Tasik Menawan at Taman Pelangi Indah.

Johor Jaya Fire and Rescue Station operations commander Shafie Md Don said a distress call was received at 9.44pm, and a rescue team arrived about 10 minutes later.

"Upon arrival, we found two pairs of slippers by the lake, believed to belong to the two children, aged nine and 10, who had been reported missing.

"The rescue team carried out a surface search within a 7.6m radius before divers from the Water Rescue Unit continued the operation using the arch pattern technique," he said in a statement yesterday.

He said the victims were found at a depth of about three metres beneath a rock, roughly five metres from the lake bank, at 2.28am.

He added that both victims were pronounced dead at the scene and their bodies were handed over to police for further action.

Authorities identified the boys as Muhammad Rayyan Iskandar Mohamed Hafizie, 9, and Muhammad Khalish Rayqarl Hasimbudi, 10.

The rescue operation, involving 14 personnel from the Johor Jaya Fire and Rescue Station and assisted by a team from the Skudai station, ended at 3.05am. – Bernama

Teacher loses RM446,000 to scam

KUALA TERENGGANU: A teacher lost RM446,200 after falling victim to a phone scam.

Kuala Terengganu district police chief ACP Azli Mohd Noor said the 52-year-old victim received a call on June 28 from a suspect claiming to be a representative of an insurance company.

He said the suspect told the victim he was involved in a fake medical claim worth RM12,000 before connecting him to an a partner posing as a police officer.

"The suspect also claimed the victim was implicated in a money laundering case involving an individual named 'Mike Paul'.

"The victim was then instructed to contact two other individuals posing as police and judicial officers. One of them even produced a forged document bearing the Sabah Judicial Department logo and an arrest warrant in the victim's name."

Azli said the victim took personal loans, used credit cards and borrowed money to pay supposed legal fees and bail.

He added that the suspect warned the victim not to tell his family, claiming the case was classified under the Official Secrets Act 1972.

"The victim made 23 transactions amounting to RM446,200 to 16 different accounts between July 26 and Oct 19.

"He only realised he had been cheated after discovering the documents were fake and could no longer contact the suspect." – Bernama



Sharifa said while hypothermia is not a major public health concern in Malaysia, hikers and the elderly remain vulnerable, especially at high altitudes. – PIC
COURTESY OF SS HIKERS

Vehicles catch fire in separate crashes, 2 killed

BATU PAHAT: Two separate crashes in Johor turned fiery within hours of each other, leaving two people dead and seven others injured on Tuesday night and yesterday morning.

In the first incident, seven passengers escaped with minor injuries after an express bus burst into flames following a collision with a lorry at Km78.7 of the northbound North-South Expressway near Batu Pahat on Tuesday.

Ayer Hitam Fire and Rescue Station operations commander Senior Fire

Officer II Mohd Nazrul Yusri Mohd Yusof said the emergency call was received at 11.17pm.

"Upon arrival at 11.35pm, it was confirmed that an express bus caught fire after colliding with a five-tonne lorry. There were seven male victims, including the bus driver, aged between 23 and 48. All sustained minor injuries and had already exited the vehicle before the fire brigade arrived."

The 35-year-old lorry driver escaped unhurt. The blaze was brought under control by 12.13am and the operation

concluded shortly after, involving 14 personnel from the Ayer Hitam and Kluang fire stations with two Fire Rescue Tenders and two Emergency Medical Rescue Services units.

Several hours later in Kota Tinggi, two people were killed when their car caught fire after skidding and crashing into a tree along Jalan Tanjung Balau towards Sedili near an oil palm plantation yesterday morning.

Penawar Fire and Rescue Station operations commander Senior Fire Officer I Faizal Ahmad said his team

received a distress call at 4.48am and arrived to find a car engulfed in flames.

"The vehicle had skidded and crashed into a tree before bursting into flames, razing almost the entire car. Both victims, a 21-year-old man and a woman believed to be an adult, were trapped inside and pronounced dead at the scene."

The fire was brought under control by 5.16am and the operation wrapped up at 6.11am. The victims' remains have been handed over to the police for further investigation. – Bernama



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Nga invites Michelle Yeoh to VM2026 launch

► 'Tourism sector now second-largest income source for Malaysia'

KUALA LUMPUR: Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming has invited Malaysia's first Oscar-winning actress Tan Sri Michelle Yeoh to be part of the Visit Malaysia Year 2026 (VM2026) campaign launch next January.

The ministry in a statement said Nga extended the invitation during a meeting with Yeoh and her husband Jean Todt, who is the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, on the sidelines of his official visit to Turkiye for the Global Zero Waste Forum.

"During the meeting, Nga invited Yeoh to join Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim next January for the lighting ceremony of Bukit Bintang's Walk of Fame, which would mark the launch of the VM2026 campaign."

Nga said under the Madani government's values of inclusivity and diversity, Malaysia has emerged as one of Asia's most sought-after travel destinations this year, Bernama reported.



The ministry said Nga invited Yeoh to join Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim next January for the Bukit Bintang Walk of Fame lighting ceremony. — **BERNAMAPIC**

"By the end of 2025, tourist arrivals are expected to exceed 40 million, an increase of 18.4%, surpassing Malaysia's total population for the first time."

He added that the tourism sector now contributes 15.2% to Malaysia's gross

domestic product, making it the second-largest source of national income.

He also said to achieve the RM150 billion revenue target for VM2026, every Malaysian should play their part as a tourism ambassador to help the world discover "Malaysia Truly Asia".

The meeting with Yeoh and Todt also discussed efforts to enhance road safety through better urban planning and building design, aimed at reducing traffic accidents and protecting road users.

Todt, the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile former president, presented Nga with a signed copy of his latest book, *The Silent Pandemic*.

Nga, in turn, gifted the couple a *batik* necktie and scarf symbolising Malaysia's cultural heritage.

The ministry added that Nga also held bilateral meetings with several dignitaries, including Iranian Vice-President Dr Shina Ansari, Turkiye Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change Minister Murat Kurum and Global Zero Waste Foundation chairperson Samed Agirbas.

At the forum, Malaysia received the Global Zero Waste Leadership Special Citation Award, recognising the country's growing influence in driving sustainability and zero-waste initiatives towards cleaner, greener and more resilient cities.

Digital exhibition blends AI, art

KUCHING: The International Digital Economy Conference Sarawak 2025 (IDECS25) will feature the launch of the Digital Art Gallery 2025 (DAG25): AI Artventure, an exhibition that fuses creativity, education and artificial intelligence (AI).

The IDECS Corporate Communications Unit said the AI technology showcase, organised by Crave Asia Sdn Bhd, will run until Oct 26 at the Balai Rong Hall in the Makeramai Makerspace at Plaza Merdeka.

"DAG25 highlights the creativity of school students from across Sarawak, whose original artworks would be reimagined by AI technology into dynamic visual displays.

"These pieces would be showcased on a five-metre interactive digital wall, offering visitors an immersive experience that blends artistic beauty with technological sophistication."

IDECS25 secretariat head Amirul Rizwan Mohd Abd Hafiz said the initiative reinforces the state's commitment to nurturing digital talent from the grassroots, positioning Sarawak as a regional leader in creativity, innovation and sustainable digital growth.

Open to all students and members of the public, the AI Artventure Competition invites young creators to submit "Green Planet" themed artworks, which will be reinterpreted by AI and displayed on the interactive wall.

Participants stand a chance to win prizes worth RM15,000 in total, sponsored by Wonderpark, including a 65-inch iBoard Interactive Panel for the school with the most entries and an iPad for the student with the most creative AI artwork. Public participants also stand a chance to win an iPad.

IDECS25 said the five-day exhibition will feature four interactive zones designed to foster creativity and technological curiosity: the Art Zone, Engineering Zone, Construction Zone and Craft Zone.

Visitors can also explore the Makeramai Playzone at Makeramai Makerspace, a creative hub under the Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation, offering Nintendo Switch games, virtual reality experiences and 3D pen activities.

The exhibition is free and open to all, offering the community a chance to experience how technology could spark creativity and inspire innovation.

The public is encouraged to join the AI Artventure Competition by submitting their art pieces at <https://www.aigenius.com.my/dag2025> — Bernama

MCMC mulls proposal to limit SIM card ownership

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) is conducting a public enquiry on proposed guidelines for prepaid SIM card registration.

Deputy Communications Minister Teo Nie Ching said the proposal is to limit Malaysian citizens to owning only two numbers per telecommunications provider.

She said the study also includes a proposal to restrict foreign nationals to just two prepaid numbers in total, regardless of the service provider.

She added that the public consultation is expected to conclude by the end of November, with MCMC targeting to implement the new guidelines in the first quarter of next year.

"By tightening these guidelines, we hope to curb the misuse of prepaid SIM cards, which are often used to register social media accounts for fraud, spreading false information or making threats," she said during the question-and-answer session in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Under existing guidelines set in 2017, an

individual may register up to five prepaid numbers with each telco company.

"This means a person could have five numbers from Maxis, five from Celcom, five from Digi, five from U Mobile and five from YTL. That is quite a large number of SIM cards for one individual."

Teo was responding to a supplementary question from Sungai Petani MP Dr Mohammed Taufiq Johari on the government's proposal to introduce an ethical AI policy and strengthen digital forensic capabilities under the MCMC. — Bernama

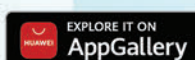
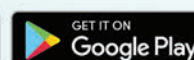
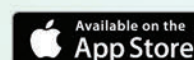


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Cybercrime pact raises hopes, concerns

► Treaty poses risks to rights: Activist

HANOI: A landmark UN cybercrime agreement aimed at curbing offences that cost the global economy trillions of dollars annually is set to be signed by representatives from dozens of states in Hanoi this weekend, despite criticism over human rights risks.

The convention, which would come into force after it is ratified by 40 states, is an unprecedented move that the United Nations expects will make responses to cybercrime quicker and more effective.

Activists, major technology

companies and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights have warned about possible abuses from its vague language on crime, with some saying it would facilitate rather than combat illegal activities.

The list of signatories has not been released, though the European Union and Canada are set to sign the pact, which they said included safeguards to protect human rights. The State Department declined to say whether a US representative will attend the signing ceremony.

Vietnam's selection as host has drawn criticism due to its human rights record. In a report in August, the State Department cited "significant human rights issues" in Vietnam, including restrictions on online freedom of expression.

At least 40 people have been

arrested this year in Vietnam, for alleged crimes including online postings against the state, according to Human Rights Watch.

Vietnam expects to raise its international profile by hosting the event and sees the pact as a tool to boost its cyber defences, its officials said.

The Cybersecurity Tech Accord, a coalition that includes Meta and Microsoft, has labelled the pact "a surveillance treaty" that facilitates the exchange of personal data among governments and risks "making it easier, not harder, for criminals to engage in cybercrime".

The convention targets a broad spectrum of offences from phishing and ransomware to online trafficking and hate speech, the UN has said, citing estimates that

cybercrime costs the global economy trillions of dollars each year.

But the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights warned during treaty negotiations that "laws with overly broad definitions of cybercrime are frequently used to impose undue restrictions on the right to freedom of expression".

Raman Jit Singh Chima of Access Now, an advocacy group, said the treaty could facilitate the extradition of individuals persecuted by their governments.

The signing in Vietnam "sends a very bad signal" to human rights defenders, he said.

Vietnam is experiencing an escalation of cyberattacks targeting critical infrastructure and big corporations, Le Xuan Minh, head

of cybersecurity at its Public Security Ministry, told a press conference this month, noting more international cooperation could help identify perpetrators.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which led the treaty talks, said the agreement includes provisions to protect human rights and allows states to reject cooperation requests that conflict with international law.

Activists and tech firms have also voiced concern that the treaty could criminalise ethical hackers who test systems for vulnerabilities, especially when their findings expose sensitive government flaws.

The UNODC said the convention "encourages" states to enable legitimate research activities. - Reuters

BRIEFS

CHINA, AUSTRALIA TRADE BLAME

BEIJING: China has issued a "stern protest" to Australia after a mid-air incident over the weekend involving military planes from the two countries, a spokesman for Beijing's Defence Ministry said yesterday. Australia said that its Poseidon surveillance plane was approached by a Chinese fighter jet during a Sunday patrol over the disputed South China Sea. The Chinese jet released flares near the Australian aircraft, endangering the crew onboard, the Defence Department said. China's military said on Monday it had taken "effective countermeasures", accusing the Australian aircraft of having "illegally intruded" into Chinese airspace over the Xisha Islands, using Beijing's name for the Paracel Islands. China's Defence Ministry said Australia's statement "distorts right and wrong, shifts the blame on China and attempts in vain to cover up the vile and illegal intrusion". - AFP

N. KOREA FIRES BALLISTIC MISSILES

SEOUL: North Korea fired ballistic missiles yesterday, its first such launch in months just a week before world leaders descend on South Korea for a summit. Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it had "detected several projectiles, believed to be short-range ballistic missiles". They flew for around 350km, it said. The launch was the first of its kind since South Korean President Lee Jae-myung took office in June. The launch was "a response to Donald Trump and his recent moves", said Park Won-gon, a professor at Seoul's Ewha Womans University. Kim Jong Un is also "asserting his regime's presence during an event hosted by Seoul, as he's done before", he said. Trump is expected to arrive in South Korea on Oct 29 for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum. - AFP



NO ROOM FOR GRAFT ... Filipino protesters destroy an effigy of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr during a farmer-led anti-corruption demonstration near Malacanang Palace in Manila on Tuesday. - **APPPIC**

Japan premier's spouse vows quiet support

TOKYO: The spouse of Japan's first woman Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said he hoped to support his wife by being a "stealth husband", cooking meals for her but staying out of the spotlight.

Former lawmaker Taku Yamamoto (*pic*) spoke the same day as Takaichi, a social conservative and Margaret Thatcher admirer, was named as premier having forged a last-minute coalition deal.

"Unlike in the West, it is better for a partner to stay out of the spotlight," Fukui Television reported Yamamoto as saying on Tuesday.

He said it was essential that Takaichi, who won the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leadership this month, is able to work with the coalition "to pursue her vision of prime minister".

"I want to provide solid support

as 'a stealth husband' to ensure that my presence does not become an obstacle to that," he said, according to the *Asahi* newspaper, Fuji Television and other media.

Yamamoto, a former fellow LDP lawmaker, married Takaichi in 2004, but the couple divorced in 2017 citing "differences in political views".

The couple re-married in 2021, after Yamamoto reportedly supported Takaichi when she ran for the LDP leadership election that year. He lost his seat in the lower house in a snap election after the vote.

Takaichi's views on gender place her on the right of an already conservative LDP, and she opposes revising a 19th-century law requiring



married couples to share the same surname, a rule that overwhelmingly results in women taking their husband's name.

During Takaichi and Yamamoto's first marriage, she took his name. In the second, he took hers.

Yamamoto told media that he wanted to use his political experience to help his wife, but that he was also good at cooking, so he also wanted to support her through preparing meals.

The pair live together in a house complex for members of parliament in Tokyo, where Takaichi helps care for Yamamoto after he suffered a stroke this year and was also diagnosed with prostate cancer, reports said. - AFP

Paetongtarn steps down as Pheu Thai Party leader

BANGKOK: Former Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra resigned as leader of the Pheu Thai Party yesterday, to pave the way for party reforms ahead of the general election next year.

Paetongtarn, 39, said her decision to step down was in line with her earlier announcement on Oct 7 to move forward with a new vision and bring about genuine changes for the people.

"Today, I have decided to resign from my position as leader of the Pheu Thai Party, with the intention of initiating a comprehensive reform of the party," she told a meeting at the party's headquarters.

She said Pheu Thai Party must undergo a major transformation - overhauling its structure, processes and mindset - to secure victory in the next election and, in turn, revitalise and rebuild the nation.

"We are now living in an era where global society is fragile, complex, sensitive and unpredictable. Thailand is entering one of its most critical transitions.

"With the general election approaching, I firmly believe that the reform of the Pheu Thai Party must begin without delay. Thus, I have chosen to step down as party leader to allow the party the freedom to reform itself and build a stronger, more complete Pheu Thai," she said.

Paetongtarn said she would remain a party member. The party has yet to announce her successor.

Yuttaporn Issarachai, a politics expert at Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University, said: "It doesn't matter who leads Pheu Thai, it will always be run by the family in the backroom."

He said her resignation was mainly to safeguard against legal challenges to the party, after she was removed from office by the Constitutional Court, which found her guilty of an ethical breach related to a leaked phone call with Cambodian leader Hun Sen. - Bernama/AFP



UN rights work faces 'existential threat'

Body mulls reforms

GENEVA: United Nations rights work is being disproportionately targeted for cuts amid a deep UN funding crisis, posing an "existential threat" to vital investigations and accountability efforts, a report warned.

Washington's failure to pay UN membership fees, coupled with Chinese and Russian efforts to defund rights bodies, could deal a death-blow to the UN battle against rights abuses, the NGO report said.

"At a moment of sweeping UN reform and financial crisis, these efforts ... pose an existential threat to the UN's human rights system," the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) cautioned.

Already, a war crimes investigation ordered by the UN Human Rights Council into violence sweeping the Democratic Republic of Congo has failed to launch due to lacking funds. And other investigations warn cuts could leave them crippled.

The UN is mulling reforms including a 15% cut across its 2026 budget to tackle chronic liquidity problems exacerbated by President Donald Trump's policies.

The United States, the UN's biggest contributor, paused funding after Trump returned to power in January.

As of Sept 30, Washington owed US\$1.5 billion (RM6.34 billion) in unpaid UN membership fees, including US\$300 million in arrears from previous years, according to the ISHR report.

China, the second-highest contributor, has fuelled the crisis by paying its dues "extremely late," the report said.

Beijing only completed last year's payment on Dec 27, essentially rendering the funds unusable since UN financial rules require budget amounts not spent by year-end to be returned to member states, ISHR said.

UN chief Antonio Guterres' UN80 reform proposal aims to spread cuts across the body's three pillars: peace and security; human rights; and sustainable development.

But ISHR warned the cuts would "disproportionately hit the human rights pillar due to years of underfunding."

The human rights segment receives less than 1% of the total UN budget.

Cuts being discussed could take a heavy toll on the UN rights office OHCHR, which has already seen tens of millions of dollars in US voluntary funds evaporate this year.

The agency has received just 73% of member states' promised regular budget contributions for this year, leaving US\$67 million unpaid.

Spokeswoman Liz Throssell said: "We have now reached the critical threshold of efficiency of the system. If it goes down further, it becomes very, very, very concerning."

Kaoru Okuizumi, deputy head of the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, warned that proposed cuts could see the investigation lose 27 positions, a third of its staff.

Targeted efforts to defund rights investigations during UN budget negotiations could deepen the crisis, ISHR warned.

Russia and China especially "have weaponised UN budget negotiations to serve their own interests and shield allies from scrutiny," said Madeleine Sinclair, head of ISHR's New York office.

In the name of efficiency, they seek to cut funds for OHCHR and for investigations into abuses in countries like Russia, Belarus and North Korea.

The proposals "are clearly about crippling the OHCHR," report author Angeli Datt told journalists. – AFP

AI used to curtail religious freedom

PARIS: Threats against religious freedom are increasing across the world, a Roman Catholic aid organisation warned, pointing to a rise in persecution in countries including China and North Korea and the repressive use of AI.

"Almost two-thirds of humanity, almost 5.4 billion people, live in countries where serious religious freedom violations take place," Aid to the Church in Need International (ACN) said.

Twenty-four countries, including China, India, Nigeria and North Korea, are ranked in the worst category, "persecution", where people face "serious and repeated acts of violence or harassment because of their faith".

Thirty-eight, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Mexico, Türkiye and Vietnam, are classified under the second-worst category, "discrimination", where there are "laws or practices that unfairly target certain religious groups".

Twenty-four others were classed as "under observation", where there are "warning signs of serious violations of religious freedom", ACN's "Religious Freedom in the World Report 2025" stated.

ACN, a papal foundation, said the overall situation has not improved since its last report in 2023, blaming a rise in authoritarianism, jihadist violence and ethno-religious nationalism.

There had been a "sharp rise" in hate crimes, including in Europe and the United States, since the Oct 7, 2023 attack in Israel.

On artificial intelligence, the group said the new technology and other digital tools were being "weaponised" to "monitor, profile and penalise religious expression".

"In countries such as China, North Korea and Pakistan, both governments and non-state actors deploy digital tools to censor, intimidate and criminalise believers – transforming religious faith into a perceived security threat," the report stated.

"AI's capacities for manipulative purposes are enormous," it said.

The ACN report, which is published every two years, is the only one conducted by an NGO that looks at all religions. – AFP



Artwork 'Kermit the Frog, Even' on display at the Place Vendome earlier this week. – REUTERSPICT

Kermit aims to ease French nerves

PARIS: A huge inflatable Kermit the frog will be the star of the Art Basel Paris contemporary art fair this week in the French capital, unnerved by a daring heist at the Louvre.

"Kermit the Frog, Even" is a 20m blow-up figure by Venezuelan-US artist Alex Da Corte – with its head deflated at the artist's request.

The beloved *Muppet Show* puppet has already been on display for several days in the Place Vendome, where the world's top jewellers showcase their most valuable and extravagant pieces.

Kermit succeeds last year's giant mushroom by German artist Carsten Hoeller and the "Wave" by Switzerland's Urs Fischer in 2023.

Its head is deflated as "a way of paying tribute to US public broadcaster PBS", which aired the *Muppet Show* in the 1970s and is now "facing drastic budget cuts", explained Art Basel Paris director Clement Delepine.

This is the fourth fair in Paris organised by Switzerland's Art Basel, which organises a series of contemporary art fairs around the world.

More than 200 galleries from around 40 countries are expected to take part in the main event from Friday to Sunday under the huge glass dome roof of the Grand Palais in Paris.

Coming just days after thieves made off in broad daylight with eight pieces of priceless royal jewellery from the Louvre museum, organisers are at pains to reassure participants.

"The safety and protection of our exhibitors, visitors and teams is an absolute priority," Art Basel Paris said, pointing to "comprehensive security measures".

In addition to the central event in the Grand Palais, monumental works have been installed across central Paris as part of a free public programme.

These include huge sculptures by contemporary artists Wang Keping (China), Stefan Rinck (Germany), Leiko Ikemura (Japan) and Thomas Houseago (Britain).

Visitors can also explore a jungle wall of wild grasses made of nylon, plastic and polyester by Madagascan artist Joel Andrianomearisoa.

The Petit Palais is currently home to Julius von Bismarck's mesmerising "The Elephant in the Room".

This features a life-sized giraffe and a replica of an equestrian statue of Otto von Bismarck, the first chancellor of the German Empire, both constantly change shape in slow motion.

According to the UBS 2025 annual survey, published by Art Basel, global sales of modern and contemporary art fell by 12% last year to US\$57.5 billion (RM243.2 billion), the second straight annual fall. – AFP

BRIEFS

FIERCE WINDS STOKES AUSTRALIA, NZ WILDFIRES

SYDNEY: Wild, hot winds swept across Australia and New Zealand yesterday, fuelling wildfires and sending spring temperatures soaring past 40° Celsius in parts of Sydney. Australia's weather bureau said a mass of hot air that built up over the country's outback on Tuesday was moving across the southeast of the country and bringing an early heatwave. Wind gusts of up to 100 kph raised bushfire threats and forced authorities to issue several fire bans across New South Wales. A total of 36 fires are burning, with nine yet to be contained. New Zealand authorities issued rare "red" level wind warnings for central and southern parts of the country. Firefighters battled to contain wildfires near Kaikoura on South Island and in Hawke's Bay on North Island, fanned by the winds. The fires have so far destroyed several properties, including five homes. – Reuters

MARSHAL, SUSPECT HURT AFTER ICE AGENT OPENS FIRE

LOS ANGELES: A US Marshal and a suspect were wounded on Tuesday when an ICE agent opened fire during an immigration enforcement raid in Los Angeles. The incident happened as Immigration and Customs agents tried to recapture an "illegal alien" in a raid supported by US Marshals, Assistant Secretary of State for Homeland Security Tricia McLaughlin said. "The alien began ramming the law enforcement vehicle," McLaughlin wrote on social media. "Fearing for the safety of the public and law enforcement, our officers fired defensive shots. The alien was hit in the elbow and one law enforcement officer was wounded in the hand by a ricochet bullet. Both are in the hospital." – AFP

ABU DHABI: Anwar Gargash, diplomatic adviser to the United Arab Emirates president, called yesterday for compromise to end the Middle East conflict by providing security for Israel and a viable state for Palestinians.

The Gaza ceasefire that came into force earlier this month presents an important opening but the approach to one of the world's most intractable conflicts needs to change, Gargash said in an interview at the Reuters NEXT Gulf Summit in Abu Dhabi.

"This is definitely a moment of opportunity. I think the first thing to say, we see opportunity because we have a chance today to change course," he said.

The UAE is seen as a vital player in efforts to rebuild Gaza after two years of war that killed tens of thousands of people and demolished the Palestinian enclave, creating widespread hunger and a humanitarian disaster.

"Some policies are no longer valid and should not be reincarnated, the maximalist views on the Palestinian issue are no longer valid, we have to address the issue that we have two contending nationalisms fighting on one piece of land and that land has to be divided," Gargash said.

"Are we going to continue with this sort of maximalist views on how to address the Palestinian issue, for example, by the Israeli right, which has to understand that this is not going to go away," said Gargash, who served as the UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs from 2008 to 2021.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected the idea of a Palestinian state.

Abu Dhabi, a major oil producer, punches above its weight diplomatically in the region and beyond and has gained vast influence by strategically investing everywhere from the West to Africa.

The UAE was the most prominent of the Arab states to sign US-brokered normalisation deals with Israel in 2020 known as the Abraham Accords.

UAE Minister of State Lana Nusseibeh said during a panel at the Reuters NEXT Gulf Summit that the UAE normalised relations with Israel to foster tolerance and change



Reuters Editor-in-Chief Alessandra Galloni with Gargash at the summit yesterday. – REUTERS/SPIC

'Compromise to end Middle East conflict'

➤ Ceasefire provides moment of opportunity

mindsets in the region.

"We partnered with the Arab region, with the United States and with Israel using the Abraham Accords to help achieve this ceasefire in Gaza that was so desperately needed," said Nusseibeh.

Gargash reiterated that Israeli annexation in the occupied West Bank would constitute a "red line" for the UAE.

Asked if that red line could lead to the end of the Abraham Accords, which President Donald Trump wants to expand to include other

Arab states to stabilise the Middle East and promote economic growth, Gargash said the focus now should be on making Trump's plan to end the Gaza war work.

As Gaza faces a shaky ceasefire, highly sensitive questions remain for the next phase of the truce in the plan, such as widespread calls for Hamas to disarm and for the group not to play any future role in governing the enclave.

The UAE sees groups such as Hamas as an existential threat, a position that often influences its foreign policy. – Reuters



Nusseibeh ... UAE normalised ties with Israel to change mindsets.

Top court to rule on Israeli aid obligations

THE HAGUE: The International Court of Justice was scheduled to issue an advisory opinion late yesterday on what Israel's obligations are to UN and other aid organisations trying to work in Gaza and the West Bank.

The opinion, which was requested by the UN General Assembly in December, will be closely watched as it could have effects beyond the Gaza conflict. It is expected to address the protections states must provide for UN staff worldwide.

Advisory opinions of the ICJ, also known as the World Court, carry legal and political weight, but they are not binding and the court has no enforcement power.

In April lawyers for the United Nations and Palestinian representatives at the ICJ accused Israel of breaking international law by refusing to let aid into Gaza between March and May.

Since then some humanitarian aid has been allowed in but UN officials say the relief is nowhere near what is needed to ease a humanitarian disaster.

The 20-point ceasefire plan mediated by the US earlier this



A Palestinian carrying supplies in Zawaida on Tuesday. – REUTERS/SPIC

month allows for 600 trucks of aid a day into Gaza. Israel has previously accused Hamas of stealing food delivered into the enclave, which it denies, and has said the aid

restriction was to put pressure on the group.

Israel did not appear before the ICJ in hearings but did submit its legal position in writing.

In April, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar dismissed the hearings as a "circus" and said the court was being politicised.

"It is not Israel that should be on trial.

"It is the UN and UNRWA," he told reporters at the time.

The request for an ICJ opinion was prompted by a 2023 Israeli law that banned UN Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA from operating in the country, as it said the organisation had employed members of Hamas.

The UN said in August last year that nine UNRWA staff may have been involved in the Oct 7, 2023 attack on Israel and had been fired.

Another Hamas commander, confirmed by UNRWA as one of its employees, was killed in Gaza last October, according to Israel.

In an earlier advisory opinion last year, the ICJ found that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories is illegal and should end immediately.

The court also said that Israel had human rights obligations to the Palestinians because of its position as an occupying power. – Reuters

Russia reiterates peace terms

FRANKFURT: Russia reiterated its previous terms for reaching a peace deal with Ukraine in a private communique sent to the US over the weekend known as a "non-paper", according to two US officials.

The communique reiterated Russia's demand that it take control of all of Ukraine's Donbas region, one of the US officials said, a stance that effectively rejected Trump's view that the frontlines should be frozen at their prevailing locations.

Russia also reiterated its stance that no Nato troops be deployed to Ukraine as part of any peace agreement, one of the officials said.

News of the non-paper – diplomatic speak for an informal document meant to communicate one party's position to another – comes as a proposed summit between President Donald Trump and President Vladimir Putin takes shape.

Asked for comment on the non-paper, the White House pointed to Trump's comments to reporters on Tuesday afternoon, during which he said he had not made a determination about the summit, but that he did not want to have a "wasted meeting".

He said that he thought a ceasefire along the current battle lines was still possible.

Trump had a phone call with Putin on Thursday, after which he said the Budapest meeting would take place, possibly within the next two weeks.

At a private meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy on Friday, Reuters and other media outlets reported that US officials pitched the Ukrainian leader on a Kremlin-proposed plan to give up the Donbas region in return for small parts of the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions.

Zelenskiy pushed back, and Trump thereafter said publicly the prevailing frontlines should be frozen. – Reuters

Hungary readies for summit

MOSCOW: Russia said preparation for a summit between Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump was ongoing, despite the US leader's announcement that it had been shelved.

Trump has become increasingly frustrated with Russia's refusal to agree to a ceasefire in the nearly four-year Ukraine war, having so far failed to convince Putin to back down on his maximalist demands.

The US leader met Putin at a summit in Alaska in August but the meeting failed to yield any deal.

Trump announced last week he planned to meet Putin for a second round of talks in Budapest but then on Tuesday called off the plan, saying he did not want a "wasted" meeting.

When asked about Trump's comments, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "No one wants to waste time, neither President Trump nor President Putin."

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said preparations were continuing.

"We are saying that preparations are continuing," he was quoted as saying by TASS news agency.

In Budapest, Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban said: "Preparations for the summit are continuing. The date is still uncertain. When the time comes, we will hold it" – Agencies



Silent strain on teen vision

WORLD Sight Day is observed annually on Oct 9, with this year's theme being "Love Your Eyes".

Health professionals worldwide highlight the importance of eye care and preventing avoidable blindness.

While much of the discussion centre on cataracts, refractive errors and vision screening access, an emerging concern is quietly transforming our visual perception, which is the increase in excessive screen use and internet gaming disorder (IGD) among adolescents.

In today's digital world, screens dominate nearly every aspect of life – in learning, leisure and social interaction.

For many teenagers, gaming offers a sense of excitement, connection and accomplishment. But for some, what starts as fun becomes a compulsive habit that disrupts sleep, academic performance and health.

IGD has emerged as a growing global health concern in the digital era. Recognised by the World Health Organisation and the American Psychiatric Association, IGD is defined as a behavioural addiction marked by loss of control over gaming, prioritising it over other daily activities and continuing to play despite experiencing negative consequences.

Globally, an estimated 3% of internet users meet the criteria for IGD, with significantly higher rates reported among adolescents in Asia. In Malaysia, local studies suggest that around 3% to 4% of adolescents experience symptoms consistent with IGD, a figure that is expected to rise as the number of young online gamers continues to grow.

Behind every statistic lies a web of risk factors: unsupportive parenting, peer pressure, social isolation and immersive design of modern games.

IGD rarely occurs in isolation; it often co-exists with other addictive behaviours, including gambling and substance use, as well as links to anxiety, depression and poor academic performance.

Adolescents who experience bullying, loneliness or stress may turn to

gaming as an escape, reinforcing the cycle of dependence.

When eyes begin to tire

The human eye was never designed for prolonged exposure to artificial light or rapidly moving digital images. Prolonged screen time or gaming sessions can lead to digital eye strain, a condition now affecting more than half of school-aged children. The symptoms include:

- ➔ Dry, itchy or watery eyes
- ➔ Blurred vision and headaches
- ➔ Neck and back pain from poor posture

For teenagers, whose eyes are still developing, the effects can be even more serious. They are at increased risk of rapid myopia (short-sightedness), eye misalignment and coordination problems.

Whole-body impact

Excessive gaming and prolonged screen exposure affect not only visual health but also overall physical and psychological well-being.

Extended engagement with digital screens can disrupt circadian rhythms through blue light exposure, contributing to insomnia, daytime fatigue and poor sleep quality. Physical inactivity during gaming increases the risk of musculoskeletal discomfort, postural strain and weight gain.

Psychologically, excessive gaming is linked to irritability, anxiety, social withdrawal and reduced concentration, forming a cycle of visual fatigue and cognitive decline that can ultimately impair academic performance.

Parents and teachers often notice early warning signs like tired eyes, irritability, late-night gaming and decreased motivation. Sadly, these signs are often dismissed as "normal teenage behaviour", which can delay essential intervention.

Wake-up call

The theme "Love Your Eyes" encourages everyone to prioritise vision care. Loving our eyes today means practising digital hygiene and responsible screen

"In today's digital world, screens dominate nearly every aspect of life – in learning, leisure and social interaction. For many teenagers, gaming offers a sense of excitement, connection and accomplishment. But for some, what starts as fun becomes a compulsive habit that disrupts sleep, academic performance and health."



Excessive gaming and prolonged screen exposure affect not only visual health but also overall physical and psychological well-being. – **BERNAMA PIC**

use every day.

Experts recommend simple but effective strategies to reduce strain:

- ➔ Follow the 20-20-20 rule: Every 20 minutes, look 20 feet away for 20 seconds.
- ➔ Blink often to keep eyes moist and refreshed.
- ➔ Use lubricating eye drops when needed.
- ➔ Adjust your workstation ergonomics: Keep screens at arm's length and slightly below eye level.
- ➔ Take regular breaks and limit screen use before bedtime.

Technological innovations such as blue-light filters, anti-reflective coatings and high-resolution displays also help reduce visual fatigue. But these should complement and not replace healthy habits.

Seeing beyond the screen

Protecting adolescent eye health requires a collective community-wide effort. Schools can integrate digital well-being into health education while parents can set limits on gaming time and encourage outdoor activities.

Simple lifestyle habits, such as regular breaks, balanced sleep schedules and screen-free mealtimes, can make a major difference.

At the same time, society must shift

its perception. Gaming is not inherently harmful; it becomes problematic only when moderation and balance are lost. Encouraging teenagers to engage in gaming responsibly, alongside physical and social activities, helps them maintain mental and visual well-being.

Seeing the future clearly

This year's World Sight Day message is straightforward: safeguarding our eyesight involves more than just wearing glasses or seeking medical treatment; it requires adapting to a world dominated by screens.

Our eyes are the first to indicate when our digital habits become excessive but their warnings are often overlooked.

Let us genuinely "love our eyes" by blinking more, gazing into the distance and using screens wisely. After all, in the game of life, having a clear vision is the most valuable achievement.

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EDUCATION

FOCUS 2025

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



Children grow best with guardrails

THERE was a time when a simple sound – the firm steps of a principal approaching or the familiar tap of a cane from a discipline teacher – was enough to quiet a rowdy classroom. That hush was not born of terror but respect.

It was a silent acknowledgment that authority mattered, that boundaries existed and that certain lines were not meant to be crossed. Having spent decades within the education system, I have witnessed first-hand how that balance between discipline and empathy has slowly eroded.

Today, our schools are filled not with silence but noise – voices, opinions, screens and a kind of freedom that demands attention yet resists accountability.

Recent headlines remind us of the fragility of our young minds and the danger of mistaking liberation for growth. We have created a generation that is deeply connected yet profoundly untethered.

Children have access to infinite information but little wisdom to navigate it. They speak their minds but rarely pause to hear their own thoughts. In our attempt to build confidence, we may have forgotten to nurture conscience.

Fear has somehow become a forbidden word in modern parenting and education. We have begun to equate fear with trauma, as though every boundary is an act of violence. Yet, fear in its rightful place has always been a teacher. It warns us before we act, steadies us before we fall and reminds

us that our choices carry weight.

The fear of disappointing someone, of facing consequences, of crossing a moral line – these are not forms of oppression but instruments of awareness. When a child fears nothing, not even the outcome of their own actions, it is not freedom they have gained; it is direction they have lost.

Many of today's tragedies reflect this imbalance. Schools hesitate to discipline for fear of backlash. Parents intervene before reflection can take root. What once was a partnership between home and school has turned into a tug-of-war.

In protecting our children from discomfort, we may have shielded them from growth. In defending them from consequence, we may have denied them the opportunity to understand responsibility.

Love without limits, though well-intentioned, becomes indulgence; freedom without guidance becomes chaos. And then there is the digital dimension – a realm where influence thrives without a filter. Our children scroll through worlds where cruelty is casual and empathy optional. They are overstimulated but under-centred, connected to everyone but grounded in no one.

Information floods them before maturity can filter meaning. They learn about emotions through reactions, not relationships. The consequence is a generation that knows everything but understands little.

We cannot expect emotional regulation in minds that have never



"We have created a generation that is deeply connected yet profoundly untethered. Children have access to infinite information but little wisdom to navigate it."

been taught to pause between impulse and action. Perhaps this is why the absence of fear feels so stark today.

The presence of a strong figure – a teacher, a principal, a parent – once served as a moral compass, a reminder that someone was watching, guiding and holding space for consequence. Who says that was a bad thing?

A certain degree of restraint keeps us from self-destruction. A certain degree of fear preserves empathy. Boundaries do not restrict growth; they protect it.

To restore balance, we must first reimagine fear – not as punishment but as perspective. Fear need not silence; it can enlighten. When paired with compassion, it becomes awareness. It teaches children that freedom begins where responsibility starts, and that the right to act must co-exist with the readiness to be accountable.

Banning mobile phones in schools or re-establishing teacher authority are not signs of regression; they are gestures towards reclaiming the psychological space that once nurtured discipline and respect. We must also look inward.

As adults, we are the models from whom children learn emotional cues. If we react impulsively, speak harshly or treat discipline as outdated, we reinforce the very chaos we hope to cure.

Respect cannot be demanded; it must be demonstrated. Fear need not arise from dominance; it can stem from admiration, consistency and integrity.

When young people see that authority can coexist with empathy, they begin to understand that power need

not be oppressive to be respected.

This is not a call to return to authoritarian classrooms or harsh punishment; it is a call to reclaim balance. Children still need to feel safe but safety does not mean the absence of rules; it means clarity, boundaries and consequence delivered with compassion.

We must remember that the mind matures not through freedom alone but through reflection shaped by restraint. We cannot build resilience without allowing discomfort. We cannot teach empathy without showing consequences. The world is changing fast but the architecture of the human psyche remains the same.

A child's heart still seeks guidance even when it resists it. A young mind still needs the gentle pressure of principle to shape its moral core.

Perhaps fear was never the enemy; it was simply the forgotten teacher. A little hesitation before we act, a little humility before we speak, a little awareness before we judge – these are the soft edges of a disciplined mind. They are what keep us human in an age that often confuses freedom with entitlement.

And maybe, just maybe, it is time we let that kind of fear find its rightful place again – not to control our youth but to protect the part of them that still longs to grow wisely.

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Eradicate poverty at home before we look abroad

POVERTY is still a pressing social issue in our country. Despite development in many areas, there are still pockets of citizens living on the streets and in dilapidated homes, often overlooked by society.

The government has taken commendable steps to eradicate hardcore poverty, and it is commendable that the prime minister has reaffirmed his commitment to this cause. However, more coordinated and sustained efforts are needed at every level to ensure meaningful change.

Local leaders, village heads and elected representatives must be fully aware of the conditions in their constituencies.

They should actively identify squatters and families living in poverty and work with social welfare officers and volunteers to provide targeted assistance. No family in need should fall through the cracks.

Poverty must become a top priority for every state government. In a nation where foreign workers arrive in large numbers seeking opportunity, it is disheartening to see our own citizens struggling in such dire conditions.

Some homes lack basic necessities, like clean water and electricity. Some live in makeshift shelters under bridges, parks or on sidewalks. Many of them depend on soup kitchens and NGOs to feed them.

Sick and impoverished citizens cannot afford medical care and are left to fend for themselves.

We are not yet a rich nation or fully developed country. We have a host of social, welfare and health concerns. What is particularly troubling is that while some organisations pour resources into foreign missions and causes, many of our own people go without food, shelter or clothing. That money could be better used to uplift the lives of our fellow citizens who need it most.

Let us focus our efforts on improving what we already have. We need more hospitals to ease overcrowding, better prison and rehabilitation facilities, and improved conditions in our public schools.

We must do more for senior citizens struggling with meagre pensions and for single mothers working tirelessly to feed their children and keep a roof over their heads. Before we extend our hand to help others abroad, let us first wipe out the malaise among our people. Eradicating hardcore poverty must be our utmost priority.

We are blessed with natural beauty and vibrant cities that attract countless tourists. But in those same cities – Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Ipoh and Malacca – visitors also encounter visible poverty. The contrast between luxury hotels and street beggars paints a troubling picture.

Zero poverty should be the ultimate goal in our quest for quality living. And as the saying goes, charity begins at home.

Samuel Yesuiah
Seremban



Despite development in many areas, there are still pockets of citizens living in dilapidated homes, often overlooked by society. – **BERNAMAPIC**

BY DEEPALAKSHMI MANICKAM
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PETALING JAYA: Malaysia's persistent property overhang remains a thorn in the side of the real estate sector, with experts warning that temporary measures and slower supply are merely masking a structural problem.

Latest data shows that unsold completed units have eased since the pandemic, but industry players stress that the root causes, affordability gaps, skewed product mix and speculative narratives, remain unresolved.

"Malaysia's property overhang is not simply a supply-demand mismatch; it stems from a combination of affordability gaps, skewed product mix, and planning incentives," said Dr Muhammad Najib Razali, associate professor in property economics and finance at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

"While the housing stock has expanded, median prices have consistently outpaced household incomes, leaving many Malaysians priced out."

He explained that developers have often gravitated toward mid- to high-end products such as serviced apartments near growth nodes, rather than affordable landed homes or smaller, simpler units.

Approval systems, particularly the Advertising Permit and Developer's Licence (APDL) process, can also inadvertently favour amenity-heavy, high-density projects—adding to the mismatch between what is built and what households can realistically afford.

From an industry perspective, the picture is equally complex.

"Malaysia's property overhang remains a persistent challenge. While headline numbers show some reduction in unsold completed units, this is partly due to the slower pace of new launches since 2020 following the disruptions of the pandemic," said Tan Ka Leong, group managing director of CBRE|WTW (real estate agency that provides full-fledged solutions). "The issue is therefore not fully resolved but has shifted in nature."

He noted that overhang composition varies across states and price bands. "For residential-titled properties, houses priced between RM200,000 and RM300,000 continue to dominate the overhang at the national level. Meanwhile, in the commercial-titled segment, particularly serviced apartments, unsold stock is more concentrated in the RM500,000 to RM900,000 range."

Overhang needs structural fix, not band-aids: Experts

➤ Affordability gaps, poor planning and speculative projects continue to distort housing supply despite fewer unsold units



Experts say quick fixes like stamp duty waivers and campaigns only mask the real issues behind Malaysia's property glut. - BERNAMAPIX

In Perak, about 1,400 units priced in the RM200,000–RM300,000 band remain unsold, mainly landed terrace houses. Kelantan, by contrast, has roughly 2,200 units in the same price range but largely in condominiums. "If buyers in a locality can choose landed homes at the same price as high-rise units, why would they opt for the latter?" Tan asked, highlighting the importance of aligning supply with local income levels, demographics and housing preferences.

Government interventions such as the Home Ownership Campaign (HOC), stamp duty exemptions and the Housing Credit Guarantee Scheme (SJKP) have eased pressures in the past, but experts say they do not address the underlying issues.

"These measures help in the short term but do not solve the underlying problem," said Najib. "They provide temporary relief to developers but risk entrenching speculative behaviour in the industry, where developers continue to push higher-margin products under the assumption that policy relief will bail them out when sales slow."

He cautioned that buyers enticed during promotional periods may later find themselves overstretched, especially as high maintenance fees for lifestyle-heavy strata projects add to long-term affordability risks.

Experts agree that sustainable solutions require structural reforms and discipline. Najib recommends embedding affordability into the

approval process, mandating developers to deliver units aligned with local median incomes and conditioning higher density approvals on affordability outcomes. He also called for mandatory disclosure of long-term maintenance costs and a gating system to defer new launches in areas with persistent overhang.

"Without complementary long-term reforms in land use, housing design and affordability alignment, measures like HOC or stamp duty waivers will continue to function as band-aids, offering short-term relief while the structural wound remains untreated," he said.

Tan echoed the need for more data-driven planning. "A key lesson from past cycles is that speculative hype and over-optimistic narratives can distort the market. Marketing claims of growth corridors or 'can't-miss' hotspots often led to projects being launched without grounding in actual demand, leaving behind today's legacy of unsold stock," he said.

To avoid repeating this, feasibility studies must be carried out independently and objectively, free from vested interests. "Solving the overhang requires discipline in planning, realistic alignment with affordability and policies that encourage supply where genuine demand exists. Only then can we move beyond masking the issue and towards meaningful resolution," Tan stressed.

If left unaddressed, experts warn that the overhang could evolve into a systemic drag. Developers may face mounting carrying costs, smaller players risk being squeezed out, and banks could face higher loan-loss provisions from investor defaults in oversupplied corridors.

"At the macroeconomic level, persistently high overhang undermines housing's role as a store of wealth," Najib cautioned.

"If Malaysians begin to doubt property's long-term appreciation potential, it could trigger shifts in savings and investment patterns, leaving the property sector as a drag on growth rather than a driver of it."

EcoWorld marks soft launch of Majestic Labs at Eco Majestic township

SEMENYIH: Eco World Development Group Bhd (EcoWorld) recently unveiled Majestic Labs, the latest in its innovative "Labs" series, with a soft opening at the Eco Majestic township.

Strategically located next to the 20-acre Eco Majestic City Park, Majestic Labs is envisioned as more than a retail destination – it is designed to be "The Heart of Everyday Life", a community hub that blends shopping, dining, fitness, education, and lifestyle experiences under one roof. Spread across 3.6 acres with 47 units, Majestic Labs achieved a 70% occupancy rate at its soft opening, reflecting strong tenant confidence and robust consumer demand.

The centre welcomed a diverse mix of tenants catering to everyday convenience and lifestyle aspirations including Nando's, Canton Boy, Chef Kecil, Hock Kee Kopitiam, Ikea (pop-up), Xiaomi, Claviera, Focus Point and Caring Pharmacy. Education and wellness

are also represented through Melody Kindyland and Believe Fitness.

Adding to its vibrancy, Majestic Labs is now home to the Eco Majestic Sales Gallery, occupying about 4,300 sq ft and serving as the township's main point of connection.

In line with EcoWorld's ESG agenda, Majestic Labs incorporates a rooftop solar PV system providing common areas, alongside the use of green materials and passive cooling designs to enhance energy efficiency.

A grand opening is planned for early 2026, with events and activities designed to further activate the space for the community. EcoWorld is also exploring the launch of "Labs 2" within the next three years, depending on market demand.

Eco Majestic divisional general manager Evon Yap said: "We know people no longer see malls or retail spaces as just shopping destinations

— they want a place where they can gather, interact and experience something meaningful. Majestic Labs was designed with this in mind, bringing together a thoughtful mix of tenants and community spaces that reflect the vibrant lifestyle of our residents and visitors."

EcoWorld deputy CEO Liew Tian Xiong said, "Our Labs series is an integral part of EcoWorld townships, serving as hubs where lifestyle, retail, and community experiences come together. Majestic Labs embodies this vision – it is not just about convenience; it is about creating a place where people can connect, spend time, and truly feel at home. With its diverse tenant mix and prime location, Majestic Labs is set to become the heart of everyday life for Eco Majestic and beyond."

As one of Malaysia's leading developers, EcoWorld continues to redefine urban living by creating places that go beyond bricks and mortar.

OSK Property unveils RM427m Subang-Shah Alam project

KUALA LUMPUR: OSK Holdings Bhd through its property arm OSK Property Holdings Bhd and its indirect subsidiary Perspektif Vista Sdn Bhd, has entered into a sale and purchase agreement recently with Tropicana Metropark Sdn Bhd to acquire a parcel of freehold land in Subang Jaya, Selangor.

The land parcel, measuring a combined 3.312 acres, was secured for a total consideration of RM44 million.

The acquisition in the well-established Tropicana Metropark master plan marks another significant step in strengthening OSK Property's foothold in the mature and highly sought-after township of Subang Jaya.

The development has preliminary plans for serviced apartment residences aimed at young house buyers with an estimated GDV of RM427 million.

The acquisition underscores the group's commitment to growing its development portfolio in prime, well-established locations that continue to demonstrate strong demand from homebuyers and investors alike.

"This strategic acquisition reflects

OSK Property's confidence in the resilience and marketability potential of the Subang Jaya market. Subang is one of the most mature and vibrant townships in the Klang Valley, with excellent connectivity and a strong ecosystem of amenities. We see continued demand for well-connected, lifestyle-oriented developments, particularly among buyers who are looking for the right balance of good value and quality living," said deputy group managing director Ong Ju Xing.

The new land acquisition is situated just 5.2km from Mori Park, OSK Property's ongoing RM2.2 billion Transit-Oriented Development in Shah Alam, and 4.8km from Emira Residences, OSK Property's completed RM280 million project. Together, these projects reinforce OSK Property's presence in the Subang-Shah Alam corridor and position the group to tap into a wider spectrum of the market.

"With this project in Subang Jaya, we aim to deliver thoughtfully designed homes for modern urban dwellers, building on the momentum from Emira and Mori Park," Ong said.



Trade, economic security to top agenda of Asean Summit

► The 47th edition will mark new milestones, including finalisation of reciprocal trade pact between the US and selected members of bloc and signing of upgraded FTA with China

KUALA LUMPUR: Economic cooperation and security will take centre stage as Asean leaders gather this week for the 47th Asean Summit, which aims to push forward key trade agreements and deepen regional integration amid a challenging global environment. Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz said the 18 Priority Economic Deliverables (PED) under the bloc's economic pillar will be a focal point of the discussions, reflecting the bloc's commitment to safeguard trade, investment and economic stability at a time of rising geopolitical and geoeconomic tensions.

"The 47th Asean Summit will mark several milestones, including the finalisation of the Agreement on Reciprocal Trade (ART) between the United States and selected Asean members, the upgrading of the Asean Trade in Goods Agreement (Atiga), and the signing of the upgraded Asean-China Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA)," he told a pool interview themed "How Asean's Economic Prosperity Supports Regional Political Stability" here yesterday. The 18 PED are focused on trade, investment, digitalisation, artificial intelligence, green growth and inclusivity. Tengku Zafrul highlighted that

Asean will also convene the first Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership meeting since the pact's launch, bringing together Asean with China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand to assess the region's progress in strengthening supply chain resilience. "For the first time, the Asean member states will meet jointly to discuss economic security, underscoring how trade and investment are increasingly linked to regional stability. "The session will be co-chaired by Malaysia's economic and foreign ministers," he added. Tengku Zafrul emphasised that Asean must stay united in upholding the bloc's centrality and neutrality not only in diplomacy but also in economic affairs amid the constantly evolving global landscape. Asean's intra-regional trade currently accounts for about 24% of total trade, a level the bloc aims to increase through the Atiga upgrade and deeper digital integration. The Asean Summit is scheduled to begin later this week, with

economic ministers scheduled to meet beginning tomorrow, before the leaders' sessions and related summits with key dialogue partners over the weekend. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump is scheduled to arrive in Malaysia on Sunday to attend the 47th Asean Summit. Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil said the US president's attendance was confirmed at last Friday's Cabinet meeting. "Confirmed - Donald Trump will arrive in Malaysia on Oct 26. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will announce any changes," he said at a press conference after inspecting the preparations at the International Media Centre and International Broadcast Centre for the 47th Asean Summit at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday. Fahmi declined to provide further details about Trump's first visit to Kuala Lumpur since assuming the presidency for a second time last November. - Bernama

Malaysia open to rare earth element joint ventures with foreign investors

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is open to foreign companies establishing joint ventures with local firms to develop rare earth minerals in Malaysia. Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz said Malaysia has a competitive advantage through its estimated rare earth element (REE) deposits of 1.6 million tonnes. "We want to invite companies to come and invest here, and we want to get more Malaysians involved, not just in terms of the supply chain but also in terms of economic interests, meaning having some equity and shareholding as well in this venture," he said during a pool interview themed "How Asean's Economic Prosperity Supports Regional Political Stability" here yesterday. Tengku Zafrul said that while the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry has yet to receive any proposal to set up a new REE processing facility in the country, Malaysia aims to be involved in midstream processing activities rather than merely exporting raw materials, which are of very low complexity in terms of economic value. Malaysia had previously enforced a nationwide moratorium on the export of unprocessed (raw) rare earth materials effective Jan 1, 2024. The move is explicitly intended to encourage companies to establish domestic processing and downstream industries to capture higher value, create jobs, and ensure technology transfer.

"By banning raw REE exports, they are effectively compelled to come here regardless of which country they are from. For the government, especially Miti which oversees downstream activities, we have no restrictions on which country comes in to develop their industries here," he said. He added that by inviting foreign companies to set up REE processing plants, Malaysia hopes to create quality jobs, establish new opportunities across the supply chain, and contribute to government revenue through taxes. Tengku Zafrul pointed out that Khazanah Nasional Bhd is engaging with Chinese companies to explore opportunities in REE downstream activities. "For Lynas, they are already here and are a fully private company. We will not stop them from exporting to markets of their choice. In their case, they have been exporting to South Korea, Japan, and the United States. We welcome all because, at the end of the day, Malaysia continues to remain neutral," he said. Asked about Asean's fragmented policies on REE and collective regional strategies, Tengku Zafrul said the principle within Asean has always been that negotiations on issues of national and economic security are conducted bilaterally. "I think most of us have similar policies, and we protect our national interests. We also want to ensure our neighbours share their challenges with us. That's what we do, particularly for the Priority Economic Deliverables under the Economic Pillar. "We share technology, if there is any, as well as trading and supply chain ideas when we talk about supply chain security," he added. - Bernama

M'sian courier market expected to hit RM6.9b in 2025

■ BY **HAYATUN RAZAK**
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SHAH ALAM: Malaysia's courier market is expected to reach RM6.9 billion in 2025, supported by rising e-commerce demand and continued investment in logistics infrastructure, said Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil. He also said that parcel delivery volumes over the past two to three years have grown significantly month by month, according to information provided by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission. "This demonstrates that the government's efforts to establish a robust e-commerce ecosystem and strengthen digital infrastructure, supported by high-speed internet access now reaching 5G and even 5G Advanced, are bearing fruit," he said in his speech at the official opening of SPX Express' Bukit Raja Selatan Sorting Centre yesterday. Based on 2024 data, Fahmi said, the number of parcels handled by the courier industry exceeded 900 million a year, compared with 52 million parcels in 2015. "The multiple-fold growth within less than a decade is driven by the rise in online purchases, the growth of e-commerce platforms, improved internet access and digitalisation." Fahmi said the increase in parcel volume demonstrates that Malaysia's digital economy ecosystem is maturing. "Entrepreneurs no longer need to be in Kuala Lumpur to sell

their products. They can operate from anywhere in Malaysia and that's the power of an efficient logistics network." He said Malaysia's digital economy is on track to contribute 25.5% to gross domestic product this year, with logistics players such as SPX Express serving as key enablers. "This new Bukit Raja Selatan facility is capable of sorting up to two million parcels a day. On an annual average, the facility alone could potentially handle between 400 million and 500 million parcels per year, and this is just the beginning. The team has also shared that there is room for expansion in the future if needed." Spanning more than 30,000 square metres, SPX Express' new Bukit Raja Selatan facility forms part of its RM63.2 million investment in advanced automated sorting machines to boost operational agility and efficiency. The sorting centre leverages artificial intelligence and Internet of Things to streamline parcel processing. It is designed to handle up to two million parcels per day, improving sorting efficiency by 2.2 times, and is expected to boost SPX Express' total nationwide processing capacity by 80%, while reducing inbound-to-outbound processing time to under eight hours. Fahmi said he was informed that the opening of the Bukit Raja Selatan Sorting Centre alone has created more than 1,000 jobs across



Fahmi (left) and Cheah (second, left) at the official opening of the SPX Express Sorting Centre at Bukit Raja Selatan, Shah Alam, yesterday. - **BERNAMAPIC**

various roles. "Beyond those physically sorting parcels, there are also engineering and technical teams ensuring that the machines and equipment function smoothly." The minister pointed out that the courier industry has created over 150,000 jobs for Malaysians, with 80% of delivery riders coming from the B40 income group. SPX Express head Cheah Lee Sun said the hub reaffirms its commitment to strengthening Malaysia's supply chain ecosystem and supporting its transformation into

one that is more efficient, inclusive and responsive to the needs of businesses nationwide. "With our in-house technology, the new sorting centre can sort parcels up to 200 unique destinations, strengthening the connection between businesses and shoppers and enabling more efficient deliveries across the country," she said. "This means faster, more reliable deliveries for our customers including small businesses and everyday shoppers who rely on us for their e-commerce needs."

'M'sian economy set to stay resilient, post steady growth'

BY JOHN GILBERT
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KUALA LUMPUR: Hong Leong Bank Bhd (HLB) remains confident that Malaysia's economy will stay on a stable growth path in 2026, expressing optimism that the nation is on track to achieve its targeted gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 4.5% next year.

HLB general manager of fixed income and economic research Choong Yin Pheng said the banking group attributed its optimism to two key factors – domestic demand is expected to remain resilient, supported by strong private consumption.

"We are seeing stronger realisation of investment projects, which will continue to support the domestic economy."

"Externally, while uncertainties remain, we expect conditions to stabilise as we move into next year – a development that should further drive Malaysia's growth."

"That said, downside risks persist, particularly with the unresolved impact of semiconductor tariffs, which could pose the biggest challenge ahead," she told delegates at Hong Leong Bank's roundtable entitled "Decoding Budget 2026: What It Means for Malaysia's Growth" yesterday.

The roundtable also featured insights from Taylor's University adjunct professor Prof Dr Ong Kian Ming, Small and Medium Enterprises Association of Malaysia (Samenta) national president Datuk William Ng, and PwC Malaysia tax partner Ang Wei Liang.

Choong said the total fiscal outlay of RM417 billion marks a steady improvement in fiscal management, narrowing the budget shortfall to RM75 billion in 2026 – down from RM77 billion in the revised 2025 Budget.

She noted that the increased participation of government-linked investment companies and government-linked companies in development spending has helped ease pressure on government coffers, with operating expenditure at 81% and development expenditure at 19%.

On revenue, Choong highlighted that Sales and Service Tax (SST) collection has risen steadily to nearly 2.8% of gross domestic product (GDP), comparable to the Goods and Services Tax era, while petroleum-related income has declined, a sign of reduced reliance on oil revenues.

Subsidy reforms, she added, have led to more targeted cash assistance, with subsidies expected to account for 44% of social spending next year, down from 75% previously.

"Malaysia's fiscal consolidation is on track, with the deficit improving from 4.1% of GDP in 2024 to 3.5% in 2026," Choong said, adding that this trend supports the country's sovereign rating outlook.

She projected GDP growth of 4% to 4.5% and inflation between 1.3% and 2% next year, aligning with the Ministry of Finance's forecast.

"Despite global uncertainties, Malaysia's economy remains resilient, supported by stable growth, manageable inflation, and healthy fundamentals. We do not expect Bank Negara to cut the OPR (Overnight Policy Rate) further," she said.

HLB also expects the ringgit to strengthen gradually, forecasting RM4.20 to the US dollar by end-2025, and RM4.10 within 12 months, driven by narrowing rate differentials with the US, sustained growth, and continued investment inflows.

Meanwhile, Ong said Budget 2026 strikes a generally balanced approach in encouraging both foreign direct investment (FDI) and domestic direct investment (DDI), while maintaining policy consistency under the

► On track to achieve targeted GDP expansion of 4.5% in 2026, underpinned by domestic demand: Hong Leong Bank



From left: Hong Leong Islamic Bank CEO Dafinah Ahmed Hilmi (moderator), Ang, Choong, Ng and Ong during a panel session at Hong Leong Bank's post-Budget 2026 roundtable.

government's ongoing economic reforms.

He explained that new FDI requires greater confidence than existing investors, while DDI depends heavily on Malaysia's economic and political stability.

"Budget 2026 should be seen as a continuation of the government's governance story since 2024, reflecting consistent policy direction and structural reforms."

Ong highlighted three key strengths: political stability under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysia's balanced geopolitical positioning between global powers, and policy clarity through initiatives such as the National Energy Transition Roadmap and the New Industrial Master Plan.

However, Ong noted areas for improvement, including stronger commitment to implementing announced plans, avoiding policy surprises such as the recent SST expansion and sudden excise hikes on alcohol and tobacco, and maintaining predictable communication with the business community.

He also cautioned against populist narratives that target the *Mahakaya* or wealthy groups, stressing that such rhetoric could backfire if not matched with well-calibrated subsidy and tax policies.

"Overall, Budget 2026 continues Malaysia's steady policy momentum, but execution and consistency will determine its real impact on investment confidence," said Ong.

Samenta described Budget 2026 as a "safe but modest" fiscal plan that addresses some SME challenges but falls short of easing rising business costs and compliance burdens.

Ng said SMEs continue to face the "three Cs and two Ws" – rising costs, compliance and credibility, along with issues related to workers and wages.

"While Budget 2026 introduces positive measures such as expanding the *Syarikat Jaminan Pembiayaan Perniagaan* credit guarantee from RM20 billion to RM30 billion, more can be done to tackle escalating operating and compliance costs," he said.

Ng pointed out that many hidden cost pressures stem from increased agency and state fees, citing, for example, expatriate visa charges that surged by 250% last year, as well as new fees from agencies such as the Malaysian

Investment Development Authority, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation and TalentCorp.

He added that under the 13th Malaysia Plan, greater efforts are needed to streamline government agencies and improve efficiency to reduce the cost of doing business.

"Overall, it's a stable and cautious budget, but SMEs were hoping for stronger measures to ease business costs and improve ease of doing business," said Ng.

Fiuu, Pos Malaysia and PayNet unveil cashless payment solution for COD transactions

PETALING JAYA: Fiuu, a fintech platform in Southeast Asia, has partnered with Pos Malaysia, the national post and parcel service provider, and Payments Network Malaysia Sdn Bhd (PayNet), the national payments network, to introduce a transformative cashless solution for cash-on-delivery (COD) transactions.

This initiative is powered by Fiuu's innovative payment platform and leverages PayNet's DuitNow QR. It aims to redefine how Malaysians complete their COD transactions, providing a seamless and secure payment experience right at their doorstep.

"Through this partnership, Fiuu is at the forefront of driving Malaysia's digital economy forward. We are committed to delivering secure, innovative, and customised payment solutions that not only benefit consumers and merchants but also support Pos Malaysia in expanding its COD offering for e-commerce sellers. By converting to DuitNow QR, Fiuu can automate the cashless collection reconciliation process, paving the way for more seamless and efficient transactions. This is more than just a payment solution, it's a significant step toward reshaping the future of the e-commerce industry," said Fiuu CEO Eng Sheng Guan.

Pos Malaysia Group CEO Charles Brewer said, "At Pos Malaysia, we are passionate about building trust to connect lives and businesses for a better tomorrow. By embracing DuitNow QR, we are transforming our COD services to meet the evolving needs of our customers. This innovative cashless solution not only delivers effortless convenience but also reflects Pos Malaysia's dedication to drive innovation and digitalisation, allowing us to enhance our services and deepen our connection with the rakyat in the digital age."

PayNet chief marketing officer Gary Yeoh shared, "Our partnership with Fiuu and Pos Malaysia further advances our mission to drive the nation towards a cashless society. This collaborative effort is a step forward in providing reliable, innovative digital payment experiences for all Malaysians."

Malaysia expands deployment of BlackBerry tools for Asean summits

PETALING JAYA: BlackBerry Ltd yesterday announced that Malaysia has deployed BlackBerry AtHoc and BlackBerry SecuSUITE to secure communications and protect people during the Asean Summit-related events, including the 46th Asean Summit held in May, and the 47th Asean Summit taking place in Kuala Lumpur from Oct 26 to 28.

The Asean summits are among the region's most complex diplomatic events, involving more than 500 meetings and thousands of personnel across multiple government agencies. Coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Asean Main Logistics Secretariat (SILA), the summits bring together heads of state, ministers, and officials from Asean member countries and key partners across the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

Following a successful deployment at the 46th Asean Summit, SILA has expanded its use of BlackBerry's secure communications platform to protect command and control operations, both within the summit's operations centre and on the move.

As advanced signal intelligence capabilities become increasingly available to malicious actors, safeguarding mobile communications has never been more critical.

BlackBerry AtHoc, a critical event management platform, combines secure emergency notifications with incident response tools to enable real-time mobile coordination across

agencies. BlackBerry SecuSUITE, a Nato-certified, military-grade secure voice and messaging solution, protects sensitive conversations from interception and espionage targeting mobile communications.

SILA head Raja Saifful Ridzuwan Raja Kamaruddin said: "Around 80% of our interagency communications are secured – and some are highly confidential and directly tied to the safety of heads of state and officials. With BlackBerry, we found an encrypted, open communications platform that protects sensitive information while improving coordination."

BlackBerry CEO John Giamatteo remarked: "As Asean Chair in 2025, Malaysia is setting a new standard for sovereign secure communications at scale. BlackBerry is honoured to support SILA and the government of Malaysia with advanced, military-grade solutions that safeguard people, protect sensitive conversations, and keep complex operations moving in real time."

During the 46th Summit, 100 liaison officers (LO) used BlackBerry AtHoc to send secure, location-based alerts and manage coordination. The upcoming 47th Summit will expand to 150 LO, all equipped with AtHoc and SecuSUITE on iOS and standard Android devices. This flexibility allows LO to securely communicate with visiting delegations and foreign teams, reducing the number of devices needed while maintaining end-to-end encrypted voice and secure messaging from anywhere.

JS Solar, Huawei Malaysia in tie-up for green energy projects

KUALA LUMPUR: Huawei Technologies (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd (Huawei Malaysia) and JS Solar Holding Bhd have inked an MoU at the recent International Greentech & Eco Products Exhibition & Conference Malaysia (IGEM) 2025 to jointly advance smart solar and energy storage projects across Malaysia.

The tie-up will drive JS Solar's upcoming renewable energy projects, with the aim of accelerating Malaysia's carbon neutrality goals. JS Solar's projects include Large-Scale Solar farms, Ground-Mounted Self-Consumption Solar farms, hybrid rooftop systems and the Corporate Renewable Energy Supply Scheme.

"JS Solar is excited to strengthen our collaboration with Huawei Digital Power as we expand into East Malaysia. By combining Huawei's advanced smart PV and energy storage technologies with JS Solar's proven project delivery expertise, we aim to provide reliable, efficient, and sustainable energy solutions that accelerate Malaysia's clean energy transition. This partnership underscores our joint commitment to supporting the nation's net zero aspirations," said JS Solar managing director Chai Jeun Sian.

"Huawei Digital Power is pleased to collaborate with JS Solar in advancing Malaysia's renewable energy infrastructure. With our Smart PV and energy storage technologies, JS Solar will be able to optimise power generation, manage energy use more effectively, increase operational efficiency and ensure grid stability across diverse applications," said Huawei Malaysia, digital power business vice-president Chong Chern Peng.

Under the partnership, JS Solar will serve as the Engineering, Procurement and Construction partner, while Huawei Malaysia will be the tech enabler, contributing its digital power expertise and innovative Smart PV solutions.

Huawei Malaysia and JS Solar will also jointly study, design and implement Solar + Battery Energy Storage System technologies, exploring practical business models and scalable solutions to enhance renewable energy efficiency and grid resilience.

Syariah-compliant financing boost for halal-certified MSMEs

► microLEAP and HDC partnership supports Budget 2026's goal to empower small businesses and grow Malaysia's Islamic finance ecosystem

KUALA LUMPUR: Following the government's announcement of Budget 2026, which places renewed emphasis on MSME empowerment, sustainable financing and halal ecosystem development under the 13th Malaysia Plan, microLEAP and Halal Development Corporation Bhd (HDC) have partnered to expand syariah-compliant financing opportunities for halal-certified micro, small and medium enterprises.

In a statement, they said the partnership supports Budget 2026's focus on advancing Malaysia's halal economy as a key pillar of national growth, while also aligning with the Halal Industry Master Plan (HIMP) 2030, which envisions a "Prominent,

Visible and Globalised Halal Malaysia."

Specifically, they added that the collaboration complements Strategic Thrust 4: Enhancing Quality and Integrated Infrastructure Development, by strengthening financial infrastructure and access to capital for Halal enterprises to scale and compete internationally.

Through this collaboration, more than 14,000 members registered under HDC's Halal Integrated Platform (HIP) will have access to microLEAP's syariah-compliant financing ecosystem, enabling them to secure funding that supports business expansion, Halal certification readiness and growth opportunities.

microLEAP, a recognised syariah-compliant Peer-to-Peer (P2P) financing platform by the Securities Commission Malaysia, offers two core financing options tailored to MSME needs. Its micro financing product provides access to funding of up to RM50,000 for smaller enterprises seeking working capital or early-stage expansion, while its invoice financing offers a soft limit of up to RM500,000 for businesses with larger operational and cash flow requirements. These solutions are designed to give Halal MSMEs flexible, ethical and transparent financing options aligned with syariah principles.

The partnership with HDC will also align financial readiness with certification standards, helping entrepreneurs move from being Halal-certified to becoming Halal-competitive.

In addition, the collaboration aims to encourage more investors to participate in syariah-based MSME financing, strengthening confidence

in the sector's governance and resilience.

microLEAP CEO Tunku Danny Nasaifuddin Mudzaffar said, "Our mission is to open financing pathways that are fair, transparent and accessible. With Budget 2026 charting a clear path for sustainable and inclusive growth, syariah-compliant financing must play a central role in empowering Halal MSMEs. Partnering with HDC allows us to scale this vision with purpose, enabling businesses to access the funding they need to grow, export and contribute to Malaysia's leadership in the global Halal economy."

Since 2019, microLEAP has channelled over RM438.6 million in syariah-compliant financing to 357 MSMEs across sectors such as trading, services, food and beverage, technology and engineering.

In Q3'25, the platform disbursed RM57.5 million, representing a 113% year-on-year increase. As of October 2025, microLEAP's default rate has improved to 0.34%, underscoring the platform's consistent portfolio quality and prudent credit practices.

HDC CEO Hairol Ariffein Sahari said, "Budget 2026 and the Halal Industry Master Plan 2030 both recognise the Halal sector as a driver of innovation and inclusivity. The real test for Halal businesses has never been certification alone; it has been access to capital. By bridging that gap with microLEAP, we are supporting HIMP 2030's mission to build an integrated and competitive Halal ecosystem where businesses can grow sustainably, innovate confidently and compete globally."

The partnership between microLEAP and HDC represents a tangible step towards embedding syariah-compliant financing within Malaysia's broader Halal industry infrastructure.

As the nation moves forward under Budget 2026 and HIMP 2030, both organisations said they are committed to ensuring that Halal MSMEs are not only compliant participants in the economy but key enablers of Malaysia's growth, innovation and global competitiveness.



HDC and microLEAP representatives exchange documents to mark their strategic partnership agreement.

MAB Engineering, MTU Zhuhai deepen support services collaboration

SEPANG: MAB Engineering Services has signed a support services agreement (SSA) with MTU Maintenance Zhuhai Co Ltd (MTU), furthering their collaboration to enhance on-site support (OSS) capabilities and reinforce MAB Engineering Services' position as a leading regional provider of engine maintenance expertise.

The SSA builds on the MoU signed in October 2023, which laid the groundwork for the collaboration.

Under the MoU, MTU committed to supporting MAB Engineering Services with project management support for OSS establishment, employee training, and sales pipeline development. It also

highlights the mutual confidence both companies have in the partnership and in the growth prospects of the aviation maintenance market in the Asia-Pacific market region. With the agreement now in place, the collaboration is moving into its execution phase.

MAB Engineering Services chief operating officer Eke Nazri Rahim said, "This agreement marks an important milestone for MAB Engineering Services. With MTU's technical expertise and global network, we are accelerating our capability growth, driving long-term value creation, and positioning ourselves as a trusted maintenance, repair and overhaul

(MRO) partner for airlines across the region."

MAB Engineering Services has committed to achieving capability readiness for OSS maintenance on CFM56-5B and CFM56-7B engines by July 2026, supported by approvals from the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency and the Federal Aviation Administration, as well as additional approvals from several Southeast Asian regulators by year-end.

Readiness for V2500 engines is planned by 2027, followed by LEAP engines by 2028, further cementing MAB Engineering Services' expertise

across some of the most widely used engines in the industry.

MTU Maintenance Zhuhai president and CEO Gert Wagner said their location will provide structured project management guidance, a comprehensive training programme for MAB Engineering Services employees, and direct sales support to help the company develop a robust, long-term sales pipeline in the region.

"MTU Maintenance Zhuhai is the world's largest MRO service provider for narrowbody engines by shop-visit volume whose engine experts routinely conduct on-site maintenance workscopes," he said, adding MAB Engineering Services and Malaysia

Airlines Bhd, both part of Malaysia Aviation Group, are close partners of theirs and they are more than happy to lend their expertise and insight for this project.

"The aviation market in Asia is the world's fastest growing one and demand for maintenance capacities is only expected to increase further. This is exactly what we are addressing with this collaboration," said Wagner.

In recent months, MTU Maintenance's ON-SITEplus service experts from Australia, Brazil and Germany have been conducting a benchmark blade replacement project on the high-pressure turbines of 20 of Malaysia Airlines' CFM56-7 engines.



KUALA LUMPUR: BMS Holdings Bhd, a deep-rooted Malaysian retailer and distributor specialising in tiles, stone surfaces, bathware and kitchenware, yesterday entered into an underwriting agreement with Alliance Islamic Bank Bhd (AIS) in preparation for its upcoming initial public offering (IPO) on the ACE Market of Bursa Malaysia Securities.

Since its establishment in 1993, BMS Holdings, through its subsidiaries, has built a reputation in offering an extensive portfolio of products that cater to diverse customer preferences.

The well-established range of own brands includes BMS Porcelain, Marmo Grande, Rubino, Batu Gergasi, Moderica Surfaces and Brelife Coverings for its tiles and stone surfaces as well as eurano and U+BMS brands for its bathware and kitchenware.

The IPO will comprise a public issue of 364.00 million new ordinary shares (Issue Shares) and an offer for sale of 156.00 million existing shares (Offer Shares), collectively representing approximately 33.77% of BMS Holdings' enlarged number of issued shares of 1,540.00 million upon listing.

The allocation 77.00 million Issue Shares or 5.00% of the enlarged number of issued shares will be made available for application by the Malaysian public; 61.60 million Issue Shares or 4.00% of the enlarged number of issued shares will be allocated to eligible directors, employees, and persons who have contributed to the success of the group; 188.90 million Issue Shares or 12.27% of the enlarged number of issued shares will be made available by way of private placement to selected investors; 36.50 million Issue Shares or 2.37% of the enlarged number of issued shares will be made available by way of private placement to Bumiputera investors approved by the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry of Malaysia (Miti) and 156 million Offer Shares or 10.13% of the enlarged number of issued shares will be offered by way of private placement to Bumiputera investors approved by the Miti.

As part of the underwriting arrangement,

Alliance Islamic Bank is underwriter for BMS's IPO

➤ Listing proceeds to be used to expand tile, stone and sanitary ware specialist's retail footprint

138.60 million Issue Shares out of the enlarged number of issued shares of 1,540 million will be underwritten by AIS, ensuring that this portion of the IPO will be fully taken up and providing additional confidence in the success of the public offering.

BMS Holdings managing director Ang Kwee Peng said: "This underwriting agreement marks a key step towards our listing journey. With Alliance Islamic Bank's support, we are confident of executing a successful IPO that will enable us to scale our operations and facilities, strengthen our nationwide retail network, and further diversify our product offerings to meet evolving customer needs."

"The proceeds from the IPO will be channelled towards expanding our retail showroom footprint, establishing a new regional distribution centre, upgrading our existing operational facilities and ICT/ digital technology, as well as marketing activities and working capital requirements.

"These investments are integral to reinforcing our leadership position and driving sustainable long-term growth."



(From left) BMS Holdings executive director Lee Kok Chuan, Ang, Alliance Islamic Bank CEO Rizal IL-Ehzan Fadil Azim and group chief corporate & institutional banking officer Teoh Chu Lin.

BMS Holdings' growth is underpinned by a large and active customer base of approximately 49,700 customers as at FY2024.

This includes around 40,700 end-users, 8,500 tradespeople and professionals, 200 building contractors and property developers, as well as 300 resellers nationwide.

The group also engages its customers through an established loyalty programme with over 31,500 active members, offering

exclusive discounts, redeemable rewards and technical support.

This broad customer reach reflects BMS Holdings' ability to cater to diverse market segments and sustain recurring demand across its retail, wholesale and project sales segments.

Alliance Islamic Bank is the principal adviser, sponsor, sole underwriter and placement agent for BMS Holdings' IPO.

Verdant Solar's shares rise 19% on trading debut

KUALA LUMPUR: Verdant Solar Holdings Bhd, premiered on the ACE Market of Bursa Malaysia Securities Bhd yesterday, starting at RM0.37 per share on its trading debut, representing a RM0.06 or 19.35% increase over its Initial Public Offering (IPO) price of RM0.31 per share.

At the opening bell, a total of 14,409,300 shares were traded.

Managing director, Lim Tzer Haur said: "Today marks a major milestone as we debut on the ACE Market of Bursa Malaysia Securities Bhd. This listing represents a significant step forward for Verdant as one of Malaysia's top residential solar EPCC contractors.

"With the country intensifying its efforts to diversify electricity generation through renewable and sustainable sources, the

demand for solar PV systems and EPCC services is set to grow, creating greater opportunities for the company.

"Backed by strong fundamentals, growth potential in the residential property market, and government-initiated solar programmes such as the upcoming ATAP programme, we are confident that today's listing marks the beginning of a bright future for Verdant.

"We are excited by the encouraging response to our IPO, which was oversubscribed by almost 40 times.

"With this support, we have raised RM44.02 million to help the company strengthen our market presence and further expand our business."

Based on Verdant's enlarged issued share capital of 817,618,243 shares and the IPO

price of RM0.31 per share, the company's total market capitalisation is approximately RM253.46 million.

With the total gross proceeds raised from the IPO, Verdant will utilise 31.80% to finance the establishment of branch offices in Kuantan, Malacca, and Ipoh to better serve its customers; 22.72% will be allocated for expansion through strategic investments, mergers and acquisition opportunities; and 8.63% will be utilised to enhance the company's digital infrastructure to strengthen operational excellence.

The remaining proceeds will be utilised for general working capital and listing-related expenses.

Mercury Securities Sdn Bhd is the IPO's principal adviser, sponsor, underwriter and sole placement agent.

Maxis and Globe Teleservices to offer AI-powered firewall

PETALING JAYA: Maxis has partnered with global telecom solutions provider Globe Teleservices Pte Ltd (GTS) to deploy an integrated AI-powered firewall for messaging and voice traffic across the Maxis network in Malaysia.

This fully managed, end-to-end service is designed to enhance network security and quality for millions of Maxis subscribers while improving the integrity of international messaging traffic delivered into the country.

Under this initiative, Maxis and GTS will define and enforce firewall policies for international messaging and voice traffic terminating on the Maxis network.

Powered by advanced AI and machine learning (ML) that leverages aggregated global traffic, GTS's Armour firewall provides rapid fraud mitigation with 24/7 monitoring and continual testing.

It is designed to block spam and international message bypass attempts coming from unofficial channels (grey routes) and large-scale fraudulent operations like SIM farms.

The result is stronger network protection and uninterrupted communication for Maxis users.

Maxis chief enterprise business officer Prateek Pashine said this partnership with GTS reinforces their international message and voice defences, deploying AI-powered controls and continuous monitoring to ensure that essential messages reach subscribers quickly and securely.

Globe Teleservices Group CEO Ashutosh Agrawal said their Alenabled Armour firewall combines intelligent threat detection with global delivery expertise to protect networks, enhancing customer experience and value that is often lost to fraud and bypass.



Management staff of Verdant and Mercury Securities at the Listing Gallery of Bursa Malaysia yesterday.

Thailand's central bank to keep monetary policy accommodative

► Q3 GDP set to register first quarterly fall in more than two years

BANGKOK: Thailand's central bank will maintain its accommodative monetary stance to support the economy and remains ready to adjust policy settings as needed, officials said yesterday, amid expectations that GDP had fallen in the third quarter.

Monetary policy is not an obstacle to economic growth, Deputy Governor Piti Disyatat told a policy forum, adding that the economy needed further fiscal and monetary support.

The central bank projects annual growth at 1.5% in the third quarter

and 1.3% in the fourth quarter.

On a quarterly basis, it expects the economy to register a 0.5% dip in the third quarter followed by only modest growth of 0.5% in the final three months of the year.

Despite the expected contraction, the first in 11 quarters, senior director Pranee Sutthasri said: "It's not a sign of danger for the economy."

The decline was caused by temporary factory closures and production halts aimed at improving efficiency, a situation that also occurred during the pandemic, she said.

The economy in the final quarter will be helped by factories reopening and the government's stimulus measures, she said.

The central bank expects headline inflation to turn positive in the second quarter of 2026 and return to the target range of 1% to 3% in early 2027, with low risk of deflation.

"If deflationary risks begin to emerge, monetary policy will need to change," said Assistant Governor Sakkapop Panyanukul.

Earlier this month, the central bank unexpectedly left the one-day repurchase rate unchanged at 1.50%.

The committee said policy should remain accommodative and noted that the impact of earlier rate cuts was still feeding through to the

economy, according to minutes of the meeting.

The central bank has cut its key rate four times over the past year to support Southeast Asia's second-largest economy, which is grappling with US tariffs, high household debt, and a strong baht.

The central bank said it would ensure the baht moves more in line with economic fundamentals.

The bank expects GDP growth to reach 2.2% for the whole of this year and 1.6% next year. Last year's growth of 2.5% lagged peers.

Governor Vitai Ratanakorn, who took office at the start of October, has said interest rates could be cut if needed to lift inflation and growth.

The next policy review is on Dec 17, and some economists expect a further rate reduction. – Reuters



Takaichi (centre, first row) posing during a photo session with members of her Cabinet at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo. – AFP/PIC

New Japan PM said to be preparing big economic stimulus

TOKYO: Japan's new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi is preparing an economic stimulus package to help households tackle inflation, government sources familiar with the plan said yesterday.

The package of more than ¥13.9 trillion (RM390 billion) marks Takaichi's first major economic initiative since the advocate of big fiscal spending took office on Tuesday, reflecting her commitment to what she calls "responsible proactive fiscal policy".

It will be built around three main pillars: measures to counter inflation, investment in growth industries, and national security, the sources said, declining to be identified because the matter is still private.

Japan's Nikkei share gauge erased

losses and turned higher yesterday afternoon following the Reuters report, while the yen pared morning gains and was little changed.

Investors are closely watching her spending plans as Japan is one of the world's most indebted economies.

As part of its core inflation relief measures, the Takaichi administration plans to swiftly abolish the provisional gasoline tax rate.

It also aims to expand local government grants, with a focus on supporting small and medium-sized companies that are unable to benefit from existing tax incentives for wage hikes.

The package will also include investments in growth sectors such as artificial intelligence and

semiconductors as the government focuses on strategic economic development.

The exact scale of the package is still being finalised, the sources said.

It could be announced as early as next month.

To fund the measures, the government is moving ahead with drafting a supplementary budget for the current financial year through March, with an eye toward passing it during the upcoming extraordinary parliament session.

If additional spending exceeds initial expectations, the government may need to issue deficit-covering bonds, raising questions about how to balance economic growth with fiscal discipline.

The plan "is consistent with Takaichi's policy list during the campaign (in the ruling party's leadership race)", said Shigeto Nagai, head of Japan economics at Oxford Economics.

It is not so different from previous administrations, which have used all the additional tax revenue from higher inflation for large supplementary budgets to support vulnerable households, rather than working toward its goal of achieving a primary fiscal surplus, Nagai added.

A long-time advocate of late Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's "Abenomics" stimulus policies, Takaichi has called for higher spending and tax cuts and pledged to reassert government sway over the central bank. – Reuters

Australia-US deal challenges China rare earths reign: Mining boss

SYDNEY: China's total domination of rare earths production could soon be challenged, a leading miner said yesterday after the US struck a breakthrough deal with Australia.

US President Donald Trump signed a deal this week with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese giving the United States access to Australia's vast reserves of rare earths and critical minerals essential for everything from solar panels to precision missiles.

And the CEO of Australian rare earths miner Arafura Resources said developing projects outside of China could only be a good thing.

"China has basically controlled the rare earths market by controlling the price," Darryl Cuzzubbo told AFP.

"The problem right now is China is showing that they'll use their 90% control of rare earths production as a geopolitical tool."

China controls some of the world's largest reserves of rare earth elements and wields enormous influence as almost the sole country able to refine the metals on an industrial scale.

The US-Australia deal paves the way for alternative supply chains outside of China, Cuzzubbo said.

In essence, the United States has agreed to help finance a batch of rare earths projects in Australia – gaining preferential access to the minerals they unearth in return.

Australia is very good at digging up its critical minerals, but like most other mining nations has struggled to process them onshore.

More than 90% of Australia's lithium is shipped each year to the hulking refineries of China.

Arafura owns one of the first projects to receive financing under the US-Australia deal, and is aiming to swiftly scale up its own refining capacity. – AFP

China tells Dutch it wants Nexperia row solved 'as soon as possible'

BEIJING: Beijing's commerce minister urged the Dutch government to resolve a deepening row over Chinese-owned but Netherlands-based chipmaker Nexperia "as soon as possible", accusing it of damaging the global semiconductor supply chain.

Dutch officials invoked a Cold War-era law in late September to effectively take control of Nexperia, citing national security concerns, as the sector increasingly becomes a focus of geopolitical tensions.

The company then said Beijing had in turn banned it from exporting certain goods from China since Oct 4.

The Dutch actions "seriously affected the stability of the global supply chain", China's Wang Wentao told Dutch Economy Minister Vincent Karremans on Tuesday during a call.

"China urges the Dutch side to move from the general standpoint of protecting the security and stability of the global supply chain (and) ... properly resolve the issue as soon as possible," Wang said, according to a Commerce Ministry statement. – AFP



Research finds AI assistants make errors reporting news

► They misrepresent content in nearly half their responses

GENEVA: Leading AI assistants misrepresent news content in nearly half their responses, according to new research published yesterday by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and the BBC.

The international research studied 3,000 responses to questions about the news from leading artificial intelligence assistants – software applications that use AI to understand natural language commands to complete tasks for a user.

It assessed AI assistants in 14 languages for accuracy, sourcing and ability to distinguish opinion versus fact, including ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini and Perplexity.

Overall, 45% of the AI responses studied contained at least one significant issue, with 81% having some form of problem, research showed.

Reuters has made contact with the companies to seek their comment on the findings.

Gemini, Google's AI assistant, has stated previously on its website that it welcomes feedback so that it can continue to improve the platform and make it more helpful to users.

OpenAI and Microsoft have previously said hallucinations – when an AI model generates incorrect or misleading information, often due to factors such as insufficient data – are an issue that they are seeking to resolve.

Perplexity says on its website that one of its “Deep Research” modes has 93.9% accuracy in terms of factuality.

A third of AI assistants' responses showed serious sourcing errors such as missing, misleading or incorrect attribution, according to the study.

Some 72% of responses by Gemini, Google's AI assistant, had significant sourcing issues, compared to below 25% for all other assistants, it said.

Issues of accuracy were found in 20% of

responses from all AI assistants studied, including outdated information, it said.

Examples cited by the study included Gemini incorrectly stating changes to a law on disposable vapes and ChatGPT reporting Pope Francis as the current Pope several months after his death.

Twenty-two public-service media organisations from 18 countries including France, Germany, Spain, Ukraine, Britain and the United States took part in the study.

With AI assistants increasingly replacing traditional search engines for news, public trust could be undermined, the EBU said.

“When people don't know what to trust, they end up trusting nothing at all, and that can deter democratic participation,” EBU media director Jean Philip De Tender said in a statement.

Some 7% of all online news consumers and 15% of those aged under 25 use AI assistants to get their news, according to the Reuters Institute's Digital News Report 2025.

The new report urged AI companies to be held accountable and to improve how their AI assistants respond to news-related queries. – Reuters

OpenAI's Atlas browser takes on Google's Chrome

SAN FRANCISCO: OpenAI on Tuesday unveiled ChatGPT Atlas, a long-anticipated artificial intelligence-powered web browser built around its popular chatbot, in a direct challenge to Google Chrome's dominance.

The launch marks OpenAI's latest move to capitalise on 800 million weekly active ChatGPT users, as it expands into more aspects of users' online lives by collecting data about consumers' browser behaviour.

It could accelerate a broader shift toward AI-driven search, as users increasingly turn to conversational tools that synthesise information instead of relying on traditional keyword-based results from Google – intensifying competition between OpenAI and Google.

Shares of Alphabet, which owns the Chrome browser, were down 1.8% in afternoon trading. Reuters earlier reported on OpenAI's planned browser launch.

It is the latest entrant in a crowded field of AI browsers, which includes Perplexity's Comet, Brave Browser and Opera's Neon, as companies race to weave in tools that can summarize pages, fill out forms and draft code to attract users.

Atlas lets users open a ChatGPT sidebar in any window to summarise content, compare products or analyze data from any site.

In “agent mode”, now available to paid users, ChatGPT can interact with websites on their behalf – completing tasks from start to finish, such as researching and shopping for a trip.

In a demo on Tuesday, OpenAI developers showcased how ChatGPT could find an online recipe and then automatically purchase all the ingredients.

The agent navigated to the Instacart website and added the necessary groceries to the cart – a task that took several minutes to complete.

The browser is now available globally on Apple's macOS. Versions for Windows, iOS and Android will be released later.

Led by Sam Altman, OpenAI upended the tech industry with the launch of ChatGPT in late 2022.

Following its initial success, the company has faced stiff competition from Google and startup Anthropic and has been seeking new areas of growth. Google, meanwhile, has been developing ways to adapt to shifting search behaviors since ChatGPT's debut.

Depending on the query, each Google search result can now display an AI overview, or AI Mode, alongside traditional links, offering a chatbot-like experience.

Last month, Google integrated its Gemini AI model into Chrome for US users, with plans to bring Gemini to the iOS Chrome app as well.

In a win for Google, a federal judge in September ruled that Google will not have to sell the Chrome browser.

Judge Amit Mehta said Google can continue paying partners to promote its search engine, noting that heavy investment in generative AI by Big Tech and startups alike now threatens traditional search, making such payments more acceptable.

Despite increasing competition, Google Chrome has held its dominance, with 71.9% market share in the global browser market in September, according to StatCounter. Still, analysts say a new browser from OpenAI could introduce fresh competition for ad dollars.

“Integrating chat into a browser is a precursor for OpenAI starting to sell ads, which it has yet to do so far. Once OpenAI starts selling ads that could take away a significant part of search advertising share from Google, which has around 90% of that spend category,” said Gil Luria, analyst at D.A. Davidson. – Reuters

Hermes defies American tariffs as sales grow

PARIS: Sales by French luxury group Hermes, known for its silk scarves and leather handbags, defied US tariffs and a weak dollar to rise in the third quarter.

The company which makes the iconic Birkin bag, said sales growth in the United States accelerated slightly in the third quarter by 7.2% to €714 million (RM3.5 billion).

“In the Americas we had a very good third quarter, in particular in the United States with growth driven by all product lines,” said chief financial officer Eric du Halgouet.

Hermes said earlier this year that it hoped to avoid raising prices in the United States further despite the new 15% tariff on goods from the EU, but warned the weak dollar was also weighing on performance.

The gain in sales would have been 14.1% had the dollar not fallen.

Halgouet said Hermes had kept prices steady since the EU-US tariff deal in July.

“We'll continue to invest in this strategic market,” he said, noting the opening of a new store in Nashville, Tennessee, earlier this month.

Overall, the company's third quarter sales rose by 5% to €3.9 billion.

That puts it ahead of the world's biggest luxury group LVMH, which reported last week that its third-quarter revenue dropped four percent due to adverse currency movements.

In China, the key market for luxury firms where sales have recently faced headwinds, Hermes posted flat third quarter revenues. – AFP



A woman walks in front of a Hermes store in Paris. – REUTERS/SPIC

Netflix shares sink as quarterly profit misses mark

SAN FRANCISCO: Netflix shares sank on Tuesday after the streaming television powerhouse reported quarterly profit that fell short of market expectations.

Netflix recorded a profit of US\$2.5 billion on revenue of US\$11.5 billion in the recently ended quarter, saying it was hit with a US\$619 million expense due to an ongoing dispute with Brazilian tax authorities.

Netflix executives told financial analysts on

an earnings call that absent the hefty cost in Brazil, it would have exceeded its operating margin forecast in the quarter.

“It's not an income tax; it's a cost of doing business in Brazil,” said Netflix chief financial officer Spencer Neumann.

“It's not even specific to streaming, so we assume other companies will be impacted by this.”

A recent court ruling involving a different company doing business in Brazil boosted the

likelihood of Netflix being hit with the expense, so it recorded it in the recently-ended quarter, according to Neumann.

Netflix shares were down more than 6% to slightly less than US\$1,163 in after-market trades that followed release of the earnings figures.

Netflix viewership in UK and US reached their highest levels in about three years, powered by a lineup that included its most popular film ever *KPop Demon Hunters*. – AFP

MARKET ROUND-UP: OCT 22

22-Oct-2025

Bursa Malaysia

Trade Statistics

Net (in RM million):

Participation

Retail

+19.00

21.19%

Institutions

+54.31

38.89%

Foreign

-73.31

39.92%

QR Code to register for 1-to-1 Coaching

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

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

Berjaya Securities

(formerly known as Inter-Pacific Securities Sdn Bhd)

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

SUNBIZ presents a summary of the day’s trading activity on Bursa Malaysia and other markets in an easy to digest format.

Sources: Bursa Malaysia, Bernama, shareinvestor.com and websites

DISCLAIMER: The data and reports are provided as a service to investors. Sun Media Corporation Sdn Bhd shall not be liable or responsible for any consequences resulting from usage of the information.

Bursa Indices		
INDEX	CHANGE	
FBMEMAS	12,000.20	-82.50
FBMKLCI	1,602.69	-14.14
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	538.20	-2.31
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	170.36	-1.02
CONSTRUCTION	315.53	-2.09
FINANCIAL SERVICES	18,068.20	-185.20
ENERGY	785.40	-6.88
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	495.54	-6.08
HEALTH CARE	1,658.87	-15.18
TRANSPORTATION	1,006.70	-0.96
PROPERTY	1,041.18	-6.80
PLANTATION	7,907.82	+5.75
FBMSHA	12,098.50	-58.93
FBMACE	5,290.26	-21.17
TECHNOLOGY	62.19	-0.24
TURNOVER: 3.410 bil		VALUE: RM2.339 bil

Bursa lower on profit-taking in line with regional weakness

BURSA Malaysia’s key index reversed Tuesday’s gains to close lower yesterday, tracking most regional peers, as profit-taking took centre stage.

At 5pm, the FBM KLCI declined 14.14 points, or 0.87%, to 1,602.69 from Tuesday’s close of 1,616.83.

The benchmark index opened 0.73 of-a-point firmer at 1,617.56, which marked its day’s high, and hit its intraday low of 1,602.06 in late trading.

The broader market was negative with 699 decliners thumping 355 gainers, while 491 counters were unchanged, 1,148 untraded, and 31 suspended.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd vice-president of equity research Thong Pak Leng said technology stocks took a breather after earlier gains, slipping 0.24% from Tuesday, and tracking the drop in the US Nasdaq Composite Index.

According to reports, the Nasdaq correction was largely catalysed by a pivotal earnings warning from Dutch semiconductor equipment giant ASML Holding, which sent shockwaves through the global chip supply chain and highlighted a growing bifurcation within the technology market.

Among heavyweight counters, CIMB lost 15 sen to RM7.20, Public Bank fell six sen to RM4.21, Hong Leong Bank slid 46 sen to RM20.50, and Tenaga Nasional dipped 16 sen to RM13.08. Maxis rose one sen to RM3.81.

On the most active list, newly listed Verdant Solar Bhd closed at 37 sen, up six sen from its issue price, Tanco and Land & General rose half-a-sen each to 87.5 sen and 18.5 sen, respectively.

Top gainers included United Plantations which jumped 76 sen to RM24.42, while Fraser & Neave rose 18 sen to RM28.32. – Bernama

Top 20 Actives				
STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-CWKT	0.100	-0.010	-9.09	2,469,512
PTRANS	0.335	-0.300	-47.24	2,327,310
HSI-CW18	0.120	-0.030	-20.00	1,577,220
VERDANT	0.370	+0.060	+19.36	1,200,039
HSI-PWJ8	0.115	+0.015	+15.00	1,042,729
HSI-CW12	0.065	-0.020	-23.53	1,009,840
HSI-PWJY	0.215	+0.020	+10.26	840,729
HSI-PWLQ	0.140	+0.005	+3.70	786,306
PHARMA	0.260	-0.015	-5.46	599,874
PTRANS-WB	0.050	-0.090	-64.29	539,132
TANCO	0.875	+0.005	+0.58	477,206
TWL	0.025	-	-	449,585
ZETRIX	0.850	-	-	439,497
L&G	0.185	+0.005	+2.78	350,035
MLAB	0.060	-0.015	-20.00	307,503
GENM	2.340	+0.010	+0.43	293,292
TOPGLOV	0.670	-0.015	-2.19	277,055
HSI-CW10	0.050	-0.030	-37.50	264,890
HHRG	0.075	+0.005	+7.14	258,321
MEGAFB	0.750	-	-	224,905



Top 20 Gainers (By RM)			
STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
UTDPLT	24.420	+0.760	10,132
HEIM	21.180	+0.340	2,490
CARLSBG	16.700	+0.320	1,515
F&N	28.320	+0.180	1,553
BURSA	8.490	+0.170	33,662
SBAGAN	5.770	+0.150	83
ALLIANZ-PA	18.000	+0.120	14
VITROX	4.470	+0.120	34,225
MISC	7.350	+0.110	11,642
MENTIGA	0.620	+0.105	686
BAT	5.190	+0.100	3,212
MITRA	0.785	+0.095	97,821
GENTING	3.440	+0.090	110,658
QL	4.380	+0.080	8,849
PLB	0.900	+0.065	60
LPI	14.280	+0.060	1,127
VERDANT	0.370	+0.060	1,200,039
E&O-LC	0.810	+0.055	2
FACBIND	1.600	+0.050	150
HSI-PWLQ	0.375	+0.050	1,000

Top 20 Gainers (By %)			
STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
SNTORIA	0.025	+400.00	187,842
ARTRONIQ-WA	0.010	+100.00	1,200
HONGSENG	0.010	+100.00	6,805
HSI-PWLT	0.050	+100.00	10
JADI-WB	0.010	+100.00	39,271
MAXLAND-WB	0.010	+100.00	201
TRIVE-WD	0.010	+100.00	980
CME	0.015	+50.00	1,161
FBMKLCI-HEB	0.015	+50.00	400
MISC-C56	0.030	+50.00	10,207
MSM-C12	0.045	+50.00	151
SIME-C91	0.015	+50.00	10,062
BURSA-C93	0.050	+42.86	25
HSI-PWJG	0.050	+42.86	600
HSI-PWH9	0.040	+33.33	500
MICROLN-WA	0.040	+33.33	850
MMIS	0.200	+33.33	2,500
YTLPOWR-HH	0.040	+33.33	2,310
BURSA-C1B	0.130	+30.00	4,090
MFCB-C4	0.045	+28.57	1,487

World Stocks/Commodities			
INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE [%]
DJIA [US]	46,924.74	218.16	0.47
S&P 500 [US]	6,735.35	0.22	0
NASDAQ [US]	22,953.67	-36.87	-0.16
NYSE [US]	21,571.16	-27.01	-0.13
EURO STOXX 50 [EUR]	5,659.92	-26.91	-0.47
FTSE 100 [UK]	9,496.94	69.95	0.74
DAX [GER]	24,256.38	-73.65	-0.3
NIKKEI 225 [JPN]	49,307.79	-8.27	-0.02
TOPIX INDEX [JPN]	3,266.43	16.93	0.52
HANG SENG INDEX [HK]	25,781.77	-245.78	-0.94
CSI 300 [CHN]	4,592.57	-15.3	-0.33
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	226.27	-0.02	-0.01
SHANGHAI SE COM [CHN]	3,913.76	-2.57	-0.07
KOSPI INDEX [SK]	3,883.68	59.84	1.56
SENSEX INDEX [IND]	84,426.34	62.97	0.07
ASX 200 [AUS]	9,030.02	-64.69	-0.71
ALL ORDINARIES INDX [AUS]	9,321.09	-68.98	-0.73
FBM KLCI	1,602.69	-14.14	-0.87
STRAITS TIMES INDEX [S'PORE]	4,392.82	11.77	0.27
WTI [US\$/BBL.]	58.28	1.04	1.97
BRENT [US\$/BBL.]	62.47	1.15	1.97
GOLD [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	4,100.10	-9	-0.22
SILVER [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	47.84	0.14	0.31
PLATINUM [US\$/T OZ]	1,563.42	16.06	1.01
COPPER [COMEX] [US CENTS/LB.]	497.3	0.7	0.14
COPPER 3MO [LME] [US\$/MT]	10,623.50	-68	-0.64
CORN [US CENTS/BU.]	420.75	1	0.24
WHEAT [US CENTS/BU.]	499.5	-0.75	-0.15
SOYBEAN OIL [CBOT] [US CENTS/LB.]	50.65	0	0
COCOA [ICE] [US\$/MT]	6,014.00	98	1.66
RUBBER [S'PORE] [US CENTS/KG]	171.2	0.5	0.29

As at 6pm, Oct 22.

Top 20 Losers (By RM)			
STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
NESTLE	108.300	-1.200	1,973
HLBANK	20.500	-0.460	2,918
PTRANS	0.335	-0.300	2,327,310
PETDAG	22.240	-0.300	1,313
GOLDETf	5.720	-0.220	4,037
HI	2.500	-0.160	26,123
TENAGA	13.080	-0.160	41,056
HSTECH-C44	0.105	-0.155	100
BIPORT	5.180	-0.150	87
CIMB	7.200	-0.150	63,264
HSCEI-CAA	0.005	-0.150	55
ITMAX	4.430	-0.150	23,768
EKOVEST-HA	0.030	-0.120	1,000
WELLCHIP	1.630	-0.120	24,981
HSI-CW14	0.710	-0.115	610
HSI-CWMA	0.245	-0.115	550
SLVEST-WA	2.030	-0.110	1,396
PETGAS	18.740	-0.100	3,172
VSTECs	3.810	-0.100	3,651
MRDIY-C52	0.055	-0.095	2,010

Top 20 Losers (By %)			
STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- [%]	VOLUME ('00)
HSCEI-CAA	0.005	-96.77	55
EKOVEST-HA	0.030	-80.00	1,000
HSI-CW68	0.005	-75.00	240
SUPERMX-C4Z	0.005	-66.67	4,001
PTRANS-WB	0.050	-64.29	539,132
MRDIY-C52	0.055	-63.33	2,010
HSTECH-C44	0.105	-59.62	100
SPSETIA-C1C	0.065	-56.67	1,300
BAT-C41	0.075	-50.00	2,440
CIMB-C1Y	0.020	-50.00	36,485
EVD-PA	0.015	-50.00	126
NEXGRAM-WD	0.005	-50.00	53
PARLO-WA	0.005	-50.00	1,022
TECHBASE-WB	0.005	-50.00	1,000
PTRANS	0.335	-47.24	2,327,310
HOHUP	0.015	-40.00	218,132
YTL-C2B	0.040	-38.46	12,712
HSI-CW10	0.050	-37.50	264,890
PCHEM-C1N	0.110	-37.14	500
GREATEC-C15	0.020	-33.33	2,474



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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Kenanga IB projects 1.5% inflation, 4.5% growth for 2025

KUALA LUMPUR: Kenanga Investment Bank Bhd (Kenanga IB) has maintained its 2025 inflation forecast at 1.5% (2024: 1.8%), with targeted subsidy reforms expected to temporarily lift inflation to around 2% in the fourth quarter of 2025 (Q4'25).

In a note yesterday, the investment bank said growth momentum is set to strengthen in the second half of 2025 following a stronger-than-expected advance GDP reading for Q3'25.

"We now forecast GDP growth at 4.5% in 2025, from 4.3% previously. Despite lingering uncertainty over the US' trade policy and broader geopolitical risks, the domestic impact remains limited.

"With inflation pressures still contained, Bank Negara Malaysia is expected to keep the policy rate unchanged at 2.75% over the next 9-12 months," it said.

The bank noted that inflation averaged 1.4% in the first nine months of 2025 but is expected to edge higher in the final quarter.

Under the BUDI95 scheme, all Malaysian households are eligible for subsidised RON95 petrol, although the Finance Ministry estimates households account for only 78% of total consumption.

The remaining 22% comprises usage by firms and foreign motorists.

Eligible companies will continue to receive subsidised fuel via the Subsidised Petrol Control System at RM2.05 per litre, while foreigners will pay the market rate of RM2.60 per litre.

"This mix implies an effective average RON95 price of about RM2.10 per litre, likely adding 0.2 to 0.3 percentage point to October inflation.

"While the spike should be short-lived, second-round effects from higher operating costs may persist," Kenanga IB added. – Bernama

Ringgit flat against dollar, gains against other major currencies

THE ringgit closed flat against the greenback yesterday amid cautious sentiment ahead of an anticipated meeting between US and Chinese leaders next week in South Korea.

At 6pm, the local note was unchanged at 4.2280/2325 against the US dollar from 4.2280/2315 at Tuesday's close.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said the uncertainty surrounding the US-China meeting on trade issues supported the greenback for now.

"Such a development seems to have (supported) the value of the US dollar. (However) the US government shutdown (has continued) and there is a lack of important data points being released for the US Federal Reserve to make an informed decision. This can be risky, and it remains to be seen how the present situation can continue to support the US dollar," he told Bernama.

At the close, the ringgit traded higher against major currencies.

It advanced against the British pound 5.6309/6368 from 5.6592/6639, gained against the euro to 4.9019/9072 from 4.9134/9174, and strengthened marginally against the Japanese yen to 2.7849/7880 from 2.7851/7875 at Tuesday's close.

The local note also traded mostly higher against Asean currencies. It appreciated slightly against the Singapore dollar to 3.2556/2593 from 3.2598/2628, improved versus the Thai baht to 12.8573/8769 from 12.9048/9218, and strengthened against the Philippine peso to 7.23/7.25 from 7.26/7.27, yesterday.

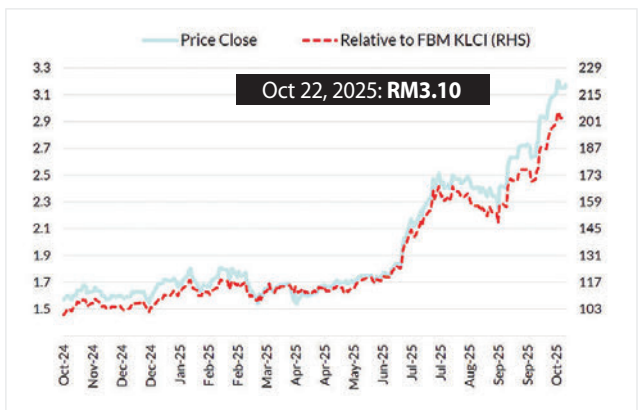
However, the ringgit edged down against the Indonesian rupiah to 254.9/255.3 from 254.8/255.2 previously.

Exchange Rates			
FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.3040	4.1580	4.1480
1 Australian Dollar	2.8040	2.6910	2.6750
1 Brunei Dollar	3.3110	3.2080	3.2000
1 Canadian Dollar	3.0650	2.9790	2.9670
1 Euro	4.9920	4.8310	4.8110
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.4770	2.3850	2.3690
1 Singapore Dollar	3.3110	3.2080	3.2000
1 Sterling Pound	5.7510	5.5690	5.5490
1 Swiss Franc	5.4320	5.2000	5.1850
100 UAE Dirham	118.3200	112.1800	111.9800
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.5800	3.3570	3.1570
100 Chinese Renminbi	60.7100	58.1400	N/A
100 Danish Krone	68.5300	63.0500	62.8500
100 Hongkong Dollar	55.8600	53.0700	52.8700
100 Indian Rupee	4.9600	4.6600	4.4600
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0268	0.0242	0.0192
100 Japanese Yen	2.8430	2.7400	2.7300
100 New Taiwan Dollar	15.0000	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	43.8800	40.3000	40.1000
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.5500	1.4400	1.2400
100 Philippine Peso	7.4900	7.0500	6.8500
100 Qatar Riyal	119.1300	113.1000	112.9000
100 Saudi Riyal	115.7900	109.9200	109.7200
100 South Africa Rand	25.5600	23.0800	22.8800
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.4500	1.3400	1.1400
100 Swedish Krona	47.0500	42.7900	42.5900
100 Thai Baht	13.6700	12.1100	11.7100

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

Solarvest Holdings Bhd

Buy. Target price: RM3.49



Source: Bloomberg

SOLARVEST has proposed a private placement of up to 10% of its issued shares to independent third-party investors. Based on the indicative issue price of RM3/share – a 4.15% discount to the 5-day volume weighted average price or VWAP of RM3.13 – this exercise is expected to raise up to RM254.1 million in gross proceeds.

The proceeds will mainly be used to fund business expansion and strengthen the balance sheet. About RM124.6 million (49%) will be allocated for capex on new solar photovoltaic or PV projects – eg: the Large-Scale Solar (LSS) 5, LSS5+, and Mukah projects – over the next 24 months. Approximately RM50 million (20%) will be used to repay borrowings, while RM79.2 million (31%) will be set aside to fund the working capital requirements to support the delivery of Solarvest's ever-growing orderbook of RM1.18 billion EPCC projects. The remaining RM0.3 million will be used to cover expenses related to the placement.

Post this placement, Solarvest's share capital will increase to RM570 million from RM315.9 million, with its total issued shares rising to 932.4 million from 847.7 million. On a pro forma basis as at March 31, net assets per share will improve to RM0.77 from RM0.55, while gearing is expected to decline sharply to 0.38x from 0.69x. Note: The group also has 59.2 million of outstanding employees share options granted, of which 23.2 million employees stock option scheme (ESOS) options have been vested. The reduced leverage and strengthened equity base will enhance Solarvest's financial flexibility to pursue larger-scale projects and further expand its renewable energy (RE) portfolio, in our view.

Buy with RM3.49 TP. – **RHB Research, Oct 22**

Pantech Group Holdings Bhd

Buy. Target price: RM0.72



Source: Bloomberg

PANTECH Group Holdings Bhd's (PANTECH) 1H'26 core net profit of RM47.4 million came in below both our and consensus expectations, at 39% and 42% of full-year estimates, respectively. The shortfall was mainly due to lower-than-expected sales deliveries to the domestic oil & gas and higher operating costs, which led to a 1.6%-pt YoY contraction in operating margin.

The group proposed an interim dividend of 2 sen per share.

Q2'26 PBT declined 22.4% YoY, mainly weighed down by weaker performances in both the Trading and Manufacturing divisions. The Trading division's EBIT fell 16.6% YoY, driven by lower sales deliveries to the domestic oil & gas and other industrial segments. Meanwhile, the Manufacturing division's EBIT contracted 24.5% YoY, primarily due to softer stainless-steel ASPs and unfavourable foreign exchange movements.

Q2'26 PBT declined 8.1% QoQ, attributed to the same factors highlighted in the YoY comparison — weaker performances across both the Trading (EBIT -11% QoQ) and Manufacturing (EBIT -0.2% QoQ) divisions.

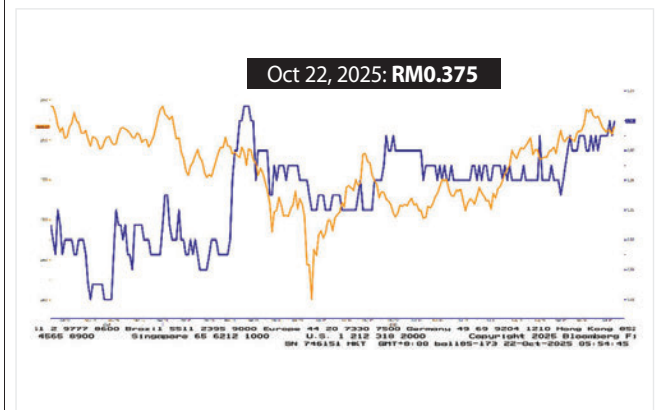
We revised our operating margin assumption for the Manufacturing division downward by 2%-points and trimmed our Trading division revenue forecast, reflecting continued weak demand and lower sales deliveries to the domestic oil & gas segment. As a result, our earnings forecasts for FY26-28 have been revised lower by 20.9-23.3%.

Earnings momentum is expected to remain muted in the near term, in line with weaker activity levels in the domestic oil & gas sector.

Buy with RM0.72 TP – **TA Research, Oct 22**

Exsim Hospitality Bhd

Buy. Target price: RM0.54



Source: Bloomberg

EXSIM Hospitality Bhd (EH), via its wholly-owned subsidiary EXSIM Concepto Sdn Bhd, has secured a RM17.6 million interior fit-out contract from Binastra Builders Sdn Bhd, covering the supply, fabrication, delivery, and installation of carpentry works for apartment units.

The sub-contract works will be executed in tandem with the main construction schedule under the main contract, with timelines and deliverables to be determined by the main contractor. The main contract, which commenced on April 1, 2024, is slated for completion by Aug 31, 2027.

This alignment ensures that EH's scope of work progresses in accordance with the overall project timeline, minimising coordination risks and supporting timely project delivery.

This marks EH's first contract win in FY26. Incorporating this latest award and assuming an order book burn rate of RM60 million for Q1'26, we estimate EH's outstanding order book at approximately RM161.6 million. This represents a 1.2x cover of its FY25 design and fit-in segment revenue, reinforcing its near-term earnings visibility. Assuming a PBT margin of 15%, consistent with margins from similar projects within its existing order book pipeline, the contract is expected to contribute around RM2.6 million in PBT over the contract period.

We remain optimistic on EH's near-term order book replenishment outlook, as we view EH as the natural frontrunner for interior fit-out works within EXSIM Group's sizeable development pipeline, which carries an estimated undeveloped GDV of at least RM30 billion, based on our channel checks.

Buy with RM0.54 TP. – **TA Research, Oct 22**



**WEEKLY
FOCUS**

MONDAY

Technology and
social media

TUESDAY

Family
and parenting

WEDNESDAY

Fashion
and beauty

THURSDAY

Home
and living

FRIDAY

Travel
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SATURDAY

Food
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Finding your dream sofa

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Ed Sheeran revisits
Playwith remixes



Kingsley three-seater sofa.



Nilo L shape sofa.



Alto sofabed.



Colburn sectional sofa.

Find your perfect sofa

► Friendly guide for Malaysian homes

A good sofa does more than fill a corner. It sets the tone for your living room, carries the way your family relaxes and says something about your style. With so many options out there, the trick is to match the right type of sofa to the way you live. Here is a friendly guide, written with Malaysian homes in mind, using five popular styles.

Traditional sofa

If your heart leans classic, the Kingsley Sofa brings that timeless charm. Think rolled arms that feel generous to lean on, soft skirting that tidies up the base and a removable cover that keeps things practical for daily life. Upholstery buttons add that refined touch you see in heritage pieces. Kingsley suits homes that favour a warm, elegant mood. Pair it with soft lighting and layered cushions, and the whole room feels like a place to slow down after a long day.

L shape or chaise sofa

For urban living and family lounging, the Nilo L Shape Sofa is a smart choice. The chaise invites you to stretch out for movie nights, while the long seat line makes hosting easy. L shape layouts are great space planners too. They help zone an open plan living and dining area so traffic flows naturally around the room. If you like to hang out with friends or you want one piece that anchors the room without feeling bulky, this is the format to consider.

Sofabed

Small apartment owners, this one is for you. Alto Sofabed looks neat and contemporary in the day, then pulls out smoothly when guests sleep over. The hidden storage cubby keeps your pillows and blankets tidy, while the built-in USB ports and



Draycoll powered reclining three-seater sofa.

cupholder add everyday convenience. It is the kind of practical luxury that makes compact living feel effortless. One sofa, two functions, zero complaints from overnight guests.

Modular or sectional sofa

Homes that entertain often will love the flexibility of the Colburn Sectional Sofa. Modular pieces can be arranged to suit the room you have today and the room you want tomorrow. Create a long run for binge watch weekends, split it for two seating zones during gatherings or tuck an ottoman in to form a cosy corner. The beauty of a sectional is how it grows with your life stage, from first home to family home, without needing a full change.

Recliner sofa or powered recliner sofa

Sometimes you just want pure comfort. The Draycoll Powered

Reclining three-seater by Ashley is built for that sit back and relax feeling. At the touch of a button, you can recline to your sweet spot while the sturdy frame keeps everything stable and supportive. It is great for long football nights, Sunday naps or anyone who values therapeutic comfort after a tiring day. Once you try a powered recliner, ordinary sofas feel a bit underwhelming.

How to choose with confidence

Measure your space, consider your daily routine and keep to a simple colour palette so everything looks cohesive. Traditional, L shape, sofabed, modular or recliner, each style has a different personality. Think about how you live, who uses the sofa most and how often you host. When the style matches your lifestyle, the whole room feels right.

This article is contributed by Fella Design.

Where nature meets modern living

FOR many homeowners, finding that balance between quality, comfort and price feels like an endless search. Today's furniture market is heavily divided between two ends of the spectrum. In this dual landscape, few brands truly manage to strike the right balance between craftsmanship and accessibility.

Built on nearly 40 years of experience, homegrown brand MajuHome Concept has made it a mission to offer timeless designs, quality craftsmanship and accessible pricing, bridging mass appeal with prestige.

To make quality living more attainable, the lifestyle furniture retailer has announced its Urban Eden Living Pop-Up, taking place at South Court, IOI Mall Puchong until Sunday.

More than just a showcase of interiors, this roadshow invites visitors to experience a lifestyle inspired by comfort, balance and a renewed connection to nature. Curated to suit a wide range of lifestyles, from established executives to families and first-time homeowners, the pop-up offers something for everyone to discover and enjoy.

"As we celebrate our 39th anniversary, we remember our humble beginnings. From a traditional home furniture shop, MajuHome is now a one-stop furniture store with over 600,000 sq ft in retail and warehouse space nationwide," said MajuHome Concept CEO Ken Low Keang Shein.

The Urban Eden Living theme embodies the harmony between nature and modern life, celebrating the idea of a serene sanctuary within the city through furniture that blends biophilic elements with contemporary design. Rooted in natural textures, earthy tones and organic materials, this design approach creates spaces that feel grounded, timeless and effortlessly stylish.

"As a company which keeps up to date with rising interior design trends, we have adopted the biophilic design

➤ Lifestyle furniture retailer celebrates 39 years with Urban Eden Living Pop-Up



Urban Eden Living Collection, featuring the Beja three-seater sofa and the Mayra designer chair.



Carriena bedroom.



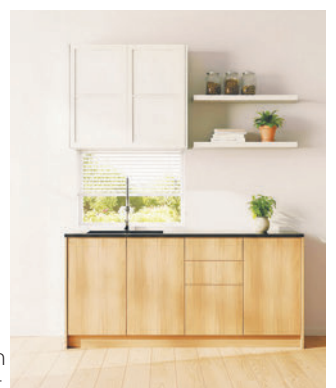
Mollen corner sofa.



Purnama dining.



Isaac Modular Incliner three-seater sofa.



Kitchen cabinet.

in this season's collection. Therefore, the usage of rattan as a natural and versatile element in our collection is part of the mission is to inspire wellness, comfort and a sustainable lifestyle," added Low.

The Urban Eden Living Pop-Up by

MajuHome invites visitors to experience this design philosophy come to life. Showcasing a curated selection of living, dining and bedroom collections, as well as customised kitchen cabinets, bedding and wardrobes with ID solutions, this

pop-up reimagines how nature and modern living can coexist beautifully and seamlessly in today's homes.

The pop-up is additionally showcasing its newly launched 2025/26 Belgium Edition Sofa Collection, designed for the balance

of comfort and craftsmanship. Each piece features multi-layer foam for lasting support, customisable cushion firmness, microfiber gel for down-like softness and remacro Motion technology for smooth, quiet reclining.

SOUNDCHECK

AirPods Pro 3 Price: RM999

Apple has unveiled the AirPods Pro 3, its latest in-ear wireless headphones with a refreshed design, improved active noise cancellation (ANC) and extended battery life. The new model removes up to twice as much noise as the previous generation and four times more than the original AirPods Pro.

The headphones come with redesigned ear tips in five sizes, including a new XXS option, for a more secure in-ear fit. Built with IP57 sweat and water resistance, the AirPods Pro 3 are made for daily use and workouts.

The earbuds include a heart rate sensor to track fitness data during exercise. Users can start more than 50 workout types and monitor performance through the Fitness app on iPhone. Apple Fitness+ users will also see



real-time workout metrics when paired with the earbuds.

AirPods Pro 3 also introduced Live Translation in beta, helping users communicate across languages by providing real-time transcriptions and translations during conversations.

The updated design uses recycled materials and comes in fully fibre-based packaging as part of Apple's environmental goals.

LG xboom Buds – Plus and Lite

LG has expanded its xboom Buds lineup with the Buds Plus, tuned by musician Will.i.am for high-resolution sound with deep bass. The earbuds feature Adaptive EQ that adjusts sound in real time, a triple microphone system for clearer calls and ANC. The case includes UVnano technology that eliminates bacteria, along with wireless charging support and a Plug & Wireless feature that lets users connect to non-Bluetooth devices such as in-flight systems or gym equipment.

The Buds Lite provide essential features in a lightweight design. They deliver clear sound with graphene drivers, mild ANC and four EQ modes for personalised listening. Battery life lasts up to 11.5 hours on a single charge and up to 35 hours with the case. Their ergonomic fit and multiple ear tip sizes make them suitable for all-day use.



Sonos Ace

Price: RM2,149

The Sonos Ace is the brand's first wireless headphones, built for immersive private listening. With detailed vocals and rich bass, the headphones are tuned to deliver balanced sound across music, podcasts and calls. Designed with comfort in mind, the Ace offers a sleek fit and long-wearing ease, making it suitable for daily use and extended sessions.



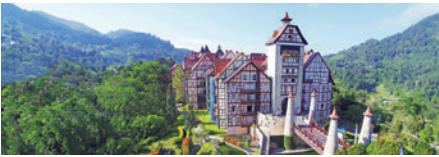
CINEMA SPOTLIGHT



Chainsaw Man – The Movie: Reze Arc

Director: Tatsuya Yoshihara
Cast: Kikunosuke Toya, Reina Ueda, Tomori Kusunoki
Release date: Now showing

In a brutal war between devils, hunters and secret enemies, a mysterious girl named Reze has stepped into Denji’s world. Denji now faces his deadliest battle yet, fuelled by love in a world where survival knows no rules.



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Black Phone 2

Director: Scott Derrickson
Cast: Ethan Hawke, Mason Thames, Anna Lore
Release date: Now showing

Picking up after the terrifying events of the first movie, Finney Shaw is still recovering from his traumatic encounter with The Grabber. But when mysterious phone calls begin again, Finney realises that the evil is not over.



Caught Stealing

Director: Darren Aronofsky
Cast: Austin Butler, Zoe Kravitz, Matt Smith, Liev Schreiber, Vincent D’Onofrio
Release date: Now showing

When Hank Thompson’s neighbour Russ asks him to take care of his cat for a few days, Hank suddenly finds himself caught in the middle of a motley crew of threatening gangsters. They all want a piece of him – the problem is he has no idea why. As Hank attempts to evade their ever-tightening grip, he has to use all his hustle to stay alive long enough to find out.



28 Years Later: The Bone Temple

Director: Nia DaCosta
Cast: Ralph Fiennes, Jack O’Connell, Alfie Williams, Erin Kellyman, Chi Lewis-Parry
Release date: Jan 15, 2026

In a continuation of the epic story, Dr Kelson finds himself in a shocking new relationship, with consequences that could change the world as they know it, while Spike’s encounter with Jimmy Crystal becomes a nightmare he cannot escape.



Regretting You

Director: Josh Boone
Cast: Allison Williams, Mckenna Grace, Dave Franco, Mason Thames, Sam Morelos
Release date: Oct 24

Based on the bestselling book, Morgan Grant and her daughter Clara explore what is left behind after a devastating accident reveals a shocking betrayal and forces them to confront family secrets, redefine love and rediscover each other.



Papa Zola The Movie

Director: Nizam Razak
Cast: Nizam Razak, Jessya Isandra, Ezdiani Ahmad Fawzi
Release date: Dec 11

Papa Zola, a schoolteacher, and his gifted daughter Pipi go on small adventures that often escalate. Their escapades showcase their loving relationship and Pipi’s intelligence, as they navigate whimsical situations together.



Sound of Silence

Director: Wan Li
Cast: Tan Jianci, Lan Xiya, Wang Ge
Release date: Oct 23

A story of a fraud case involving the deaf community, a lawyer is torn between justice and personal gain, as the film highlights how the hearing-impaired, due to their reliance on visual information and difficulty expressing themselves verbally, often find themselves helpless and isolated in dangerous situations.



Anaconda

Director: Tom Gormican
Cast: Jack Black, Paul Rudd, Steve Zahn, Thandiwe Newton, Daniela Melchior, Selton Mello
Release date: Dec 25

Childhood best friends Doug and Griff (Paul Rudd) have always dreamed of remaking their all-time favorite movie, the cinematic “classic” *Anaconda*. When a midlife crisis pushes them to finally go for it, they head deep into the Amazon to start filming. But things get real when an actual giant anaconda appears, turning their comically chaotic movie set into a deadly situation.

TV SHOW REVIEW



Gein wears a human mask as a part of his attempt to transform into a woman.



The tradition of casting attractive actors such as Hunnam (right) as serial killers plays into the genre exploitation.

London 'scream club' helps young people relieve stress

AT a London park, dozens of young people gathered, awaiting the starting signal, then screamed at the top of their voices – all in a bid to release tension.

So-called scream therapy is a technique that is rapidly growing in popularity on TikTok and has made its way to Britain from the US.

"It was very therapeutic" 23-year-old Rebekah Drakes said after screaming at the top of Parliament Hill on Hampstead Heath, in the north of the British capital.

She, along with other participants mostly in their 20s, were taking part in a "Scream Club" on Saturday.

"I feel like you don't realise how much you're holding in until you can let it all out," the bartender added.

Mona Sharif organised the event after seeing on TikTok that people were gathering to scream together in the US.

"I made a TikTok saying that London should do one and from that video, I created a group chat after I gained some traction and views and likes. A thousand people joined the group chat within three days," she said.

Sharif counted to three and then everyone let out a roar while filming themselves on their phones, much to the surprise of passersby.

Space to scream

"It's kind of drawing from, like, group therapy," she said.

In this case, "people are letting out frustrations that they can't really talk about".

Julia Dewit, a 29-year-old teacher, was pleased that so many women took part.

"There is sort of a stigma around women being told to sort of be calm and cool under pressure. I think that nowadays, talking about how we're feeling and mental health is a lot more prominent than how it was in previous years, which is a really good thing," she said.

According to a YouGov survey published last month, two-thirds of young adults – aged 16–25 – in Britain are experiencing or have experienced mental health problems, particularly related to their studies or financial issues.

Before the collective shout, participants took turns climbing onto a bench, where they discussed their loneliness or struggle to find their place in society.

Some talked about what angered them in the news, to cheers from the crowd.

"If you're in touch with, like, international political news, it's very, like, devastating. I really need a space like this where people just, like, scream and go crazy," said 19-year-old student Rifa Uddin. – AFP

Skin-deep storytelling

► Netflix's *Monster: The Ed Gein Story* stitches fact, fiction into messy whole

BY MARK MATHEN VICTOR

WHILE nailing a strip of human flesh, flayed from a stolen corpse, to a chair as its "seat", Ed Gein (Charlie Hunnam) turns directly towards the camera and the audience, before saying: "You're the one that can't look away".

Three seasons into Ryan Murphy and Ian Brennan's *Monster* anthology series for Netflix, *Monster: The Ed Gein Story* finally attempts to address the morbid fascination humans have had with serial killers and exploitation media, but it holds together about as well as the sanity of the serial killers at the centre of the series.

Much like the first season, *Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story*, this season structurally follows the same narrative beats by showing most of everything that Ed does from before and after his psychotic break following the death of Augusta (Laurie Metcalf), his ultra-religious mother.

From the abuse at the hands of his drunkard father, his mother shaming his odd sexual impulses that stemmed from his repressed conservative Christian upbringing, to him creating furniture and household appliances from the body parts of corpses, *The Ed Gein Story* has it all.

Fact, fiction, fabrication

Where Brennan's *The Ed Gein Story* differs



Singer Addison Rae (wrapped) appears in the series as a babysitter. – ALL PICS FROM NETFLIX

from Murphy's *The Jeffrey Dahmer Story* is how the third season plays it fast and loose between its presentation of facts and fiction. The most glaring fictional addition is Adeline Watkins (Suzanna Son), a friend and then girlfriend to Ed.

Though there was a real Adeline Watkins, her story involving the real Gein was far less inconsequential to his life, actions and crime. In *The Ed Gein Story*, however, Son's Watkins is in practically every episode as a constant presence in Gein's life. Due to how much Watkins is in this season, *The Ed Gein Story* has to make things up. Simply put, most of the Watkins scenes are fictional.

Usually, a little obfuscation of fact and fiction is not a big deal for biographies. The problem with Watkins is she is a byproduct of an overstuffed turkey. After Watkins, *The Ed Gein Story* becomes even more muddled by how much it dedicates time towards exploring the life of Anthony Perkins and Alfred Hitchcock.

Cinema's morbid inheritance

Played by Joey Pollari, the Perkins segments explore how the real life actor's portrayal of Norman Bates, a character inspired by the real Gein, in Hitchcock's *Psycho* affected his personal and professional life, while those involving Hitchcock (played by Tom Hollander) goes into how he changed the landscape of cinema in 1960 with *Psycho*.

Juggling between these two subplots and the graphic scenes of Gein's schizophrenia playing out was apparently not enough, so Brennan even includes a segment involving Tobe Hooper (played by Will Brill) being inspired by Gein to create the infamous *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre*, cinema's first slasher film.

These segments involving Perkins, Hitchcock and Hooper function as a meta commentary on Gein and how his abhorrent crimes changed the face of cinema by introducing an appetite in the audience for something more extreme than the conservative films they were consuming prior to *Psycho*.

In that regard, these are decent topics to explore but they do not belong in *The Ed Gein Story*, where most of the season is typical exploitative cinema, as the scenes before and after these topics are brought up involve graphic scenes.

Both clash with each other. Separately, they could function as two individual series, where one is the typical Murphy-Brennan exploitation production, while the other is a serious, introspective look at the history of slasher films and television series and their connective tissue with America's serial killers.

However, stuffed together into the same series, whiplashing between two different tones and personalities, it just seems like Brennan's *The Ed Gein Story* suffers from the same schizophrenia as the person it is based on.



Watkins (right) is based off a real person who was insignificant to the Gein case.

Ed Sheeran releases *Play – The Remixes*

ED Sheeran has released the EP *Play – The Remixes*, which reimagines tracks from his ninth UK number one album *Play* through new collaborations with South Asian artistes.

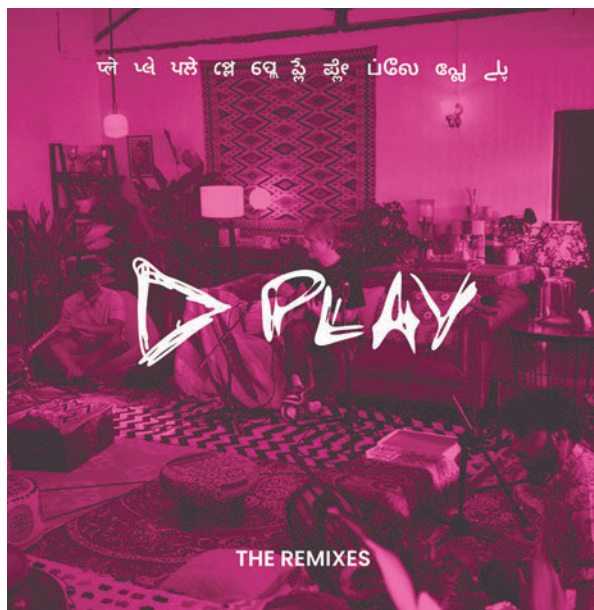
Leading the release is *Symmetry*, featuring Punjabi singer Karan Aujla. The official video, directed by Liam Pethick, showcases performances by Sheeran, Karan and Norwegian dance group The Quick Style.

The EP revisits four tracks from *Play* with contributions from Hanumankind, Dhee, Santhosh Narayanan, Arijit Singh and Jonita Gandhi. Production comes from Ilya, Johnny McDaid, Savan Kotecha, Fred and Elvira Anderfjard.

The project grew out of Sheeran's recording sessions in India, where he spent a month working with local musicians and exploring regional sounds. During that time, he connected with several of the EP's collaborators, including Arijit, with whom he worked on the track *Sapphire*.

Sheeran said recording *Play* in India was a memorable experience that deepened his appreciation for the region's musical diversity.

» EP revisits four tracks from his latest album



Fresh off the release of his ninth UK number one album *Play*, Sheeran further broadens his sonic horizons with the release of *Play – The Remixes*.

The EP features Sheeran's collaborations with South Asian artistes.

"Being there over the last decade through touring, I've met lots of local artistes and been introduced to all types of music and cultures. I loved the collaboration process and wanted to represent as much as I could on this EP," he said.

The EP features four tracks. *Symmetry*, featuring Karan, was written by Sheeran, McDaid, Kotecha, Ilya, Ikhwinder Sahota and Jaskaran Singh Aujla.

Don't Look Down, which includes Hanumankind, Dhee and Santhosh, was written by



Sheeran, Fred Gibson, Anderfjard, Ilya, Sooraj Cherukat, Dheekshitha Venkateshan, Santhosh and Adiya Ravindra.

Sapphire, featuring Arijit, was written by Sheeran, Ilya, McDaid, Kotecha, Mayur Puri, Arijit and Avinash Chouhan.

Heaven, featuring Jonita, was written by Sheeran, McDaid, Kotecha, Ilya, Harjot Kaur, Shayra Apoorva, Rutvik Talashilkar and Jonita.

Play topped charts in the UK, Australia, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand and other countries.

Singaporean singer Sezairi unveils *The Art of Surrender*

SINGAPOREAN singer Sezairi has released his fifth studio album *The Art of Surrender*, which illuminates the strength found in surrender.

A poignant exploration of vulnerability and release, the album embodies the quiet confidence Sezairi gained through letting go, capturing reflective, tender and unmistakably human moments.

"I really hope whoever listens to the album will slow down, look inward and rediscover the quiet power of acceptance that we are all beautifully flawed individuals. My wish is for this album to keep you company in the good times and the bad," expressed Sezairi.

Spanning 12 tracks, the album release marks a major milestone for the singer as it is his first fully self-produced album – a culmination of years spent honing his craft, trusting his instincts and finding peace in vulnerability.

His growth is further showcased with his versatility, featuring songs in English and Bahasa Indonesia.

It features collaborations with Singaporean artiste Nathan Hartono and Indonesian artiste Teddy Adhitya. Sezairi has taken ownership of his work since the initiation of his label Offline Records.

"It felt like a natural evolution for me as an artiste and producer to desire more control over the creative process and output, so establishing Offline Records felt the next logical step," Sezairi noted.

Sezairi has been in the industry for over 15 years. The singer is known for his evocative voice and heartfelt storytelling,



Sezairi is known for his evocative voice and heartfelt storytelling.

delivering romantic, nostalgic and introspective tunes.

His famous ballad *It's You* gained over 200 million streams globally upon going viral on TikTok in 2021. It has since been certified 13x platinum across Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Taiwan.

Thai artiste Daniel Ryn explores fate, burnout in introspective three-track *Fortuna Fader*

THAI songwriter and multidisciplinary artiste Daniel Ryn reflects on fate, burnout and quiet transformation in his latest EP *Fortuna Fader*, where the three-track release serves as the first chapter of his upcoming album cycle *Daylight Saving Time*, capturing the feeling of life slipping out of rhythm when exhaustion and reflection intertwine.

Ryn describes the EP as a poetic, minimalistic introduction to the larger story he plans to tell where it blends lo-fi textures, soft vocals and sparse arrangements to create an atmosphere that feels personal yet spacious.

The title mirrors its emotional core, suggesting fate slipping through one's hands and burnout as the body's gentle protest where the opening track *Struggling to Come Back* portrays self-recovery as a slow and unglamorous process.

Drawing inspiration from Clairo, The Sundays and Lou Reed, it evokes the quiet perseverance needed to find one's footing again after emotional fatigue.

Exit Beach Music explores the comedown from escapism, capturing the relief and melancholy of letting go. The song features ambient tones influenced by Eyedress and Mac DeMarco, reflecting the calm that follows after a period



Ryn describes the EP as a poetic, minimalistic introduction to the larger story he plans to tell.

of turbulence.

The closing track *Nothing's Not The Same* carries a groovier tone with influences from Tyler, The Creator and Bossa Nova music. It meditates on the paradox of change, showing that while everything seems to evolve, some emotions and memories remain constant.

Based in Bangkok, Ryn has long been a key figure in the city's indie scene. After founding several respected music venues, he now focuses on Melt

Livehouse, a 700-capacity space that champions regional talent.

Between sound checks and late-night sessions, Ryn creates music shaped by memory, mood and restraint.

With *Fortuna Fader*, Ryn opens a new creative chapter that bridges introspection and sound. The EP marks his next step toward reaching listeners beyond Bangkok, offering a reminder that even in burnout, there can be beauty, honesty and quiet strength.



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DEFENDANT	: CHING KAH FATT	
TITLE NO./LOT NO.	: HAKMILIK GM 2413, LOT NO. 3644	
MUKIM/ DISTRICT/ STATE	: SEMENYIH / HULU LANGAT / SELANGOR	
SOLICITOR	: MESSRS SIDEK TEOH WONG & DENNIS	

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Bidders are required to register on the website <https://lelong.kehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb> and submit the payment of ten per cent (10%) of the reserve price as deposit in the form of Bank Draft in the name of the Plaintiff at the latest by (1) working day before the auction date. Please refer to the Proclamation Of Sale for submission method.

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RESERVED PRICE	RM	105,300.00
PLAINTIFF	: AMBANK (M) BERHAD	
DEFENDANT	: PEVINDERJIT KAUR A/P HARCHARANJIT SINGH	
TITLE NO./LOT NO.	: PAJAKAN NEGERI NO. 9520/M2/6/345 LOT NO. 1189 SECTION 20	
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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT SHAH ALAM
IN THE STATE OF SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA**

COMPANIES (WINDING-UP) PETITION NO.: BA-28NCC-610-09/2025

In the matter of Section 465(1)(e) and Section 466 of the Companies Act, 2016 and

In the matter of Kuarza Bumi Sdn Bhd (Company No: 201801040393 (1302424-U))

BETWEEN

7-ELEVEN MALAYSIA SDN BHD (Company No: 198401008445 (120962-P)) ...PETITIONER

AND

KUARZA BUMI SDN BHD (Company No: 201801040393 (1302424-U)) ...RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for the Winding-Up of the abovementioned company by the High Court was, on the 19th day of September 2025 presented by the said company 7-Eleven Malaysia Sdn Bhd. And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at Shah Alam at 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon, on Monday, the 12th day of January 2026, and any creditor or contributory of the said company desiring to support or oppose the making of an order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing by himself or his counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's address is at 12th Floor, Menara Symphony, No. 5, Jalan Prof. Khoo Kay Kim, Seksyen 13, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan.

The Petitioner's solicitor is Messrs. Loh Chow Tet & Associates, of Unit No. B3-9 & B3-10, 3rd Floor (Lift No. 5), Megan Embassy, No. 225, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur.

.....sgd.....
Messrs. Loh Chow Tet & Associates
Solicitor 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 solicitor for the Petitioner, Messrs. Loh Chow Tet & Associates, notice in writing of his intention to do so. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their 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 12:00 o'clock noon of the day 11th day of January 2026.

322 Notices

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KUALA LUMPUR
(COMMERCIAL DIVISION)
COMPANY WINDING UP PETITION NO.: WA-28NCC-964-09/2025**

In the matter of BMG Global Sdn Bhd (Company No: 200501020540 (702664-W));

And

In the matter of sections 465(1)(e) and 466(1)(a) of Companies Act 2016;

And

In the matter of Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972.

BETWEEN

JUANG-ANTARA BINA SDN BHD (COMPANY NO.: 199501016618 (345821-P)) ... PETITIONER

AND

BMG GLOBAL SDN BHD (COMPANY NO.: 200501020540 (702664-W)) ... RESPONDENT

IKLAN PETISYEN

NOTIS ADALAH DENGAN INI DIBERI bahawa suatu Petisyen untuk Pengumuman Syarikat yang dinamakan di atas oleh Mahkamah Tinggi telah, pada 17 September 2025, dikemukakan oleh Juang-Antara Bina Sdn Bhd.

DAN bahawa Petisyen tersebut diarahkan supaya didengarkan di hadapan mahkamah yang bersidang di Mahkamah Tinggi Kuala Lumpur pada pukul 9.00 pagi pada 14 Disember 2025.

DAN mana-mana pihak pemiutang atau penyumbang syarikat tersebut yang ingin menyokong atau menentang suatu perintah mengikut Petisyen tersebut boleh hadir dengan tujuan itu secara peribadi atau melalui peguamcara, pada masa perbicaraan. Salinan Petisyen tersebut akan dibekalkan oleh pihak yang bertandatangan di bawah ini kepada mana-mana pemiutang atau penyumbang syarikat tersebut yang memintanya dengan membuat bayaran yang ditetapkan.

Alamat berdaftar Pempetisyen adalah di No.9 (Room 1), Jalan Damai Niaga, Alam Damai, Cheras, 56000 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan dan alamat perniagaannya adalah di No. 5, Jalan Anggerik Vanilla, U 31/U, Kota Kemuning, Seksyen 31, 40460 Shah Alam, Selangor.

Peguamcara Pempetisyen ialah Tetuan Kheng Hoe & Lee Yuen yang mempunyai alamat penyampaian di A2-3-6, Solaris Dutamas, 1 Jalan Dutamas 1, 50480 Kuala Lumpur.

Kheng Hoe & Lee Yuen
Tetuan Kheng Hoe & Lee Yuen
Peguamcara Pempetisyen

NOTA - Sesiapa yang ingin hadir pada perbicaraan Petisyen tersebut hendaklah menyampaikan, atau menghantar dengan pos, kepada peguamcara Pempetisyen yang dinamakan di atas suatu notis bertulis tentang niatnya sebegini. Notis tersebut mestilah menyatakan nama dan alamat pihak berkenaan, atau jika ia sebuah firma, nama dan alamat firma, dan mesialah dilandatangan oleh pihak atau firma berkenaan atau peguamcaranya, jika ada. Notis hendaklah disampaikan, atau jika dihantar dengan pos, hendaklah dihantar dalam jangka masa mencukupi, supaya sampai kepada pihak yang dinamakan di atas sebelum pukul 12.00 tengah hari pada 3 Disember 2025 (sehari sebelum tarikh yang ditetapkan untuk perbicaraan Petisyen tersebut).

IKLAN PETISYEN ini difailkan oleh Tetuan Kheng Hoe & Lee Yuen, peguamcara Pempetisyen yang dinamakan di atas yang mempunyai alamat di A3-3-6, Block A3, Solaris Dutamas, 1 Jalan Dutamas 1, 50480 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
[Ruj: 25082213
Tel: 03-6205 3928
E-mel: ask@khyj.law]

322 Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR VOLUNTARY WINDING UP OF LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP (Section 50(4)(a) of the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2012)

Notice is hereby given that **THE DESERY HOUSE PLT (202304000679 (LLP0034608LGN))** will be making an application to the Registrar of Limited Liability Partnerships for a declaration of dissolution pursuant to section 50(2) of the Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2012 within seven (7) days after the publication of this notice. Any partner or creditor of the LLP desiring to object to the application may do so in writing to the Companies Commission of Malaysia within thirty (30) days from the date of this notice.

322 Notices

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 and
IN THE MATTER OF DOMINION MANAGEMENT SERVICES SDN. BHD.
Registration No. 198801007510 (174867-K)
(In Members' Voluntary Winding-Up)**

At a General Meeting of the Company duly convened and held at Wisma Goshen, 2nd Floor, 60, 62 & 64 Jalan SS 22/21, Damansara Jaya, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan on Friday, 17th day of October 2025, the following special resolutions were duly passed:

1. THAT, the Company will be liquidated by way of Members' Voluntary Winding Up.

2. THAT, Ms. Lam Lee San and Ms. Lee Yee Ching both of Norvic Corporate Services Sdn. Bhd., Wisma Goshen, 2nd Floor, 60, 62 & 64, Jalan SS 22/21, Damansara Jaya, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan be appointed as Joint and Several Liquidators to act for the purpose of winding-up of the Company's affairs and distributing its assets.

3. THAT, the said Liquidators be authorised to divide amongst the members in specie or kind, the whole or any part of the assets of the Company and may, for such purpose, set such value as they deem fair upon any property to be divided as aforesaid and may determine how such division shall be carried out as between the members.

**Hedy Chioh Siew Neo (f)
Director**

Dated this 23rd day of October, 2025

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016 and
IN THE MATTER OF DOMINION MANAGEMENT SERVICES SDN. BHD.
Registration No. 198801007510 (174867-K)
(In Members' Voluntary Winding-Up)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above Company are required to send in their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any), to the undersigned (the Liquidators of the said Company) at the belowmentioned address by **5.00 p.m. on 24th day of November, 2025:-**

c/o Norvic Corporate Services Sdn. Bhd.
Reg. No. 200201033104 (600769-D)
Wisma Goshen, 2nd Floor
60, 62 & 64 Jalan SS 22/21
Damansara Jaya
47400 Petaling Jaya
Selangor Darul Ehsan

The creditors (either through their solicitors or personally) who do not file their debts and claims on or before the specified date and time above will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made by Liquidators.

**Lam Lee San (f)
Lee Yee Ching (f)
Liquidators**

Dated this 23rd day of October, 2025

322 Notices

**Pawnbrokers' forfeited pledges
under Section 23 of the Pawnbrokers' Act 1972
Pawnbrokers' (Control and Licensing) Regulations 2004**

The above will be sold by public auction during the first week of November 2025 at YMCA, No. 211 Macalister Street, Penang for articles pawned in January 2025 and earlier commencing from the date and time stated below:-

Date	Time
04.11.2025 (THURSDAY)	11:30 A.M

Note: Interested bidders are to register with the licensed auctioneer 7 working days before the auction date.

*Term and conditions apply.

A.Dennys & Co Sdn Bhd
Licensed Auctioneers
22-07-704 Penang Chinese Town Hall,
Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling,
10200 Pulau Pinang
Tel no's: 04-2611551/2

322 Notices

**DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA
DI KUALA LUMPUR
DI WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
PETISYEN PENGUNGULAN NO.:
WA-28NCC-645-06/2025**

Dalam Perkara Seksyen 49 Akta
Perkongsian Liabiliti Terhad 2012

Dan

Dalam Perkara Seksyen 465(1)(e) dan
466(1)(a) Akta Syarikat 2016

Dan

Dalam Perkara Wealthpeer PLT
[No. Perkongsian Liabiliti Terhad:
202104001637(LLP0028267-LGN)]

ANTARA

MUHAMMAD SABRAN ASMA'I BIN
OTHMAN
(No. K/P: 911231-08-6233)
berniaga di atas nama dan gaya
JFPC SE ENTERPRISE
[No. Daftar: 202103105579/003257520-K]

...PEMPTISYEN

DAN

WEALTHPEER PLT
[No. Daftar LLP: 202104001637
(LLP0028267-LGN)]

...RESPONDEN

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for the winding-up of the above-named company by the High Court at Kuala Lumpur was, on the 18th June 2025 presented to the said Court by Muhammad Sabran Asma'i Bin Othman trading in the name and style of JFPC SE ENTERPRISE, of Suite 11, Level 20, Tower A, Plaza 33, Jalan Kemajuan, Seksyen 13, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor. And that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the High Court of Malaya at Kuala Lumpur at 9.00 o'clock in the forenoon on the 10th November 2025; and any creditor or contributory of the said Company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

The Petitioner's address is at Suite 11, Level 20, Tower A, Plaza 33, Jalan Kemajuan, Seksyen 13, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

The Petitioner's Solicitors is Messrs Ng, Zainurul, Seke & Khoo of OT-9F-03A, 2, Rio Office Tower, Persiaran Rio, Bandar Puteri Puchong, 47100 Puchong, Selangor.

Dated this 7th October 2025.

T.T
Messrs Ng, Zainurul, Seke & Khoo
Solicitors for the Petitioner abovenamed

NOTE:
Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said petition must serve on or send by post to the abovenamed Messrs Ng, Zainurul, Seke & Khoo of OT-9F-03A, 2, Rio Office Tower, Persiaran Rio, Bandar Puteri Puchong, 47100 Puchong, Selangor, a 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 on 9th November 2025.
[Ref: NZSK/2024/CIVIL/1746/JFPC/KHOO]

322 Notices

**DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJISTRET
DI BUKIT MERTAJAM
DALAM NEGERI
PULAU PINANG, MALAYSIA
GUAMAN CIVIL NO.
PC-A72NCC-429-08/2025**

ANTARA

PUBLIC BANK BERHAD
(NO. K. P. 760107-07-5435) ... PLAINTIFF

DAN

1. TAN TIEW LOONG
(NO. K. P. 760107-07-5435)

2. TAN BEE THENG
(NO. K. P. 790318-07-5184)
... DEFENDAN-DEFENDAN

NOTIS IKLAN

Kepada:-
**TAN TIEW LOONG
(NO. K. P. 760107-07-5435)**
No. 20, Lorong Asas Jaya
6 Taman Perindustrian
Ringan Asas Jaya
14000 Bukit Mertajam
Pulau Pinang

**TAN BEE THENG
(NO. K. P. 790318-07-5184)**
No. 20, Lorong Asas Jaya
6 Taman Perindustrian
Ringan Asas Jaya
14000 Bukit Mertajam
Pulau Pinang

Ambil Perhatian bahawa satu Writ bermeterai bertarikh 21-08-2025 telah dikeluarkan ke atas kamu dalam Mahkamah Majistret di Bukit Mertajam, Pulau Pinang dalam **Guaman Civil No. PC-A72NCC-429-08/2025** oleh Public Bank Berhad yang mempunyai alamat di No. 87, Lebuh Bishop, 10200 Pulau Pinang dan diperintahkan bahawa Writ bermeterai tersebut bersama dengan Pemyataan Tututan bertarikh 21-08-2025 disampaikan kepada kamu secara penyampaian ganti dengan menampalkan kertas-kertas kausa bersama dengan Perintah untuk Penyampaian Ganti bermeterai di Papan Notis Mahkamah Majistret di Bukit Mertajam, Pulau Pinang, dan pada satu bahagian yang jelas kelihatan di alamat terakhir yang diketahui iaitu No. 20, Lorong Asas Jaya 6, Taman Perindustrian Ringan Asas Jaya, 14000 Bukit Mertajam, Pulau Pinang dan memasukkan satu iklan dalam suatu surat khabar tempatan berbahasa Inggeris iaitu "The Sun Daily" untuk satu (1) terbitan dan bahawa penampalan dan pengiklanan itu hendaklah disifatkan sebagai penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup bagi Writ tersebut dalam tempoh masa **tujuh (7) hari** dari tarikh akhir penampalan dengan kos penyampaian ganti dijadikan kos dalam kausa.

Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membeli tindakan tersebut kamu mestilah hadir sama ada secara sendiri atau melalui peguambela kamu di hadapan Mahkamah Majistret di Bukit Mertajam, Pulau Pinang pada **27-10-2025 jam pukul 9.00 pagi**. Jika kamu ingkar hadir sedemikian, satu penghakiman boleh dibuat terhadap kamu oleh Mahkamah.

Bertarikh 23 Oktober 2025.

.....
Peguamcara Plaintiff

Notis ini dikeluarkan oleh Tetuan Wong & Loh, Peguamcara Plaintiff yang beralamat di 44, Jalan Cantonment, 10350 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang.

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Ferrari bury Horner talk

Assurance to Vasseur ends replacement rumours

■ BY MICHAEL JONES

FERRARI chief Fred Vasseur has broken his silence on rumours he may be replaced by former Red Bull team principal Christian Horner.

Vasseur has been given the backing of Ferrari chairman John Elkann and claimed that Elkann's statement during the US Grand Prix were aimed at "third parties" instead of himself.

The rumours of Horner's possible involvement with Ferrari began ahead of the Canadian Grand Prix in June with Vasseur under pressure to deliver better results for the Prancing Horse.

Horner and Antonello Coletta – head of Ferrari's World Endurance Championship operation – were both linked with Vasseur's position as Ferrari F1 team principal during that time.

However, Vasseur was awarded a new multi-year contract ahead of the Hungarian Grand Prix and Elkann reiterated his faith in the 57-year-old before the US Grand Prix.

"I want to express our full confidence in

team principal Fred Vasseur and in the work he is doing together with all his colleagues at Scuderia Ferrari – the mechanics, engineers and drivers who are busy this weekend in Austin," Elkann said.

"I would also like to reiterate the importance of teamwork on everyone's part in order to maintain focus on the only goal that matters: always giving our best on the track."

Vasseur himself revealed how the statement was "good" for the Ferrari team but admitted that they had already been given assurances from the chairman and that his public statement was for 'third parties'.

Speaking after Sunday's race Vasseur told the media: "For everybody it's good to have this kind of message but as we have a permanent contact, we already had the message. That (Elkann's speech) was more for the third party and external target."

When asked if Elkann's backing was personally significant to Vasseur himself the Ferrari boss added: "Yes, it's important.

"Because, like this, you stop the discussion

and you are focused on the next one and not to reply to all the questions about this."

Another individual who will be relieved Ferrari has quashed the rumours is seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton.

The Briton has struggled in his first season at Ferrari, and admitted that uncertainty surrounding the team's management had been a distraction.

He said: "I don't know where the rumours have come from, so I can't really shed much light on that.

But it's a little bit distracting for us as a team. The team has made it clear where they stand in terms of re-signing Fred.

"Fred and I and the whole team are working really hard on the future for the team. These things naturally aren't helpful."

After a positive weekend in Texas, Ferrari will be hopeful of continuing their promising run at the Mexican Grand Prix this weekend.

It is a circuit where they have enjoyed success in the past, with Carlos Sainz triumphant there last year. – The Independent/Agencies

Djokovic pulls out of Paris Masters

NOVAK DJOKOVIC announced yesterday he would miss the upcoming Paris Masters, but added he hoped to compete at the tournament next year.

Djokovic has not played an official match since going down to then-world No. 204 Valentin Vacherot in the semifinals of the Shanghai Masters earlier in October.

The 38-year-old struggled physically throughout that match, throwing up courtside and receiving medical treatment multiple times.

"Dear Paris, unfortunately I'll not compete at this year's (tournament)," the 24-time Grand Slam winner said on social media.

"I have amazing memories and great success over the years, especially being able to conquer the title 7 times. Hope to see you next year."

Last week, Djokovic was forced to abandon his third place match against American Taylor Fritz at the Six Kings Slam in Saudi Arabia.

The Serbian skipped the Paris Masters last season as he has drastically reduced the number of tournaments in which he competes as he continues his quest for a record-breaking 25th major title.

World No. 10 Holger Rune will also miss this year's Paris Masters, which runs from Oct 27 to Nov 2, after announcing he underwent an operation on his Achilles tendon.

"Surgery went really well... I will keep you updated on my recovery. But now rest and heal," the Dane posted yesterday on Instagram.

In other tennis news, Britain's Cameron Norrie battled his way to victory over seventh seed Andrey Rublev to progress to the second round of the Erste Bank Open.

World No. 35 Norrie won the two-hour match 6-2, 6-7 (5-7), 6-2 in Austria.

"It was all round a really good performance, I was moving well and able to dictate the points," said Norrie.

"I got a bit tight and tentative when I was serving for the match but credit to him staying in and competing."

There was heartbreak for British No. 3 Jacob Fearnley who was beaten by second seed Alexander Zverev in the first round.

After losing the first set, Fearnley, ranked 81st in the world, stunned the German to level the match and managed to force a third-set tie-break.

However, Zverev won the hard-fought breaker to progress 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (7-5) and will face Italian qualifier Matteo Arnaldi in the second round. – AFP/Agencies



FROM LEFT: Virat Kohli, Ricky Ponting and Rohit Sharma. – AFP/REUTERSPIC

INDIA'S former captains Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma should not be written off after their team's seven-wicket loss to Australia in the first of three one-day internationals, former Australian captain Ricky Ponting said yesterday.

After Sunday's defeat in Perth, the three-match series moves to Adelaide today before concluding in Sydney on Saturday.

Virat and Rohit, who retired from the game's other formats, now feature solely in the 50-over cricket. With the 2027 World Cup in mind, the pair returned to action on Sunday for the first time since lifting the Champions Trophy in March.

Neither looked convincing against Australia's pace bowlers, with Rohit edging Josh Hazlewood to second slip on eight and Virat cutting Mitchell Starc to a diving Cooper Connolly at backward point for a duck.

However, Ponting is confident the pair will soon rediscover their touch.

"You don't write off champion players ever. These two have been among the best, and

while I've said before that Virat's the best 50-over player I've ever seen, you don't write them off," Ponting said on the ICC Review podcast.

"They'll find a way to contribute and win games for their team, and if they do that, they'll most likely be in that World Cup team in 2027. I'd expect to see both those guys bounce back into it pretty quickly.

"Adelaide is a great place to bat and a great place to play cricket. But it won't be easy for the fact that they are facing some of the best white-ball bowlers that have ever played the game."

Ravi Shastri, who coached Rohit and Virat during their peak years, said few understand better how revered the pair are in India and abroad, and that they would not risk their legacy by playing on too long.

"The contribution is over a decade, decade and a half in the case of Virat," Shastri said. "It's special. Whether they finish tomorrow or they finish the day after or whenever. That legacy will remain." – Reuters

SIDENETTING

Lampard's Coventry extend lead

COVENTRY extended their lead at the top of the Championship thanks to Brandon Thomas-Asante's double to win 2-1 at Portsmouth yesterday, while Millwall beat Stoke 2-0 to go third. Frank Lampard's Sky Blues have won five straight games to open up a four-point lead at the top of the table over Middlesbrough. Thomas-Asante converted his seventh and eighth goals of the season as Coventry took another step towards ending a 25-year absence from the Premier League. Goals from Femi Azeez and Tristan Crama bolstered Millwall's unlikely promotion hopes with a third consecutive victory. However, it was another night to forget for all three clubs relegated from the Premier League last season. Charlton climbed to fifth with a 3-0 win at Ipswich. Southampton lost 3-1 at Bristol City despite going in front, while Leicester were beaten 2-1 at Hull. Sheffield United, who only missed out on promotion last season in the playoff final, climbed out of the relegation zone thanks to a 3-1 win at Blackburn. Norwich fell into the bottom three after they lost 1-0 at Derby, while Birmingham beat Preston 1-0 to climb up to 12th and within three points of the play-off places.

La Liga cancel match in Miami

LA LIGA'S plan to hold a Barcelona match in Miami in December has been called off because of "uncertainty" about the game within Spain, the Spanish top flight said in a statement yesterday. Champions Barca were set to face Villarreal in the United States on Dec 20, which would have been the first European league fixture to be played abroad. La Liga said their promoter for the match decided to cancel the organisation of the event because of "uncertainty generated in Spain in recent weeks". The Spanish top flight said they "deeply regret that the project, which represented a historic and unparalleled opportunity to take Spanish football to the international stage, cannot go ahead". Tickets for the game at the Hard Rock Stadium were due to become available on Tuesday but organisers said the presale was "delayed" before the plan was scrapped. The match will now be held at Villarreal's Estadio de la Ceramica home as normal. The Spanish Footballers' Association (AFE) organised protests against the match at the weekend, with players from every team not moving for 15 seconds at the start of each league match.

Bellingham sets up Dortmund win

JOBE BELLINGHAM made his first goal contribution since joining Borussia Dortmund as Felix Nmecha's double helped the German club to a 4-2 win against Copenhagen in yesterday's Champions league action. Bellingham has found minutes hard to come by in the Bundesliga since making a £27m (RM156m) move from Sunderland in the summer, but marked his second successive Champions League start by setting up Nmecha's opener after 20th minute. Copenhagen drew level in comical circumstances after Ramy Bensebaini's attempted clearance cannoned off teammate Waldemar Anton and into the goal. Bensebaini redeemed himself in the 61st minute when he coolly slotted home a penalty after Serhou Guirassy was fouled in the penalty area. Nmecha scored his second of the night when his 76th-minute. Bellingham looked desperate to score his first goal for the club, but it was former Wolves man Fabio Silva who claimed a late fourth. Viktor Dadason's late header crept over the line for a late Copenhagen consolation.

Silva lining for Pep

PEP GUARDIOLA was pleased to see another name on the scoresheet as Manchester City won 2-0 at Villarreal yesterday.

Erling Haaland, almost inevitably, struck yet again as City claimed their first Champions League away win six attempts but his early effort was followed by a powerful header from captain Bernardo Silva.

City manager Guardiola said after Saturday's 2-0 defeat of Everton – when Haaland grabbed a brace, meaning he had scored City's last seven goals in all competitions – that the team could not always rely on the Norwegian, who has now netted a remarkable 24 times in 14 outings for club and country this season.

Guardiola said: "I'm pleased Erling scored again and pleased Bernardo scored as well, with his head."

"I remember, it was a bit like (Lionel) Messi. It is like a hammer. They have a hammer in the neck. They are small but so good with the head contact."

"I am pleased for the win. They had some good chances and Villarreal are a top team."

"The vibe is good and the first half was really good. We scored in the right moments and we made a good threat."

City, who are nine games unbeaten in all competitions, have now secured seven points from their three outings in the league phase.

It is a healthy position for a team who struggled last season and failed to make the last 16.

"The difference with last season is that we had (injured) players in the hospital," said Guardiola.

"We had 15 or 16 players and they were getting tired after 70 minutes and needed to play every three games."

Victory was never really in doubt although Villarreal gave them some uncomfortable moments in the second half.

Guardiola happy as City give Haaland some goal support

Guardiola said: "We felt in control for most of the game. There's always better things we can do and we think there were a few spells that they had that we could've prevented, but we have to be harsh on ourselves if we want to win the competition."

"We're happy with a clean sheet and a win. We were not nervous but a game is never closed at 2-0. We had several chances but they had two. This is what happens."

"We took a long time to make them play deep and we need to improve on that and will improve on that."

The only negative for City was Nico Gonzalez being forced off with an injury shortly before the hour mark.

Guardiola does not think it is anything too bad though. "It was a knock on his foot," the City boss told *TNT Sports*. "Hopefully it's nothing."

Rico Lewis also impressed for City in the victory having struggled for game time this season and Guardiola praised the impact of the youngster.

He said: "I'm pretty sure that 90% of the people when they saw Rico (Lewis) line up said, 'What is the reason why?!' And I love that player. These types of players, I adore them!"

"Defensively, offensively, he's beyond intelligent. And his movement against teams that make defensive zonal marking, he knows perfectly when and how and where he has to move. I'm really pleased for his game." – The Independent/Agencies



Man City's Bernardo Silva celebrates scoring his team's second goal during the Uefa Champions League match against Villarreal yesterday. – AFP/PIIC

Dembele challenges PSG to 'keep it up'

RETURNING Paris Saint-Germain forward Ousmane Dembele called on his teammates not to let up after a goal rout over Bayer Leverkusen in yesterday's 7-2 away Champions League win.

The Champions League holders, who have won three from three to start their title defence, scored six of their seven goals with 10 men, having lost Illia Zabarnyi to a red card late in the first half.

Desire Doue, man of the match when PSG thumped Inter Milan in the Champions League final in Munich in May, relished his return to Germany, scoring twice before halftime.

Ballon d'Or winner Dembele was only fit enough for the bench but scored just three minutes after coming onto the pitch midway through the second half.

Willian Pacho, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, Nuno Mendes and Vitinha also scored in a statement win for the French giants.

Playing his first match since claiming the Ballon d'Or last month, Dembele said his side "could have avoided our red card", but "stayed in the game and scored goals before halftime that did us good."

"And we just had to roll on in the second half. Scoring seven goals is important, we have to keep it up."

"It's only the first half of the season, we'll have to stay on target in Europe and the league."

The 28-year-old said he was "not at 100% yet" and wanted to come back in the league last weekend, but "the coach told me to wait a bit longer."

"I'm slowly getting my form back."

Georgia's Kvaratskhelia scored just before the interval in Germany.

"It feels good," he told *Amazon Prime*.

"When you're scoring seven goals, you're happy, but we know there's some aspects we can improve and we will think about that."

"Today we were happy that we won. It isn't easy to score seven against Leverkusen but we won. "It was our day," he added. – AFP

Dyche prepares for Forest bow against Porto

NOTTINGHAM FOREST will be hoping it is third time lucky as new manager Sean Dyche takes over the reins of the two-time European Champions for the visit of Porto in the Europa League tomorrow (3am Malaysian time).

Dyche, already Forest's third boss of a turbulent season, has arrived at the City Ground to take charge of a side seeking their first win in the competition after garnering just one point from their two previous outings.

Appointed on Tuesday to replace the sacked Ange Postecoglou, who won the Europa League last term with Tottenham but lasted only 40 days at Forest, Dyche will know that only victory will suffice to keep tempestuous owner Evangelos Marinakis happy.

For the 54-year-old, his Forest debut marks a personal milestone as it will be his first time in the dug-out for a European match proper since starting in senior management 14 years ago at Watford.

In 2018/19, his Burnley side played in the Europa League play-offs but were beaten by Olympiacos and missed out on the league stage.

Dyche has built a reputation as

a pragmatic manager that delivers results, if not always spectacular football.

"There's some real talent here, so our job now is to find that balance," Dyche told the club's website on Tuesday.

"The risk and reward of going forward... but equally the solid base which has been such a big weapon for the club, particularly last season. Finding that balance will be key."

Having conceded five goals so far in the competition, Dyche will likely use the two days at his disposal to work on shoring up a leaky backline.

"The basics have always got to be in place. Strong, fit and organised is always a good place to start," Dyche said.

Next up are Portuguese league leaders Porto, who sit sixth in the Europa League standings with a perfect two wins from two.

Kicking off his tenure by delivering a first win in Europe for Forest since 1995, against a high-profile opponent in 2004 Champions League winners Porto to boot, would do Dyche the world of good in getting both the fans and the owner on board from the get-go. – AFP

Rashford shows what Devils are missing



Barcelona's Marcus Rashford (left) in action against Olympiacos yesterday. – REUTERS/PIIC

FERMIN LOPEZ scored a hat-trick and Marcus Rashford took his personal tally to four goals from three Champions League games as Barcelona thrashed Olympiacos.

Two smart first half finishes from Lopez put Barcelona in control, before his third, a Lamine Yamal penalty and a Rashford double halted a short-lived Olympiacos fightback.

After playing Yamal through on goal in the seventh minute, Lopez was on hand to finish past the defenders on the goal-line when goalkeeper Konstantinos Tzolakis made a block but could not keep hold of the ball.

The Spanish midfielder doubled Barcelona's lead half an hour later when he ran on to Dro Fernandez's ball into space, cut inside and curled a left-footed strike into the left corner.

The second half began in bizarre circumstances. Ayoub El Kaabi thought he had halved the deficit with a header, but after checking on the pitchside monitor, referee Urs Schnyder chalked off the goal for off-side and instead awarded the visitors a penalty for a handball by Eric Garcia, which El Kaabi converted via the post.

Three minutes later Olympiacos midfielder Santiago Hezze was shown a second yellow card and ordered off for catching Marc Casado

with a flailing arm.

This was a night when Yamal became the youngest player to reach 25 Champions League appearances – at 18 years and 100 days – and the teenager tucked away a penalty after Rashford was brought down while attempting to round Tzolakis.

Barcelona were not finished and were hungry for goals. In the 74th minute Rashford beat Tzolakis with a well-placed low finish, and then two minutes later Lopez smashed in his third from the edge of the box to become the first Spaniard to score a Champions League hat-trick for the Catalan side.

Rashford drilled his second after controlling a cross-field pass with a delightful touch. In 37 Champions League games for Manchester United, he scored more than one goal on just one occasion, but it has happened twice already with Barcelona.

"Rashford played well today," said Flick. "It's not easy for him to play that No. 9 role. The first minutes of the match I guess we were struggling to press, but at the end the chances he had and the penalty he won..."

"The important thing is that he scored goals. He's giving me 100% of what I want from him." – Agencies



BY CHRIS WILSON

FORMER England midfielder Joe Cole has claimed that Newcastle United's capture of Nick Woltemade and Yoane Wissa has put them "in a better position" than they were last season when they had Alexander Isak.

An encouraging performance at St. James' Park saw the Magpies beat Benfica 3-0 in the Champions League league phase yesterday, with Eddie Howe's side benefitting from improved squad depth as substitute Harvey Barnes scored a brace to wrap up a potentially pivotal result.

And Cole alluded to that squad depth when

No Isak, no problem

speaking on *TNT Sports* after the final whistle, suggesting that Newcastle may now be "in a better position than they were with Isak", especially once Yoane Wissa makes his

return from injury.

"To compete on more fronts you need players who can come in. You look at the numbers they have and I think they're in a better position," said the former Chelsea player.

"I think this team playing on the front foot, with all their attacking options, Anthony Gordon, (Harvey) Barnes, (Jacob) Murphy, (Anthony) Elanga, the midfielders can score goals, you've got Woltemade, Wissa to come into this squad.

"To be where they're at, playing on the front

foot, seeing games out and brushing Benfica aside by the end was very impressive."

Germany striker Woltemade played in a key role in the third goal with a superb flick providing the platform for Gordon's assist, and the 23-year-old has hit the ground running since arriving at St. James' Park, scoring five goals in eight games so far.

And while Wissa is yet to make an appearance for his new club since joining in a £55 million (RM319m) deal at the end of the summer transfer window due to injury, Cole believes the depth in the squad means that the Magpies are "only going to get better".

"That's a really impressive performance," he explained. "That Benfica team went to Stamford Bridge and nearly got a result but Newcastle blew them out of the water.

"Eddie Howe will be delighted because all his changes worked, his subs worked, they're sitting in the top eight of the Champions League with two wins from three and it's all looking upwards." – The Independent



SPORTS TOTO RESULTS

DRAW NO: 6037/2025 DATE: 22/10/2025 (WED)

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TOTO 4D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL



1st Prize **2335**
 2nd Prize **5003**
 3rd Prize **0990**

Special
 2562 7940
 6953 0811
 4104 7512
 1836 5366
 6491 7738

Consolation
 6812 2211
 9431 4587
 9426 2729
 4010 0520
 8823 0167



Jackpot 1 **RM 22,861,277.51**

2335	5003	5003	2335
2335	0990	0990	2335
5003	0990	0990	5003

Jackpot 2 **RM 605,958.02**

Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.



1st Prize	2335	+	SNAKE
2nd Prize	5003	+	
3rd Prize	0990	+	
4th Prize	Special Prize	+	
5th Prize	Consolation Prize	+	
6th Prize	Any 4D drawn number		

TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL



1ST	5 9 8 7 1
2ND	7 8 0 0 1
3RD	7 3 7 7 4
4TH	9 8 7 1
5TH	8 7 1
6TH	7 1



1ST	2 2 6 6 6 1
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Magpies soar

Howe challenges Newcastle to back up impressive Champions League display

Combo pix showing Newcastle's Anthony Gordon (left) celebrating after scoring the opening goal in yesterday's Champions League match against Benfica and Harvey Barnes scoring the second after the half-time break. – AFPIC

BY REBECCA JOHNSON

EDDIE HOWE hopes Newcastle can back up their 3-0 Champions League win over Benfica with similar performances in domestic matches.

The Magpies earned their second win in the competition with a comprehensive victory against Jose Mourinho's Portuguese side after Anthony Gordon opened the scoring before substitute Harvey Barnes struck twice.

Victory comes on the back of a frustrating defeat to Brighton in the Premier League on Saturday, and with a home clash with Fulham this weekend being quickly followed by a Carabao Cup tie with Tottenham and a trip to West Ham, Howe hopes his team can carry over their European form.

He said: "It wasn't an easy game that's for sure. They've got a manager who's been there and done everything in the game.

"We knew today was a difficult game and especially off the back of Saturday's result for us that ramped the pressure on. We had to handle that.

"That's why the win and the way that we won was really pleasing and hopefully we can take that into our next few games because we're going to need to back it up.

"One game in isolation in the Champions League means nothing. Now it's all about the next few games."

Newcastle took the lead when Gordon fired home just after the half-hour mark from Jacob Murphy's cross.

Barnes then came off the bench and doubled Newcastle's lead after racing on to Nick Pope's incredible throw launched into the Benfica half and slotting home.

He then wrapped up victory with

seven minutes of normal time remaining after beating goalkeeper Anatoliy Trubin following fine link-up play between Gordon and Nick Woltemade.

Newcastle have scored eight goals in three Champions League games compared to seven in eight Premier League matches.

In the Champions League, Gordon has four goals while Barnes took his tally to three but neither have netted in the Premier League this season.

Howe said: "It's a head scratcher for me as well. We know their qualities, we know they're goalscorers.

"We know how good a player they are, and that goes for another good few players in our squad as well.

"Everyone's pointing to the fact that we haven't been scoring enough in the Premier League, but when you see us play like this, how we attacked and the number of chances we created, it's a difficult one for us to work out.

"All we can do is return to the Premier League with the same attitude. If the attitude is there, the quality will show."

Defeat is Benfica's third straight loss in the Champions League and boss Mourinho admitted Newcastle's second goal killed the game.

He said: "They brought their enthusiasm in set-pieces, which is normal.

"When you have a team of giants, you know that every set-piece, throw in, lateral free-kick, corner, you know that is a dramatic moment for the opponent and it was the only moment where they brought that enthusiasm and that pressure to the opponent.

"We felt very comfortable in the first half. In the second half, the second goal kills the game and then after that, it was easy for Newcastle to play, easy for the fans to enjoy." – The Independent

WINNING NUMBERS

PAYMENT GUARANTEED IN FULL



Draw Date: 22/10/25 (Wed) Draw No: 5984/25 Venue: WISMA GENTING, K.L.

1+3D SUPER 1+3D

1st Prize **8501**
 2nd Prize **1663**
 3rd Prize **0993**

Starters	Consolation
1442 4525	8634 4295
2258 3988	8487 6247
5199 4137	1817 8019
5662 5920	1367 4513
0955 1519	8921 1095



Jackpot 1 **RM4,557,732.90**

8501 + 1663	1663 + 8501
8501 + 0993	0993 + 8501
1663 + 0993	0993 + 1663

Jackpot 2 **RM298,118.30**

Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of 10 Starter Prizes.



1st Prize	Bonus	1st Prize Bonus
228 501 + HORSE		RM290,000.00
2nd Prize	Bonus	2nd Prize Bonus
581 663 + DOG		RM440,000.00
3rd Prize	Bonus	3rd Prize Bonus
060 993 + DRAGON		RM609,097.10

Starters	Consolation
301 442 944 525	688 634 954 295
402 258 313 988	858 487 356 247
195 199 764 137	611 817 838 019
405 662 895 920	661 367 754 513
540 955 251 519	128 921 991 095



1st Prize **501** 2nd Prize **663** 3rd Prize **993**



Jackpot **RM783,171.40**

501 + 663 + 993	663 + 993 + 501
501 + 993 + 663	993 + 501 + 663
663 + 501 + 993	993 + 663 + 501

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BRIEFS

New categories for Cobra 10s

THIS year's Cobra 10s Rugby Championships, to be held at Padang Astaka from Nov 1-2, will see the introduction of the women's and men's veterans' U-40 categories. Cobra Rugby Club president Darryll Sinnappa said the introduction of the two new categories reflects their commitment to inclusivity, diversity and life-long participation in the sport. "The reason we introduced them is because we observed a growing interest, especially among women. We believe diversity is very important in rugby. So, we decided to make the 52nd edition of the Cobra 10s a rugby festival that offers a holistic tournament, featuring veterans, women, men's

elite and juniors," he told a press conference on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Sinnappa said 12 teams from seven countries – Malaysia, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Papua New Guinea and South Africa – will compete in the men's elite category. He said that besides Cobra Rugby Club, the other teams representing Malaysia are KL Tigers, SSTMI Tsunami, MPSJ Knight, Royal Town Warriors and KRAS Rugby.

Fifa boss to visit

INTERNATIONAL Federation of Association Football (Fifa) president Gianni Infantino is expected to make an official visit to Malaysia in conjunction with the 47th Asean Summit 2025. A senior source within the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) told Bernama the visit is intended,

among other matters, to witness the signing ceremony of an Asean football development agreement – a move described by the source as a significant step towards strengthening the football ecosystem in Southeast Asia. Besides attending official functions, Infantino is also scheduled to pay a visit to the National Training Centre (NTC) in Putrajaya. The source said the visit would allow Fifa representatives to assess the modern facilities developed to support the long-term vision for Malaysian football. Infantino's itinerary is also expected to include a stop at the Football for Schools programme in Kelana Jaya, an initiative aimed at promoting football participation among students through educational and community approaches. The visit could provide an opportunity to strengthen strategic ties with Fifa and to seek support on matters such as infrastructure, coaching and community programmes.

Mandatory challenge in takraw

THE Asian Sepaktakraw Federation (Astaf) announced that the challenge system will be made mandatory for all sepak takraw events at the SEA Games 2025 in Thailand, reinforcing its commitment to fairness, accuracy and the integrity of the sport. Astaf president Datuk Abdul Halim Kader said the introduction of the challenge system at the biennial Games marks another milestone in the modernisation of sepak takraw under the progressive leadership of Astaf and International Sepaktakraw Federation (Istaf). "By integrating multi-angle, high-frame-rate camera systems, the challenge system bridges the gap between human judgment and digital precision. It provides conclusive slow-motion evidence to verify decisions, promotes transparency, and preserves the integrity of the sport. It also enhances the credibility of referee decisions, reducing post-match disputes and preserving the spirit of sportsmanship," he said in a statement.

Semis target for Young Tigers

NATIONAL U-23 team head coach Mohd Nafuzi Zain has set a target for his team to reach at least the semifinals of the men's football event at the 2025 SEA Games in Thailand this December.

Mohd Nafuzi said while the Harimau Muda hope to make it to the final, their immediate focus is on overcoming Vietnam and Laos in Group B.

To achieve this mission, he hopes the best young talents in the country can be assembled to represent Malaysia at the biennial multi-sport event.

Malaysia in tough group with Vietnam, Laos for SEA Games

"Our main target is to qualify for the semifinals first, before striving to reach the final.

"Our plan is to begin centralised training at the end of November, and we hope to gather the best players to represent the country at this year's SEA Games," he said in a post on the official Malaysia NT Facebook page yesterday.

The 46-year-old coach admitted that a tough challenge awaits his squad, particularly against Vietnam, who head into the tour-

nament with high credentials after winning the 2024 Asean Cup.

"However, that is no reason for us not to give our full commitment in this competition. Most of the Laos players were also part of the squad that faced Harimau Malaya in the recent 2027 Asian Cup Qualifiers," he said.

Group A consists of hosts Thailand, Cambodia and Timor-Leste, while Group C features defending champions Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Singapore.

The winners of each group and the best runner-up will advance to the semi-finals.

For the record, Malaysia failed to progress beyond the group stage at the 2023 edition in Cambodia after finishing fourth in the previous edition in Vietnam in 2021.

Malaysia last won the gold medal at the 2011 SEA Games in Indonesia, while the silver medal at the 2017 Kuala Lumpur edition marked their most recent podium finish. – Bernama

RESULTS & STANDINGS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Barcelona 6 (Lopez 7, 39, 76, Yamal 68-pen, Rashford 74, 79) **Olympiacos** 1 (El Kaabi 54-pen), **Kairat Almaty** 0 **Pafos** 0, **Arsenal** 4 (Gabriel 57, Martinelli 64, Gyokeres 67, 70) **Atletico Madrid** 0, **Bayer Leverkusen** 2 (Garcia 38-pen, 54) **Paris Saint-Germain** 7 (Pacho 7, Doue 41, 45+3, Kvaratskhelia 44, Nuno Mendes 50, Dembele 66, Vitinha 90), **Villarreal** 0 **Manchester City** 2 (Haaland 17, Silva 40), **PSV Eindhoven** 6 (Buongiorno 35-og, Saibari 39, Man 54, 80, Pepi 87, Driouech 89) **Napoli** 2 (McTominay 31, 86), **Copenhagen** 2 (Anton 33-og, Dadason 90) **Borussia Dortmund** 4 (Nmecha 20, 76, Bensebaini 61-pen, Fabio Silva 87), **Union Saint-Gilloise** 0 **Inter Milan** 4 (Dumfries 41, Lautaro Martinez 45+1, Calhanoglu 53-pen, Esposito 76), **Newcastle** 3 (Gordon 32, Barnes 70, 83) **Benfica** 0.

CHAMPIONSHIP: Blackburn Rovers 1 Sheffield United 3, Derby County 1 Norwich 0, Hull City 2 Leicester 1, Ipswich Town 0 Charlton Athletic 3, Millwall 2 Stoke City 0, Portsmouth 1 Coventry 2, Preston North End 0 Birmingham 1, Bristol City 3 Southampton 1.

Kiera secures ticket to grand finals

KIERA Wong Yin Xuen (pic) swept both the Girls' U-15 Singles and Doubles categories at the 10th and final qualifying round of the Allianz Junior Badminton Championship (AJBC) 2025, subsequently securing her place in the grand finals.

Held in Butterworth, Penang recently, the qualifying round witnessed Kiera, a student at SMK Puchong Jaya B, teamed up with K. Nehaa Barathi from Sri KDU Kota Damansara to bag the Girls' U-15 Doubles over Melody Heng Yen Xe and Ooi Chu Han, both from SMJK Jit Sin SKK.

Kiera also won the Girls' U-15 Singles after defeating Tan Zhi Ying, who attends SMK St. Mark and was the second runner-up in the Girls' U-13 Singles at the AJBC 2024 grand finals last year, as well as runner-up in the Girls' U-13 Doubles alongside partner Yong Hui Zeng.

In the Boys' U-15 Singles category, Fong Carson from SMJK Keat Hwa beat Nur Izz Danish of SMK Tun Perak for the title.



Carson also put up a fight in the Boys' U-15 Doubles final with partner Ng Chia Tin from SMK Pengkalan Lebai Man, but ultimately fell to the pair of Bernard Tieu Kang Zheng of SMK St. Mark and Thariinas N.S. Javaseelan from SMK Taman Inderawasih.

Over on the U-13 courts, Jorus Lee Yi H'Ng of SJKC Kampung Valdor triumphed over Nur Izz Daniel for the Boys' U-13 Singles title.

First place in the Boys' U-13 Doubles was clinched by Lim Yu Hong of Jit Sin Independent High School and Teh Thean Le from SMJK Heng Ee following their win over Ashton Khoo and Tan Yi Jun, also from SMJK Heng Ee.

Izzriya Batrisya from SMK Bandar Baru Sungai Long nabbed the Girls' U-13 Singles title after beating Chuah Tian Ning from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Methodist. However, Tian Ning emerged victorious in the Girls' U-13 Doubles, teaming up with Cynthia Ooi of Jit Sin Independent High School to defeat the pair of Lee Jie Yu from SMJK Heng Ee and Syarifah Fashira Dayana of SMK Machang Bubuk Penang.

The grand finals of the AJBC 2025 will take place in Kuala Lumpur from Nov 5 – 9.

New format will test keglers: Teck Kheng

THE new format for the deaf bowling team event due to be introduced at the 2025 Tokyo Deaflympics is expected to test the national bowling squad, team coach Tay Teck Kheng said.

He added that the new rules demanded uniform performances and high accuracy from all team members without giving room for any mistakes, which would affect the entire team.

"We use the World Format," he told reporters after the chef de mission's visit to the 2025 Tokyo Deaflympics deaf bowling athletes' train-

ing venue in Petaling Jaya, Selangor, yesterday.

"If it's the old format, we might have a better chance because singles play six games, doubles each person plays six games, and a team – one person plays six games. So if our team is quite balanced, it's easy to win.

"The new format, one game, one player only two bowls. Yes, that is why it is very tough. That's why I made them practise so much so they can play spare throws.

"Most importantly, if you can't get a strike, a spare will do, we still can cover," he said.

Malaysian Deaf Sports Association (MSDeaf) had earlier maintained the three-gold medal target set for the 2025 Tokyo Deaflympics, two in badminton and one from bowling.

Teck Kheng also shared that the national bowling team would contest all seven events at the Games, with primary focus on the men's team event.

He expects South Korea and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to be the main contenders due to their extensive experience at the international level. – Bernama

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2nd Prize	0458
3rd Prize	5226

SPECIAL		CONSOLATION	
6626	1200	3509	1669
7215	4419	8269	0939
8186	9837	8027	4334
0841	3672	9354	9974
9423	6577	4589	0035

4D Jackpot

Jackpot 1 **RM4,158,702.91**

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0458 + 5875	0458 + 5226
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Jackpot 2 **RM100,000.00** **WON**

Jackpot 2 - Group 2 + Golden Number

GROUP 1	7	5	5	8	2	6
GROUP 2	7	5	5	8	2	6
GROUP 3	7	5	5	8	2	6
GROUP 4	7	5	5	8	2	6
GROUP 5	7	5	5	8	2	6

OR

5	8
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GOLDEN NUMBER 1 8

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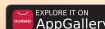
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Viktor Gyokeres (4th right) scores Arsenal's fourth goal during yesterday's Champions League match against Atletico Madrid at the Emirates Stadium. — **REUTERSPIC**



Blazing Gunners

Gyokeres makes Arsenal a better team, says Arteta after Atletico rout

BY PHILIP DUNCAN AND
KIERAN JACKSON

MIKEL ARTETA has challenged Viktor Gyokeres to build on his brace against Atletico Madrid after hailing his new striker for making Arsenal a much better team.

Gyokeres ended his seven-match streak without a goal by scoring twice in three minutes at the Emirates Stadium as Arsenal completed a thumping 4-0 win in the Champions League.

Gabriel opened the scoring for the home side after 57 minutes, with Gabriel Martinelli extending Arsenal's advantage seven minutes later before Gyokeres' quickfire double.

Speaking on the eve of yesterday's group fixture under the lights, Mikel Merino insisted it was only a matter of time before Gyokeres ended his goal drought, and the Sweden international's teammates were visibly delighted to see him score.

And manager Arteta said: "Viktor deserved it because everything that we were seeing in terms of what he was bringing to the team and how much he was helping the team in many areas, apart from scoring goals in the last few weeks, there was no debate about that.

"It was about keeping that belief in himself, that emotional state that he can enjoy and play freely. He had a big smile on his face.

"I look at his teammates as well, they are all so happy for him because he fully deserved it.

"He makes us a much better team. We've become much more unpredictable. He's so physical and the way he presses the ball, and holds the ball, that's phenomenal.

"And then the icing on the cake is the goals. He's scored two very different ones today, and



Atletico Madrid's Marcos Llorente (left) vies for the ball with Arsenal's Gabriel Martinelli. — **REUTERSPIC**

hopefully he starts to get some momentum now and goes on a good run."

Arsenal, who moved to the top of the Premier League with a 1-0 win at Fulham on Saturday, join defending champions Paris St Germain and last season's beaten finalists Inter Milan on nine points from the nine available and on course for the knockout rounds.

Speaking to CBS, Gyokeres said: "We want to win trophies, that's our desire and that's the

most important thing and of course I want to contribute and score goals.

"To score four and keep a clean sheet again is very good. We always keep going. We do the things right when we defend and when we get the chances we are extremely strong in taking those.

"Both my goals were great. I try to do my best all the time and work hard, contribute with different stuff and the goals would have come

sooner or later."

Atletico had scored seven goals in their opening two Champions League matches but rarely looked like threatening Arsenal's back line as Arteta's men recorded a third clean sheet in as many games in Europe and a fourth in a row in all competitions.

Manager Diego Simeone rued Atletico's "individual mistakes" after yesterday's humbling defeat.

The visitors could have taken the lead early in the second half after Julian Alvarez hit the crossbar but then Simeone's side were powerless to stop a red onslaught at the Emirates.

"We competed very well until the first Arsenal goal, then we couldn't compete," Simeone said, in his post-match press conference.

"It can come down to fine margins in terms of taking the game into your control or not and it's not down to bad luck, it's down to mistakes.

"They made the most of our mistakes. They took their chances and all their big chances turned into goals.

"We could have scored with Julian (Alvarez) in the first half, he hit the bar in the second half, we competed well as a team but this is a lesson we can learn. You have to be clinical in different phases of the game.

"It's individual mistakes that affect the team, it's losing your man in a set-piece, for the third goal we were too meek and ended up conceding a goal from that.

"These are small details that can turn the game in one team's favour... there are situations we can resolve collectively but when it comes to individual decisions, it's hard to help with that." — **The Independent**