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Designer recounts historic journey of 'Kebaya Unesco'

Inscription as Intangible Cultural Heritage cements place of traditional garment as Asean cultural legacy.

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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim jesting with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr during presentation of a symbolic gavel for handover of the Asean chairmanship next year. – ***ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN***

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'Good move by Malaysia to seek full BRICS membership'

Effort highlights aspiration to strengthen alliances beyond traditional Western domain, say analysts.

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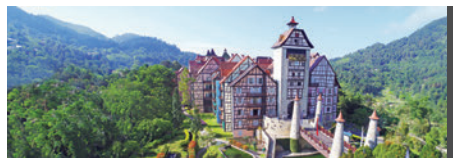
School year to resume January commencement in 2026

Minister says decision aligns with plan for consistent schedule familiar to students, parents and teachers.

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Mission accomplished

As chair of Asean, Malaysia built upon bloc's longstanding record of stability and cooperation, with region now acknowledged as among most peaceful and fastest-growing globally: Anwar



IKHWAN ZULKAFLEE, HARITH KAMAL AND KIRTINEE RAMESH

Renewed trade pact to spur growth

KUALA LUMPUR: Asean's decision to renew its Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China is aimed at aligning the pact with current shifts in technology, the economy and geopolitics, said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan.

He said the updated deal – Asean–China Free Trade Area 3.0 Upgrade Protocol (ACFTA 3.0) – would enable both sides to recalibrate their trade and investment relations in line with present-day realities.

"We undertook the effort to renew the trade pact so that it can be harmonised with changes in technology, economy and geopolitics. It will allow us to realign our trade and investment relations with China," Mohamad told reporters on the sidelines of the Asean–China Summit yesterday.

The pact, signed on the final day of the 47th Asean Summit, strengthens and modernises trade ties between the regional bloc and China. It was inked by Investment, Trade and Industry Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Aziz and Chinese Minister of Commerce Wang Wentao, and witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Chinese Premier Li Qiang and other Asean leaders and delegates.

The ACFTA 3.0 is expected to pave the way for deeper cooperation, greater regional connectivity and shared prosperity between Asean and China.

Over the years, Asean and China have deepened and modernised their trade partnership to meet evolving economic demands. The previous Asean–China Free Trade Area, established in 2010, became one of the world's largest free trade zones by population and the third-largest by nominal GDP. It significantly reduced tariffs on goods traded between Asean member states and China, laying the groundwork for stronger regional integration.



Anwar and Li flanking Wang and Zafrul after the signing of the trade pact at the Asean-China Summit yesterday. The upgraded pact is expected to pave the way for deeper cooperation and greater regional connectivity. – ***ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN***

The upgrade was concluded after nine rounds of negotiations from November 2022 and completed in October last year. It marks a new milestone in the Asean–China strategic partnership. The pact further strengthens ties by expanding tariff reductions, improving market access for key sectors and enhancing cooperation on critical supply chains, technology and sustainable trade practices.

For Malaysia, China has remained its largest trading partner for 16 consecutive years, with bilateral trade reaching RM161.98 billion as of April 2025, driven largely by electrical and electronics exports. The pact is expected to provide Malaysian exporters with greater access to China's market while also spurring joint investments in strategic sectors.

Asean–China ties built on trust, guided by peace: PM

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia and China reaffirmed their close ties at the Asean–China Summit, with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim underscoring trust, dialogue and cooperation as the cornerstones of regional stability.

In his opening remarks, Anwar welcomed Chinese Premier Li Qiang and highlighted the importance of Asean centrality.

"If people are curious, the day before we were with United States President Donald Trump and today we are back with China. This reflects Asean centrality," he said, commending Asean members for maintaining friendly relations with all major powers.

Anwar noted the significance of the upgraded ACFTA 3.0, calling it a milestone in economic cooperation and a key step forward in regional integration.

On Facebook, Anwar shared that his meeting with Li focused on strengthening bilateral trade and investment.

"The meeting further cements Malaysia–China friendship built on trust and mutual respect – a symbol of a stronger bilateral relationship that contributes to regional stability."

He reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to expanding high-value exports in sectors such as electronics, aerospace, medical technology, renewable energy, and oil and gas under the Belt and Road Initiative.

Key projects including the Automotive Hi-Tech Valley in Tanjung Malim (a product of Proton–Geely cooperation), the East Coast Rail Link expansion and port collaborations were also discussed. Anwar said these projects could position Malaysia as a regional logistics and maritime hub.

He also welcomed continued Chinese investment in digital, semiconductor and green technology.

The meeting also covered regional peace efforts, including the Kuala Lumpur Peace Accord between Cambodia and Thailand.

"Premier Li expressed China's support for the peace efforts – a triumph of Asean diplomacy in upholding peace through trust and dialogue," Anwar wrote.

BRICS bid to broaden reach beyond domain of West

Move for full membership part of wider push to diversify alliances, strengthen Global South ties and assert independent economic voice: Analysts

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's push for full BRICS membership is being read as a bold geopolitical statement – one that signals its intent to reshape its global standing, amplify its voice in international decision-making and chart a more independent economic future, analysts said.

The move, they added, reflects Kuala Lumpur's growing confidence on the world stage as it seeks to strengthen alliances beyond the traditional Western orbit while preserving its long-held policy of neutrality.

Universiti Teknologi Mara Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies senior lecturer Shahidah Abdul Razak said Malaysia's goal is to position itself as an "interlocutor of all" – engaging both the United States and BRICS nations to advance national interests without siding exclusively with any major power.

"Malaysia's full BRICS membership would enhance its diplomatic influence, particularly among Global South nations.

"It provides a louder voice in multilateral decision-making, access to alternative economic platforms and an opportunity to champion equitable growth while contributing to a rebalanced global economic architecture."

She said the move is consistent with Malaysia's long-standing "neutral but active" foreign policy.

"Historically, Malaysia's diplomacy has been rooted in neutrality and maintaining peaceful relations with all countries.

"BRICS is an expansion of our strategic and economic horizons, not a departure from our non-aligned stance."

However, Shahidah warned that Malaysia could face diplomatic pushback from Washington, given United States President Donald Trump's outspoken criticism of the bloc.

"Malaysia might face subtle pressure, especially since some US trade agreements include clauses requiring consultation on new deals affecting US interests.

"Officials, however, have reaffirmed their commitment to BRICS cooperation while maintaining strong US ties."

Universiti Kuala Lumpur Business School economist Associate Professor Dr Aimi Zulhazmi Abdul Razak said full BRICS membership could open the door to significant economic gains.

"Becoming a full member will propel Malaysia to a different position globally.

"BRICS is rapidly emerging as an influential trade bloc, offering access to new markets, technological collaboration and protection against global trade volatility – particularly under policies like those enacted by Trump."

Aimi said the founding BRICS members – China, India, Brazil, Russia and South Africa – offer vast market potential and abundant natural resources.

"Membership allows Malaysia to diversify away from traditional Western markets, expand trade coalitions and explore broader market access.

"Through Brazil and South Africa, Malaysia can also establish export bases for South America and Africa, enabling long-term economic growth."

He added that Malaysia's role in global supply chains, particularly in semiconductors, would enable it to leverage BRICS participation without undermining Western trade partnerships.

"Even amid political tensions, trading networks remain resilient. Malaysia's diversification could further attract foreign investment," Aimi said.

From a trade and strategic perspective, economist Professor Geoffrey Williams cautioned that Malaysia must also navigate possible legal constraints under existing US agreements.

"Malaysia has a multipolar trade policy, so BRICS membership is a natural step in building diverse trade relationships.

"It will only affect US relations if it breaches the National Security clause of the latest reciprocal trade agreement."

Williams pointed to the recent reciprocal trade deal between the US and Malaysia – specifically Section 5: Economic and National Security, Article 5.1 which obliges Malaysia to adopt measures aligned with US restrictions on third countries.

"This clause is aimed at stopping transhipment of Chinese goods to undercut market prices.

"It would also bind Malaysia to impose similar sanctions against China as those imposed by the US. It's potentially very serious and reduces Malaysia's autonomy in trade and investment."

Ultimately, Shahidah said, Malaysia's move towards BRICS reflects a broader strategic vision to strengthen its influence in global governance and reinforce its role within the Global South.

"The rationale is to diversify markets, attract foreign investment and secure a stronger voice in global economic debates," she added.

IMF lauds role of M'sia in regional bloc

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has played a key role in strengthening ties and integration among Asean countries, contributing to the bloc's economic progress, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan said IMF views Asean as a region with "significant potential that is developing well".

"IMF's feedback is that Asean is a region with a lot of potential and has been progressing well," he told Bernama after accompanying Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in a bilateral meeting with IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva.

He said the IMF recognised Malaysia's success in fostering closer relations within Asean. "If those relations improve and integration increases, God willing, our economies will thrive."

He added that the IMF also recognised Malaysia's role at the 47th Asean Summit, noting that the event had "truly elevated Asean and Malaysia on the world stage".

Bank Negara Malaysia Governor Datuk Seri Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour, who also attended the meeting, said IMF acknowledged Asean's growing regional cooperation.

He added that the summit had become a crucial meeting platform for global leaders, further enhancing Malaysia's standing internationally.

BY **IKHWAN ZULKAFLEE , HARITH KAMAL** AND **KIRTINEE RAMESH**

Anwar defends Asean relevance, achievements

Focus on solid economic fundamentals attracts major powers and investors to bloc, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has defended Asean's relevance and achievements amid criticism that the bloc remains ineffective, adding that it continues to stand out as one of the most peaceful and fastest-growing regions in the world.

Speaking at the close of the 47th Asean Summit, he said Malaysia's chairmanship had built upon the bloc's longstanding record of stability and cooperation.

"What is critical in any regional body is to secure peace, and Asean is now considered one of the most peaceful regions in the world."

He also said Asean's focus on solid economic fundamentals made it one of the fastest-growing regions globally, attracting major powers and investors alike.

"Because it is peaceful, it has enormous potential to propel economic growth. We have made progress, including on the Asean Power Grid, connectivity and intra-Asean trade and investments."

He said Malaysia had sought to broaden Asean's outreach beyond its traditional partners, adding that the bloc should not overlook Africa and Latin America.

"We consider them great friends. Both President Lula da Silva (Brazil) and President Cyril Ramaphosa (South Africa) are my friends, and we want to deepen investment ties with them."

On the absence of a joint statement from the East Asia Summit, Anwar said the lack of consensus reflected current global tensions but also demonstrated Asean's continued commitment to engagement.

"They may agree or disagree, but the consensus within Asean is to ensure there is engagement. We should not stop engaging."

He reaffirmed Malaysia's neutral stance on regional security, adding that no foreign military presence would be allowed to act provocatively in Malaysian waters.

"Our maritime policy is consistent with Asean centrality... engaging all, without aligning against anyone."

Anwar said Malaysia's balanced and moderate foreign policy, engaging both the United States and China as well as other global partners, was aimed at safeguarding the nation's image, economy and people's welfare.

"Some say we are too close to China, others say we welcome America too much. But we maintain good ties with everyone because trade and investment from these countries benefit Malaysians."

He described the inclusion of Timor-Leste as Asean's 11th member as a "historic and emotional moment", adding that Malaysia fully supports its admission regardless of economic status.

On Myanmar, Anwar reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to the Asean Five-Point Consensus, saying Putrajaya's engagement with both the military leadership and other stakeholders helped reduce violence.

"The situation is far from ideal, but fewer massacres and displacements are happening now compared with two or three years ago."

Anwar also dismissed criticism over the presence of United States President Donald Trump at the summit, adding that the occasion was used to convey Malaysia's firm stand on Palestine.

He said he had a private four-eye discussion with Trump inside the US presidential limousine.

"I told him directly, thank you for stopping the attacks (ceasefire), but a comprehensive solution must include recognising the rights and sovereignty of the Palestinian people."



THESUN GRAPHICS BY HARITH KAMAL

Malaysia officially passes chairmanship to Philippines

KUALA LUMPUR: The curtain came down on the 47th Asean Summit and Related Summits yesterday as Malaysia officially handed over the Asean chairmanship to the Republic of the Philippines, marking the close of a year of major milestones in regional cooperation and diplomacy.

During the closing ceremony at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim symbolically passed the Asean gavel to Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr, whose country will assume the chairmanship beginning Jan 1, 2026.

In his closing remarks, Anwar reflected on Asean's resilience amid global uncertainty, adding that the bloc must "be steadfast amid the stirrings and frenzies of the hour".

"That must be Asean's way if we are to endure," he said, urging member states to remain guided by reason, patience and unity in addressing regional challenges.

He said no single chairmanship could right every wrong, but persistence and shared purpose would ensure progress.

He also praised Asean leaders for their "collective courage and steady commitment" in steering the region closer to hope and justice.

Turning to his counterpart, Anwar expressed confidence that Asean would continue to act with "clarity, composure and the warmth and poise for which the Filipino people are known".

Quoting Jose Rizal, he added: "It is a useless life that is not consecrated to a great ideal, like a stone wasted on the field without becoming part of any edifice."

In response, Marcos commended Malaysia's "steady hands and warm hospitality", adding that Anwar's leadership proved that Asean achieves its greatest progress "when vision is matched with pragmatism".

"As your chairship concludes, the Philippines is honoured to take on the responsibility of leading Asean from 2026.

"We are committed to carrying forward your momentum and implementing the Asean Community Vision 2045 with purpose and resolve."

He said the Philippines' upcoming chairmanship, themed "Navigating Our Future Together," would focus on peace, prosperity and people as the pillars of Asean's shared journey.

"The Philippines will continue to fortify our peace and security anchors, strengthen our prosperity corridors and advance people empowerment," he said, adding that Asean's integration must translate into tangible benefits for citizens.

Marcos also reaffirmed support for Timor-Leste's integration into Asean. He said the bloc's strength lies in dialogue, adherence to international law and cooperation amid "a defining moment marked by both promise and complexity".

"With our collective resolve, let us navigate into our future together."

The summit ended with the adoption of several key documents and agreements, including the Kuala Lumpur Peace Accord between Cambodia and Thailand and the launch of Asean Vision 2045: Our Shared Future.

This is Malaysia's fifth time leading Asean since the bloc's establishment in 1967, following its previous chairmanships in 1977, 1997, 2005 and 2015.

Health Ministry services vital to summit

KUALA LUMPUR: As world leaders gathered for the Asean Summit, the Health Ministry's medical operations quietly emerged as one of the most vital yet unseen pillars ensuring the high-profile event ran seamlessly.

Health Ministry Medical Protection Unit deputy director Dr Muhammad Yunus Tauhid Ahmad said his team handled nearly 480 cases since the summit began on Oct 21, from mild fevers to minor injuries, all without disrupting proceedings.

"Our services cover everything from basic treatment to life-threatening emergencies. Everyone comes through us first, it is like a hospital front line."

Two medical centres operated at the venue, one for delegates and another exclusively for VVIPs such as ministers and heads of state.

The VVIP centre offered added privacy and security, complete with CPR and intubation equipment, defibrillators and emergency drugs.

"So far, most cases have been mild... fever, cough, sore throat or stomachache.

"A few heart and asthma cases were referred to hospitals, along with minor falls and motorcade-related injuries," Muhammad Yunus told *theSun* on the closing day.

Smaller medical posts were also set up at hotels hosting world leaders, all supported by 30 ambulance teams stationed around summit venues and hotels.

"Each ambulance has five medical personnel, a specialist, a doctor, two paramedics and a driver. Our coverage begins at KLIA and continues throughout their stay."

In total, 512 Health Ministry personnel were on duty under three divisions – the Medical Team, providing on-site care and emergency response, the Food Safety Team, monitoring kitchens at venues and hotels, and the Public Health Team, overseeing disease control, outbreak prevention and vector management.

"These teams worked hand in hand with logistics and operations units across KLCC and participating hotels."

From the command centre, ambulance movements were tracked in real time through the Government Integrated Radio Network to coordinate swift responses.

"Officers were strategically placed to remove patients so the summit flow was not disrupted."





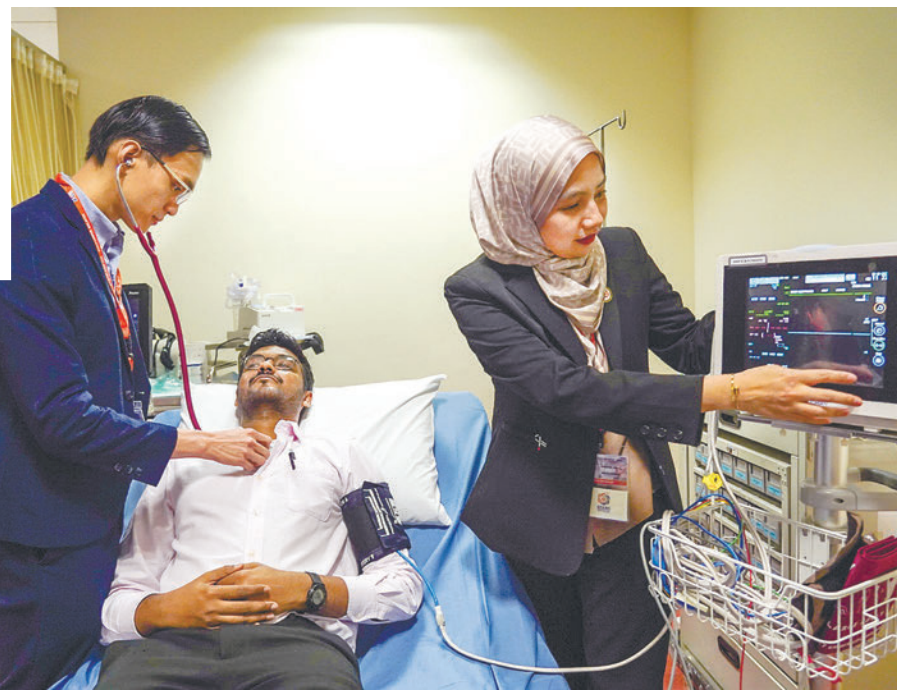
SECURITY SCAN ... Journalists and guests being checked at the International Media Centre before entering the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre for the 47th Asean Summit and Related Summits. – ***ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN***



LUMINARY LEADERS ... Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim with New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon at a luncheon hosted by New Zealand in conjunction with the 47th Asean Summit and Related Summits. Also present was the Sultan of Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Muiz'zaddin Wad'daulah. – ***BERNAMAPIC***



VEHICLE VOGUE ... Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim showing Chinese Premier Li Qiang the latest model of the Proton Saga. – ***BERNAMAPIC***



ON-SITE SERVICE ... A delegate being examined at a medical centre set up by the Health Ministry at the 47th Asean Summit venue. – ***ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN***



NEWSROOM NUCLEUS ... Local and international media personnel covering developments during the 47th Asean Summit at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. – ***ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN***



MUSICAL MOMENT ... Wife of the prime minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, accompanied by spouses of Asean leaders, applauding a traditional performance at an event held in conjunction with the Asean Summit at Carcosa Seri Negara in Kuala Lumpur. – ***BERNAMAPIC***

School year to resume January commencement

Realignment marks symbolic milestone for education system, signalling return to stability after Covid-19 pandemic

BY **AZURA ABAS**
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KUALA LUMPUR: The school year will officially resume its traditional January commencement with effect from next year, marking the final step in the Education Ministry's post-pandemic transition back to the original academic calendar.

Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek announced this yesterday, confirming that the 2026 academic year for national and government-aided schools would run from Jan 11 to Dec 31 for Group A states, and from Jan 12 to Dec 31 for those in Group B.

She said the new calendar, available for download via the ministry's portal, restores the pre-pandemic rhythm of the school year after several adjustments were made to accommodate disruptions caused by Covid-19.

She added that the realignment reflects the ministry's long-term plan to return to a consistent schedule familiar to students, parents and teachers.

Fadhlina said the gradual return to the January–December schedule has been carried out "in a phased and orderly manner" without disrupting school operations, showing the result of meticulous planning, ongoing reviews and unwavering commitment from educators nationwide.

"This effort reflects the ministry's firm resolve to prioritise the wellbeing of pupils, teachers and the wider school community.

"We wanted to make sure the transition was smooth and did not cause unnecessary stress for schools or families," she said.

The ministry first announced in 2023 that the academic calendar would gradually revert to a January timeline by 2026, following years of term shifts that saw schools reopening as late as March.

During that period, academic sessions were repeatedly adjusted to make up for the months lost during pandemic lockdowns, resulting in overlapping terms and shortened breaks.

Education Director-General Datuk Pkharuddin Ghazali previously said the curriculum would remain unaffected despite the realignment, adding that lessons had been structured to ensure pupils could complete the syllabus as scheduled.

With the official schedule available online, parents, teachers and students could now plan their activities and holidays more effectively as the school year returns to familiar settings.

A parent, who asked to be known only as Christopher, said reverting to the January roster makes a lot of sense, especially in terms of planning and coordination.

"It is important and good to get the school term back to the pre-Covid era. It aligns everything at the start of the year. Many parents will breathe easier after this announcement. We can now better manage matters involving our children's education," the 50-year-old businessman said.

He added that when school terms kept shifting, it was difficult to even plan for family holidays or extracurricular activities.

For 13-year-old Awwal, the change is welcome and timely.

"I think it is fine. Otherwise, it is confusing for my parents to plan my studies and sports activities. The constant changes affected our family holidays. The goalposts kept moving and even I (was affected)," he said.

The return to the January school year marks a symbolic milestone for the education system, signalling a return to stability after years of adjustments and uncertainty brought about by the pandemic.



With the official schedule available online, parents, teachers and students can now plan their activities and holidays more effectively as the school year returns to familiar settings. – ***AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN***

Ministry drafting policies to boost media literacy

KUALA LUMPUR: The Communications Ministry is drafting several new frameworks and policies, including an Anti-Fake News Act, ethical guidelines for social media influencers and a framework for artificial intelligence in the media sector.

Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil said the biggest challenge today is the spread of misinformation and disinformation, which not only distort the information ecosystem, but also threaten social harmony and national security.

"The Ipsos Digital 2025 report shows that Malaysians spend an average of eight hours a day online, making us among the region's most active internet users. However, with this digital freedom comes great responsibility."

He said the ministry received more than 15,000 complaints related to harmful content, fake news and cybercrime last year, reflecting the need for media literacy and responsible communication.

The text of his speech was read by his secretary-general Datuk Seri Mohamad Fauzi Md Isa at the 19th Biennial International Conference on Media and Communications event yesterday, organised by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

Fahmi said the ministry has adopted the "social and behavioural change communication" approach in national campaigns.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, strategic communication played a key role in boosting vaccination rates while environmental campaigns on solid waste management and reducing single-use plastics have shown tangible results.

He outlined five focus areas to strengthen the media landscape under the Malaysia Madani agenda, namely enhancing media literacy, promoting intercultural communication, strengthening health communication, empowering youth advocacy and fostering collaboration between government, academia, the media and civil society.

The conference gathered more than 80 participants from Malaysia and abroad to discuss the topic "Media and Communication for Change: Advancing Societal Transformation and Wellbeing". – Bernama

Drug trafficking syndicate busted

KUALA LUMPUR: Police crippled a drug trafficking syndicate following the arrest of two individuals and the seizure of narcotics worth more than half a million ringgit in a raid at a condominium parking area along Jalan Klang Lama on Saturday.

Kuala Lumpur police chief Datuk Fadil Marsus said a team from the Kuala Lumpur police contingent headquarters Narcotics Crime Investigation Department arrested a 47-year-old man and a 56-year-old woman.

"The raid was conducted at 3.30pm and a search of a car used by the suspects led to the discovery of 18.5kg of suspected dried *ganja* flowers, estimated to be worth RM553,500."

He said preliminary investigations revealed that the syndicate, believed to have been active since August, had been using the condominium parking area as a cover for its drug transactions to avoid detection.

He also said the syndicate was operating in the Klang Valley area.

Fadil added that initial urine screenings showed that the suspects tested negative for drugs, but further checks revealed that the man has two criminal records under Section 380 of the Penal Code and Section 29 of the Minor Offences Act 1955.

"The suspects have been remanded from Sunday to Friday to assist investigations under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952, which carries the death penalty or life imprisonment and not less than 12 strokes of the cane upon conviction," he said.

Fadil urged the public to share any information on drug trafficking activities by contacting the department hotline at 012-208 7222. – Bernama

Man sought to assist in murder probe

BUTTERWORTH: Police are searching for a local man to assist in investigations into the murder of an individual whose body was stuffed into a suitcase near the Ampang Jajar Flats in Permatang Pauh on Oct 9.

North Seberang Perai district police chief ACP Anuar Abdul Rahman said the man sought has been identified as Ong Wei Hai, 41, and his last address was A-7-07 Villa Tanjung, Jalan Villa Tanjung in Butterworth.

"Police are appealing for the cooperation of those who have information about the man or the case to contact investigation officer ASP Norhaslinda Rahmat at 04-576 2222 (ext 2275) or the nearest police station to assist in the probe."

He said the case is being investigated under Section 302 of the Penal Code for murder. – Bernama

Cops investigating baby dumping case

PETALING JAYA: Police are tracking down an individual who abandoned a newborn girl outside a house in Subang Jaya on Monday.

District police chief ACP Wan Azlan Wan Mamat said information was received from the public about the discovery of the baby next to a house in Jalan USJ 9/5K, Subang Jaya at 10.27am.

He said preliminary investigations revealed the infant was found inside a blue bag, unclothed, with the umbilical cord covered in blood, Bernama reported.

"The girl was taken to the Shah Alam Hospital for further treatment and an examination found that she weighs 2.6kg, is 43cm long, and is in a healthy and stable condition."

He also said the case is being investigated under Section 317 of the Penal Code for concealment of birth, and those who have information regarding the incident are requested to contact investigating officer Insp B. Vanithabdi at 017-222 9832 or the Subang Jaya district police headquarters at 03-7862 7222.

'Kebaya Unesco' highlights unity

Each piece in collection features motifs inspired by national flowers, symbolic colours and cultural elements: Designer



Lim spent about six months completing the exclusive six-piece collection, with five *kebaya* outfits representing each nation and one signature creation combining elements from all five. – ***BERNAMAPIC***

KUALA LUMPUR: Last year marked a historic moment for Asean when five member states, namely Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand, joined efforts to secure the inscription of *kebaya* as an intangible cultural heritage by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco).

The recognition not only cemented *kebaya's* place as a shared cultural legacy of the region, but also reflected the collective spirit of Asean countries in preserving and celebrating their traditional attire for future generations.

For local Nyonya *kebaya* designer Lim Yu Lin, 55, the spirit of unity among the five countries became a source of inspiration for her special collection "Kebaya Unesco".

Lim, who was directly involved in the nomination process, spent about six months completing the exclusive six-piece collection, with five *kebayas* representing each nation and one signature creation combining elements from all five.

"When the National Heritage Department approached me to design the *kebaya* for the joint nomination, I realised that *kebaya* transcends race and borders. It is not the heritage of one people or country alone. It is our shared cultural fabric. That is the message I wanted to express through my designs," Lim said during an embroidery demonstration and briefing session on the "Kebaya Unesco" collection for spouses of Asean leaders, held in conjunction with the 47th Asean Summit and Related Summits at Carcosa Seri Negara on Monday.

She explained that each *kebaya* in the collection features distinctive motifs inspired by national flowers, symbolic colours and cultural elements while remaining faithful to the Nyonya *kebaya* style, a heritage passed down through her family's Ang Eng brand for over seven decades.

"I have always stayed true to the Nyonya *kebaya* because it represents the roots of my family business and the tradition I wish to continue," said Lim, a third-generation artisan of Ang Eng, founded in 1955.

Malaysia's *kebaya* features lush green tones representing tropical rainforests, embroidered with hibiscus flowers and Malayan tiger motifs.

Brunei's design combines black and white with motifs of the *Simpoh* flower, the royal palace and floating boats, while Indonesia's *kebaya* radiates golden hues with Rafflesia embroidery and the majestic Garuda.

Singapore's *kebaya* highlights the orchid and Merlion icons while Thailand's design features pink tones adorned with elephant and *tuk-tuk* motifs, both of which are synonymous with the country's charm and culture.

Lim said the collection received international praise when it was showcased in Asuncion, Paraguay in December 2024 as part of the Unesco nomination campaign, with delegates commending its message of unity through craftsmanship.

To her, *kebaya* is more than attire – it is a living expression of cultural connection and identity, Bernama reported.

"*Kebaya* is for everyone – Malay, Chinese, Indian and Nyonya, as it symbolises unity. I am proud to present this collection on the Asean stage to show that *kebaya* is not just clothing, but also a heritage that unites us," she said.

"I am touched to see more young people embracing *kebaya* today, not just for festive or national occasions, but also in their daily lives. It is proof that our heritage continues to thrive," she added.

Malaysia, through the Tourism, Arts and Culture Ministry and the National Heritage Department, led the joint nomination of "Kebaya: Knowledge, Skills, Traditions and Practices" campaign to Unesco on March 28, 2023.

Following a series of promotional efforts by all five countries, *kebaya* was officially inscribed on Dec 4, 2024 during the 19th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Paraguay.

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Campaigning begins in Myanmar general election

Balloting to be held in phases from Dec 28


Election campaign billboards have sprung up across Yangon ahead of the polls. – ***AFPPIC***

YANGON: Parties approved to take part in elections started campaigning in Myanmar yesterday, two months ahead of a poll being shunned at home and abroad as a ploy to legitimise military rule.

Myanmar has been consumed by civil war since the military snatched power in a 2021 coup, deposing and jailing democratic figurehead Aung San Suu Kyi after her party won the last election by wide margins.

The military has lost swathes of the country to pro-democracy guerillas and powerful ethnic-minority armed factions, but has touted elections as a path to reconciliation.

Rebels have pledged to boycott the vote in huge enclaves they control, while human rights groups and a UN expert have denounced the poll's restrictive conditions in military-held zones.

"This election means nothing to me," said one 60-year-old man in Sittwe city, the capital of western Rakhine state. "It is not a genuine election and I see no one supporting it."

"People are struggling with their own problems," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity for security reasons in a region where fighting has triggered a humanitarian crisis.

"I see more and more beggars in town as people are starving. People have no jobs and so the election seems like a distant prospect. They have no time to be interested in it."

There will be 57 parties on the ballot when polls take place in phases beginning on Dec 28.

Suu Kyi's popular National League for Democracy, which won 82% of elected seats in the last poll in 2020, will not be among them, because the government dissolved the party after jailing her and making allegations of voter fraud.

The pro-military Union Solidarity and Development Party plans to begin its campaign by unveiling election billboards in the capital Naypyidaw, while party adverts will air on state media in the evening.

However campaigning is expected to be generally low-key with high security amid the civil war.

"It is unlikely I will go for voting and I have no idea if I am on the voter list," said one civilian displaced by fighting to the central city of Mandalay, speaking anonymously for security reasons.

"We are not very interested. We just want to go home," he said.

Asean will not send observers to the election.

Numerous rights groups lobbied the "11-nation bloc to hold back monitors, lest they lend legitimacy to a vote which they say is critically flawed. – AFP

Indonesian govt projects to get cheaper funding

JAKARTA: Indonesia has drawn up new rules that will allow the central government to lend to local authorities and state-owned enterprises to support development projects.

According to a copy of the new regulation, signed last month but made public this week, such loans could be granted after taking into account potential risks as well as the central government's financial capacity.

The policy is designed to provide cheaper funding for central government infrastructure projects and other development programmes carried out by provincial and district governments.

President Prabowo Subianto has cut the "regional autonomy" funds to be paid to local governments next year to US$41.82 billion (RM175.67 billion), down 20%, a decision that has drawn criticism from provincial and district leaders.

Local leaders have said they may have to raise local taxes to make up the shortfall.

Prabowo has reduced next year's transfers to local governments to make space for his priority policies, including a flagship programme to give free meals to 83 million children and pregnant women.

He has also sought to raise defence spending while keeping the annual fiscal deficit under the legally binding ceiling of 3% of GDP.

Any loan to be funded by the central government's budget, must be approved by parliament and must have a tenure longer than 12 months. Any loan proposed by a local government must also be approved by its own parliament.

Borrowers must show healthy financial metrics and state-owned firms, will need the approval of stakeholders.– Reuters


An Afghan border guard manning a checkpoint in Spin Boldak, Kandahar province. – ***AFPPIC***

Afghanistan, Pakistan peace talks break down

ISLAMABAD: Talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan in Istanbul to broker a long-term truce have ended without a resolution, two sources familiar with the matter said yesterday.

The talks aimed to reach lasting peace between the South Asian neighbours after dozens were killed along their border in the worst such violence since the change in Afghan government in 2021.

Both agreed to a ceasefire brokered in Doha on Oct 19, but could not find common ground in a second round of talks mediated by Turkiye and Qatar in Istanbul, said Afghan and Pakistani sources briefed on the issue.

A Pakistani security source said Kabul had been unwilling to commit to reining in a group hostile to Pakistan that Islamabad says operates with impunity inside Afghanistan.

An Afghan source familiar with the talks said they had ended after "tense exchanges" over the issue, adding that the Afghan side said it had no control over the group, which has launched attacks against Pakistani troops in recent weeks.

The sources sought anonymity as they were not authorised to speak publicly.

Afghan and Pakistani government spokespersons did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The October clashes began after Pakistani airstrikes this month on Kabul, the Afghan capital, among other locations, targeting the head of a group hostile to Pakistan.

Afghanistan responded with attacks on Pakistani military posts along the length of the 2,600km border.

The breakdown in talks that have caught the attention of President Donald Trump, could strain the ceasefire.

On Saturday, Pakistan's defence minister said he believed Afghanistan wanted peace but that failure to reach an agreement in Istanbul would mean "open war".

Despite a ceasefire, weekend clashes killed five Pakistani soldiers and 25 gunmen, the military said on Sunday. – Reuters

BRIEFS

HSIEN LOONG URGES STRONGER TRADE TIES

SINGAPORE: Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Monday called on countries to strengthen cooperation and not give up on the World Trade Organisation (WTO), as global trade faces rising fragmentation and geopolitical competition. "Do not give up on the WTO," Lee said at a dialogue in London. Though the WTO has shortcomings, nations could still act within its framework because it represents "a certain ideal, a certain conception of the way we should work together". "On trade within regions, we ought to work to enhance cooperation and bring down obstacles." Lee stressed the importance of linking different regions. "You want to link up between blocs so that you can work together and have a network, a web which encompasses the world." – Bernama

ABE SHOOTER PLEADS GUILTY TO MURDER

NARA: A man indicted for killing former Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe in 2022 pleaded guilty to the charge yesterday. Tetsuya Yamagami, 45, is accused of murdering Abe with a homemade firearm during an election stump speech in western Japan. The Nara District Court will hold hearings before ruling on the case in January. Yamagami has told investigators that he committed the crime due to a grudge he held against the Unification Church over the financial ruin caused to his family as a result of massive donations, some ¥100 million (RM2.8 million), that his mother made to the group. Police sources said Abe was targeted as his grandfather, ex- premier Nobusuke Kishi, helped introduce the group to Japan. – Bernama

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SCAN ME

Meta, TikTok comply with social media ban

Law takes effect Dec 10

SYDNEY: Instagram owner Meta and other social media firms said yesterday they will comply with a ban on users under the age of 16, adding that they will start deactivating accounts once the law takes effect on Dec 10.

In parliament, Meta, TikTok owner ByteDance and Snapchat owner Snap said they continued to believe the ban would not protect young people, but they would soon reach out to owners of more than a million underage accounts to prepare them for the change.

Their comments represented a shift in the social media industry's response to the law, which is being watched by lawmakers around the world as concern grows about youth mental health.

Under the Australian law, platforms must take "reasonable steps" to block users aged less than 16 or face a fine of up to A$49.5 million (RM136 million).

The platforms previously argued that the ban would drive young people to more dangerous corners of the internet that are poorly monitored, as well as deprive young people of social contact.

They also said that implementation would be unnecessarily complex. Snap and Google-owned YouTube have also argued they aren't social media companies.

"We don't agree, but we accept and we will abide by the law," said Jennifer Stout, Snap's senior vice-president of global policy and platform operations, via a video link.

Ella Woods-Joyce, TikTok's public policy lead for Australia, reiterated the Chinese-owned platform's opposition to the ban but said "TikTok will comply with the law and meet its obligations."

"We are on track to meet our compliance," she said.

Mia Garlick, Meta's policy director for Australia and New Zealand, said the company would soon approach holders of accounts confirmed to be under 16 – about 450,000 across Instagram and Facebook – to give them a choice between deleting their photos and other data or offering to store it until they turned 16.

TikTok, which says it has 200,000 under-16 accounts in Australia, and Snap, which says it has 440,000 under-16 accounts, said they would take similar steps. The companies said that they would use behaviour-tracking software to determine if an account holder claiming to be over 16 was underage.

"Where we identify someone that is saying they're 25 but the behaviours would indicate that they're below 16, from Dec 10 we will have those accounts deactivated," Woods-Joyce said.

For users incorrectly deemed to be under 16, Meta and TikTok said they would refer them to a third-party age-estimation tool. Snap said it was still working on a solution for users who believed they were incorrectly blocked. – Reuters



(From left) Odicio, Maipatxi Apurina, head of Land Monitoring at The Coordination of Indigenous Organisations of the Brazilian Amazon, Gere and Lucas Manchineri, president of the Manchineru people's organisation at the launch of the report in London. – ***REUTERSPIC***

'Half of isolated indigenous peoples face extinction'

LONDON: Almost half of indigenous communities living cut off from the world face extinction within the decade due to logging, mining and tourism, the NGO Survival International warned on Monday.

"We really want the world and particularly governments and industries to recognise and address this as a global emergency," Survival International's executive director Caroline Pearce told a press conference in London, attended by US actor and long-time supporter of indigenous peoples Richard Gere.

Some 196 peoples and groups, referred to as "uncontacted" due to their desire to live voluntarily isolated from other human societies, have been identified in 10 countries, according to the NGO's report.

More than 90% of them live in the Amazon rainforest, mainly in Brazil, but groups have also been recorded in Indonesia and India.

"The threats to almost half are so severe that they could be wiped out in the next 10 years," the report warned.

The Kakataibo community of Peru's Ucayali region faces one of the most uncertain futures.

Kakataibo community member Herlin Odicio does not live in isolation and instead campaigns on his people's behalf, notably against the illegal logging and cocoa cultivation that threaten them.

"In Peru, the government is erasing the laws that protect indigenous rights," he told the press conference, warning the community could be facing "extermination".

"We are not asking the government for a favour. This is an ancestral right," he said.

Indigenous rights, particularly land rights, are protected under international law, and although national legislation exists, "implementation is often weak", the NGO said.

In Indonesia, the growing exploitation of nickel to meet surging demand for electric vehicle batteries is endangering the nomadic hunter gatherer people of the Hongana Manyawa community, the report said.

"We in the industrialised world ... view (indigenous peoples) as unfortunate collateral damage while we plunder their allowance for cars and houses and energy, jewellery, entertainment," said actor Gere, recalling his childhood next to a native American reservation in New York State.

In April, Indian authorities arrested a US tourist attempting to approach the Sentinelese community, who live on an island where no one is allowed to go. – AFP

BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA FERRIES IMMIGRANTS TO ATOLL

SYDNEY: Australia has started ferrying immigrants to the barren Pacific nation of Nauru under a contentious deal signed this year, Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke said yesterday. A cohort of around 350 immigrants – many of them convicted of serious crimes including assault, drug smuggling and even murder – could eventually be sent to the low-lying atoll after Australia failed to resettle them elsewhere. "Nauru confirmed last Friday that the first transfer had occurred," Burke said in a statement. Burke did not detail how many immigrants had been sent to Nauru. For years the group languished inside Australia's immigration detention system after their visas were cancelled for violent crimes or because officials held other concerns. – AFP

12 FEARED DEAD IN KENYA LIGHT AIRCRAFT CRASH

NAIROBI: A small plane travelling from Kenya's coast crashed yesterday, according to the country's aviation authority, with the 12 people on board feared dead. The small plane was en route to Kichwa Tembo, a private airstrip in the Maasai Mara National Park, from the tourist hotspot of Diani when it came down at around 5.30am local time (10.30am in Malaysia). "The aircraft had 12 persons on board," a statement from the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority said. It gave no further details, but said that government agencies were already on site to establish the cause of the accident. In August, a light aircraft belonging to the medical NGO Amref crashed on the outskirts of capital Nairobi, killing six and injuring two more. – AFP

Jamaica braces for *Hurricane Melissa*

KINGSTON: Jamaican officials urged the public to get to higher ground and shelters ahead of *Hurricane Melissa's* expected landfall, with the prime minister warning it could bring massive devastation.

The Category 5 storm, which could be the island's most violent on record, is charting a painstakingly slow path through the Caribbean, and has already been blamed for three deaths in Jamaica, three deaths in Haiti and one in the Dominican Republic.

The US National Hurricane Center reported that *Melissa* was still 240km from Kingston late on Monday, and reaching maximum wind speeds of 282 kph.

Its heavy rains combined with intense winds could wreak devastation on par with historic hurricanes, including 2017's *Maria* or 2005's *Katrina*, which left indelible impacts on Puerto Rico and the US city of New Orleans.

Local Government Minister Desmond McKenzie said on Monday evening that of the island's 880-odd shelters standing by, only 133 were hosting locals.

They "should be seeing people now", McKenzie said, adding: "I want to urge persons in these parishes to get to high ground as quickly as possible."

Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness said the island's western end faced the worst destruction.

"I don't believe there is any infrastructure within this region that could withstand a Category 5 storm, so there could be significant dislocation," he told CNN. – AFP



A firefighter extinguishes a fire at the site where three Palestinians were killed, near Jenin. – ***REUTERSPIC***

Three Palestinians killed in raid near West Bank city

Trio planning attack, says Israel

KAFR QUD: Israeli forces killed three Palestinians described as members of a "terrorist cell" during a raid near the occupied West Bank city of Jenin yesterday, police said.

The operation in the village of Kafr Qud was carried out jointly by the army and the police's elite counter terrorism unit, Yamam.

"During an offensive operation conducted by Yamam forces in the Kafr Qud area of the Menashe sector, the fighters acted to neutralise a terrorist cell that was planning an attack and was part of a terrorist organisation active in the Jenin refugee camp," Israeli police said.

"The forces spotted members of the cell emerging from a cave. The unit's snipers then opened precise fire, killing the three terrorists," they said.

The army later launched an airstrike on the cave to destroy the "terrorist hideout", the police said.

The Ramallah-based Palestinian Health Ministry identified the three men, all in their 20s, as Abdullah Mohammed Omar Jalamneh, Qais Ibrahim Mohammed Al-Beitawi and Ahmed Azmi Aref Nashrati.

AFP footage showed firefighters extinguishing flames on the mangled remains of a car and nearby olive trees in Kafr Qud, as well as onlookers examining mattresses and personal belongings inside a cave.

Defence Minister Israel Katz hailed the operation, warning that "any attempt by terrorist organisations to rebuild their infrastructure in Judea and Samaria will be crushed with an iron fist".

"I have ordered the IDF (army) to take all necessary measures, on the ground and from the air, to eliminate terrorist threats in Judea and Samaria and the terrorists themselves," he said, using the Israeli biblical term for the West Bank.

The Israeli military launched a large-scale campaign last winter across several northern West Bank refugee camps shortly after a brief ceasefire took effect in the Gaza Strip, aiming to suppress Palestinian groups.

Tens of thousands of Palestinians have since been displaced in the West Bank, where Israel has demolished dozens of homes and buildings.

Violence in the territory has surged since the war in Gaza erupted on Oct 7, 2023.

A new ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect on Oct 10, mediated by the United States, Egypt and Qatar.

At least 988 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank by Israeli forces or settlers since the start of the war in Gaza.

During the same period, 43 Israelis, including soldiers, have been killed in Palestinian attacks, according to official Israeli figures.

More than 500,000 Israelis live in settlements in the West Bank, which Israel has occupied since 1967. – AFP

BRIEFS

RUSSIA TARGETS FOREIGN TROOPS FIGHTING FOR KYIV

MOSCOW: The Kremlin said yesterday that Russian troops were hearing foreign languages spoken by those fighting for Ukraine on the front line, and promised that such fighters would be "destroyed". Russia has long said that Nato military personnel have been present in Ukraine and that its eavesdropping services have picked up English and French being spoken repeatedly at the front lines. The US-led Nato military alliance says it supports Ukraine but has not deployed soldiers. US media reports indicate that US and leading European intelligence agencies have a significant presence in Ukraine. "Our military hears foreign speech, they constantly hear foreign languages at the front," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters when asked about claims that France was preparing to deploy some soldiers to Ukraine. "Our military will continue to do their job." – Reuters

PUTIN: EVERYTHING GOING TO PLAN WITH NORTH KOREA

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin asked North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui during talks in the Kremlin on Monday to tell her country's leader Kim Jong Un that everything was "going to plan" in bilateral relations. Putin and Kim sealed a strategic treaty last year, which included a defence pact, and North Korea has sent soldiers, artillery ammunition and missiles to Russia to support Moscow's military campaign. "We talked in detail in Beijing about our relations and prospects for development," Putin told Choe, referring to talks the Russian leader held with Kim during celebrations in the Chinese capital last month to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War Two in Asia. "Everything is going according to plan. Please convey my best wishes to him (Kim)." – Reuters

UN, France slam attack on peacekeepers

TEL AVIV: The United Nations and France on Monday condemned Israeli fire near UN peacekeeping troops in southern Lebanon, after an incident during which peacekeepers neutralised a reconnaissance drone.

"We are very concerned about the incident that occurred on Sunday in which an Israeli drone dropped a grenade near a Unifil patrol and an Israeli tank fired a shot at the peacekeepers in Kfar Kila," said UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric, referring to the incident in southern Lebanon.

"Our colleagues at Unifil are in touch with the IDF to protest vehemently what has happened. It's not the first time that we feel we've been targeted by the IDF (including) pointing lasers or warning shots. It's very, very dangerous," he said.

The UN peacekeeping force known as Unifil works with the Lebanese army to enforce the ceasefire agreement that ended more than a year of conflict between Lebanese group Hezbollah and Israel.

According to a French diplomatic source, the Unifil troops involved in Sunday's incident were French.

"France condemns the Israeli fire that targeted a Unifil detachment on Sunday," the French Foreign Ministry said in a separate statement.

It said that "these incidents follow those observed on Oct 1, 2, and 11, when the Israeli army had already targeted Unifil positions."

On Sunday, Unifil said a drone flew over its patrol in an "aggressive manner". "The peacekeepers applied countermeasures to neutralise the drone," it said in a statement.

The incident "shows disregard for safety and security of the peacekeepers implementing Security Council mandated tasks", it said.

Unifil later said another Israeli drone came close to its patrol operating near Kfar Kila and dropped a grenade.

"Moments later, an Israeli tank fired a shot towards the peacekeepers. Fortunately, no injury or damage was caused to the Unifil peacekeepers and assets," the statement added.

The Israeli army still occupies five positions in southern Lebanon, along the border with northern Israel, and despite the ceasefire continues to carry out strikes on Lebanese territory, claiming to target Hezbollah.

Israeli military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Nadav Shoshani said on X that "an intelligence-gathering drone was downed."

"An initial inquiry suggests that Unifil forces fired at the drone and downed it. The drone's activity did not pose a threat to Unifil forces," Shoshani wrote.

As part of last year's ceasefire deal, Israeli troops were to withdraw from southern Lebanon and Hezbollah was to pull back north of the Litani River and dismantle any military infrastructure in the south. – AFP

Hamas returns body of hostage

TEL AVIV: Hamas handed over the remains of a deceased hostage on Monday as the group came under increasing pressure to return its remaining deceased captives as promised under the Gaza ceasefire.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Israeli forces had received a coffin containing what Hamas said was the 16th of 28 bodies of hostages.

The Israeli military and security service were to take the coffin from Gaza to Israel, where it will be received in a military ceremony before being brought to the national forensic institute for identification and eventual return to the hostage's family.

"All of the hostages' families have been updated accordingly, and our hearts are with them in this difficult hour. The effort to return our hostages is ongoing and will not cease until the last hostage is returned," the statement said.

An informed source within Hamas confirmed the handover. "The body of an Israeli captive that was recovered today in the Gaza Strip has been handed over to the Red Cross," the source said.

The latest exchange came as senior Israeli officials and an association representing the families of the hostages demanded that Hamas speed up the transfer, which has slowed since it released its 20 living captives.

"Hamas knows exactly where every one of the deceased hostages is held. Two weeks have passed since the deadline for the return of all 48 hostages, yet 13 remain in Hamas captivity," the Hostages and Missing Families Forum said.

Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem protested that the claim that the group knows the location of the remaining missing bodies is "false", arguing that Israel's bombardment during the two-year conflict had left locations unrecognisable. – AFP



COMMENT by Dr Angelina Anne Fernandez

Safeguarding nation's plate

FOOD safety has become a growing concern in Malaysia, with an increasing number of food poisoning and foodborne illness cases reported each year.

Although the country is governed by the Food Act 1983 and the Food Regulations 1985, enforced by the Health Ministry (MOH), the reality is that incidents of food contamination continue to occur frequently.

According to the MOH Annual Food Safety Report, the number of food premises ordered to close rose from 1,300 in 2022 to 1,650 in 2024.

This statistic demonstrates that food safety problems are no longer isolated incidents but have evolved into systemic challenges affecting all levels of the food industry – from luxury restaurants to roadside stalls.

In several countries such as South Korea and Singapore, data-driven and artificial intelligence (AI)-based approaches are used to predict and prevent food contamination risks – a model that Malaysia could emulate.

Looking ahead, improving food safety in Malaysia should involve strengthening enforcement integrity, reforming outdated laws and empowering consumer rights.

Food safety encompasses every stage of the food process – from preparation, handling, to storage – that must be strictly observed by food producers and entrepreneurs.

Its primary goal is to protect consumers from various foodborne hazards, including physical, chemical and biological risks, throughout the food supply chain, from farm to table. Local authorities must also be mobilised comprehensively, as many cases of contaminated food occur at small-scale premises such as street stalls and home kitchens.

In Malaysia, various food safety standards and regulations have been established, with MOH's Food Safety and Quality Division (FSQD) serving as the main body responsible for food safety control.

Through frameworks such as the Food Act 1983 and Food Regulations 1985, the FSQD ensures nationwide compliance with food safety standards.

Among FSQD's key responsibilities are the implementation of national compliance projects, administration of food exports, pre-market approvals, food poisoning prevention activities, consumer communication and public engagement.

Hence, it is important to recognise that FSQD plays a critical role in reviewing, assuring quality and evaluating the enforcement of food safety monitoring measures.

Although the FSQD under MOH already monitors food quality from farm to table, further improvements are still necessary.

One of the main recommendations is to strengthen the powers of local authorities. Enforcement officers should be trained to utilise AI technology and computer simulations to enhance their ability to handle real-life scenarios. AI can also be used to identify high-risk locations or premises that are prone to food safety violations.

Additionally, MOH could develop a secure online complaint system. A mobile application could be introduced to allow the public to lodge complaints by uploading photos or videos of food premises.

AI technology could assist in detecting hygiene issues from the submitted images. Furthermore, MOH could implement digital food handler training, where food safety courses are conducted online using AI that adapts learning content according to each participant's level of understanding.

The integration of AI into Malaysia's food safety monitoring system represents a transformative shift in regulatory governance.

As the nation faces increasing reports of foodborne illnesses and contamination, traditional inspection methods – often manual, time-consuming and reactive – are proving insufficient to address modern challenges in a complex food supply chain.

AI-based monitoring provides a proactive and data-driven solution capable of predicting, detecting and preventing food safety risks before they escalate into public health crises.

> *"Looking ahead, improving food safety in Malaysia should involve strengthening enforcement integrity, reforming outdated laws and empowering consumer rights."*



According to Health Ministry's Annual Food Safety Report, the number of food premises ordered to close rose from 1,300 in 2022 to 1,650 in 2024. – ***BERNAMAPIC***

In the context of food safety enforcement, AI systems can analyse large datasets obtained from inspection records, consumer complaints, laboratory tests and even social media platforms to identify patterns or anomalies that suggest potential contamination.

For instance, predictive algorithms can forecast high-risk areas or premises based on environmental conditions, supply chain data and previous non-compliance history. This allows the FSQD and local authorities to prioritise inspections, allocate resources efficiently and respond more swiftly to emerging threats.

Moreover, AI-powered image recognition and computer vision technologies can be deployed through mobile applications or surveillance systems to detect hygiene violations in real time.

Food handlers and enforcement officers can use handheld devices or smart cameras to assess the cleanliness of kitchens, utensils, and food storage facilities.

Through deep learning, the AI system can automatically identify irregularities such as improper food handling, cross-contamination risks or pest presence — alerting authorities instantly and supporting evidence-based enforcement actions.

Food safety is not merely a public health issue but also a fundamental human right. In Malaysia, food safety laws must uphold this principle – that every plate of food represents a trust to protect the health of the people.

Management and Science University aligns with this modern development by offering technical and vocational education and training programmes that integrate AI technology with hygiene and food safety aspects.

Through these programmes, students are trained to use AI to monitor the cleanliness of food premises, detect contamination risks and analyse public health data to prevent foodborne diseases. This approach not only enhances technical competence but also supports the nation's effort to ensure safe and high-quality food for all Malaysians.

Dr Angelina Anne Fernandez *is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Business Management and Professional Studies, Management and Science University. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com*



When America goes to war with itself

AS President Donald Trump makes his way across Asia to further the other pillar of his Maga (Make America Great Again) mission, he appears to be enjoying the break away from the rancour of American politics hounding his current presidency.

His meme showing him raining sludge on his fellow Americans during the recent nationwide protest against his leadership and administration shows not only a leader who thinks the worst of his political opponents. It also reveals a badly fractured country at war with itself.



The protests were geographically widespread and involved millions of participants turning out at thousands of locations nationwide. This demonstrates a broad and deep opposition across many communities and states and confirms evidence from recent surveys and studies indicating that the United States is experiencing its most profound internal division and disunity in modern times.

The table summarises findings that illustrate the depth and nature of this division manifesting in record levels of political polarisation, mutual distrust between partisans and concerns about political violence.

Aspect of Division	Key Finding Source/Data Point
Overall National Direction:	68-point partisan gap on whether country is on the wrong track (highest on record) – PRRI, 2025
Perception of Leadership:	56% see Trump as a "dangerous dictator", 41% as a "strong leader" - PRRI, 2025
Political Violence:	85% of Americans believe politically motivated violence is increasing – Pew Research Centre, 2025
Desire vs Hope for Unity:	84% believe Americans should unite, but only 25% believe they will – YouGov/Economist, 2025

External threat bogeyman

The division and disunity in the US should not solely be a concern of the American people. It should also be a cause of concern for the rest of the world.

This is because the situation where internal division leads a government to focus on external targets to foster national unity through providing a distraction or fabricated threat is a well-recognised phenomenon in political history. The outcome is almost inevitably the ignition of needless and costly wars.

Political analysts and commentators, though not journalists employed by jingoistic media, have noted that external issues, such as tensions with countries labelled as adversaries, can serve to unite a divided political body or distract from domestic strife.

While it is difficult to prove that such a deliberate and coordinated strategy is taking place in the US today – Trump, to his credit, has been engaged in multiple peace-making efforts abroad – there are clear recent examples where Western leaders have leveraged focus on external adversaries, so as to paper over deep internal divisions.

Prominent recent examples categorised by the "external enemy" threat bogeyman include :

1. Focusing on Russia (especially post-2022 invasion of Ukraine)

The unified Western response to Russia's full-scale invasion has been a powerful tool for managing internal discord.

- ***Divisions distracted from:*** Soaring inflation, cost-of-living crises, energy shortages and pre-existing political polarisation (e.g., the aftermath of the Capitol riot in the US, Brexit fatigue in the UK, rise of far-right parties in Europe).
- ***Moral clarity and unity:*** The war provided a clear, morally unambiguous enemy in Russian President Vladimir Putin. Leaders like (former) US president Joe Biden and (former) UK prime minister Boris Johnson followed by other Western leaders used it to frame a narrative of a struggle between democracy and autocracy. This created a temporary, powerful sense of purpose that overshadowed domestic squabbles.
- ***Justifying economic pain:*** Soaring energy prices and inflation were partly a direct result of sanctions on Russia and disruption to energy markets. By framing these hardships as the "cost of defending freedom", governments have deflected blame from their own lack lustre domestic economic policies onto Putin.
- ***Revitalising Nato:*** The war effectively ended existential questions about Nato's purpose (famously called "brain dead" by French President Emmanuel Macron in 2019) and unified a fractious alliance, sidelining internal critics.

2. Focusing on China (The "Strategic Competition" framework)

The bipartisan focus on China as a strategic competitor has been used to advance anti-China domestic policy and mute internal criticism.

- ***Divisions distracted from:*** Intense political partisanship in the US economic pain resulting from deindustrialisation and supply chain vulnerabilities is increasingly attributed to China's overcapacity and state subsidies.
- ***Bipartisan consensus:*** In the deeply divided US Congress, the confrontation of China is one of the few issues – perhaps the only one – to generate strong bipartisan support. Legislation like the Chips and Science Act, which aims to boost US semiconductor manufacturing, was sold primarily as a national security measure against Chinese dominance, rather than just a domestic industrial policy.
- ***Economic grievance channelling:*** Economic anxieties about job losses, particularly in manufacturing, have been successfully channelled towards China by both Republican and Democratic administrations. This redirects blame from domestic policy failures to a scapegoat that most Americans, even the highly educated, can readily identify and denounce in the effort to rally around the flag.
- ***Human rights as a unifier:*** Highlighting China's treatment of Muslim Uyghurs and its governance in Hong Kong to create a unifying cause that distracts from domestic debates over human rights, race, religion and social justice.


The unified Western response to Russia's full-scale invasion has been a powerful tool for managing internal discord. – ***AFPPIC***

Targeting Venezuela

For now, the Trump administration is targeting President Nicolas Maduro's government as the immediate external enemy to take down.

Actions taken include:

- Designating the regime as a "narco-terrorist" entity and placing a bounty on Maduro.
- Imposing broad sanctions on the Venezuelan state, its officials and its oil sector, thereby significantly contributing to the country's economic and humanitarian crisis.
- Military buildup in the Caribbean, including the deployment of warships and aircraft, with the stated goal of disrupting drug trafficking. The US military has conducted strikes on vessels it alleges are involved in narcotics smuggling.
- Authorising CIA covert operations in Venezuela with the explicit intention to drive Maduro out of power.

Responding to beating war drums

In the coming months, will we see the Trump administration and its echo chamber in the American and western mass media beat the war drums more strongly on new and old external threats and work to frame foreign policy actions in a way that distracts from the intensifying internal political tensions and disunity in the US?

If this happens, unmasking and exposing the foreign policy actions and hypocrisy of America and its allies that are driven by their domestic political dynamics and internal shortcomings and division should be a priority in response from independent stake players.

Lim Teck Ghee's *Another Take is aimed at demystifying social orthodoxy. Comments: letters@thesundaily.com*

Unravelling weather mysteries through AI

COMMENT
By Dr Syahirah Abd Halim

ARTIFICIAL Intelligence (AI) is transforming the way we live and work.

In Malaysia, AI is projected to affect more than 30% of existing jobs, reshaping roles and creating new opportunities across sectors. Beyond the workplace, AI is also emerging as a powerful tool to understand one of nature's most unpredictable forces, the weather.

Weather has always been a mystery, constantly changing, often unexpected and sometimes destructive.

Today, AI provides a new perspective to understand these patterns. With advanced data processing and machine learning, AI can analyse large volumes of meteorological data in real time. From satellite images to historical climate trends, it can detect subtle signals and make faster, more accurate predictions.

One of the sectors most affected by weather unpredictability is energy. Malaysia's growing reliance on renewable sources such as solar and wind brings both opportunities and challenges.

During the monsoon season, heavy rainfall, dense cloud cover, and fluctuating wind patterns can significantly reduce energy output. This makes power supply less predictable and planning more complex.

AI can help address this challenge. By improving weather forecasts, it enables energy providers to predict fluctuations and optimise energy storage systems.

Smarter grid management and accurate forecasting can make renewable power supply more reliable. This is an essential step as Malaysia aims to expand its renewable energy capacity by 2030.

AI also plays an important role in saving lives. Malaysia ranks among the top three countries with the highest lightning density, with 13.9 ground flashes per square kilometre annually.

Between 2009 and 2019, lightning strikes caused 132 deaths nationwide, with the Klang Valley alone experiencing up to 240 thunderstorm days each year. AI-based systems can monitor atmospheric conditions and issue early warnings before lightning or flash floods occur, allowing communities and emergency services to respond more quickly.

In an era of climate change and extreme weather, integrating AI into weather prediction and disaster management is no longer optional; it is vital. From ensuring stable energy supply to protecting lives, AI offers Malaysia a strategic advantage in navigating an increasingly uncertain climate.

To fully harness its potential, Malaysia must invest in local expertise, support AI research, and ensure that these technologies benefit all communities.

Embracing AI is not only about innovation but also about building resilience and preparedness for the challenges ahead.

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Maybank upgraded to AAA, highest possible MSCI rating

PETALING JAYA: Malayan Banking Bhd (Maybank) has received an upgrade in its MSCI ESG Rating from AA to AAA, representing the highest possible MSCI Rating as of Sept 8.

The evaluation benchmarks Maybank's performance against leading peers in the industry.

The upgrade was driven by improvements in key areas of Maybank's ESG performance, particularly within the Environmental and Social pillars.

Maybank's Environmental Pillar Score rose to 9.5 out of 10, anchored by the bank's efforts in Financing Environmental Impact, supported by its relatively low to moderate exposure in financing activities to environmentally intensive sectors and the establishment of a dedicated team overseeing ESG risks in financing activities.

Maybank's improvement in the Social pillar score was driven by stronger performance in Human Capital Development, Access to Finance and Consumer Financial Protection.

This was reflected through strong efforts to attract and retain talent relative to peers, capitalise on financing opportunities and continued dedication to consumer protection, particularly through privacy commitments that empower individuals to control their personal information.

Maybank president and group CEO Datuk Sri Khairussaleh Ramli said this achievement underscores their commitment to creating long-term value for their stakeholders, positively contributing to the environment and communities their serve besides underscoring the focus of their M25+ strategy, which prioritises sustainability and responsible growth as key drivers of their long-term vision.

MSCI ESG Ratings assess companies on their resilience to financially relevant, industry-specific ESG risks and opportunities.

Companies are rated on a scale from AAA (top-tier) to CCC (lower tier) based on how well they manage those risks relative to their industry peers.

BPMB Group, ALAM fire up Malaysia's sustainability drive

Ahead of COP30, collaboration shows real change is already in motion



(From left) CEDAR CEO Amirul Imran Ahmat, Reef Check Malaysia CEO Julian Hyde, Mohammad Hardee, NRES deputy secretary-general (environmental sustainability) Datuk Nor Yahati Awang, Ali, MUFG Bank Malaysia CEO and country head Motohide Okuda and ALAM CEO Wan Faizah Che Din.

KUALA LUMPUR: Bank Pembangunan Malaysia Bhd (BPMB), together with its subsidiaries, Export-Import Bank of Malaysia Bhd (EXIM Bank) and SME Bank Malaysia Bhd (SME Bank), is stepping up collective action with Amanah Lestari Alam (ALAM) to accelerate Malaysia's sustainability journey.

The pledge of the BPMB Group's collective action was the highlight at the Climate Change Forum – Suara ALAM: Road to COP30 Belém 2025 jointly hosted by ALAM together with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental (NRES) and the Malaysian Green Tech & Climate Change Corporation (MGTC) recently.

The collaboration intends to build on initiatives already in motion - from capacity building and green trade financing for businesses, to reforestation, marine conversation and efforts that reinforce Malaysia's position as a megadiverse country of global significance.

BPMB Group ensures that every transaction aligns with national priorities and sustainability goals by investing in projects that deliver economic growth, social equity, and environmental stewardship.

Its MIND and Sustainability Framework introduced in 2024 with the Measuring Impact on National Development Model developed with the World Bank Group serves as the guiding principle. The framework embeds ESG considerations across governance, operations and decision-making.

Beyond this, SME Bank has already approved over RM11 billion in sustainable financing since 2022, issued Malaysia's first Sustainability Sukuk worth RM2 billion, and trained more than 1,500 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in ESG standards through its Centre for Entrepreneur Development and Research (CEDAR).

It is now charting a Customer Transition Blueprint and measuring Scope 3 emissions to reinforce its Net Zero 2050 goal.

Additionally, EXIM Bank introduced a RM1.5 billion green financing facility to accelerate adoption of sustainable practices, while also equipping businesses to navigate global requirements such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

"Across BPMB Group, we are clear on one thing: financing the future means financing sustainably. Every investment, whether in infrastructure, trade or SMEs, must bring Malaysia closer to a low-carbon economy and a just transition," said SME Bank chief corporate strategy officer Datuk Wira Dr. Mohammad Hardee Ibrahim who also represented the BPMB Group.

In addition, BPMB has seeded RM390,000 into Sinar ALAM, ALAM's new crowdfunding platform for grassroots climate action. Early partners include MUFG Bank (Malaysia) Bhd, supporting ALAM's Be-Leaf reforestation programme, while Reef Check Malaysia has become the platform's first recipient of RM100,000 seed fund to scale its marine conservation efforts.

"Sinar ALAM is not just an idea - it is a living platform where communities lead, and partners rally around them. By giving people ownership, the solutions are more meaningful and lasting," said ALAM chairman Datuk Ali Abdul Kadir.

As Malaysia counts down to COP30 in Belém, Brazil, the collaboration between BPMB Group and ALAM shows that real change is already in motion.

Control Union and Alliance Bank to enhance firms' ESG readiness

KUALA LUMPUR: In an effort to improve access to sustainable financing, Alliance Bank Malaysia Bhd and Control Union Malaysia Sdn Bhd (CU) inked an memorandum of understanding (Mou) aimed at strengthening ESG readiness amongst companies in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing,logistic and other high emitting industries.

Alliance Bank, is known for providing holistic sustainable propositions comprising financing and beyond banking solutions for clients and the industry.

This collaboration will serve to enhance the bank's offerings with the help of CU, that provides third-party sustainability verification, certification, and ESG assessments.

Under the agreement, CU will act as a preferred service provider to deliver independent assurance and ESG readiness assessments in line with local and international standards.



Supun and Heong posing with the memorandum of understanding.

Together, the parties aim to promote greater awareness, capacity building, and higher adoption of sustainability practices. The collaboration also covers joint initiatives such as ESG coaching, training, and advisory support to help businesses, especially SMEs, enhance their readiness to access sustainable financing.

The collaboration will further enhance the Bank's offering through the Sustainability Impact Programme (SIP), adding value to its clients while contributing to the Bank's growth in new sustainable business financing, with a target of RM17 billion by 2028, having achieved RM15.2 billion as of August 2025.

Alliance Bank chief sustainability officer Roy Heong said: "As the bank supports our client's transition with our Sustainability Impact Programme, we are committed to providing the advisory and sustainable financing solutions needed for this journey. This collaboration with Control Union will allow us to offer beyond banking solutions such as assessments and verifications needed to measure the positive climate impact through these projects."

Control Union Malaysia managing director, Supun Nigamuni, shared his aspiration on this partnership and said: "Working with Alliance Bank allows us to create measurable impact by supporting businesses in meeting sustainability standards and accessing green financing opportunities."

Meanwhile, Peterson Control Union Group CEO Johan Maris said: "This collaboration reflects our group's global commitment to advancing sustainable finance and supporting the transition towards more responsible industries.

"By combining Alliance Bank's financial expertisewith our independent assurance and sustainability verification, we are helping businesses in Malaysia not only access green financing but also build long-term resilience in a changing world."

Alliance Bank was recently recognised at the ESG Business Awards 2025, taking home the "Collaborative Partnership Award" and "Stakeholder Engagement Award" for Malaysia which is a testament to its commitment towards sustainability.

SCAN ME

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Malaysia and New Zealand aim to wrap up FTA review by end of year

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia and New Zealand are looking to conclude the review of the Malaysia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (MNZFTA) by the end of this year.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said he and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon expressed their commitment to this goal during a bilateral meeting held on the sidelines of the 47th Asean Summit and Related Summits here yesterday.

Anwar said during the meeting, New Zealand reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening cooperation in the halal sector.

"Our discussions focused on efforts to enhance bilateral ties across various strategic areas, including trade, investment, agriculture, fisheries, halal industry development, education, and renewable energy.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi welcomed New Zealand's interest in joining the soon-to-be-established Asean Halal Council, underscoring Malaysia's commitment to strengthening regional collaboration in the global halal industry.

Speaking at the Halal Diplomacy event hosted by New Zealand, Ahmad Zahid said, "I am pleased to learn of New Zealand's interest in joining the Asean Halal Council, a platform that will soon harmonises standards and strengthens global competitiveness."

He said Malaysia and New Zealand have long-standing cooperation in halal assurance, adding that all chicken products produced in New Zealand are halal-certified with full government support.

"We are pleased to see our trade associations working closely together. Any halal product from New Zealand is well received by consumers," he said.

Ahmad Zahid also said the halal industry remains a cornerstone of Malaysia-New Zealand cooperation, noting that both nations can further expand opportunities through the Halal Implementation Arrangement (HIA).

"We welcome the conclusion of the Halal Implementation Arrangement, as we are laying the groundwork for a system that will streamline certifications (process) and reinforce confidence in the integrity of the halal supply chains.

New Zealand has vowed to enhance the export of safe and reliable halal meat products to Malaysia following the exchange of the upgraded HIA with Malaysia.

Luxon said New Zealand will also remain a trusted partner for Malaysia by keeping its supply chains open.

"(We will) use very transparent rules and resolve issues very quickly when they arise. – Bernama

M'sia spearheads formation of Asean AI Safety Network

Secretariat will be based in Kuala Lumpur and is expected to begin operations in early 2026

BY **HAYATUN RAZAK**
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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia will lead a regional artificial intelligence (AI) safety effort under the Asean AI Safety Network (Asean AI Safe) with the office located in Kuala Lumpur expected to begin operations in early 2026.

Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo said the initiative will bring together all Asean member states to develop common frameworks for artificial intelligence (AI) governance and safety.

"The secretariat will be based in Kuala Lumpur and will be responsible for coordinating programmes and organising collaborative activities going forward," he told reporters at the Powering the Intelligent Age Summit, jointly hosted by the Malaysia Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (MYCentre4IR) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) at Sasana Kijang here yesterday.

Gobind reiterated that Malaysia aims to become an "AI nation" by 2030, in line with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's vision for inclusive, technology-driven growth.

"This means we must develop a structure that enables our country to possess and lead in AI technology," Gobind said.

He added that the Digital Ministry's focus is to strengthen infrastructure, enhance cybersecurity, build public trust and develop local talent to support Malaysia's AI ambitions. "We are studying aspects such as infrastructure, cybersecurity, public trust and talent development. Building a comprehensive foundation is key for Malaysia to take ownership of its AI future."

In a separate statement, the Digital Ministry said it welcomes the adoption of the Declaration on the Establishment of the Asean AI Safety Network at the 47th Asean Leaders Summit in Kuala Lumpur.

"As one of Malaysia's Priority Economic Deliverables, Malaysia's championing of Asean AI Safe highlights the country's leadership in setting a regional agenda on AI that balances promotion of AI innovation while safeguarding against emerging risks," it said.

The ministry said the declaration came after a feasibility study and consultation process with Asean member states led by the ministry, through the MYCentre4IR hosted by MyDigital Corporation, following the project's endorsement at the 5th Asean Digital Ministers' Meeting, held in Bangkok, Thailand, in January.

Once formally operational, Asean AI Safe will serve as a regional mechanism to support the Asean Digital Senior Officials' Meeting and the Asean Working Group on AI Governance to enhance regional capacity, foster collaboration, promote AI safety research and innovation efforts and advance AI safety adoption.

Asean AI Safe will be guided by existing regional frameworks such as the Asean Digital Masterplan 2025, the Asean Guide on AI Governance and Ethics, the expanded guide AI governance and ethics for Generative AI, and the Asean Responsible AI Roadmap (2025–2030).

It is also directly aligned with future frameworks such as the Asean Digital Masterplan 2030 and the Asean Digital Economy Framework Agreement, specifically to foster cooperation in building safe and secure AI systems among Asean member states.

Asean AI Safe will take on a collaborative approach, recognising the various stages of maturity across Asean.

External collaboration is also key with expected partnerships involving Asean dialogue partners, international organisations, industry leaders and academia for capacity building, knowledge exchange, and research and development initiatives.

These efforts to support and enhance Asean institutional readiness in adopting AI safely are envisioned to be supported by a permanent secretariat hosted by Malaysia.

Gobind said AI is reshaping the global economy, and Asean must lead in ensuring that progress is guided not only by pursuit of economic gains and innovation but also by strong ethical and safety practices. "The Asean AI Safety Network marks a defining step forward, serving as a platform to translate our shared principles into concrete action."

By championing this initiative, he said, Malaysia is helping the region to strengthen its collective capabilities, advance ethical governance frameworks, and foster a culture of transparency and accountability in the use of AI.



Gobind and Cathy Li, head of the Centre for AI Excellence and a member of the executive committee at the World Economic Forum during a dialogue at the Powering the Intelligent Age Summit.

EU wants free trade deal, supply chain cooperation with Asean

KUALA LUMPUR: The European Union (EU) is looking to deepen its strategic partnership with Asean by advancing free trade negotiations and strengthening supply chain cooperation for stronger economic ties that benefit both regions amid a changing global landscape.

European Council President Antonio Costa said the EU views its partnership with Asean as a vital pillar in addressing the current complex global landscape, encompassing political, economic and people-to-people dimensions.

"On the economic front, we have developed a very important network of trade agreements, where free trade agreements (FTA) have been signed with Vietnam, Singapore and recently Indonesia.

"We are now negotiating with Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand," he said when appearing as a guest on Bernama TV's The Nation programme yesterday in conjunction with the 47th Asean Summit and Related Summits.

As for Malaysia, FTA talks began in 2010 but stalled after seven rounds in 2012 due to Malaysia's reservations over the EU's palm oil procurement policies, subsidies, and sustainability clauses.

However, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced that negotiations would resume following Anwar's working visit to Brussels last year.

Costa, who is also the former prime minister of Portugal, believed that improved trade relations were the best way to enhance prosperity and, at the same time, to boost it in a shared way.

Elaborating on the FTA, he said the EU continues to explore the possibility of a region-to-region FTA with Asean and acknowledged the need for a pragmatic approach, given the varying levels of readiness among member states.

"If it's not possible to do a region-to-region agreement, then we negotiate bilateral agreements, as we have already done with three Asean member states.

"We are doing the same with Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines, and we hope to conclude these trade agreements as soon as possible," he said.

Costa emphasised that while an Asean-wide trade pact remains an aspiration, the EU would not allow challenges in regional consensus to stall progress.

"If it's possible, wonderful. If it's not, we need to continue working bilaterally. What we cannot afford is to slow down our trade development," he said, adding that previous agreements had led to a 30% to 40% increase in trade volumes.

Costa noted that the increase is a significant volume for EU and Asean countries and that it is the best way to promote prosperity and shared growth.

Moreover, he said, the EU-Asean economic relationship has significant room for expansion, particularly in emerging sectors such as technologies and critical raw materials.

According to Asean statistics, the total value of two-way merchandise trade between Asean and the EU reached US$292.57 billion (RM1.22 trillion) in 2024. – Bernama

COSWAY
Enriching Lives The Smarter Way

PMW International eyes capacity, regional expansion

Company launches prospectus for IPO, aims to raise RM60.66m

BY **JOHN GILBERT**
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KUALA LUMPUR: En route to be listed on the ACE Market of Bursa Malaysia, PMW International Bhd is charting a bold path forward with its upcoming Tanjong Manis facility in Sarawak, an investment that underscores the company's long-term growth ambitions and strategic vision.

"Our Tanjong Manis factory, set for completion in the fourth quarter of 2027, marks a significant milestone for PMW International. This new facility is expected to increase our group's total manufacturing capacity by more than 50%, enabling us to meet the growing demand in Sarawak and Sabah for infrastructure and to serve industries such as foundation, telecommunications, power and lighting across East Malaysia.

"This development represents the culmination of years of planning and reinvestment, with 77% of our IPO proceeds dedicated to building this modern facility," executive director and CEO Lee Hon Hwa told reporters at the launch of the prospectus for the company's initial public offering (IPO) yesterday.

Located in central Sarawak along the river, the new site offers distinct logistical advantages – enabling PMW International to efficiently receive raw materials and distribute finished products via river transport.

Lee said the choice of Tanjong Manis was no coincidence, explaining that the area is rapidly emerging as a key industrial hub, expected to host 11 new cement factories in the near future.

"Being at the heart of this growing ecosystem gives us a strong strategic edge. It strengthens our operational capacity and positions PMW International at the centre of Sarawak's industrial transformation," he said.

Lee acknowledged that PMW International's expansion into Sarawak is very much aligned with the momentum the company is seeing in the domestic construction sector. The company's new Sarawak factory expansion plans align with both federal and state development agendas.

Sarawak's state budget for 2025 alone allocates RM1 billion for road and bridge upgrades and RM4 billion for infrastructure projects, including the Sarawak Coastal Road.

Given the region's challenging soil conditions, PMW International's concrete piles and precast elements play a crucial role in supporting elevated roads and ensuring structural stability.



From left: PMW International executive director and chief business development officer Lee Khim Hwa; Lee Hon Hwa; PMW International non-executive chairman Azizi A. Hadi; and KAF Investment Bank Bhd co-head and director of corporate finance Ahmad Fazlee Aziz at the IPO prospectus launch.

Lee also noted that policies announced in Budget 2026 are expected to drive significant infrastructure and development projects across Sabah and Sarawak.

"We believe our new facility will be well-positioned to support and benefit from this growth. The increase in project volume presents a timely opportunity for PMW International to strengthen our presence and contribute to the region's economic progress," he said.

PMW International designs, manufactures and sells prestressed spun concrete poles, piles and related concrete products, including decorative poles, monopoles and square piles.

The group also manufactures moulds, machinery, metal products and lighting products through its subsidiaries.

Its products serve the power transmission and distribution, telecommunications, infrastructure, lighting and construction industries in Malaysia and abroad.

The group operates multiple manufacturing facilities in Perak and Sabah and exports to regional and international markets.

PMW International aims to raise RM60.66 million through the issuance of 178.41 million shares at an IPO price of 34 sen per share.

Based on the company's enlarged issued share capital of 892.05 million shares and the IPO price, PMW International's market capitalisation will be about RM303.3 million.

Proceeds from the IPO will be channelled towards supporting PMW International's business expansion.

Of the total, 77% has been earmarked to finance the construction of the Tanjung Manis facility, and 0.96% will be allocated for the purchase of new machinery and equipment to support moulds, spun poles and piles operations.

The balance will be applied towards general working capital and listing-related expenses.

"PMW International has grown from our factories in Ipoh, delivering to nationwide projects, subsequently establishing our first East Malaysia concrete pole plant in Sabah in 2007, and Sarawak in 2012, which proved to be a visionary decision, laying our foundation in East Malaysia.

"We have been serving our overseas clients for almost two decades, covering the Middle East, North America, Europe, Africa and Southeast Asia.

"In recent years, PMW has served the US, Saudi Arabia, Poland, Nigeria, Bulgaria, and Oman, showing proof of global customers recognising the quality of PMW International," Lee said.

He also noted that the company, in 2022, established an additional plant in Ipoh serving customers with increasing demands, and in 2024, expanded into solar LED, LED lighting and smart lighting – embracing the shift towards energy efficiency and smart technology.

"Post-IPO, our focus is to continue growth, to strengthen our East Malaysia operations, expand production capacity, in meeting the increasing demand for PMW International's products across East Malaysia, in serving our customers better, enhancing project deliverables, and to support the backbone of Malaysia's infrastructure development," Lee said.

KAF Investment Bank Bhd is the principal adviser, sponsor, underwriter and placement agent for the IPO.

MPOC welcomes US tariff exemption for M'sian palm oil

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) welcomes the United States' tariff exemptions for selected Malaysian products, including palm oil, under the newly concluded reciprocal trade agreement.

This decision comes at a time of strong bilateral trade performance. Over the past two years, Malaysia's palm oil exports to the USs have shown consistent growth, supported by rising demand from advanced manufacturing and consumer goods sectors.

Commenting on the development, MPOC CEO, Belvinder Sron said, "The zero-tariff for Malaysian palm oil is a positive development. Our exports to the United States have recorded strong growth over the past two years, and this measure will further strengthen Malaysia's competitive position in a high-value and rapidly evolving market."

She added that deeper commercial cooperation with the US will benefit both industry players and the Malaysian economy, particularly through downstream expansion and technology integration.

From January to September 2025, Malaysian palm oil and products exports increased by 8.1% to 346,000 metric tons, compared to 320,000 metric tons during the same period in 2024. The growth was primarily driven by certified palm oil, with shipments increasing from 75,000 to 98,000 metric tons. Certified palm oil and palm stearin currently account for 79% of Malaysia's exports to the US and are used in high-value industries, from specialty food ingredients to personal care products, where substitute options are limited. This reflects the expanding role of Malaysian palm oil in US supply chains.

While the US trade outcome is highly encouraging, MPOC emphasised that Malaysia will continue to broadening its market portfolio to support long-term trade resilience.

Malaysia-US reciprocal trade deal generally positive for SMEs: Samenta

PETALING JAYA: The recently concluded reciprocal trade agreement between Malaysia and the United States represents significant progress for the Malaysian business community, said Small and Medium Enterprises Association Malaysia (Samenta) national president Datuk William Ng.

He said Samenta views it as generally positive for their SMEs.

Under the agreement, he noted, 1,711 Malaysian export product lines will enjoy tariff exemption when entering the US market and this will improve their price competitiveness while strengthening Malaysia's position as an important player in global supply chains.

Ng said early beneficiaries are likely to include the electrical and electronics sector, machinery and industrial components, consumer goods and selected textiles, as well as processed food and value-added agricultural products.

SMEs supplying into these sectors will also benefit from the agreement, he emphasised.

"Our SMEs stand to gain significantly from this enhanced access to the US, especially vis-à-vis our regional competitors. The agreement opens space for niche products, specialised services, and branded consumer goods to reach the US market, which remains the world's largest.

"More importantly, the agreement provides clarity and certainty on what our exporters can expect when trading with the US moving forward," Ng said in a statement yesterday.

However, he added, while the tariff concessions will create opportunity, their ability to tap into them will depend on the readiness of their SMEs.

Exporting to the US requires compliance with product safety, packaging and labelling requirements, fulfilment reliability, and after-sales support. SMEs must therefore be prepared to meet these expectations, even if they are not exporting directly to the US.

To ensure the benefits are widespread and inclusive, Samenta is prepared to work with the government to roll out support measures to address the gaps for their SMEs. This will include clear information on eligible HS codes, rules of origin and documentation, export financing and export risk insurance, capacity building on standards and certifications to meet US regulatory requirements, and business matching to connect their SMEs with US distributors, wholesalers, and online retail partners.

Importantly, Ng said, domestic cost pressures, including logistics, compliance and workers, continue to challenge SMEs, and must be addressed to ensure that their SMEs can compete effectively beyond price alone. "This will also help defend our domestic market against US.competitors who may have stronger brand recognition, capital access, and sophistication."

The Malaysia-US Agreement on Reciprocal Trade will also enhance Malaysia's attractiveness to US investors seeking to diversify supply chains into Southeast Asia.

"We can expect stronger interest in manufacturing, digital technology, and high-value industrial activities which may bring with it knowledge transfer and quality employment," Ng said, adding that overall their SMEs must view this as a signal to upgrade their capabilities, embrace more stringent standards, and become export-ready.

The government and industry must work together to ensure that cost pressures are managed, and that no company is left behind, remarked Ng.

MBAM welcomes govt's move to ease SST rules for construction sector

PETALING JAYA: The Master Builders Association Malaysia (MBAM), representing the collective voice of Malaysia's construction industry, extended gratitude to the Finance Ministry (MoF) and the Royal Malaysian Customs Department (RMCD) for their responsive and forward-thinking approach to addressing the construction sector's concerns regarding the Sales and Service Tax (SST) regime, effective July 1.

In a statement yesterday, MBAM president Oliver HC Wee said the recent clarifications and exemptions outlined in Service Tax Policy No. 3/2025 (Amendment No. 1) dated Oct 17 and Service Tax Policy No. 7/2025 dated Oct 24, reflect the government's commitment to fostering a balanced and sustainable environment for the industry.

These measures, he added, shaped through meaningful engagement with stakeholders, provide critical relief and clarity, enabling contractors, developers, and the broader supply chain to navigate the new tax landscape effectively.

He said MBAM welcomed the following key exemptions and facilities, which address the core concerns raised in their previous appeals, namely the one-year exemption on non-reviewable contracts; splitting of contracts for material and service components; exemption for mixed development projects – residential portion split and B2B exemption on consultancy services.

"These provisions not only address immediate fiscal challenges but also lay a strong foundation for the construction sector's long-term resilience. MBAM's recent engagements with the RMCD have highlighted their exceptional dedication to balancing industry needs with national fiscal goals. We are immensely grateful for their efforts and responsiveness, said Wee.

As Malaysia progresses towards Vision 2030, he added the construction industry remains a vital driver of infrastructure, employment, and economic growth.

Asean to finalise digital economy pact by mid-2026

Defa aims to align data, payments and cybersecurity – driving the region's digital market towards US$2 trillion

BY **HAYATUN RAZAK**
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KUALA LUMPUR: Asean's Digital Economy Framework Agreement (Defa) negotiations are expected to finish by mid-2026, said Asean Economic Community Deputy Secretary-General Satvinder Singh (*pix*).

He said the agreement, once finalised, will anchor the region's relevance and importance to the rest of the world.

"We are finishing most of the negotiations. Substantially they've been finished this year but all of the negotiations are going to be completed by the first half of next year and we are aiming to get the Defa agreement signed in the year 2026," he said in a special address at the Powering the Intelligent Age Summit, jointly hosted by the Malaysia Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (MYCentre4IR) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) at Sasana Kijang, Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Satvinder said the substantial conclusion of Defa negotiations was announced at the Asean Economic Council meeting on Oct. 24.

"That itself marks a historic step towards Asean establishing the world's first region-wide digital economic framework," he said.

Satvinder said some studies show that if the Defa agreement is implemented in a substantial and comprehensive manner, Asean will be able to harness even greater growth in its digital economic space.

"The size of Asean's digital economy today is touching US$263 billion (RM1.1 trillion) in gross merchandise value, a 15% year-on-year increase from 2023, and by 2030 it is projected to reach US$1 trillion."

"We are thinking and we have been told that there may be even a doubling of the size of our digital economy in Asean to a size of US$2 trillion," he said.

He added that Asean is rapidly adapting to the digital landscape, embracing new technologies as a key driver of growth, competitiveness and productivity across the region.

"Data-driven business models, fintech and AI-powered platforms have become the new norms underlying the success of our businesses across the region," he said.

Building on this momentum, Satvinder said the Defa represents a new generation of legally binding digital agreements, unlike anything Asean has undertaken before.

"It's really embodying even more ambitious and forward-looking commitments than Asean has ever undertaken," he said.

He said the Defa will cover key areas including cross-border data governance, digital payments harmonisation, cybersecurity, customs duties on electronic transactions, and the adoption of the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records.

"All of these are expected to deliver significant benefits for the business community, facilitate trade, promote innovation and further enhance our position as a dynamic and interconnected digital hub," he said.

According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), it will be the world's first region-wide, binding agreement focused exclusively on digital economy governance.

Unlike digital and e-commerce provisions embedded in broader trade agreements such as the recent EU-Singapore Digital Trade Agreement, the WEF said, Defa stands out as a dedicated and comprehensive framework to address the complexities and opportunities of the digital economy, it said.

"More than an economic pact, Defa is a strategic blueprint for how our nearly 680 million people can access a digital future that is open, secure and inclusive," it said.

Asean's digital economy is projected to surge from US$263 billion in 2023 to US$1 trillion by 2030, and could hit US$2 trillion if the Asean Digital Economy Framework Agreement is implemented effectively.

Key ASIC wins repeat RM2m AI chip order

KUALA LUMPUR: Key ASIC Bhd has secured a repeat order for its proprietary artificial intelligence (AI) chips valued at RM2.1 million.

The first batch has been shipped, and the remaining units are currently in the process of being delivered to the customer.

In a statement yesterday, Key ASIC said this repeat order reflects the customer's continued trust in Key ASIC's design innovation, reliability, performance and continuous success of this AI chip.

Since the inception of this AI chip project, it has contributed a total of RM10.9 million in revenue to the company, underscoring the commercial viability of Key ASIC's technology and its growing presence in the AI semiconductor sector.

The company's AI chip has been deployed in High Performance Computing, industrial automation, medical technology, and edge AI applications. With advanced architecture optimised for accelerated data processing, low power consumption, and scalability, Key ASIC's AI solutions empower customers to build intelligent, energy-efficient, and high-performance systems.

"This repeat order is a clear signal of our customer's confidence in our AI chip solutions," said chairman and CEO Eg Kah Yee, adding their AI chip continues to deliver exceptional performance and energy efficiency across applications in healthcare, industrial automation, and edge computing.

"As we move forward, Key ASIC remains dedicated to pushing the boundaries of AI hardware innovation and creating sustainable value for our shareholders," said Eg.



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SCAN ME

Call to expand access to fund factoring for MSMEs

Malaysian Micro Business Association says this is to protect their cash flows amid increasingly challenging global economic environment



PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Micro Business Association (Mamba) yesterday urged the government and financial ecosystem players to expand access to fund factoring and invoice financing solutions.

This call aims to protect the cash flow of micro, small, and medium enterprises amid an increasingly challenging global economic environment.

Mamba secretary-general Alvin Low Wei Yan (*pic*) said liquidity constraints have emerged as a primary barrier hindering growth among Malaysian MSMEs. This is particularly acute for those in sectors where long credit terms and delayed payments are standard practice.

"Micro-businesses and small enterprises often deliver products and services upfront but only receive payment 60 to 120 days later. This significant waiting period creates immense strain, making it difficult to cover operational costs like salaries, replenish inventory, or seize new business opportunities," said Low.

"Factoring provides immediate access to earned revenue, bridging this critical cash flow gap. For many, this can be the determining factor between sustaining operations and facing closure."

Recent industry data underscores the severity of this issue. According to a 2025 report from Experian Malaysia, the average payment delay for SMEs is 64 days, with the gap widening to as much as 26 days between SMEs and their corporate clients in sectors like transport and logistics.

"These persistent cash flow strains are a leading cause of business failure," said Low.

Low noted that while Malaysia has made progress in micro-financing, the awareness and adoption of factoring services remain critically low, especially among micro-entrepreneurs and suppliers to large corporations and government-linked companies. This represents a significant missed opportunity, as the MSME sector is a cornerstone of the Malaysian economy.

"Malaysia's MSMEs contribute over 38% to the national GDP and employ more than seven million people. Their ability to not just survive but to scale directly impacts national economic stability and growth," Low emphasised.

"The current MSME funding gap in Malaysia is estimated to be US$21.5 billion (RM90.3 billion), according to 2024 data from the SME Finance Forum. Factoring is a powerful and underutilised tool to address this gap."

Factoring also presents a compelling opportunity for investors, offering a resilient and performance-based asset class. Unlike traditional lending, which relies on collateral and credit history, factoring is secured against the value of a business's accounts receivable. This model unlocks working capital based on real business performance.

"By improving cash flow, MSMEs can build resilience, retain talent, invest in technology, and take on larger contracts, driving sustainable growth," Low explained.

"For investors, factoring is a viable and resilient asset class as it translates into a secure, short-term, and self-liquidating investment that supports the real economy."

The potential for growth in this sector is substantial. The Southeast Asia factoring market was valued at US$140.7 billion in 2024 and is projected to expand at a compound annual growth rate of 7.1% to reach US$279.4 billion by 2033, according to IMARC Group's South East Asia Factoring Market Report.

However, in Malaysia, only an estimated 3% of market receivables are currently captured by the factoring industry, highlighting a significant opportunity for expansion, citing AFS Alliance's Factoring Market Research.

Mamba is calling for a stronger multi-stakeholder collaboration involving the Ministry of Finance, Bank Negara Malaysia, financial institutions, alternative financiers and major supply chain leaders to expand access to factoring solutions for micro and small businesses. This includes promoting fair payment terms across supply chains, introducing education and outreach initiatives to increase awareness of factoring as a viable financing tool and asset class, and encouraging digital platforms that can streamline invoice verification and accelerate financing approvals.

"Cash flow is the lifeline of every MSME," Low emphasised.

"Enhancing access to factoring is not just a form of financial support – it is a strategic investment in Malaysia's grassroots economy, fostering entrepreneurship, securing jobs, and unlocking a stable and profitable asset class for the investment community."

LPI Capital third-quarter net profit slips to RM114.8m

KUALA LUMPUR: LPI Capital Bhd recorded a lower net profit of RM114.83 million in the third quarter of financial year 2025 (Q3'25), compared to RM123.94 million in the previous year's corresponding quarter.

Revenue increased by RM49.5 million or 9.9% to RM549.31 million from RM499.83 million previously, it said in a filing with Bursa Malaysia.

The company attributed the higher revenue growth to its general insurance segment's revenue, which increased to RM526.5 million, compared to RM477.9 million in Q3'24.

"Investment holding segment recorded higher revenue of RM22.8 million as compared to RM21.9 million in 3Q 2024, contributed by higher tax-exempt dividend income received from equity investment," it said.

For the January-September 2025 period (9M'25), net profit decreased to RM295.98 million from RM303.23 million in 9M'4, while revenue jumped by 9.2% to RM1.57 billion from RM1.44 billion previously.

"The increase in revenue was mainly driven by the general insurance segment's revenue, which rose by 9.3% or RM129.9 million year-on-year.

"At the same time, the investment holding segment recorded higher revenue of RM47.4 million as compared to RM44.2 million in 2024, attributed to the higher dividend income received," it said.

Regarding prospects, LPI Capital said that the group will tighten its underwriting and adopt new risk and pricing models when loss trends indicate deterioration.

It noted that the medical and health claim trends have deteriorated amid rising medical inflation and increased utilisation, and are expected to remain a persistent drag on the combined ratios.

"Thus, the group will closely monitor its medical portfolio and adopt product redesign and risk repricing within the regulatory-approved range to improve the claims experience of this portfolio," it said.

The company added that artificial intelligence and digital claims automation will also be utilised to enhance claims management and improve customer experience. – Bernama

LAC Med signs underwriting deal with two banks for Main Market IPO

KUALA LUMPUR: LAC Med Bhd has signed an underwriting agreement with RHB Investment Bank Bhd and Alliance Islamic Bank Bhd for its initial public offering (IPO) on the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia, targeted for December.

LAC Med said the proceeds from the IPO will enable the group to accelerate market expansion and broaden its portfolio of medical devices and solutions. "To strengthen its recurring income streams after the listing, LAC Med will expand into two new business segments – equipment as a service and medical device asset management services," it said in a statement.

The group added that a portion of the IPO proceeds will also be allocated to support regional expansion in Indonesia, as well as to relocate to a new head office with an expanded storage facility and the establishment of a showroom dedicated to product demonstrations.

LAC Med group CEO Liew Yoon Poh said the group is committed to delivering advanced, integrated medical solutions that enhance patient care and strengthen operational efficiency for healthcare providers. "Our IPO will drive the expansion of our solutions and services, and our collaboration with leading international brands will ensure we provide the market with superior and comprehensive offerings," he said. – Bernama

Nestle Malaysia posts strong Q3 results, declares 60 sen dividend

PETALING JAYA: Nestle Malaysia recorded a turnover of RM1.76 billion for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2025, compared to RM1.45 billion in the previous year's corresponding quarter.

In a statement yesterday, the company said the growth was driven by domestic sales, which benefited from a low comparative base in the corresponding quarter of 2024.

Additionally, export sales recorded double-digit growth, confirming once again the global competitive strength of Nestle Malaysia's industrial footprint, as the company saw increasing demand from international markets for its product portfolio, 100% halal.

Quarterly earnings saw profit before tax at RM178 million, and profit after tax at RM114 million, showing progress versus the baseline comparative periods, both on a quarterly and on a year-to-date basis. In line with this performance, the board of directors declared a second interim dividend of 60 sen per share.

CEO Juan Aranols said with more than 112 years in Malaysia, their brands are deeply ingrained into the daily life of generations of Malaysians, and they work hard every day to continue deserving their trust, ensuring also that their products stay accessible and relevant for every new generation of consumers.

Throughout the third quarter, Nestle Malaysia continued to make progress on its ESG and community support initiatives.

"Our ambition is to deliver long-term value for people, communities and the planet. We do this, as we have been doing for well over a century, through a portfolio of great tasting high quality halal products, proudly Malaysian made, as well as through our relentless focus in driving societal betterment through our multiple ESG initiatives and programmes," said Aranols.

On outlook, he said, "As we advance to conclude the year, we reconfirm our earlier guidance. We will continue to build on our well established and deeply rooted presence in Malaysia to deliver long-term value through innovation, operational excellence and a deep understanding of Malaysian consumers and their evolving needs. We will continue to remain rigorous in optimising resources and creating value across every dimension of our value chain.

"We remain committed to honour the trust Malaysians place in our brands and products, always Halal-certified and proudly made in Malaysia, by Malaysians, for Malaysians."

HSBC reports lower third-quarter earnings

HONG KONG: HSBC reported a 14% drop in third-quarter pre-tax profit yesterday, with the banking giant's bottom line weighed down by legal provisions related to the late Bernard Madoff's huge investment fraud.

The London-headquartered lender revealed the fallout on Monday amid a Luxembourg lawsuit brought by Herald Fund dating back to 2009, when Madoff was sentenced to 150 years in prison for running a pyramid-style scheme.

"The intent with which we are executing our strategy is reflected in our performance this quarter, despite taking legal provisions related to historical matters," HSBC chief executive Georges Elhedery said in a Hong Kong stock exchange filing yesterday.

The profit of US$7.3 billion (RM30.6 billion) – down 14% from the same quarter last year – reflected an increase in operating expenses and included legal provisions of US$1.4 billion, HSBC said.

Of those, US$1.1 billion was recognised in connection with the fraud case of Madoff, while US$300 million was related to "certain historical trading activities" under investigation by the French National Financial Prosecutor.

> Profit of US$7.3 billion, down 14% from the same quarter last year, reflects higher operating expenses and includes legal provisions of US$1.4 billion

Revenue increased 5% to US$17.8 billion, boosted by higher customer activity, HSBC said.

The bank noted that the global economy showed resilience and continued to grow despite unpredictable US trade policies and increased fiscal concerns.

But it also warned that commercial real estate conditions remain challenging in China, adding that government stimulus has yet to trigger a material improvement in buyer sentiment.

Net interest income increased by U$1.1 billion, or 15%, with reported expected credit losses of US$1 billion stable compared with the third-quarter of 2024.

The lender said it is expecting net interest income of US$43 billion or higher in 2025, reflecting increased confidence for policy rates in key markets, including in Hong Kong and Britain.

In Hong Kong, weak demand and oversupply of non-residential properties continued to put downward pressure on rental and capital values, despite an observed improvement in local sentiment, it said.

Earlier this month, HSBC proposed a US$14 billion buyout to privatise Hang Seng Bank in the finance hub, saying the proposal "represents a significant investment into the Hong Kong economy".

If approved, Hang Seng will become a wholly owned subsidiary of HSBC and will be delisted from the Hong Kong stock exchange, the firm said in the statement. – AFP

Lighthouse Canton of Singapore to invest over US$1.5b in India

MUMBAI: Singapore-based asset manager Lighthouse Canton plans to invest over US$1.5 billion (RM6.3 billion) in India in the next few years, with a focus on private credit and real estate, senior executives told Reuters yesterday.

The firm aims to exceed US$1 billion in private credit and US$500 million in real estate investments over three to four years, Sanket Sinha, managing director and CEO of Lighthouse's global asset management business, said.

"For alternatives, private equity in real estate and private credit space, India will be one of our top plays," Sinha said. "We see India becoming one of the largest investment destinations for Lighthouse Canton."

The company has already deployed over US$350 million in Indian alternative assets and manages a 1.2 million square-foot portfolio of life sciences-related real estate, including research and development labs, in the southern city of Hyderabad.

It operates an India and Southeast Asia growth debt fund targeting mid-to-growth stage firms, alongside an early-stage India-focused venture equity fund. Globally, Lighthouse Canton oversees US$4 billion in assets under management and advisory.

The firm plans to launch a new India-focused private credit fund, aiming to raise 10 billion to 15 billion rupees (RM475 million-RM713 million) by January 2026.

"For the private credit fund, among other things, we will focus on companies with cross-border opportunities, acquisition financing, turnaround investing, and asset-light companies with good cash flow, like IT or SaaS companies," Pranob Gupta, managing director - India alternatives at Lighthouse Canton, said. – Reuters



Trump and Takaichi arriving on board the US Navy's aircraft carrier *USS George Washington* at the US naval base in Yokosuka yesterday. – ***AFPPIC***

US, Japanese leaders sign framework deal on rare earths

TOKYO: US President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi signed a framework agreement yesterday for securing the supply of rare earths, as both countries aim to reduce China's dominance of some of the key electronic components.

The leaders signed the documents, which included critical minerals, at the neo-Baroque-style Akasaka Palace in Tokyo, beneath three chandeliers decorated from top to bottom with gold ornamentation, as aides applauded.

No direct mention was made publicly by the leaders about China, which processes over 90% of the world's rare earths, making it the source of each country's concern about its mineral supply chain. Beijing has recently expanded export curbs. Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are set to meet tomorrow on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in South Korea to discuss a deal that would pause steeper US tariffs and Chinese rare earths export controls.

Japan and the US would use economic policy tools and coordinated investment to speed up the "development of diversified, liquid, and fair markets for critical minerals and rare earths", and aim to provide financial support to selected projects within the next six months, the White House said.

Both countries would consider a mutually complementary stockpiling arrangement and cooperate with other international partners to ensure supply chain security, it added in a statement.

While dominated by China, the US and Myanmar control 12% and 8% of global rare earth extraction, according to Eurasia Group, and Malaysia and Vietnam cover another 4% and 1% of processing, respectively.

Japan has pledged a US$550 billion (RM2.3 trillion) investment into the US economy, part of the wider bilateral trade deal, which could include power generation and liquefied natural gas, among other areas, according to sources familiar with the talks.

Ahead of Trump's Asia trip, the US called on Russian energy buyers, including Japan, to cease imports, and imposed sanctions on Moscow's two biggest oil exporters – Rosneft and Lukoil – to push the Kremlin to the negotiation table to end the war in Ukraine.

Japan has stepped up US LNG purchases in the last few years as it tries to diversify away from its key supplier Australia and prepare for supply contract expirations from Russia's Sakhalin-2 LNG project, which Mitsui and Mitsubishi helped to launch in 2009. – Reuters

Thai economy to improve early next year, says central bank chief

BANGKOK: Thailand's economy is expected to improve in the first quarter of 2026 after a slowdown in the second half of 2025, the central bank chief said yesterday.

The Thai government is currently implementing a series of stimulus measures, with Southeast Asia's second largest economy struggling with weak consumption, US tariffs and a strong baht .

The economy is expected to slow in the second half of 2025 after growing 3% annually in the first half due to the front-loading of exports earlier in the year, governor Vitai Ratanakorn told a business seminar.

"This year might not be a good year for the economy," he said. "The slowdown will start in the third and fourth quarters, before improving in first quarter next year."

The central bank forecasts that gross domestic product (GDP) growth, which has lagged regional peers in recent years, will reach 2.2% this year and 1.6% in 2026. It stood at 2.5% last year.

Vitai also told the seminar that the country needs to tackle its bad debt, with support measures set to be finalised over the next one or two weeks.

The measures, which will address household debt under 100,000 baht (RM12,880), are expected to help about 2 million people, Vitai said.

Thailand's stubbornly high levels of household debt have shackled the economy for years, with the ratio of household debt to gross domestic product standing at 86.8% at the end of June, among the highest levels in Asia. The amount of debt stood at 16.3 trillion baht.

"If we don't urgently and seriously address household debt, I think any effort to push GDP higher will constantly face constraints," Vitai said. – Reuters

Global M&A activity up 10% in first 9 months of 2025

ZURICH: Global mergers and acquisitions activity grew 10% in the first nine months of 2025 compared with the same period last year, extending a gradual recovery despite uncertainty over US tariff policies and geopolitical conflict, a study showed yesterday.

The Boston Consulting Group Global M&A Report showed the deal volume rose to US$1.938 trillion (RM8.14 trillion) from January to September compared with US$1.763 trillion in the same nine months of 2024. It marked the second consecutive increase and was the highest total over the period since 2022, when the first nine months' activity was worth US$2.17 trillion.

"While headwinds such as geopolitical tensions and changing tariff policies have caused some dealmakers to pause, many others have pressed forward strategically," BCG said.

Still, the sum was more than 40% below the US$3.3 trillion registered over the same period in 2021, BCG said.

More than 60% of the 2025 activity involved targets in North America.

The deal value in the Asia-Pacific region fell 19% to a 10-year low of US$284 billion. – Reuters

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SCAN ME

Amazon to cut up to 30,000 corporate jobs

AI gains and cost reductions drive tech giant's biggest layoffs since 2022, hitting HR, operations and AWS units

SAN FRANCISCO: Amazon is planning to cut as many as 30,000 corporate jobs beginning yesterday, as the company pares expenses and compensates for overhiring during the peak demand of the pandemic, according to three people familiar with the matter. The figure represents a small percentage of Amazon's 1.55 million total employees, but nearly 10% of its roughly 350,000 corporate employees. This would mark Amazon's largest job cut since late 2022, when it started to eliminate around 27,000 positions.

An Amazon spokesman declined to comment. Amazon has been trimming smaller numbers of jobs over the past two years across multiple divisions including devices, communications and podcasting. The cuts beginning this week may affect a variety of divisions including human resources, known as People Experience and Technology or PXT; operations, devices and services; and Amazon Web Services, the people said.

Managers of impacted teams were asked to undergo training on Monday for how to communicate with staff following email notifications that started going out yesterday morning, the people said.

Amazon CEO Andy Jassy is undertaking an initiative to reduce what he has described as an excess of bureaucracy including by reducing the number of managers. He installed an anonymous complaint line for identifying inefficiencies that has elicited some 1,500 responses and over 450 process changes, he said earlier this year. Jassy said in June that the increased use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools would likely lead to further job cuts, particularly through automating repetitive and routine tasks.

"This latest move signals that Amazon is likely realising enough AI-driven productivity gains within corporate teams to support a substantial reduction in force," said Sky Canaves, an eMarketer analyst. "Amazon has also been under pressure in the short-term to offset the long-term investments in building out its AI infrastructure."

The full scope of this round of job cuts was not immediately clear. The people familiar with the matter said the number could change over time as Amazon's financial priorities shift. Fortune earlier reported that the human resources division could be targeted with a cut of roughly 15%.

A program begun early this year to bring employees back in the office five days per week, among tech's most stringent, has failed to generate sufficient attrition, said two of the people, citing that as another reason for the size of the layoff. Some of the employees who are not swiping in daily because they live far from corporate offices, or for other reasons, are being told they have voluntarily quit Amazon and must leave without severance, a savings for the company.

Layoffs.fyi, a website tracking tech job cuts, estimated that about 98,000 jobs have been lost so far this year among 216 companies. For all of 2024, the figure was 153,000. Amazon's largest profit centre, cloud computing unit AWS, reported second-quarter sales of US$30.9 billion (RM130 billion), a 17.5% increase that was well below gains of 39% for Microsoft's Azure and of 32% for Alphabet's Google Cloud.

Estimates indicate that AWS will have boosted third-quarter sales by about 18% to US$32 billion, a slight slowdown from last year's 19% increase. AWS is still reeling from a roughly 15-hour internet outage last week that felled many of the most popular online services, like Snapchat and Venmo. Amazon appears to be expecting another big holiday selling season. It plans to offer 250,000 seasonal jobs to help staff warehouses, among other needs, the same as in the prior two years.

Amazon on Friday also announced a reorganisation of a segment of its PXT unit focused on diversity initiatives, a memo reviewed by Reuters showed. The changes largely involved promoting people to new roles. Amazon shares rose 1.2% to US$226.97 on Monday. The company plans to report third-quarter earnings on Thursday. – Reuters



Unpaid air traffic staff shortages worsen delays, deepening US airport chaos. – ***UNSPLASH PIX***

US flight delays near 7,000 as govt shutdown hits Day 27

WASHINGTON: US air travel turmoil deepened as nearly 7,000 flights were delayed nationwide on Monday, with air traffic controller absences surging as the federal government shutdown reached its 27th day.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) cited staffing shortages and imposed ground delay programs affecting Newark Airport in New Jersey, Austin Airport in Texas and Dallas Fort Worth International Airport on Monday. Flights in the southeast were delayed earlier because of significant staffing shortages at the Atlanta Terminal Radar Approach Control.

Roughly 13,000 air traffic controllers and 50,000 Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers must work without pay after a budget impasse between Republican President Donald Trump and congressional Democrats triggered the shutdown.

The Trump administration has warned flight disruptions will increase as controllers miss their first full paycheck on Tuesday.

More than 8,800 flights were delayed on Sunday.

Southwest Airlines had 47%, or 2,089, of its flights delayed on Sunday, while American Airlines had 1,277, or 36%, of its flights delayed, according to FlightAware, a flight-tracking website. United Airlines had 27%, or 807, of its flights delayed and Delta Air Lines had 21%, or 725, of its flights delayed.

On Monday, Southwest had 34% of flights delayed, American 29%, Delta 22% and United Airlines 19% as of 11.30pm. ET (0330 GMT), according to FlightAware.

A US Department of Transportation official said 44% of Sunday's delays stemmed from controller absences — up sharply from the usual 5%.

The mounting delays and cancellations are fueling public frustration and intensifying scrutiny of the shutdown's impact, raising pressure on lawmakers to resolve it.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy was in Cleveland meeting with controllers on Monday, while the National Air Traffic Controllers Association union plans events at numerous airports on Tuesday to highlight the first missed paycheck.

The FAA is about 3,500 air traffic controllers short of targeted staffing levels and many had been working mandatory overtime and six-day weeks even before the shutdown. – Reuters

Musk launches Grokipedia to rival Wikipedia

NEW YORK: Elon Musk's company xAI launched Grokipedia on Monday to compete with online encyclopedia Wikipedia, which he has accused of ideological bias.

The site dubbed version 0.1 had more than 885,000 articles by Monday evening, compared to Wikipedia's more than seven million in English.

The launch came with the promise of a newer version 1.0, which Musk said would be "10X better" than the current live site, which he claimed is already "better than Wikipedia."

"The goal of Grok and Grokipedia.com is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. We will never be perfect, but we shall nonetheless strive towards that goal," he said on X following the launch.

Grokipedia's release had been marked down for the end of September, but was delayed by the US entrepreneur to "purge out the propaganda," Musk said in a separate X post.

Musk has been a regular critic of Wikipedia. In 2024, he accused the site of being "controlled by far-left activists" and called for donations to the platform to cease.

In August, he said "Wikipedia cannot be used as a definitive source for Community Notes, as the editorial control there is extremely left-biased."

The content of Grokipedia is generated by artificial intelligence (AI) and the generative AI assistant Grok.

A Grokipedia article dedicated to Musk states that the Tesla and SpaceX CEO has "influenced broader debates on technological progress, demographic decline, and institutional biases, often via X," amid what the page says are "criticisms from legacy media outlets that exhibit systemic left-leaning tilts in coverage." – AFP

Citi partners Coinbase to boost institutional digital payments

NEW YORK: Citigroup and cryptocurrency exchange Coinbase plan to collaborate on digital asset payment solutions for the US bank's institutional clients, to expand the offering to global clients in the future.

The partnership will initially focus on enabling users to deposit and withdraw traditional currencies (commonly referred to as "fiat" in crypto) through Coinbase's services, marking a significant step as it allows smooth transitions between traditional money and digital assets like cryptocurrencies, the two companies said in a joint statement on Monday.

Additionally, the collaboration will streamline payment operations, Citi said.

"By combining their reach with Coinbase's leadership in digital assets, we're creating solutions that can simplify and expand access to digital asset payments," said Brian Foster, global head of Crypto as a Service at Coinbase.

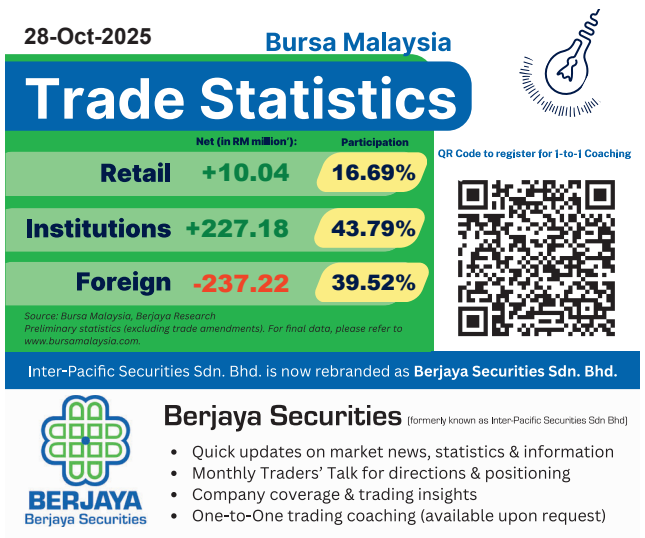
Citi said more details on specific features, including exploring ways to convert traditional currency into stablecoins, will be disclosed in the coming months.

Stablecoins are digital tokens designed to keep a constant value. They are often backed by traditional assets such as the US dollar or government debt.

They have surged in popularity, and their demand is expected to increase further after the US passed its GENIUS Act in July that sets federal rules for stablecoins.

Dealmaking within the digital assets industry has picked up pace this year as a crypto-friendly Trump administration encourages companies to expand their business in the US, providing a favourable environment for growth and investment. – Reuters

MARKET ROUND-UP: OCT 28



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	12,066.00	-42.91
FBMKLCI	1,613.56	-4.82
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	532.72	-2.18
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	170.95	-1.30
CONSTRUCTION	316.85	+2.30
FINANCIAL SERVICES	18,193.30	-56.61
ENERGY	773.08	-10.31
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	493.32	-3.58
HEALTH CARE	1,662.72	-27.19
TRANSPORTATION	1,017.21	-3.01
PROPERTY	1,047.36	-1.97
PLANTATION	7,979.08	-37.34
FBMSHA	12,152.00	-47.90
FBMACE	5,180.25	-56.50
TECHNOLOGY	63.68	-0.02

TURNOVER: 3.860 bil **VALUE: RM3.026 bil**

Bursa slips in line with profit-taking across region

BURSA Malaysia closed lower yesterday in tandem with profit-taking across regional markets after the recent gains, amid cautious sentiment ahead of the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy decision on Wednesday.

At 5pm, the FBM KLCI slid 4.82 points, or 0.3%, to 1,613.56 from Monday's close of 1,618.38.

The benchmark index opened 1.85 points firmer to 1,620.23 and moved between 1,610.18 and 1,620.23 throughout the trading session.

Market breadth was negative with 751 losers trouncing 331 gainers, while 476 counters were unchanged, 1,166 untraded, and 36 suspended.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd vice-president of equity research Thong Pak Leng said sentiment turned cautious as investors awaited key policy signals from the US Federal Reserve's (Fed) two-day meeting.

"The Fed is widely expected to announce a 25-basis-point rate cut, marking a pivotal moment for global monetary direction. Traders are holding back fresh positions ahead of the decision.

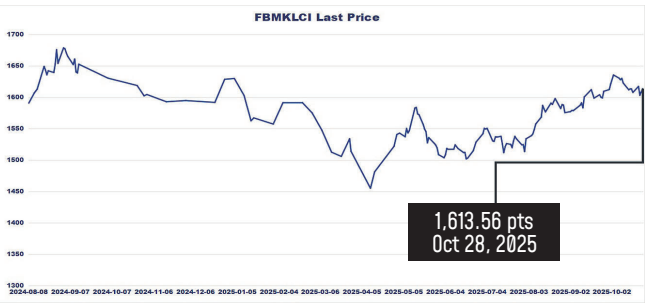
"On the local front, the benchmark index continues to consolidate above the 1,600 level. A firm breakout above 1,630 with strong volume could attract renewed buying interest," he told Bernama.

Among the heavyweights, Maybank eased three sen to RM9.88, Public Bank inched down one sen to RM4.21, CIMB Group lost six sen to RM7.39, Tenaga Nasional decreased 14 sen to RM13.22, while IHH Healthcare gave up seven sen to RM8.28.

On the most active list, Perak Transit rose six sen to 39.5 sen, Borneo Oil was unchanged at half-a-sen, Powertechnic Group eased two sen to 33 sen, Zetrix AI dipped 1.5 sen to 83.5 sen, and Pharmaniaga slid 1.5 sen to 24 sen.

Top 20 Actives

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/-(RM)	+/-(%)	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-PWJY	0.125	-	-	2,699,904
HSI-PWLQ	0.095	-	-	2,352,645
HSI-CWKT	0.110	-0.010	-8.33	2,333,344
PTRANS	0.395	+0.060	+17.91	1,882,628
HSI-CWI8	0.135	-0.015	-10.00	1,842,713
BORNOIL	0.005	-	-	1,325,131
POWER	0.330	-0.020	-5.71	1,251,972
ZETRIX	0.835	-0.015	-1.77	805,281
PHARMA	0.240	-0.015	-5.88	648,574
PTRANS-WB	0.120	+0.025	+26.32	601,630
TANCO	0.905	+0.015	+1.69	593,967
HUBLINE	0.035	-0.005	-12.50	377,471
L&G	0.165	+0.010	+6.45	374,091
EKOVEST	0.380	-0.020	-5.00	336,879
NICE-WC	0.015	+0.010	+200.00	314,528
HSI-CWI2	0.070	-0.010	-12.50	282,134
MEGAFB	0.785	-0.005	-0.63	246,310
HSI-PWJO	0.110	+0.010	+10.00	230,631
TOPGLOV	0.670	-0.015	-2.19	228,931
SPSETIA	0.885	-0.015	-1.67	221,088



Top 20 Gainers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
MPI	31.620	+1.080	5,316
NESTLE	107.100	+0.500	1,666
SAM	4.930	+0.310	11,701
DLADY	26.300	+0.200	309
MISC	7.860	+0.110	39,340
BKAWAN	19.200	+0.100	6
MASTER	2.390	+0.090	6
MI	3.150	+0.090	37,936
BIPORT	5.260	+0.080	6
EQ8US50	3.560	+0.080	138
DKSH	5.100	+0.070	155
HI	2.450	+0.070	28,474
IJM	2.630	+0.070	56,907
PENTA	4.310	+0.070	15,831
AAX	1.790	+0.060	43,534
GAMUDA	5.100	+0.060	154,384
HSI-CWKR	0.250	+0.060	8,691
PRKCORP	0.740	+0.060	6,316
PTRANS	0.395	+0.060	1,882,628
SUNCON	5.930	+0.060	13,810

Top 20 Gainers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
BJFOOD-WB	0.055	+1000.00	57,584
NICE-WC	0.015	+200.00	314,528
BCMALL	0.010	+100.00	3,259
GCB-C28	0.010	+100.00	141
HONGSENG	0.010	+100.00	5,563
SIMEPROP-C48	0.020	+100.00	2,002
AHB-WC	0.015	+50.00	8,050
HSI-CWI9	0.060	+50.00	1,500
MAHSING-C84	0.015	+50.00	25,001
MEITU-C1	0.105	+50.00	25,000
YB-LA	0.015	+50.00	980
HOHUP	0.035	+40.00	63,558
JPG-CG	0.035	+40.00	1
ALRICH	0.020	+33.33	300
FBMKLCI-HEC	0.020	+33.33	500
GDEX-WC	0.020	+33.33	2,027
GENTINGC3M	0.020	+33.33	521
INSAS-WC	0.020	+33.33	1,700
HSI-CWKR	0.250	+31.58	8,691
INARI-C3T	0.185	+27.59	1

World Stocks/Commodities

INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE (%)
DJIA (US)	47,544.59	337.47	0.71
S&P 500 (US)	6,875.16	83.47	1.23
NASDAQ (US)	23,637.46	432.59	1.86
NYSE (US)	21,789.63	91.57	0.42
EURO STOXX 50 (EUR)	5,697.43	-13.63	-0.24
FTSE 100 (UK)	9,659.06	5.24	0.05
DAX (GER)	24,242.07	-66.71	-0.28
NIKKEI 225 (JPN)	50,219.18	-293.14	-0.58
TOPIX INDEX (JPN)	3,285.87	-39.18	-1.18
HANG SENG INDEX (HK)	26,346.14	-87.56	-0.33
CSI 300 (CHN)	4,691.97	-24.05	-0.51
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	229.74	3.63	1.6
SHANGHAI SE COM (CHN)	3,988.22	-8.72	-0.22
KOSPI INDEX (SK)	4,010.41	-32.42	-0.8
SENSEX INDEX (IND)	84,361.01	-417.83	-0.49
ASX 200 (AUS)	9,012.50	-43.14	-0.48
ALL ORDINARIES INDX (AUS)	9,295.79	-56.11	-0.6
FBM KLCI	1,613.56	-4.82	-0.3
STRAITS TIMES INDEX (S'PORE)	4,457.75	17.45	0.39
WTI (US$/BBL.)	60.13	-1.18	-1.89
BRENT (US$/BBL.)	64.42	-1.27	-1.94
GOLD (COMEX) (US$/T OZ)	3,913.30	-106.4	-2.65
SILVER (COMEX) (US$/T OZ)	45.67	-1.08	-2.27
PLATINUM (US$/T OZ)	1,529.09	-59.92	-3.82
COPPER (COMEX) (US CENTS/LB.)	510.2	-6.95	-1.32
COPPER 3MO (LME) (US$/MT)	11,029.00	66.5	0.61
CORN (US CENTS/BU.)	432	3.25	0.76
WHEAT (US CENTS/BU.)	530	4	0.76
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT) (US CENTS/LB.)	50.48	-0.29	-0.57
COCOA (ICE) (US$/MT)	6,182.00	-137	-2.17
RUBBER (S'PORE) (US CENTS/KG)	173.3	-0.1	-0.06

As at 6pm, Oct 28.

Top 20 Losers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
UMSINT	4.850	-0.950	1,372
UTDPLT	24.080	-0.420	9,918
HEIM	21.320	-0.380	1,447
KGB	5.350	-0.290	40,678
GLDHK-C8	0.350	-0.265	50
GOLDETF	5.070	-0.250	3,500
CARLSBG	16.300	-0.240	1,630
KGB-WB	3.980	-0.240	2,105
F&N	28.320	-0.220	299
BAT	5.520	-0.180	8,917
TENAGA	13.220	-0.140	60,379
HSI-PWLZ	0.575	-0.130	260
TIMECOM	4.690	-0.120	49,153
HSI-PWLP	0.060	-0.110	200
PETRONM	3.700	-0.110	918
HLIND	13.720	-0.100	1,584
HSI-CWK3	0.330	-0.100	38
KLUANG	5.100	-0.100	771
HSI-PWLG	0.280	-0.095	17,162
GLDHK-C6	0.045	-0.090	50

Top 20 Losers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-CWKA	0.010	-84.62	130
GLDHK-C6	0.045	-66.67	50
HSI-CWI0	0.015	-66.67	141,663
SUPERMX-C5B	0.005	-66.67	1,320
HSI-PWLP	0.060	-64.71	200
GENTINGC3T	0.010	-60.00	1
UEMS-C1S	0.010	-60.00	2,000
VELOCITY-WB	0.020	-55.56	10
FOCUS	0.005	-50.00	12,765
GCB-C25	0.005	-50.00	250
GCB-C27	0.010	-50.00	2,000
PHB	0.005	-50.00	6,650
PPB-CT	0.020	-50.00	845
TENAGA-C3E	0.005	-50.00	1,079
UEMS-C1Q	0.020	-50.00	100
VS-WC	0.005	-50.00	7,587
VS-C98	0.005	-50.00	1
ZETRIX-C8K	0.020	-50.00	100
ECOWLD-C51	0.080	-46.67	400
GLDHK-H3	0.105	-44.74	60

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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Pact with US strengthens Malaysia's trade footing: Expert

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's new reciprocal trade deal with the US represents a positive step towards greater export certainty, investment confidence and regional influence, said SPI Asset Management managing partner Stephen Innes.

He said the agreement provided Malaysia with a stronger and more predictable trade footing while reinforcing its position in global supply chains.

"The deal locks in tariff certainty with real access wins in industrial and agri exports, while putting a lid on US tariff ceilings that had been a moving target for years," he told Bernama.

On Oct 26, Kuala Lumpur and Washington signed a Reciprocal Trade Agreement and a critical minerals pact to boost trade and supply chain cooperation during the 47th Asean Summit and Related Summits in Kuala Lumpur.

Innes pointed out that the framework created a more transparent and coordinated trade environment, aligning Malaysia's standards with global practices to enhance competitiveness.

"What Malaysia gives up is a bit of manoeuvring space in areas where trade crosses into security, export controls, investment screening, and enforcement on duty evasion. This aligns Malaysia closer to US standards, but it is more coordination than capitulation," he said.

Innes added that the agreement fits seamlessly into Malaysia's broader Asean and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agenda, expanding export corridors and opening new opportunities for industrial and high-tech sectors.

He said the deal demonstrated Malaysia's ability to engage major economies while maintaining balance within the regional trade ecosystem.

Ringgit higher against dollar on bullish market sentiment

THE ringgit closed higher against the US dollar yesterday, lifted by positive market sentiment as Malaysia concluded the Asean Summit on a strong note amid optimism over recent trade collaborations with the US.

At 6pm, the ringgit appreciated to 4.1935/1985 per US dollar from 4.2085/2135 at Monday's close.

The bullish sentiment was supported by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's comment during a press conference at the 47th Asean Summit and Related Summits that the signing of economic cooperation agreements between Asean countries and strategic partners underscores the bloc's central role in strengthening regional cooperation.

He added that while cooperation with Washington remains important, Malaysia as Asean chair in 2025 would continue to deepen engagement with other markets to preserve regional peace and sustain economic growth.

At the closing, the ringgit traded mostly higher against major currencies.

It gained against the British pound to 5.5845/5911 from 5.6158/6225, climbed versus the euro to 4.8884/8942 from 4.8974/9032, but slipped against the Japanese yen to 2.7605/7640 from 2.7550/7582.

The local note also trended mostly stronger against Asean currencies.

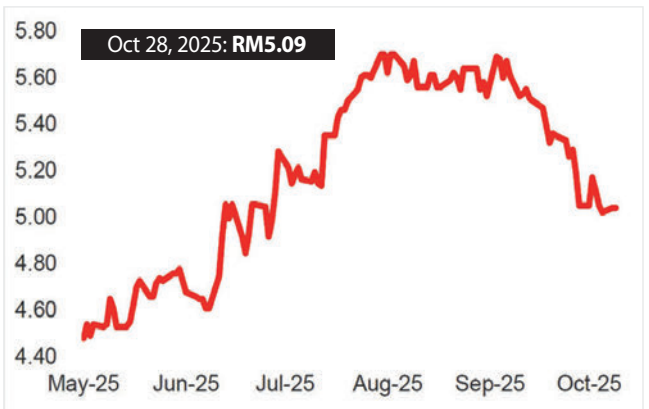
It inched up against the Singapore dollar to 3.2387/2431 from 3.2460/2502 at Monday's close, edged up vis-à-vis the Indonesian rupiah to 252.4/252.9 from 253.1/253.6 and strengthened versus the Philippine peso to 7.09/7.10 from 7.14/7.16 previously. – Bernama

Exchange Rates

FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.2785	4.1335	4.1235
1 Australian Dollar	2.8170	2.7030	2.6870
1 Brunei Dollar	3.2970	3.1950	3.1870
1 Canadian Dollar	3.0520	2.9680	2.9560
1 Euro	4.9830	4.8230	4.8030
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.4770	2.3860	2.3700
1 Singapore Dollar	3.2970	3.1950	3.1870
1 Sterling Pound	5.7070	5.5270	5.5070
1 Swiss Franc	5.4120	5.1840	5.1690
100 UAE Dirham	117.5900	111.5200	111.3200
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.5630	3.3190	3.1190
100 Chinese Renminbi	60.4500	57.9000	N/A
100 Danish Krone	68.4000	62.9500	62.7500
100 Hongkong Dollar	55.5500	52.7900	52.5900
100 Indian Rupee	4.9200	4.6200	4.4200
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0266	0.0241	0.0191
100 Japanese Yen	2.8090	2.7080	2.6980
100 New Taiwan Dollar	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	43.9100	40.4000	40.2000
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.5400	1.4300	1.2300
100 Philippine Peso	7.3600	6.9300	6.7300
100 Qatar Riyal	118.4400	112.4400	112.2400
100 Saudi Riyal	115.1100	109.2800	109.0800
100 South Africa Rand	25.6800	23.1900	22.9900
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.4400	1.3300	1.1300
100 Swedish Krona	47.0000	42.8000	42.6000
100 Thai Baht	13.6700	12.1200	11.7200

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

Gamuda Bhd
Outperform. Target price: RM6.20



Source: PublicInvest Research

GAMUDA Bhd is a regional engineering, property and infrastructure group based in Malaysia. It is one of the largest Malaysian infrastructure companies, with a proven track record of delivering innovative breakthrough solutions worldwide.

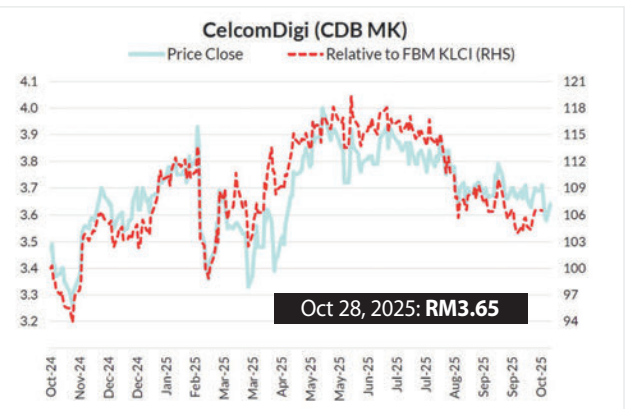
Gamuda and DT Infrastructure (DTI) joint venture (JV) have been awarded the Richmond Road Upgrade contract by Transport for NSW with job value of A$170 million (approximately RM469 million). The JV will deliver key civil, engineering and design services which among others, includes widening the existing road with additional lanes in each direction, constructing a new fly over bridge, relocating and renewing pedestrian and cycle access with new infrastructure, and upgrading three major intersections. Following this award, we estimate that the group's outstanding orderbook has risen to RM39.3 billion, supporting its sustained growth trajectory.

Richmond Road is a key arterial link for commuters and freight travelling between Blacktown and Windsor. Currently, more than 89,000 vehicles use the intersection of Richmond Road and Rooty Hill Road North each day, resulting in heavy congestion and slow travel times that impact communities and businesses. The upgrade project, proposed between the M7 Motorway and Townson Road in Marsden Park, is jointly funded by the Australian and NSW governments. It forms a key part of the North West Growth Centre Road Network Strategy, designed to support development in the fast-growing North West Growth Area.

While we view the award positively, we maintain our forecasts as we have already incorporated this in part of our FY26 orderbook replenishment assumption of RM25 billion.

Outperform with RM6.20 TP. – ***PublicInvest Research, Oct 28***

CelcomDigi Bhd
Neutral. Target price: RM3.95



Source: Bloomberg

CDB is on track to complete its network integration by end-2025 (Q2'25: 84%), based on the initial target of 17,000 combined sites (from 24,000 pre-merger). It is, however, exploring the decommissioning of a further 10% of sites in remote areas, pending a cost-benefit study, with a decision made by end-2025. Post the right-sizing (600 employees) in 2024, CDB has no plans to embark on another such exercise, but will look at opportunities to drive greater efficiencies. It expects IT investments, which started late in FY23, to continue well into FY26 (potentially spilling over into FY27) vs the earlier expectation of a Q4'25/Q1'26 peak – as the process is complex and involves over 100 IT and support sub-systems (business support, operational and billing systems).

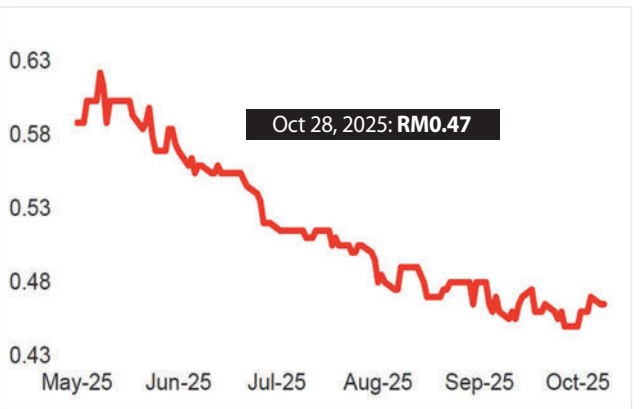
CDB booked a lower integration cost of RM91 million in 1H'25 (FY24: RM385 million) but this is expected to ramp up in 2H'25 from related IT investments, based on management's guided full-year integration cost of RM317 million.

Even with the IT upgrades, decommissioning of additional sites and incremental new sites planned, it expects FY26 capex to decline YoY (FY25 capex/sales guidance: 14-16%) as a large part of integration capex was already incurred over the past two years.

CDB said discussions with the authorities on the expanded Sales & Service Tax, which took effect on July 1, is moving in the right direction with mobile network operators collectively pursuing the matter. Given the extent of concessions sought (enterprise services also included), additional time is needed for parties to come to a landing.

Neutral with RM3.95 TP. – ***RHB Research, Oct 28***

MGB Bhd
Outperform. Target price: RM0.78



Source: PublicInvest Research

MGB has been awarded a RM118.5 million contract by Uda Accord Development SB to build the structural works for an affordable housing project at Jalan Jubilee. The project includes a 45-storey apartment block, a seven-storey car park, amenities floors, and a guardhouse. This award raises the group's orderbook to an estimated RM1.25 billion, providing earnings visibility for the next three years.

Uda Accord Development SB, a joint venture company affiliated with UDA Holdings Bhd, a company wholly owned by Malaysia's Ministry of Finance (via MOF Inc.) and is widely recognised for its commitment to sustainable urban development and its long-standing role in delivering affordable housing.

MGB's wholly owned subsidiary MGB Construction & Engineering SB was awarded the RM118.5 million contract for the proposed Phase 2 of the Residensi Wilayah housing project at Jalan Jubilee, Kuala Lumpur. The scope encompasses the superstructure works for a 45-storey residential block with 702 units, a podium car park, amenity floors, and a guardhouse. Construction is slated to commence in Nov 2025 and is expected to be completed within 30 months, by May 2028.

With this job win, the group's orderbook is estimated to reached RM1.25 billion, providing earnings visibility for the next 2-3 years. Our projections indicate this job could contribute approximately 3% per annum on average, from FY26 to FY28, assuming a mid-single-digit pre-tax margin.

All told, we keep our earnings forecast unchanged, as this award was already factored into our Y25 job replenishment target of RM600 million.

Outperform with RM0.78 TP. – ***PublicInvest Research, Oct 28***

SCAN ME

theSun LYFE

WEDNESDAY | OCT 29, 2025

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SCAN ME

Miss Universe Malaysia unveils Bajau-inspired national costume



Lim leads on with courage, purpose and authority.

Attire represents Sabah ethnic group's connection to sea

BY **JOHN TAN**

BORNEO'S rich heritage is taking the main focus at this year's Miss Universe stage. Miss Universe Malaysia 2025 Chloe Lim will wear the national costume "The Majestic of Anjung Serimpak" at the upcoming 74th Miss Universe competition in Thailand.

Embodying the history of the Bajau Sama community in Sabah, the costume showcases the ethnic group's deep-rooted connection to the sea and their heritage as skilled seafarers.

Its design is reflective of this, featuring a brass *Serimpak* headdress shaped like a sailing vessel, accompanied by *Selisir* fabric hand-embroidered by Bajau Sama artisans. The look is completed with traditional elements such as the *Siupu* belt and *Duang Sama* accessories.

This will be the first time a Bajau-inspired costume is worn by a Malaysian delegate on the Miss Universe stage.

"I feel deeply honoured to wear this costume, which truly represents the roots of our people and the beauty of Malaysia's creativity and multicultural spirit. It is a reminder to always embrace our authentic selves and the genuine diversity that defines who we are as Malaysians," said Lim.



From left: Mumo chairlady Datin Seri Livonia Ricky Guing, Mell, Lim and Chong.

The costume was designed by Mell Sulaiman, winner of the Malaysia Top National Costume Designer competition 2025.

"Every year, the national costume gives us a chance to remind the world of Malaysia's beauty and diversity. We are honoured to share that story through Lim, who has been working tirelessly in preparation for the international competition," said Miss Universe Malaysia Organisation (Mumo) national director Charissa Chong.

Lim was crowned Miss Universe Malaysia 2025, defeating 15 other contestants at the pageant's gala finals in September. The 27-year-old Kuala Lumpur native will represent the country on the global stage this November.

Los Angeles shoemaker holds Hollywood's past in dying art

IN a cobbler's workshop in Los Angeles, the footprints of Hollywood history are stacked floor to ceiling, watched over by a man who said his profession is dying.

Yellowing boxes hold the lasts, foot-shaped molds, used to create footwear for everyone who was anyone in America's entertainment capital for more than half a century.

Elizabeth Taylor lies toe-to-toe with Peter Fonda, Tom Jones and Harrison Ford. In another stack sit the lasts for Sharon Stone, Liza Minnelli and Goldie Hawn. Action heroes Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzeneggar are also present.

"There's a bit of everybody here," said shoemaker Chris Francis, the custodian of the famous feet molds.

Francis came into the collection a few years after the 2008 death of Pasquale Di Fabrizio, an Italian cobbler known in Los Angeles as the "shoemaker to the stars".

"Di Fabrizio made for everyone, from the casino owners to the actors, the performers in Vegas, Broadway, Hollywood, for film – just anybody you could think of who was performing from the 1960s until 2008."

Some of the ageing boxes contain autographs or dedications from the A-listers.

Others, such as those of Sarah Jessica Parker or *Sound of Music* songstress Julie Andrews, hold drawings from television or film productions.



Shoes designed by Francis are displayed at his workshop in Los Angeles.

Something that nobody else had

Hollywood was once the ideal place for a shoemaker, said Francis, with its voracious creative industry that churned out a constant stream of people who needed to make themselves stand out from the crowd.

"Celebrities would brag about how much they paid for a pair of shoes, and they would want something that nobody else had," he said, pulling down a box containing the lasts of Adam West, the actor who played Batman in the original 1960s TV series.

Francis began his own couture journey making clothes and was given his first gig after being discovered stitching a leather jacket on a park bench.

"Here in LA, it is easy to be in the right time in the right place," he laughed.

But it was footwear that he really wanted to create and began practising in his kitchen at home.

"They were sort of crude at first. I was just teaching myself how to do it," he said.

In search of someone to teach him the art, Francis traipsed around Los Angeles looking for an internship.

"These guys are all old Armenian, Russian guys. They're all from like the old world – guys from like Iran, Syria.

"They wouldn't talk, or they didn't speak very good English. So you just have to watch and learn, and then just learn by making over and over and over again."

And if you do not pay attention, it can all go wrong, he said.

"There's no forgiveness in a shoe. If you miss a step, if you cut a corner, then the next 20 steps after that might suffer. So everything has to be on point the whole time."



A view of sketches and shoes designed by Francis at his workshop. – ***PICS FROM AFP***

Mass production

But in a changing world, such meticulous craftsmanship is not always rewarded.

Where Burt Reynolds or Robert De Niro might once have been happy to shell out thousands of dollars for a pair of handmade shoes, the whole industry has been turned on its head.

"I'm finding more and more celebrities wanting shoes for free, which is just killing shoemakers such as me," said Francis.

With his ageing rockstar looks, Francis said in darker moments he wishes he had taken the advice of some of the old cobblers who taught him the trade.

"They told me to go join a band. When I first started, (one man) said: 'Why in the world do you want to be a shoemaker? They can buy shoes for US$20 (RM84.31) these days'," he said.

Francis, 48, said some of the old-time shoemakers have given up trying to create footwear from scratch and now just fix the mass-produced shoes that have put them out of business.



Vivid orchid and sunflower dress by Tangoo.


Models showing off outfits designed by Moda designers.


Golden Sonata (left) and The Muse from Variante by Leslie Variyan.

Lego takes root in couture with Moda's botanical runway

Pavilion KL hosts fashion show featuring works by 13 Malaysian designers

LYFE'S LOOKBOOK

THE Lego Botanicals Fashion Show at Pavilion Kuala Lumpur proved creativity can bloom in unexpected ways. Presented by The Lego Group and the Malaysian Official Designers' Association (Moda), the showcase united 13 Malaysian designers who reimagined Lego bricks as elements of high fashion.

Model Amber Chia opened the runway in a Celest Thoi bridal piece inspired by Canterbury Bells, featuring a petal neckline and cascading Lego florals. Designer Arlina Ayou followed with *wau bulan* and *songket*-inspired looks that blended heritage motifs with botanical adetails symbolising renewal.

Designer Ashley @ Kapas explored the theme of friendship through Lego floral accents, while Atelier Che and Atelier Prive Melson by Melvin Ashley Shah reinterpreted lace and *kebaya* designs with playful brick textures. Fiziwoo's Blooms of Silver Songket paired gold textiles with Lego epaulettes and crystal beading, and Double U by Jimmy Wong introduced structured silhouettes with geometric elements.

Designer Ellie Lim highlighted movement and modern femininity through soft floral layering. Designer Jimmy Lim contrasted texture and form, pairing a garden-shed tutu with Lego blooms and later reimagining the *qipao* with a floral choker. Nanalyana's midnight gowns reflected flowers unfolding at dusk, balancing structure with fluidity.

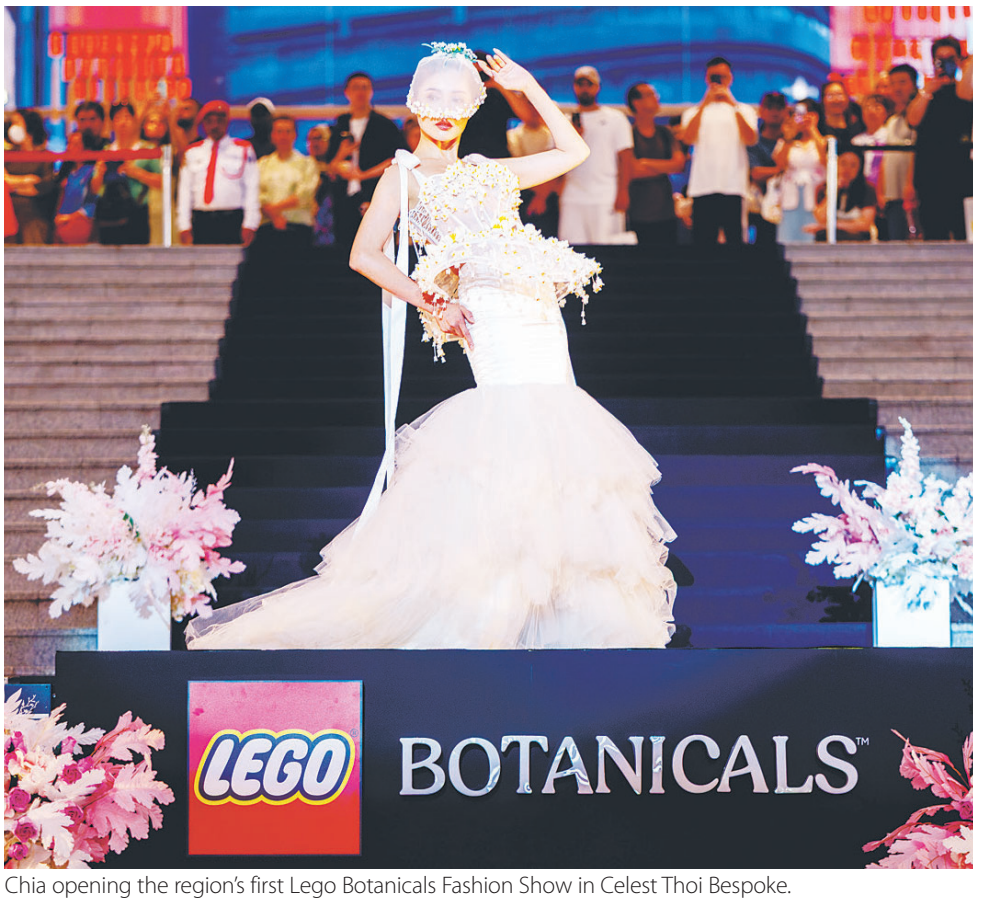
Tangoo embraced vivid orchids, sunflowers and garden florals that symbolised endurance and joy, while Variante by Leslie Variyan celebrated Malaysia's multicultural identity with Lego dahlias and buttercups as emblems of unity.

The finale by Melinda Looi combined playfulness and strength in two striking creations, a full Lego flower gown and a hooded jacket described as a wearable garden.


Atelier Prive Melson @ Melvin Ashley Shah.


Lego Flower Dress (left) and Lego Flower Hooded Jacket by Melinda Loo.


Wau bulan and *songket*–inspired couture by Arlina Ayou.



Chia opening the region's first Lego Botanicals Fashion Show in Celest Thoi Bespoke.


Sculptural *qipao* outfits by Jimmy Lim.


Friendship–themed floral dress by Ashley @ Kapas.


Midnight bloom gowns by Nanalyana.

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BEAUTY REVIEWS

BY **EE ANN NEE**

FLAVRS TOOTHPASTE
Function: Cleans teeth and gums
Ingredients:
- 94% natural ingredients
- Nano-hydroxyapatite rebuilds enamel.
- Xylitol fights cavities and plaque.

Directions: Dispense two to three pumps of toothpaste and brush for two minutes, twice daily.
Pros:
- Refreshing, strong and minty breaths.
- Fluoride-free, SLS-free, cruelty-free and *halal*-certified.
- Aesthetic, recyclable pump packaging.
- Malaysian oral care brand that reimagines toothpaste as a lifestyle product.
- Available in four flavours: Tropical Pandan, Coconut Breeze, Rosy Glow and Lavender.
- Starter kit provides toothpastes in travel size, good for travelling.

Cons: Toothpaste is watery, drips down when pumped out.
Price: RM39.90 (starter kit)
Rating: 4/5





HADA LABO HYDRA & WHITENING FACE WASH
Function: Cleanse face
Ingredients:
- Brown algae extract replenishes skin with minerals and vitamins, draw water into skin.
- Resveratrol brightens skin tone and enhance skin fairness.
- Super hyaluronic acid locks in and deeply hydrate skin.

Directions: Use twice a day, squeeze sufficient amount onto palm. Lather with water and massage onto face. Rinse thoroughly with water.
Pros:
- Gentle on skin. Low irritation. Free from alcohol, fragrances, colourant and mineral oil.
- Cleanses, brightens and hydrates with natural ingredients.

Cons: Flip-top cap is tight, not easy to flip open with thumb.
Price: RM29.90 (100g)
Rating: 3/5

SKINMADE SKIN MIRACLE BROAD SPECTRUM + BLUE LIGHT SUNSCREEN
Function: Non-water-resistant hybrid tinted sunscreen
Ingredients: Mineral + organic UV filters, iron oxides, PhytoCellTec Solar Vitis, InfraGuard, drone-targeted copper peptide, Activys anti-glycation, Ameliox, Bio-Energizing Complex
Directions: Dispense onto fingertips and apply evenly onto the entire face, neck and ears, including eye areas. Reapplication is recommended for full protection throughout the day.
Pros:
- Breathable and buildable formula is gentle and easy to wash off.
- Seamless blending and natural tone adaptation for all skin types, with encapsulated pigments that adjust to your skin tone for a weightless, secondskin finish that won't clog pores, even after hours of extended wear.

Cons: High price point.
Price: RM250 (250ml)
Rating: 4/5





SUNPLAY SKIN AQUA TONE-UP UV ESSENCE (BLUE)
Function: Defend against UV light and bring out skin's translucency.
Ingredients:
- Hyaluronic acid delivers deep hydration and supports the skin's barrier.
- Vitamin C brightens skin tone over time.
- Cica extract has calming properties.

Directions: Apply the sunscreen evenly over face or body.
Pros:
- All-in-one protection: A blend of suncare (SPF50+ PA++++) and skincare.
- Invisible, ultra-lightweight texture
- Gentle formula: Free of mineral oil and paraben, allergy tested, suitable even for sensitive skin.
- Water resistance

Cons: High price point.
Price: RM65.90 (80g)
Rating: 4/5

LUSCIOUS LIPS



Bobbi Brown extra colour shine
Rich and buttery formula that contains nourishing oils, including Jojoba and safflower botanical blend to help condition lips. Comes in 15 wearable shades of nudes, pinks and browns to enhance natural lip tone for effortlessly polished on-the-go looks.



Huda Beauty lip contour stain and faux filler jelly oil
Lip contour stain formula is infused with moisturising argon oil to create the perfect no bleed, matte lip finish and comes in eight natural shades of pinks, reds and browns. Faux Filler Jelly Oil is a softening, ultra-hydrating tinted lip oil packed with peptides for juicy lips and comes in three fruity shades of pink, peach and berry.



Chantecaille lip veil
Weightless, gliding lip colour enriched with baobab oil that delivers a veil of pure hydration and pigment while supporting elephant conservation with every swipe. Comes in nine shades of nudes, pinks and reds.



Rare Beauty positive light luminising lip gloss
A smooth, glassy lip gloss that drips with shimmer and shine while nourishing lips with instant hydration. Comes in six shades from a sheer shimmery blue, peach, pinks and browns. It is 100% cruelty-free, vegan and paraben-free, dermatologist tested and suitable for sensitive skin.

Amapiano queen drops new beats

Chanel arrives right at heel of artiste's tour

TYLA, the Grammy-winning multi-platinum South African artiste, is getting ready to take the world by storm once again with her latest single *Chanel*.

The new single and music video are available for streaming – and arrives just as she prepares to embark on her first headlining tour through Asia next month.

Tyla's new feature, directed by Aerin Moreno, is a masterclass in elegance – from its fashion to its subtle theme and choreography.

Her message is simple and sassy: "You say you love me? Put me in Chanel."

Her creative method of making sure the girls get their flowers, the song pays homage to the women that make our worlds turn, with the Tyla leading the charge.

Tyla's Amapiano roots, which have been the foundation of her rise to stardom, are unmistakably baked into the song's production – courtesy of Ian Kirkpatrick & P2J – which confidently lures her loyal fanbase (Tygers) out onto the dance floor.



The Water hitmaker is preparing to go on her first headlining tour through Asia new month.
– ***PICS FROM INSTAGRAM @TYLA***

The South African's new single follows the release of her first-ever mixtape *WWP*, which was released in July.

The project spawned the hotly coveted collaboration with WizKid, *Dynamite*, which generated over 10 million YouTube views and gave fans a taste of what to expect from Tyla's return to the studio.

The project also spawned the summer anthem *Is It,* which created a disruptive event with its own music video, amassing over 20 million views.

Tyla has remained active and impactful on the feature circuit, supporting Cardi B's chart-topping comeback album on *Nice Guy* – and linking up with hotshot Ghanaian singer-songwriter Moliy on the new collaboration *Body Go*.

Next month, she will hit the road in Asia for a string of headlining dates starting with Tokyo on Nov 11.

The *Chanel* singer will perform live in Bangkok, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Manila and Singapore during the brief trek, which will run until Dec 5.



The songstress is the youngest South African soloist, 23, to a win a Grammy for Best African Music Performance.

TXT sets foot for first time in Malaysia

THE sensational K-pop boy group Tomorrow X Together (TXT) will be bringing its world tour <Act : Tomorrow> to KL for the first time on Feb 14 at Axiata Arena, organised by iMe Malaysia.

Formed in 2019, the band consists of five members, including Soobin, Yeonjun, Beomgyu, Taehyun and Huening Kai, each known for their striking visuals and exceptional talents in singing, dancing and performance.

Now in its seventh year since debut, the group continues to prove its global influence and artistry.

It has broken multiple album sales records, received numerous prestigious awards and solidified its position as one of K-pop's leading "5th Generation Icons".

Unlike typical K-pop group structures, TXT has no fixed positions besides the leader role. Depending on each comeback's concept, members dynamically switch between vocals, dance and rap to showcase their individual versatility.

The members also actively participate in songwriting, composing and production, channeling their personal stories and emotions through music that deeply resonates with Gen Z fans around the world.



TXT has captivated audiences worldwide with its distinctive themes of youth, dreams and growth.



TXT is BigHit's second boygroup after international sensation BTS.
– ***PIC FROM INSTAGRAM @TXT_BIGHIT***

The world tour kicked off in Seoul before travelling across major cities including Los Angeles, Washington, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and now, Malaysia.

Fans can look forward to a stunning stage production with top-notch lighting and visual effects, along with a powerful setlist of the group's biggest hits, promising an unforgettable night for Malaysian fans.

Ticket prices start from RM398 to RM898, and RM1,098 for VIP standing and seating.

Ache of 'almost-love'

SINGAPOREAN singer-songwriter and producer Shye has released *Too Late*, a melancholic indie pop track about missed chances and connections that never began.

The song explores the ache of "almost-love", when two people meet at the wrong time and are left wondering what could have been.

"It's about a love that never had the chance to begin, which sometimes hurts even more than one that ended, because you'll always wonder what could have been.

"A mix of longing, nostalgia but also acceptance. Maybe you'll meet again and have a second chance. But at the same time, maybe you won't. Who knows?" said Shye.

Built around airy synths, layers of acoustic guitar and a steady electronic beat, *Too Late* balances warmth and melancholy. The bridge, adapted from an earlier demo, represents the release of finally saying what has long been held in.

"The balance between brightness and sadness became the emotional core of the song. That bridge captures the feeling of finally saying how you truly feel after holding everything in," she said.

The song reflects on missed timing and unanswered questions, a feeling Shye describes as both personal and universal.

"Everyone's had that moment of wishing they'd said something sooner, or wondering what could have been if things were just a little different," she said.

Shye is an independent singer-songwriter and producer known for her blend of indie pop and alt-rock. She first gained attention after winning the Vans Musicians Wanted competition in 2018. She has since released several projects, including days to *Morning Glory* (2020), *Hello Trinity* (2021) and *9Lives* (2023).

She has performed at festivals such as Urbanscapes in Malaysia, Baybeats in Singapore and SXSW in Austin, and continues to expand her regional presence with recent shows in Bangkok and Singapore.

Too Late is now available on major streaming platforms.



Shye has supported international acts such as Daniel Caesar, Clairo, Superorganism, Sales, Men I Trust and The Chairs during their tours in Singapore.



TV SHOW REVIEW

BY **MARK MATHEN VICTOR**

Gen V stumbles to finish

Strong start gives way to rushed conclusion as restrained season two closes out its corner of *The Boys* universe



Cipher's (left) interest in Marie causes her blood manipulation powers to evolve. – ***PICS FROM PRIME VIDEO***

CONCEIVED to be the bridge in between *The Boys*' third and fourth season, *Gen V's* first season two years ago was a great addition to the expanding universe of Prime Video's best live action satirical superhero series. However, in its second season, similarly created to lead into *The Boys*' fifth and final season, *Gen V* starts strong but fails to give a proper end to its tiny corner of "The Boysverse".

After agreeing to align themselves with the pro-Homelander narrative involving the chaos at Godolkin University in the last season, Emma Meyer (Lizze Broadway) and Jordan Li (London Thor and Derek Luh) are released from their detention at Elmira Centre.

Returning to the university as students, they not only have to grapple with Andre Anderson's (Chance Perdomo) death but also mysterious new dean Cipher's (Hamish Linklater) interest in them and Marie Moreau (Jaz Sinclair).

Having escaped Elmira earlier, Marie is located by Starlight (Erin Moriarty), who tasks the blood-controlling young superhero with returning to Godolkin University for a mission: investigate what the university's deceased founder Thomas Godolkin's "Odessa Project" is.

Meanwhile, Cate Dunlap (Maddie Phillips) and Sam Riordan's (Asa Germann) belief in superpowered supremacy begins to waver. As they grapple with their guilt and come to terms with their mental health problems, both attempt to mend their relationships with Marie, Emma and Jordan, as all five descend into the Odessa Project rabbit hole.

Grounded return to Godolkin University

Gen V's second season is certainly a lot but it is also a little. It is a restrained season, dialling back on the major conflict involving Homelander, focusing on the small dramatic beats and even somewhat pulls back on the adult humour that moved beyond the point of being overbearing in *The Boys*' fourth season.

Taking into account Perdomo's tragic real-life death and how the season had to be rewritten not only around selling his character's off-screen demise with decency but also turning it into a core part of each character's development, showrunner Michele Fazekas and the writers room pull off juggling not only those but also all the different plotlines impeccably.

Though there are certainly moments where the narrative seems like it comes under the strain of having too much story, the pacing is never really affected as when one mystery is solved, another is introduced or a small piece of the puzzle involving the Odessa Project and Cipher is revealed.

Despite its more deliberate pacing, character and story development, the end of the season feels less whole and more underbaked. The big reveal involving the Odessa Project, Cipher and Marie occurs within the season's penultimate episode and is quickly wrapped up in the finale.

As much as fans will welcome the bloody and violent revolution in *The Boys*' fifth season, this season of *Gen V* certainly caps off like a protest that ends prematurely.



From left: Jordan, Emma, Sam, Cate, Annabeth and Marie receive unexpected help from a major character in *The Boys*.



Sean Patrick Thomas receives a bigger role in the second season as Polarity, the father of Andre, following Perdomo's tragic death.

Tame Impala explores fatherhood In new album *Deadbeat*

ALBUM REVIEW

BY **AMEEN HAZIZI**

TAME Impala's latest release *Deadbeat* trades the shimmering guitar layers and psychedelic highs of his earlier work for something more introspective and electronic. The result is an album that hums with technobeats and pulsing synths rather than the soaring riffs fans might expect. However, it still carries Kevin Parker's signature atmosphere and emotional precision.

At first listen, *Deadbeat* feels calmer, even restrained. The energy that once drove tracks such as *Elephant* or *Let It Happen* has given way to a reflective maturity – a sign that Parker is no longer trying to prove anything but simply express what remains unsaid.

The album's title and artwork suggest a personal reckoning, with several tracks hinting at his shifting priorities as a father and musician. The theme of family life is subtly woven throughout the record, most notably in the song *Piece of Heaven*, which references his daughter's messy bedroom in what feels like an affectionate glimpse into his home life.

While it might lack the high-octane spark of his earlier albums, the production remains immaculate. Parker's attention to rhythm and layering keeps each song textured and alive, even when the pace slows.

The album may mark a gentler phase in his evolution, but the craftsmanship behind it is as strong as ever.

Standout tracks include *My Old Ways*, a nostalgic groove that bridges his past and present sounds. *Loser* balances melancholy with hypnotic beats. Meanwhile, *Dracula* is a darkly entrancing cut that shows his enduring knack for mood-building. The closing track *End of Summer* wraps everything in a hazy warmth that feels like acceptance – the sound of an artiste growing older but still deeply in tune with his emotions.

It is not a return to the psychedelic heights of *Currents* or *Lonerism*, nor does it try to be. Instead, this is Tame Impala at peace with change, still making terrific beats but from a quieter and more personal place.



Parker with his daughter Peach featured on the album cover.

302 Jobs

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theSun Malaysian Paper



MEDIA SALES - Specialist

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322 Notices

Looking for Biological Parents of a Boy

Date of Birth:
19th April 2010

The boy was born in Kuala Lumpur and was subsequently handed over by a Chinese woman known as Ah Ling to a Chinese couple, Mr. Ong Kim Ghee and Madam Loi Pui Kwon, on 26 August 2010 at 1 Utama Shopping Centre.

Any information, please contact:
Madam Loi Pui Kwon,
016-3760872

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH SESYEN DI SEREMBAN DALAM NEGERI SEMBILAN DARUL KHUSUS, MALAYSIA GUAMAN NO:NA-A52NCVC-105-08 TAHUN 2025

ANTARA

SHEILA DEVI A/P KRISHNAN
[NO. K/P:711030-01-5783]
... PLAINTIF

DAN

1.LACHAMAN A/L LALCHAND
2.ROSLI BIN ABDUL RAHMAN
3.KAVITHA A/P NARAYANAN
4.PRYADARSINI A/P SATHASIVAM
(Beramal Sebagai Rakan Kongsi di Tetuan Lachaman Lalchand & Associates)
... DEFENDAN-DEFENDAN

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN GANTI IKLAN MENURUT PERINTAH MAHKAMAH

Kepada:

1. LACHAMAN A/L LALCHAND
Tetuan Lachaman Lalchand & Associates
Peguambela & Peguamcara
5-1, Jalan 26/70A,
Desa Sri Hartamas,
50480 Kuala Lumpur

Dan

2. ROSLI BIN ABDUL RAHMAN
Tetuan Lachaman Lalchand & Associates
Peguambela & Peguamcara
5-1, Jalan 26/70A,
Desa Sri Hartamas,
50480 Kuala Lumpur

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Sesyen Seremban dalam Guaman Sivil No: **NA-A52NCVC-105-08/2025** oleh Sheila Devi a/p Krishnan yang mempunyai alamat di No. 435, Jalan Margosa 15, Taman Bukit Margosa, 74000 Paroi, Negeri Sembilan di mana tuntutan Plaintif adalah untuk sejumlah wang bernilai RM270,000.00 bersama faedah sebanyak 5% setahun dari Julai 2024 hingga tarikh pemfailan Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan (08.08.2025) dan faedah sebanyak 5% dari tarikh penghakiman sehingga penyelesaian penuh dan bahawa telah diperintahkan yang penyampaian saman kepada kamu dalam tindakan tersebut hendaklah dilaksanakan melalui iklan ini secara penyampaian ganti dengan penampalannya di alamat Defendan Pertama & Defendan Kedua dan di papan kenyataan Mahkamah Sesyen Seremban dan bahawa pengiklanan dan penampalan tersebut akan dianggap sebagai penyerahan sempurna bagi dokumen-dokumen tersebut kepada kamu sebagai Defendan Pertama & Defendan Kedua dalam tindakan ini dalam masa empat belas (14) hari dari tarikh penyampaian dokumen-dokumen tersebut dilakukan.

DAN SELANJUTNYA AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa jika kamu berhasrat untuk membela diri dalam tindakan tersebut kamu mestilah dalam masa empat belas (14) hari dari tarikh pengiklanan ini atau penampalan tersebut termasuk hari pengiklanan dan penampalan tersebut, memasukkan kehadiran di Pejabat Pendaftaran Mahkamah Rendah, Seremban. Jika ingkar apa-apa kehadiran yang demikian maka penghakiman boleh dibuat terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada
14 haribulan Oktober 2025.

.....
Tetuan Mathews & Associates
Peguamcara Plaintif

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN GANTI IKLAN MENGIKUT MAHKAMAH ini disediakan oleh Tetuan Mathews & Associates, Peguamcara Plaintif yang beralamat di No.27, Jalan S2 D39, Magistrates Square,70300 Seremban, Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus.
Tel. No. : 06-6013962/6011461
Email: mathewsnassociates@gmail.com
Fax No. : 06-6012940
[Ruj : MA/CV/25/2156/SDK]

322 Notices

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KUALA LUMPUR
IN THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
(COMMERCIAL DIVISION)
COMPANIES (WINDING-UP)
NO. WA-28NCC-837-08/2025**

In the matter of Section 464 and Section 465(1)(e) and (h) of the Companies Act 2016
And
In the matter of VICENT LITE ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING CO. SDN BHD

BETWEEN

SYARIKAT LOGAM UNITRADE SDN BHD
[Company No. 198401000054 (112575-X)]
... PETITIONER

AND

VICENT LITE ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING CO. SDN BHD
[Company No.: 198001009620 (63404-A)]
... RESPONDENT

NOTICE OF WINDING-UP ORDER

IN the matter of **VICENT LITE ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING CO. SDN BHD** [Company No.: 198001009620 (63404-A)].

Winding-Up Order made on 21st October 2025.

Name and address of liquidator:
Official Receiver,
Director General of Insolvency,
Malaysia Department of Insolvency,
(Kuala Lumpur branch)
22, 23, 24 & 25,
Menara TH Perdana 1001,
Jalan Sultan Ismail,
50250 Kuala Lumpur

t.t.

.....
Messrs. P. E. LIM
Solicitors for the Petitioner

This **NOTICE OF WINDING-UP ORDER** was filed by Messrs. P. E. LIM, the solicitors for the abovenamed Petitioner, with an address at No. 36, Jalan Dato Jamil Rais 15 (Jalan 14/15), 46100 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan.
Tel: +6011-5672 7813
Email: liti@pelim.my
Ref.: PEL/L/SLU-VLEE/2025/1048

322 Notices

**DALAM MAHKAMAH MAJISTRET DI SHAH ALAM
DALAM NEGERI SELANGOR DARUL EHSAN, MALAYSIA
WRIT NO.: BA-A72NCVC-1044-08/2025**

ANTARA

TENAGA NASIONAL BERHAD
[No. Syarikat: 199001009294 (200866-W)]
...PLAINTIF

DAN

QUEK JIN LIN
[NO. K/P: 840125-14-5919]
(Berniaga dibawah nama & gaya PRIMART BUILDER ENTERPRISE)
[NO. PENDAFTARAN PERNIAGAAN.: 201903257638 (SA0528857-W)]
...DEFENDAN

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN GANTI-BENTUK IKLAN

Kepada,

QUEK JIN LIN
(NO. K. P. : 840125145919)
[Dahulunya berniaga dibawah nama & gaya PRIMART BUIDER ENTERPRISE)
[NO. PENDAFTARAN PERNIAGAAN No.201903257638 (SA0528857-W)
No.23, Lorong Bukit Mertajam,
Off Jalan Kapar 41400 Klang
Selangor Darul Ehsan

Dalam perkara Writ yang dikeluarkan pada 8 Ogos 2025.

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan Writ telah dikeluarkan terhadap Defendan dalam Mahkamah Majistret di Shah Alam dalam Guaman No. BA-A72NCVC-1044-08/2025 oleh Tenaga Nasional Berhad [No. Syarikat: 199001009294] (200866-W)] di mana tuntutan Plaintif ialah untuk bayaran sebanyak RM30,736.25 bagi jumlah kehilangan hasil termasuk kos operasi dan cukai berkaitan berkenaan pemeriksaan pepasangan meter/meter yang dijalankan di Premis tersebut pada 16/2/2021, secara alternatif, restitusi bagi jumlah sebanyak RM30,736.25 bagi jumlah kehilangan hasil termasuk kos operasi dan cukai berkaitan berkenaan pemeriksaan pepasangan meter/meter yang dijalankan di Premis tersebut pada 16/2/2021, secara alternatif, gantirugi untuk ditaksirkan, faedah atas jumlah penghakiman pada kadar 5% setahun dari tarikh pemeriksaan pepasangan meter/meter pada 16/2/2021 sehingga tarikh penghakiman, faedah atas jumlah penghakiman pada kadar 5% setahun dari tarikh penghakiman sehingga tarikh penyelesaian penuh, kos dan adalah diperintahkan bahawa sesalinan Writ dan Pernyataan Tuntutan kedua-duanya bertarikh 8 Ogos 2025 ("Writ tersebut") disampaikan kepada kamu melalui Penyampaian Ganti iaitu dengan menampalkan sesalinan Writ dan Pernyataan Tuntutan kedua-duanya bertarikh 08 Ogos 2025 (selepas ini "Writ tersebut") di Papan Notis Mahkamah Majistret Shah Alam, di alamat Defendan di No. 23, Lorong Bukit Mertajam, Off Jalan Kapar, 41400 Klang, Selangor Darul Ehsan (selepas ini "alamat Defendan") dan juga mengiklankannya sekali (1) dalam surat khabar harian tempatan berdasarkan kepada Perintah bertarikh 6 Oktober 2025 dan saya percaya bahawa penyampaian itu menjadi penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup ke atas Defendan tersebut empatbelas (14) hari selepas dari tarikh pengiklanan dan penampalan tersebut yang mana terkemudian.

Sekiranya kamu berhajat untuk membuat pembelaan terhadap tindakan tersebut, kamu mestilah diwakili oleh Peguambela kamu di hadapan Mahkamah Majistret Shah Alam pada **6/11/2025 (secara E-Review), jam 9.00 pagi.**

Sekiranya kamu gagal berbuat demikian maka Penghakiman Ingkar boleh diberikan terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada 29 haribulan Oktober 2025

.....tt.....
Tetuan Sandosh Anandan
Peguamcara bagi Plaintif

Notis Penyampaian Ganti Bentuk Iklan ini dikeluarkan oleh Tetuan Sandosh Anandan, Peguamcara bagi pihak Plaintif yang beralamat di Unit A502, Blok A, Kelana Square, No. 17, Jalan SS7/26, Kelana Jaya, 47301, Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan.
Tel: 03-78065819 / 03-7804607
Fax: 03-78807409
(Ruj : SA/L/TNB/PRIMART 4 / 2133 / 2025/SA)

322 Notices

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
JEE LEE INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY SDN BHD
[Company No. 25502-T]
(In Members' Voluntary Winding Up)**

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING PURSUANT TO SECTION 459(1)(b) OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Final General Meeting of the members of the Company will be held at the office of the Liquidator, Unit No. 1128, 11th Floor, Block A, Damansara Intan, No. 1, Jalan SS20/27, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan on 28th November 2025 at 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA

1. To receive the Liquidator's Report and Statement of Accounts in relation to the winding up of the Company.
2. Pursuant to Section 518(3)(b) of the Companies Act, 2016 to pass a resolution directing the Liquidator to destroy the books and papers of the Company and of the Liquidator that are relevant to the affairs of the Company at or subsequent to the commencement of the winding up of the company six (6) months after the dissolution of the company.
3. Any other matters.

Chang Chee Ching
Liquidator

Dated this 29th October 2025

Notes:
A member of the Company entitled to attend and vote at the above meeting may appoint a proxy or proxies to attend and vote on his behalf and such proxy need not be members of the Company not less than 48 hours before the meeting.

322 Notices

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KUALA LUMPUR
IN THE FEDERAL TERRITORY OF KUALA LUMPUR
COMPANIES (WINDING-UP)
PETITION NO.:
WA-28NCC-354-04/2025**

In the matter of AHMAD ZAKI SDN BHD [Company No.: 81250-W]
And
In the matter of Section 465(1)(e) read together with Section 466(1) of the Companies Act 2016
And
In the matter of the Companies (Winding-Up) Rules 1972

BETWEEN

ELEGANT BRIDGE BUILDERS SDN BHD
[COMPANY NO.: 200601015520 (735272-H)]
...PETITIONER

AND

AHMAD ZAKI SDN BHD
[COMPANY NO.: 198201001504 (81250-W)]
... RESPONDENT

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for the Winding-Up of the abovenamed Company by the High Court was on the day of 9th April 2025 presented by Elegant Bridge Builders Sdn Bhd [Company No.: 200601015520 (735272-H)], the above said Petitioning Company and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the **High Court of Malaya at Kuala Lumpur, Insolvency Court 2 (D11)** at **9:00 o'clock** in the morning **on 4th December 2025**; and any creditors 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 A-3-05 (2nd Floor), Mayang Ave, Jalan SS 25/35, Taman Mayang, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan.

The Petitioner's Solicitor is **Messrs Chun Hoo & Partners** of Unit 719, Block A, Lobby 5, Damansara Intan, No.1, Jalan SS20/27, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan.
[Tel/Fax No.: 03-7733 8288]

Signed
.....
Messrs Chun Hoo & Partners
Solicitors for the Petitioner

NOTE – Any person who intends to appear on the Hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to **Messrs Chun Hoo & Partners**, 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 of firm, or their Solicitors (if any) and must be served, or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the abovenamed solicitors **not later than twelve o'clock noon of the 3rd day of December, 2025** (the day before the day appointed for the hearing of the Petition)
[Tel / Fax No.: 03-7733 8288]
[Email: loh@chunhoo.com.my & fong@chunhoo.com.my]
[Ref No.: CHP/EBBSB-AZSB/229/2024]

Mayweather, Pacquiao rematch mooted for Netflix event

FLOYD MAYWEATHER *(pic)* and Manny Pacquiao could be set to renew hostilities with rumblings that a sensational rematch is being mooted for a *Netflix* event in 2026.

Pacquiao, 46, fought for the first time in four years back in July, returning to boxing with a draw against Mario Barrios with WBC welterweight gold on the line.

Mayweather, meanwhile, has competed in a handful of exhibitions against the likes of Logan Paul and John Gotti III since his last competitive bout in 2017, which saw him beat Conor McGregor by a 10th-round TKO.

Mayweather, 48, had agreed to fight 59-year-old Mike Tyson in another exhibition set for Spring of next year, but with a date for that bout yet to be confirmed, there are now reports that Mayweather vs Pacquiao 2 could headline a blockbuster fight card put on by *Netflix*.

That's according to Ring Magazine, who say rematch between the two boxing legends is being explored.

It would take place over 10 years from their first match, which was one by Mayweather by unanimous decision. Mayweather put on a defensive clinic in Las Vegas, cementing his reputation as a master technician.



The result maintained the American's perfect professional record, which has sat at 50-0 since 2017. His exhibition bouts have not counted towards his record.

Pacquiao's record meanwhile stands at 62-8-3, with his most famous victories coming against the likes of Miguel Cotto, Oscar De La Hoya and the late, great Ricky Hatton. – The Independent

322 Notices

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
VENTURE FORSURE SDN. BHD.
Registration No.:
200301002574 (604994-K)
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP)**

At a General Meeting of the members of **VENTURE FORSURE SDN. BHD.** duly convened at No. 121A, Jalan Raja Ekram, 30450 Ipoh, Perak Darul Ridzuan on 27th October 2025 at 9.00 a.m. the following Special Resolution was duly passed: -

That the Company be wound-up by way of members' voluntary winding-up pursuant to Section 439(1)(b) of the Companies Act, 2016 and that pursuant to Section 445(1) of the Companies Act, 2016, Mr.Chew Choon Seong of 12A (Room 2), Medan Bendahara 2, Medan Bendahara, 31650 Ipoh, Perak Darul Ridzuan be appointed as Liquidator for the purpose of such winding-up and the Liquidator be hereby authorised to distribute surplus assets of the Company in specie and to exercise the powers of the Liquidator as set out in Section 456 of the Companies Act 2016.

Dated this 29th October 2025

NG SING LAY
Director

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
VENTURE FORSURE SDN. BHD.
Registration No.:
200301002574 (604994-K)
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the abovenamed Company, which is being voluntarily wound-up, are required on or before the 28th November 2025 to send in their names and addresses with particulars of their debts and claims and of any security held by them, and the names, addresses of their solicitor (if any) to the undersigned Liquidator at 12A (Room 2), Medan Bendahara 2, Medan Bendahara, 31650 Ipoh, Perak, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are by their solicitors or personally to come and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefits of any distribution made before such debts or claims are proved.

Dated this 29th October 2025

CHEW CHOON SEONG
Liquidator

322 Notices

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
HIN YAK PLASTIK FACTORY SDN. BHD.
Registration No.:
198901011963 (189270-X)
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP)**

At a General Meeting of the members of **HIN YAK PLASTIK FACTORY SDN. BHD.** duly convened at No. 121A, Jalan Raja Ekram, 30450 Ipoh, Perak Darul Ridzuan on 27th October 2025 at 10.00 a.m. the following Special Resolution was duly passed: -

That the Company be wound-up by way of members' voluntary winding-up pursuant to Section 439(1)(b) of the Companies Act, 2016 and that pursuant to Section 445(1) of the Companies Act, 2016, Mr.Chew Choon Seong of 12A (Room 2), Medan Bendahara 2, Medan Bendahara, 31650 Ipoh, Perak Darul Ridzuan be appointed as Liquidator for the purpose of such winding-up and the Liquidator be hereby authorised to distribute surplus assets of the Company in specie and to exercise the powers of the Liquidator as set out in Section 456 of the Companies Act 2016.

Dated this 29th October 2025

LIM KENG ZOO
Director

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016
AND
IN THE MATTER OF
HIN YAK PLASTIK FACTORY SDN. BHD.
Registration No.:
198901011963 (189270-X)
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the abovenamed Company, which is being voluntarily wound-up, are required on or before the 28th November 2025 to send in their names and addresses with particulars of their debts and claims and of any security held by them, and the names, addresses of their solicitor (if any) to the undersigned Liquidator at 12A (Room 2), Medan Bendahara 2, Medan Bendahara, 31650 Ipoh, Perak, and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are by their solicitors or personally to come and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefits of any distribution made before such debts or claims are proved.

Dated this 29th October 2025

CHEW CHOON SEONG
Liquidator

McLaren boss confident in title chase

Norris leads Piastri by one point after Mexico, Stella optimistic in McLaren's car performance for final races

MCLAREN boss Andrea Stella says Formula One title contenders Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri can both feel confident going into the last four races, with neither likely to have a track advantage.

Norris took over at the top by a point from his Australian teammate in Mexico on Sunday but Stella told reporters there was everything to play for in Brazil, Las Vegas, Qatar and Abu Dhabi.

There are also two sprints to come in Sao Paulo and Doha.

"I think both Lando and Oscar go into the final four races with reasons to be confident," said the Italian.

"The team also go into the final four races with more understanding of how to extract performance from the car consistently, because over the last four races before Mexico at times we have left some performance in the garage.

"In the final four races, there's no reason to think that one (track) may favour one driver or the other."

Piastri has been beaten by Norris in the last five races and the Briton's dominant victory from pole position in Mexico City on Sunday wiped out the 24-year-old's 14 point advantage. Norris has said he does not believe in momentum, however, and Piastri sounded more optimistic about his situation after racing from seventh on the grid to fifth at the chequered flag on Sunday.

He said he had adapted his driving style to Mexico's low- grip circuit – conditions Norris thrives on whereas Piastri prefers high grip – and found far more pace than in practice and qualifying.

He might have grabbed fourth from Haas's Oliver Bearman, but for a late virtual safety car.

"For Lando and Oscar, there's no problem in terms of track layout coming in the next four races," Stella said.

"If anything, we need to make sure that from a McLaren point of view we are in condition to extract the full performance that is available in the car."

Stella pointed out that Las Vegas had been difficult for McLaren last season but this year could be different, with the tyres graining less.

Norris's win was his first since Hungary in August and McLaren's first since the Dutch Grand Prix at the end of that month – ending a run of four races without a win for the champions.

Stella said Mexico had been a confidence boost for McLaren, even if Red Bull's resurgent four-times champion Max Verstappen, third on Sunday, cut his gap to the top from 40 points to 36.

"We have proven that we have a car that can win races and in some conditions can dominate races," he added.

"This is the most important factor to put Lando and Oscar in condition to pursue the drivers' championship.

"I don't think it's about mathematics, it's about competitiveness. And it was important to confirm this competitiveness."

McLaren have ruled out giving Piastri a new chassis, something drivers often ask for when going through an inexplicable drop in performance.

"Every evidence, every piece of data, every indirect measurement or information we have tells us that there is no problem with the car," he told reporters after Saturday qualifying.

"In reality, there's a rotation of parts. So it's not like there's always the same parts on the car. So we have reasons to be reassured that there's no problem with the car." – Reuters



McLaren team principal Andrea Stella. – *REUTERSPIC*

Three takeaways from MexicoGP

Norris shows champion qualities

BY taking both a dominant pole position and then a flawless victory by 30 seconds, Norris stamped his authority on this weekend and boosted his prospects of claiming the title even if his supremacy was hailed with unexpected boos after the race.

The Briton's reaction, calm and good-humoured, added to his new gloss as a champion in waiting.

"That's sport sometimes," he said with a half-smile and a shrug. "I don't know why. I was kind of laughing. I think it made it more entertaining for me. "I'd prefer it if people cheered for me, but I just concentrate on doing my own thing." His self-effacing style, previously seen as a weakness, has become a strength as it insulates him against the pressure as he seeks to beat Piastri and the looming figure of Red Bull's four-time champion Max Verstappen.

Since the Dutch Grand Prix at the end of August, where he retired with an oil leak and Piastri won, Norris has finished ahead of him everywhere to claw back 35 points and the championship lead for the first time in six months.

Opening laps thrills and dangers

WHILE the spectacle of Sunday's race, notably in the opening and closing laps, was dramatic and exciting, it was also dangerous and unfair.

The four-abreast charge into the opening corner at the end of an 830-metre straight produced thrills, wheel-banging and two cars leaving the track and gaining positions that they seemingly handed back.

More clashes followed including some a long and late lunge on seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton's Ferrari by Max Verstappen that, in effect, ended the Briton's podium hopes as he was given a 10-second penalty for rejoining incorrectly.

"It was pretty nuts," said Hamilton. "I was the only one given a penalty…" He did not name them, but Leclerc and Verstappen could have been penalised too.

Mercedes' George Russell also lost out in the first corner melee. "I don't understand how three drivers can cut the first corner and then re-enter where they continued… It allows you to risk everything and have a get out of jail card if you get it wrong. I lost three positions, so I was pretty frustrated." More seriously, on a day when questions were asked about the stewarding, decisions and crowd behaviour, Racing Bulls' Liam Lawson revealed that he narrowly avoided a fatal accident when two marshals ran across the circuit on lap three.

Verstappen needs more speed

AFTER a blistering run of three wins in five races, Verstappen showed tenacity and his once-familiar aggression to claim third place, but admitted he needed more speed from his car to maintain any real hopes of a fifth title.

"We struggled for pace and, in hindsight, with the tyres… But at least we had the perfect strategy… It's fine to think differently, but we need to be faster," the Dutchman said.

AFP

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2016

AND

IN THE MATTER OF INSPIRAGE SDN. BHD. (201501023384 (1148713-T)) (In Members' Voluntary Liquidation)

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act, 2016 that the Final Meeting of Inspirage Sdn. Bhd. (In Members' Voluntary Liquidation) ("the Company") will be held at 37-2-1 Block G, Cheras Business Centre, Jalan 3/101C, 56100 Kuala Lumpur on the 28th day of November, 2025, at 10.00 am.

The meeting is called to receive the liquidator's final accounts and any explanation she may give including the liquidator's remuneration and to authorise the storage and subsequent destruction of the Company's books and records.

Dated this 29th day of October, 2025

Soo Lynnie
Liquidator

Russell open to Verstappen joining Merc

BY **LAWRENCE OSTLERE**

GEORGE RUSSELL is open to having Max Verstappen as a future teammate at Mercedes, saying: "You don't need to be best mates as teammates."

Verstappen has been linked with a move away from Red Bull over recent months after enduring a frustration season in the shadow of McLaren's dominance.

The four-time world champion has dragged himself back into title contention but trails championship leader Lando Norris by 36 points going into the final four races of the season.

Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff recently admitted that his attempts to poach Verstappen from Red Bull had "destabilised" his team after photos emerged over the summer of the pair socialising on his yacht.

Russell's own future had been in doubt after months of contract talks with Mercedes, but he eventually signed a new deal last month to stay with the team alongside the talented young Italian Kimi Antonelli.

Russell's relationship with Verstappen is strained after clashes on the track and in the media, with Verstappen labelling the Briton "two-faced" after the Qatar Grand Prix earlier this season, to which Russell responded by calling his rival a "bully". But Russell insists the pair could work together on the same team if Mercedes were to ever secure Verstappen's signature.

"We don't really speak but we don't ignore each other," Russell said of their relationship in the paddock, in an exclusive interview with the *Daily Telegraph*.

"I don't lose sleep over it. And for sure he doesn't lose sleep over it.

"So it doesn't bother me one single bit.

"Life is short. We're all adults. We all learn from these experiences. You don't need to be best mates as teammates. Senna and Prost weren't good friends and they still finished one-two. Lewis and Nico (Rosberg), one-two. Obviously Lewis and Fernando (Alonso) is a notable exception. But Lewis should have won that year (2007).

"So yeah, Max is an incredible driver. There's no denying that. But that's why I would relish going up against him. We all believe we're the best."

Russell also moved to clarify the state of his new contract, explaining the "multi-year" clause was conditional on performances and that he is only secured at Mercedes for one more year.

"It is something I haven't actually said publicly.

"But the deal is, if I'm performing (in 2026), we have a specific clause that if I reach (a certain target), we will automatically renew for 2027.

"So my seat for 2027 is in my hands. If I didn't perform, and I don't want to go into details, but if I perform, then 100 per cent I'll be staying." – The Independent

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SCAN ME

Marauding Mendes flourishes for PSG

The 23-year-old Portugal international has World Cup in sights

HE does not grab too many of the headlines among Paris Saint-Germain's plethora of stars, but Nuno Mendes has been so impressive charging forward down the left wing for the reigning European champions that he might now stake a claim to be the world's best fullback.

"I see myself as a good full-back but I don't like to say I am the best," the 23-year-old Portugal international told *AFP* in an interview at the club's training ground just outside the French capital.

Leftback Mendes has scored three goals and set up three more in 11 matches this season, including a goal and an assist in last week's 7-2 Champions League win at Bayer Leverkusen and a brilliant run to set up Senny Mayulu for the equaliser in the 2-1 defeat of Barcelona.

Perhaps the only other fullback on a level with Mendes just now is Morocco's Achraf Hakimi, who occupies the rightback position in Luis Enrique's PSG side.

"Achraf and I are in good form but it is a team effort, and we all know how quickly things can change in football," Mendes said of his and his team's recent success.

PSG won the Champions League for the first time in their history last season and are top of the standings in Europe three games into this campaign.

They are also top of Ligue 1 ahead of a midweek trip to Lorient, having just welcomed *Ballon d'Or* winner Ousmane Dembele back into the side after a hamstring injury.

"I love playing here," said Mendes of being part of a thrilling young side in which Dembele is the biggest star having recently won the *Ballon d'Or* thanks to his prolific form last season.

"I am very pleased for Ousmane," added the fullback, who insists collective success is more important than any dreams he may have himself of winning the sport's most prestigious individual award.

PSG's current success has followed a change in approach by the Qatar-owned club's hierarchy, with the departures of superstar forwards Kylian Mbappe, Lionel Messi and Neymar between 2023 and 2024 and a focus on signing hungry young players with everything to prove.

Mendes was just 19 when he arrived in Paris at the start of the 2021/22 campaign, initially joining on loan from Sporting, with whom he had won the Portuguese title in the previous season under Ruben Amorim.

The move was made permanent in 2022 for a reported €40 million (RM196m) and Mendes is now approaching 150 appearances for the Parisians.

Mendes gives Luis Enrique, who arrived as coach in 2023, huge credit in helping him become such an attacking threat.

"In the beginning, I wasn't very strong defensively. I knew how to attack with pace.

"Luis Enrique picked up on that and really helped me defensively, which means that now I am better at both," said Mendes, who started out playing on the left wing in the Sporting youth system.

"I try to find a balance when it comes to attacking, take a rest when needed. The coach is doing a great job, and not just for me.

"Versatility is something that Luis Enrique has brought us and that we will always keep, even if he leaves or we go."

If Mendes is a benificiary of Luis Enrique's coaching, Portugal are benefiting from having the player in their side as they build towards next year's World Cup – one win from two games away to Ireland and at home to Armenia next month will see them secure qualification for the finals.

"I still have a lot to learn but I can't say I really have any flaws at the moment, or that there are things I am doing badly," says Mendes, who set up a goal for Cristiano Ronaldo in Portugal's recent draw with Hungary in Lisbon. – AFP

I would like to be there, says Messi on 2026 World Cup

LIONEL MESSI wants to play for Argentina in next year's World Cup, but he says he will listen to his body before deciding whether he can make that dream come true.

The 38-year-old striker for Inter Miami of MLS led Argentina to the 2022 World Cup title and yearns to be on the field when the *Albiceleste* defend the crown next year in North America.

Eight-time *Ballon d'Or* winner Messi told *NBC News* in an interview broadcast yesterday that he will see next year how his body feels before deciding on whether or not he can play in the World Cup co-hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada.

"It's something extraordinary to be able to be in a World Cup and I would love to," said Messi, who turns 39 next June.

"I would like to be there, to be well and be an important part of helping my national team, if I am there.

"And I'm going to assess that on a day-to-day basis when I start preseason next year with Inter and see if I can really be 100%, if I can be useful to the group, to the national team, and then make a decision."

Messi, who has been playing professionally since 2004, wants the chance for one more star turn on football's biggest stage.

"I'm really eager because it's a World Cup. We're coming off winning the last World Cup and being able to defend it on the field again is spectacular because it's always a dream to play with the national team, especially in official competitions."

Messi, who debuted with Barcelona in La Liga at age 17, joined Paris Saint-Germain in 2021 and moved to MLS in 2023.

"The truth is that I like everything about living here," Messi said of Miami.

"I spent a lot of time in Barcelona, which for me is an extraordinary city, where I grew up and had spectacular moments, and which we miss a lot.

"But Miami is a city that allows us to live very well, that makes us enjoy life, that allows us to be calm, that allows the kids to be themselves and live day to day."

Messi has 195 appearances for the Argentine national team, scoring 114 goals. – AFP



Argentina's Lionel Messi. – *REUTERSPIC*

Atletico bounce back from Arsenal drubbing

ATLETICO MADRID earned a solid 2-0 win at Real Betis yesterday to move fourth in La Liga and bounce back from their Champions League thrashing by Arsenal.

Diego Simeone's side lost 4-0 last week in north London but put that defeat behind them with a strong display at La Cartuja stadium, where Betis are playing on a temporary basis.

They were able to record only their second clean sheet in their last nine games across all competitions and their first away win of the season.

The coach's son Giuliano Simeone opened the scoring with Alex Baena netting the second before half-time.

"This is an important win, hard-fought, and I'm happy," Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak told *Movistar*.

"I hope we continue like this, away from home, not just at home… it was a great game from the whole team and a big effort."

Giuliano Simeone fired the visitors ahead in the opening stages with a neat volley from the edge of the box.

Star summer signing Baena curled home his first goal for the club before halftime to double the *Rojiblancos'* lead.

Real Betis were the better team in the second half and hit the crossbar from Abde Ezzalzouli's freekick, but Atletico's defence held firm.

Atletico trail La Liga leaders Real Madrid by eight points, although they are the only team to inflict defeat on their city rivals.

"Our first win on the road and we're very happy for the great work the team did," said Giuliano Simone, who dedicated the goal to his recently-born nephew Faustino in his celebration, making the letter F with his fingers.

Faustino's birth made Atletico coach Diego Simeone a grandfather.

"Nothing changes for me," said the *Rojiblancos* boss, smiling, while also congratulating his son on his good performance.

Manuel Pellegrini's Real Betis, sixth, are now three points behind Atletico.

"Today we were lacking in the final third, we had to be a little sharper in front of goal," Betis playmaker Giovani Lo Celso told *Movistar*.

"The team worked hard and tried until the end, for the fans who filled the stadium on a rainy Monday and didn't stop backing us. We have to turn the page and continue." – AFP

SIDENETTING

Juventus sack coach Tudor

JUVENTUS yesterday sacked coach Igor Tudor after the Serie A club's 1-0 defeat by Lazio meant they had accumulated just five points in their last five matches. Men's first team coach Massimiliano Brambilla will be on the bench for the match against Udinese tomorrow (1.30am Malaysian time), the Turin club said. "Juventus FC announces that it has today relieved Igor Tudor of his duties as head coach of the men's first team, along with his staff consisting of Ivan Javorcic, Tomislav Rogic and Riccardo Ragnacci," it said. "The club thanks Igor Tudor and his entire staff for their professionalism and dedication over the past few months and wishes them all the best for their future careers."

Napoli's KDB sidelined

NAPOLI midfielder Kevin De Bruyne suffered a serious thigh injury while scoring a penalty in Saturday's 3-1 win over Inter Milan, his club said yesterday, while Italian media reported the 34-year-old was not expected to play again before the new year. Former Manchester City player De Bruyne clutched the back of his right thigh after scoring the opening goal of the Serie A match. His teammates consoled him as he grimaced and left the pitch before returning to the substitutes' bench with crutches. "Kevin De Bruyne underwent diagnostic tests… which revealed a high-grade lesion to the biceps femoris muscle in his right thigh," Napoli said in a statement, without providing a timescale for the player's return. Napoli said De Bruyne had already begun the rehabilitation process.

Carvajal ruled out with injury

REAL MADRID defender Dani Carvajal could reportedly miss more than two months after the La Liga leaders said yesterday he needed further knee surgery. Real captain Carvajal came back from injury to play as a substitute in Madrid's 2-1 win over Barcelona on Sunday. But the 33-year-old defender will miss the Champions League trip to Liverpool next week, and is likely to be sidelined for Manchester City's visit to the Santiago Bernabeu on Dec 10. "He has been diagnosed with the presence of a loose body in his right knee joint. Carvajal will now undergo an arthroscopy," said Madrid in a statement, without specifying his expected absence period.

Lyon lose star Fofana

LYON'S Belgian prodigy Malick Fofana has been ruled out for "several months" with an ankle injury suffered at the weekend, dealing a major blow to his club's prospects in Ligue 1 and in Europe. Winger Fofana, 20, was stretchered off in distress after his ankle twisted in gruesome fashion under a challenge by Strasbourg's Ismael Doukoure during Sunday's game between the sides. Lyon described the injury as a "serious sprain of the right ankle" and said Fofana would "very probably need surgery which would keep him out for several months."

Timber warns Arsenal against complacency

JURRIEN TIMBER urged Arsenal "not to get too high" after they extended their lead at the top of the Premier League.

On a weekend where title rivals Liverpool, Manchester City and Chelsea all lost, the Gunners beat Crystal Palace 1-0 to move four points clear of shock second-placed team Bournemouth.

Arsenal's seventh consecutive victory in all competitions put them six points in front of City and seven ahead of reigning English champions Liverpool.

The victory over capital rivals Palace also capped a fine week for Mikel Arteta's men, who also posted a third successive Champions League win with a 4-0 rout of Atletico Madrid.

There are increasing hopes among the Gunners' faithful that Arsenal may be on their way to ending their long wait for the Premier League title. The club were last crowned champions of England back in the 2003/04 season.

But Arsenal defender Timber said: "It is good to stay neutral, and not to get too high.

"Obviously, we've been doing well, but it's still early in the season, and we just have to keep getting better game by game."

The 24-year-old Netherlands international added: "The next game is already in three days, which is a (League) Cup match (against Brighton), and the next Premier League game (against Burnley) is going to be tough as well.

"So, let's keep our feet on the ground and keep working hard, and then from there, we'll see what happens."

Arsenal's impressive start to the season has been built on a miserly defence which has conceded just three goals in their opening 13 games across all competitions, with the clean sheet against Palace their fifth in succession.

"Everyone plays a part in it, but it's a good thing and a good foundation to build on," said Timber. "From that standard, you just have to keep getting better and be consistent in what we do, and then throughout the whole season, hopefully we'll turn it into something beautiful.

"It gives you confidence and it shows that we're doing really well, and also, if it's for multiple games in a row, it says something about consistency.

"We just have to keep improving, and look at what we can do better, but also take that feeling with you, that confidence and go into the next game with the same mindset." – AFP

Rodgers quits Celtic

Club legend O'Neill appointed as interim manager, club main shareholder says former gaffer divisive, misleading and self-serving

BRENDAN RODGERS has resigned as Celtic manager with the Scottish giants' major shareholder accusing him of "divisive, misleading and self-serving" behaviour.

Former boss Martin O'Neill, 73, and ex-player Shaun Maloney will take charge until a permanent successor is appointed, the club said yesterday.

Rodgers' second spell at Celtic ended after Sunday's 3-1 Scottish Premiership defeat at Hearts left them eight points adrift of the Edinburgh side in second.

An official statement read: "Celtic Football Club can confirm that football manager Brendan Rodgers has today tendered his resignation. It has been accepted by the club and Brendan will leave his role with immediate effect.

"The club appreciates Brendan's contribution to Celtic during his two very successful periods at the club. Brendan leaves Celtic with our thanks for the role he has played during a period of continued success and we wish him further success in the future.

"The process to appoint a new permanent manager is underway and the club will update supporters further on this as soon as possible.

"We are pleased that during this interim period former Celtic manager, Martin O'Neill and former Celtic player, Shaun Maloney have agreed to take charge of Celtic first-team matters. Further details will be confirmed shortly."

The club added that the search for a replacement was already under way, with former manager Ange Postecoglou among the bookmakers' favourites following his recent sacking by Nottingham Forest.

Rodgers, 52, returned for a second spell at Celtic Park in 2023, winning successive titles, to add to his league triumphs from 2017 and 2018.

But clouds have gathered over the club this season with Celtic knocked out of the Champions League by Kazakhstan minnows Kairat Almaty.

Rodgers had appeared at odds with his employers over their summer transfer policy.

Following the defeat to Hearts over the weekend, Rodgers raised eyebrows in what turned out to be his final interview as Celtic manager by questioning their opponents' style of play.

"Celtic as a club, the DNA is about playing football and we'll never lose that," he told *Sky Sports*. "When we play to that identity… Hearts, you can see, it's totally different, it's a different DNA here.

"The ball's direct, the supporters love that, it's a second ball fight, it's set pieces, all that. Celtic hasn't become winners in that way. Our DNA is to play a fast, attacking game of football."

In a separate statement, Celtic's main shareholder Dermot Desmond hit back, saying Rodgers' criticism had come "entirely out of the blue".

"Despite ample opportunity he was unable to identify a single instance where the club had obstructed or failed to support him. The facts did not match his public narrative," he said.

"Regrettably, his words and actions since then have been divisive, misleading, and self-serving.

"They have contributed to a toxic atmosphere around the club and fuelled hostility towards members of the executive team and the board."

Rodgers previously managed Swansea, Liverpool and Leicester, and arrived at Celtic for the second time in June 2023 to succeed Postecoglou.

The Northern Irishman had been at Celtic between May 2016 and February 2019, completing successive league and cup trebles.

His first season in charge saw Celtic finish with a record 106 points and become the first Scottish side to complete a top-flight season undefeated since 1899.

Rodgers continued Celtic's domestic supremacy by winning league titles in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 seasons, and also lifted the Scottish Cup and the Scottish League Cup. – AFP/ Express Newspapers



SPORTS TOTO RESULTS

DRAW NO: 6040/2025 DATE: 28/10/2025 (TUE)

STM LOTTERY SDN. BHD.
196901000090 (8420-D)

TOTO 4D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

1st Prize	1771
2nd Prize	1114
3rd Prize	7142

Special		Consolation	
1500	1257	8690	7027
4372	7945	3319	4375
7559	4893	6219	0971
0722	0736	8354	5741
2733	0081	8317	1095

4D JACKPOT

Jackpot 1 RM 24,429,004.93

1771 1114	1114 1771
1771 7142	7142 1771
1114 7142	7142 1114

Jackpot 2 RM 463,066.18

Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

4D Zodiac

1st Prize	1771 +	MONKEY
2nd Prize	1114 +	
3rd Prize	7142 +	
4th Prize	Special Prize +	
5th Prize	Consolation Prize +	
6th Prize	Any 4D drawn number	

TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

5D TOTO

1ST	7 9 8 7 0		
		4TH	9 8 7 0
2ND	4 3 5 5 0	5TH	8 7 0
3RD	2 3 3 0 8	6TH	7 0

6D TOTO

1ST	8 7 3 9 2 5		
2ND	8 7 3 9 2	or	7 3 9 2 5
3RD	8 7 3 9	or	3 9 2 5
4TH	8 7 3	or	9 2 5
5TH	8 7	or	2 5

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Jackpot RM 21,396,333.72

POWER TOTO 6/55: 2 9 39 43 51 52
Jackpot RM 3,926,163.12

STAR TOTO 6/50: 11 14 28 29 35 49 + 3
Jackpot 1 RM 11,135,403.83
Jackpot 2 RM 277,358.13

Star 6/50 Jackpot 1 (EZ-Bet)
RM 525,230

Toto 4D Jackpot 2 (i-System)
RM 370,457
won on 26/10/2025 !

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WINNING NUMBERS da ma cai

PAYMENT GUARANTEED IN FULL

Draw Date: 28/10/25 (Tue) Draw No: 5987/25 Venue: WISMA GENTING, KL

1+3D SUPER1+3D

1st Prize	5153
2nd Prize	9641
3rd Prize	9666

Starters		Consolation	
4378	0963	1275	2678
1992	6035	0723	2613
2147	2056	1163	0490
7772	5199	5926	6533
4465	5333	4309	5056

1+3D Jackpot

Jackpot 1 RM6,155,055.10

5153 + 9641	9641 + 5153
5153 + 9666	9666 + 5153
9641 + 9666	9666 + 9641

Jackpot 2 RM259,602.70

Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of 10 Starter Prizes.

3+3D Bonus

1st Prize 125 153 +	Bonus MONKEY	1st Prize Bonus RM50,000.00
2nd Prize 249 641 +	Bonus SNAKE	2nd Prize Bonus RM470,000.00
3rd Prize 319 666 +	Bonus OX	3rd Prize Bonus RM639,097.10

Starters		Consolation	
864 378	930 963	881 275	042 678
931 992	546 035	330 723	782 613
422 147	412 056	881 163	320 490
997 772	185 199	795 926	196 533
754 465	565 333	484 309	155 056

3D

1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
153	641	666

3D Jackpot

Jackpot RM812,122.50

153 + 641 + 666	641 + 666 + 153
153 + 666 + 641	666 + 153 + 641
641 + 153 + 666	666 + 641 + 153

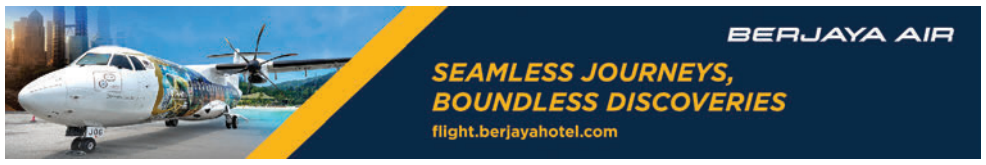
Winning combination matches the Top 3 Prizes in any order.

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RESULTS & STANDINGS

LA LIGA

Real Betis 0 Atletico Madrid 2 *(Simeone 3, Baena 45+2)*.

TOP 6	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	10	9	0	1	22	10	27
Barcelona	10	7	1	2	25	12	22
Villarreal	10	6	2	2	18	10	20
Atletico	10	5	4	1	18	10	19
Espanyol	10	5	3	2	14	11	18
Real Betis	10	4	4	2	15	12	16

Kelantan TRW must win in Likas

A TOUGH challenge awaits Kelantan The Real Warrior (TRW) when they not only have to win, but must also score two goals without conceding any in the second quarterfinal of the FA Cup against Sabah FC at the Likas Stadium, Kota Kinabalu, tonight.

TRW assistant coach, Akmal Rizal Rakhli, said his squad left for Kota Kinabalu with a clear mission to bring home a 2-0 victory to confirm a slot for the semifinals of this season's competition.

"We are aware that it will not be easy to play against Sabah FC, let alone playing away from home who have experienced players including national and quality import players. Tomorrow night we have no choice but to record a 2-0 victory to ensure passage to the semifinals after losing 1-2 at home last week," he told *Bernama* yesterday.

Based on the current results, the clear advantage is in favour of Sabah FC, but TRW still has a chance if they manage to defeat the hosts with a clean two-goal win without reply. Akmal said that if his squad is unable to finish 90 minutes with a 2-0 result, a 1-0 victory would be enough to drag the match to a penalty shootout.

"The goal in Likas is very important. If we are unable to win 2-0, a 1-0 victory still opens up the possibility of a penalty shootout. Players need to focus fully and avoid mistakes that could lead to disaster," he said.

Despite realising the strength of the Sang Badak squad, Akmal remains optimistic that his men will be able to create something on the opponents' ground.

"I am confident that if the players can maintain their performance like they did against Sabah FC in Kota Bharu last week, we will be able to win tomorrow night," he said. – Bernama

Financial constraints impact foreign team Cup participation

FINANCIAL constraints are the main factor behind the reduction in the participation of foreign teams in the 2025 Mirnawan Cup Hockey Tournament which will be held from Nov 2-9.

Malaysian Hockey Confederation (MHC) president Datuk Seri Subahan Kamal said that as the organiser, his party was only able to invite eight teams compared to 10 last year due to these constraints.

"Many foreign countries are interested in participating in this tournament, but we need to look at our current financial capabilities. Therefore, we choose teams that are able to provide quality competition to the country's young players," he told reporters at a press conference here today.

Commenting further, he added that despite the reduction in participation, it has not at all affected the excitement of organising the tournament which is now entering its fourth edition since it was introduced in 2022.

"There is no point in organising a tournament just for the sake of organising it. The main goal is to provide exposure and a big impact on the development of the country's young players," he said.

Earlier, Subahan announced that the U-18 men's category will be participated by Malaysia Speedy, Malaysia Tiger, Japan, South Africa and two teams from Australia, Queensland and Croc One Active.

Meanwhile, the U-18 women's category will be participated by Malaysia Tigress, Japan, South Africa and two teams from Australia, Queensland and Croc One Active.

The Mirnawan Cup is an international invitational hockey tournament organised by the National Hockey Development Programme (NHDP) under the supervision of the National Sports Council (MSN) in collaboration with MHC.

The tournament, which is scheduled to last for eight days, is also an important platform to assess the potential of the country's reserve players and strengthen sports relations between Malaysia and foreign countries.

All teams will compete in a round-robin format, with the top two teams advancing to the final. – Bernama

Ruoning out to defend title

Thailand's Jeeno aims to go one better at Maybank C'ship



Jeeno Thitikul (left) and Yin Ruoning.

WORLD NO. 7 Yin Ruoning *(pic)* of China and Thailand's Jeeno Thitikul will head into the Oct 30-Nov 2 Maybank Golf Championship at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club (KLGCC) with differing goals.

While Ruoning will be keen to defend her title, Jeeno will be determined to go one better after losing to Ruoning by a single stroke last year – and finishing runner-up the year before as well.

And the 23-year-old Ruoning knows it won't be an easy task retaining her title, not with a strong field of competitors – including a fired-up Jeeno – gunning for her this time.

But Ruoning is undaunted and has promised to deliver another strong performance at the KLGCC.

"I'd love to defend my title, but there are a lot of great players this week. I think the LPGA (Ladies Professional Golf Association) players are getting stronger and stronger.

"So, I would say there is a chance for me to defend my title, but there are a lot of great players out there as well. I just plan to play my best out there," she said at a press conference here today.

In last year's edition, Ruoning won her first title at the Maybank Championship with a four-day score of 23-under 265 – edging Jeeno by one stroke.

Having finished second two years in a row, Jeeno, winner of the Mizuho Americas Open in Jersey City, New Jersey, on May 11, is all fired up to make sure she doesn't suffer a hattrick of disappointments.

"I'm definitely trying to get the win, for sure. This is one of my favourite events. I'm so impressed by how much the fans cheered for me last year and the year before," said the 22-year-old Jeeno.

This year's Maybank Championship will feature a strong 78-woman field vying for the title at the US$3 million (RM12.6m) showpiece.

Some of the other big names teeing off this week are Australian Grace Kim, winner of the Evian Championship in July; rising Japanese star Miyu Yamashita, AIG Women's British Open winner in August; and English sensation Lottie Woad, who clinched the ISPS Handa Women's Scottish Open in her first professional start in July. – Bernama

Nepal to play Malaysia next month

MALAYSIA will go into the match with high confidence when they face Nepal in the fifth match of Group F of the 2027 Asian Cup qualifying round on Nov 18 at the National Stadium, Bukit Jalil.

The development was announced via a post on *Malaysia NT*, the official *Facebook* page of Harimau Malaya, yesterday.

The national team, led by Peter Cklamovski, is currently leading the group with a perfect record after winning all four of their previous matches, including crushing nearest challengers Vietnam 4-0 here last June.

Malaysia also beat Nepal 2-0 in the first match at the Sultan Ibrahim Stadium, Iskandar Puteri in Johor, last March.

Cklamovski's men will close the group stage with a return match against Vietnam away in March next year, which is expected to be one of the closing matches of the tournament.

Malaysia remains at the top of the group with 12 points, Vietnam in second place (9 points), followed by Laos in third (3 points) and Nepal at the bottom with no points.

Only the group winners will qualify for the finals in Saudi Arabia which are scheduled to take place in January 2027.

For the record, previously local media reported that the competition venue in Nepal did not receive approval from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to host the match on Nov 18. – Bernama

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1st Prize 3026
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3rd Prize 8745

SPECIAL		CONSOLATION	
6682	0174	5196	8819
9639	7344	0123	6279
9660	2275	4030	5161
2816	6181	5106	1707
8305	9404	2780	3631

4D Jackpot

Jackpot 1 RM6,059,147.59

3026 + 1430	3026 + 8745
1430 + 3026	1430 + 8745
8745 + 3026	8745 + 1430

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Jackpot 1 - Group 1 + Golden Number

Jackpot 2 RM100,000.00 PARTIALLY WON
Jackpot 2 - Group 2 + Golden Number

GROUP 1	2 6 3 0 4 5		
GROUP 2	2 6 3 0 4 _	OR	_ 6 3 0 4 5
GROUP 3	2 6 3 0 _ _	OR	_ _ 3 0 4 5
GROUP 4	2 6 3 _ _ _	OR	_ _ _ 0 4 5
GROUP 5	2 6 _ _ _ _	OR	_ _ _ _ 4 5
		OR	_ _ 3 0 _ _
GOLDEN NUMBER	0 0		

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"If it (his career) had continued, he could have earned more millions, but it's not about the money…"
– Marcel Desailly



Chelsea great Eden Hazard. – *REUTERSPIC*

'Hazard retired too early'

Desailly reveals why he does not blame fellow Chelsea great for ending his career prematurely

BY **WILL CASTLE**

CHELSEA LEGEND Marcel Desailly believes Eden Hazard retired too soon but does not blame the Belgian for stepping away from the sport when he did.

Hazard wrote himself into history as one of the Premier League greatest ever wingers during his seven years at Stamford Bridge, in which he won two Premier League titles and was named Chelsea's player of the season on four occasions.

But after an injury-plagued stint at Real Madrid derailed his career, Hazard retired from football in October 2023 as the age of just 32.

While some would have expected Hazard to have still be tearing up Europe's top divisions at this age, Hazard most recently appeared alongside fellow Blues great Desailly, 57, in a Chelsea Legends game, rolling back the years against a team of Liverpool alumni.

At 23 years his senior, Desailly got to train with Hazard at Cobham before watching the winger make Stamford Bridge his own once again, with the Frenchman admiring from the substitutes bench.

And while recognising that Hazard still had football left in him, Desailly – the rock of Chelsea's defence between 1998 and 2004 – completely supports the Belgian's decision to bring a premature end to his career.

"I will say he retired too early, but he really retired for a good reason," Desailly told *The Independent*. "The reason that the people from outside don't especially all the time understand why a player, at 34, with those millions would retire."

"The perception of the people who love football is that football is an easy game. But for a player to retire, it means that he had enough. He cannot commit to the training, commit to the lifestyle, commit to the pressure.

"If it (his career) had continued, he could have earned more millions, but it's not about the money. Football is the most important sport in the world. There must be a reason (to retire)."

Hazard notched just seven goals in four years at the Bernabeu, having racked up 198 goal contributions in 352 appearances during a glittering spell at Chelsea.

A litany of muscle injuries in his first season, combined with an untimely case of coronavirus, contributed to him falling out of favour under Carlo Ancelotti.

Desailly, speaking in association with OLBG, notes that Hazard was harmed by the loss of his indispensable status that he boasted at Chelsea, with fierce competition for minutes at Real preventing him from ever rediscovering his sensational form of old.

"He was well protected at Chelsea and he did very well," he added. "Amazing Hazard, we love him. But when he joined Real Madrid, other players are there. You need to be committed also at the training session, your lifestyle, your diet, what you drink, what you eat, the intensity of the stress.

"Probably he had enough. He realized that at Chelsea it works only on his talent. But at Madrid he had to give something extra that he was not capable to give out." – The Inependent



Mendes flourishes for PSG
Story on page 29



Rodgers quits Celtic
Story on page 30



Ruoning out to defend title
Story on page 31

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