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Hajji submitting his nomination papers at Dewan Seri Sulaman in Tuaran yesterday. In the last state election, he won the seat with a majority of 3,099 votes. - BERNAMAPIC

GRS chief in 5-way fight

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Candidates from Barisan Nasional, Parti Warisan, Perikatan Nasional and Parti Impian Sabah set to challenge Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajji Noor for Sulaman seat in state polls on Nov 29.

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Elderly more susceptible to scams due to upbringing in era built on trust: Expert



Five-cornered fight in Sulaman for Sabah CM

GRS chairman won seat with 3,099-vote majority in last state election

KOTA KINABALU: Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor is facing a five-cornered contest for the Sulaman seat in the 17th Sabah State Election.

The matter was announced by returning officer Ibrahim Terki at the nomination centre at Dewan Seri Sulaman in Tuaran.

Hajiji, who is also Gabungan Rakyat Sabah (GRS) chairman, arrived at the nomination centre at 9am yesterday accompanied by proposer Datuk Abdul Kassim Razali and seconder Sylvia Belinggi.

In the last state election Hajiji won the seat with a majority of 3,099 votes.

Hajiji, who is also Parti Gagasan Rakyat Sabah (PGRS) president, is being challenged by young and first-time Barisan Nasional (BN) candidate Dr Shahnon Rizal Thaijuddin, Mokhtar Hussin of Parti Warisan (Warisan), Tiaminah @ Siti Aminah Ele of Perikatan Nasional (PN) and Parti Impian Sabah (PIS) candidate Pajudin Nordin.

Earlier, GRS supporters marched from the PGRS Sulaman headquarters in Tuaran town to accompany Hajiji and three other party candidates – Datuk Joniston Bangkuai (Kiulu), Datuk Jasni Daya (Pantai Dalit) and Assoc Prof Dr Bonaventure Bonaface (Tamparuli) – to the nomination centre.

Sulaman has 18,352 registered voters. Dewan Seri Sulaman also serves as the nomination centre for the Pantai Dalit, Tamparuli and Kiulu seats.

"This is democracy. Everyone has the right to contest. However, I am very confident that GRS will secure a large majority in Sulaman," said Hajiji, who has held the seat since 1990.

He said he is optimistic that GRS and Pakatan Harapan would go on to form the state government.

Meanwhile, Sabah BN chairman Datuk Seri Bung Moktar Radin faces a six-cornered contest to defend his Lamag seat.

He is being challenged by Johainizamshah Johari (GRS), Salahuddin @ Saalahuiddin Anoi (PIS), Mohd Saifulah Lokman (Warisan), Mazlin Madali (PN) and independent candidate Mohd Ismail Ayob.

The names of the candidates were

announced by returning officer Yuesri Ismail Yusof after the nomination process at Dewan Sri Lamag in Kinabatangan.

In the last state election, Bung Moktar won the seat with a slim 661-vote majority. The constituency has 13,859 registered voters.

In Kuamut, which has 18,228 voters, incumbent Datuk Masiung Banah (GRS) faces an eight-way contest, Bernama reported.

His challengers are Mohina Ronnie Sidom of United Progressive Kinabalu Organisation, Ted Kelvin Sudin (PIS), John Sungkiang of Parti Perpaduan Rakyat Sabah, Norfaizah Chua (Warisan), Abu Bakar Ellah of Parti Kesejahteraan Demokratik Masyarakat, Jevronnie Mandek of STAR and independent Duin Bintarang.

In Sukau, Sabah BN secretary Datuk Jafry Ariffin faces a seven-cornered race.

He is up against Datuk Juhari Janan (GRS), Afiq Anwari Zulkifli of Parti Kebangsaan Sabah, Roslan Madali (PIS), Azahari Rangon (Warisan), Nordin Damit of Perjuangan Rakyat (PR) and Pengiran Petra Pengiran Asri (PN).

Nov 29 has been set as polling day while early voting is on Nov 25.

'Women judges assessed on merit'

PUTRAJAYA: In a powerful affirmation of gender equality in the judiciary, the Chief Judge of Malaya Tan Sri Hasnah Mohammed Hashim said women judges are assessed purely on performance and have never received differential or preferential treatment compared with men.

She made it clear that the path is not easier for women, adding that the role demands hard work, honesty and integrity above all.

She celebrated their significant impact while issuing a clear call for more women on the bench.

Reflecting on her historic role as the country's third female chief judge, Hasnah, 66, expressed her profound privilege in standing alongside the pioneering legacy of her predecessors Tan Sri Siti Norma Yaakob and Tan Sri Zaharah Ibrahim.

"I feel I am in good company. Tan Sri Norma and Tan Sri Zaharah are remarkable women. I don't think I've come to their level but I'm honoured and privileged to stand alongside such exceptional figures in the judiciary."

She was speaking at her chambers in the Palace of Justice on her last day of work on Friday.

Hasnah said she never aspired to become the chief judge, adding that her focus had always been on doing the work.

She said she had actually wanted to pursue advertising in her younger days but eventually studied law.

"I enjoyed it and I'm very passionate about it now. I never thought that one day, I would occupy this room. Never in a million years. So, I'm truly honoured and privileged."

She said there are no plans to extend the eight-week deadline for judges to prepare their grounds of judgment, stating that the current timeframe is manageable.

"We managed to clear our grounds of judgment within eight weeks and to dispose of nearly 90% of our cases."

Hasnah said despite the immense weight of her judicial responsibilities, she always knew how to enjoy life.

She shared how she would unwind after long hours at work with music, dance and reading or relaxing with a romantic comedy.

She added that her routine relaxation includes cooking and scrolling through TikTok.

"I enjoy TikTok – not for the drama but for the dancing and the baking. I love to cook."

"If you are a career woman, you need to take care of your family. You need to cook for your husband and your children. And when you cook, it relaxes you." – Bernama



Pakatan Harapan supporters at the Dewan SRJK (C) Yuk Chin nomination centre in Tawau yesterday. – BERNAMAPIC

PM lauds role of Trump in resolving Thai-Cambodia border dispute

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim welcomed the active role of United States President Donald Trump in helping Thailand and Cambodia reach a lasting solution to their border issues.

Anwar said he discussed the latest developments on the border issue between the two neighbouring countries with Trump on Friday and expressed the readiness of Thailand and Cambodia to continue to choose

dialogue and diplomatic efforts as a viable solution.

"I stressed that both countries have withdrawn their troops from the border, in line with the approach agreed upon under the Kuala Lumpur Peace Agreement Framework.

"Therefore, I welcome the active role of President Trump, who has also contacted the prime ministers of Cambodia and Thailand to ensure that any differences are dealt with in an

orderly manner to ensure regional stability and harmony," he said in a post on his Facebook page.

It was reported on Monday that the chief of the Thai Armed Forces had announced the suspension of all agreements with Cambodia following a landmine explosion at the border.

Four Thai soldiers were reportedly injured after the landmine exploded during a patrol in Sisaket province, with one losing his right leg.

Anwar said Malaysia would continue to serve as a fair and responsible facilitator in helping Thailand and Cambodia reach a lasting resolution to their border dispute.

He said he had a telephone conversation with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet on Friday to assess the latest developments.

"During the conversation, I expressed our appreciation for Cambodia's mature approach in

choosing the path of peace and prioritising solutions through healthy negotiations and dialogue.

"Malaysia fully supports Cambodia's commitment to using the agreed mechanisms and upholding the Kuala Lumpur Peace Accord dated Oct 26 as the basis to end this longstanding dispute."

Hun Manet expressed sincere thanks to Anwar for Malaysia's active role in facilitating a peaceful solution to the dispute. – Bernama

U Mobile gets **RM4.3bil** boost for 5G rollout target

Deal with major banks facilitates 80% coverage of populated areas by second half of 2026 and shall accelerate expansion, says CEO

KUALA LUMPUR: U Mobile Sdn Bhd has signed a RM4.3 billion syndicated financing facility with five banks to support the deployment of its next-generation 5G network and accelerate the nationwide expansion of its ULTRA5G experience.

It said the deal positions the company among the largest recipients of ringgit-denominated syndicated financing for an unlisted entity.

CIMB Investment Bank Bhd acted as the sole loan coordinator and lead arranger, with CIMB Bank Bhd, CIMB Islamic Bank Bhd, Maybank Islamic Bank Bhd, AmBank Islamic Bank Bhd and UOB Malaysia also providing financing.

In a statement, U Mobile CEO Wong Heang Tuck said the company is ahead in terms of its network rollout targets.

He said U Mobile's 5G deployment across Malaysia



From left: AmBank Group Wholesale Banking Coverage senior vice-president Cheah Wei Koon, AmBank Group Wholesale Banking MD Datuk Jamzidi Khalid, CIMB Bank Corporate and Investment Banking Coverage regional head Freddy T.G. Ong, U Mobile chief financial officer Sandy Tsang, Wong, Maybank Investment Client Coverage MD Chew Ching Ean, Maybank Global Banking Group CEO Datuk John Chong, Marie Phang, head TMT, Corporate Banking, UOB Malaysia and UOB Malaysia Wholesale Banking country head Andy Cheah at the signing ceremony. - PIC COURTESY OF U MOBILE

started in the middle of the year.

"This new facility will further accelerate our rollout ambitions and reinforce our commitment to drive Malaysia's digital economy."

Wong said the financing will mainly fund U Mobile's capital expenditure and working capital for the rollout of U Mobile's next-generation 5G network deployment, aiming to achieve 80% coverage of populated areas by the second half of 2026.

"The funding will also accelerate the expansion of U Mobile's ULTRA5G experience nationwide, a key catalyst in advancing Malaysia's digital economy."

As Malaysia's newest 5G network provider, the company

also strives to provide unbeatable converged solutions and unparalleled customer experience via a next-generation 5G network that is enterprise-grade, driving adoption and fostering digital transformation, Bernama reported.

U Mobile's vision is to be Malaysia's favourite digital services partner by delivering innovative solutions.

Meanwhile, CIMB Group Wholesale Banking CEO Chu Kok Wei said the bank is pleased to be a key partner and the largest financier to U Mobile in the joint financing commitment, which is poised to drive the deployment of U Mobile's next-gen 5G network across Malaysia.

"We aim to strengthen

seamless connectivity across all crucial touchpoints, serving as a catalyst for the nation's strategic digitalisation agenda through our financing efforts.

"We look forward to continue to spur the development of the nation's infrastructure as springboard to a digital-first future, in line with our purpose of Advancing Customers and Society."

Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil had announced a target for U Mobile, which is to achieve 80% 5G coverage in populated areas within the first year of operation and 95% by the third year as per the company's detailed business plan for leading Malaysia's second 5G network.

Contractor error cause of KLIA water leakage

PUTRAJAYA: The water leakage incident at the KL International Airport (KLIA) Terminal 1 was caused by a contractor error during ongoing roof repair and waterproofing works.

Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) said in a statement initial investigations found that the incident occurred while major roof rehabilitation work was being carried out as part of continuous maintenance to address ageing infrastructure.

According to the statement, the contractor had been sealing and covering drainage channels on the rooftop when lightning activity intensified around the airport.

In accordance with safety procedures, all work was immediately halted and workers were instructed to evacuate the rooftop area.

"In the rush to clear the area due to worsening weather conditions, the contractor failed to remove the plywood boards that were used as temporary covers for the drainage channels.

"This resulted in one of the roof drainage systems becoming blocked," it said.

The blockage prevented rainwater from draining as designed, causing a significant accumulation of water on the rooftop.

The pooled water eventually seeped through, leading to a ceiling leak that affected parts of the departure hall.

MAHB said its ground response team managed to clean up and secure the affected area within an hour and a half.

The airport operator described the contractor's failure to follow basic work protocols, especially the removal of temporary drainage covers, as "unacceptable".

"KLIA is entrusted by the public to uphold the highest standards, and we are committed to ensuring that all contractors and partners adhere to these standards.

"KLIA is taking firm action against the contractor involved to address this performance lapse," it added.

MAHB said it is also working with the contractor to immediately strengthen work procedures, including mandatory checks of weather forecasts before starting rooftop work activities.

The roof works are part of a year-long project that began in April to repair and waterproof the main terminal roof. - Bernama

Prison reforms to improve wellbeing of inmates

PUTRAJAYA: The Home Ministry is implementing a comprehensive reform of the country's prison management system by emphasising the wellbeing of prospects (inmates) and the effectiveness of rehabilitation outside the walls.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said apart from improving physical facilities at dilapidated prisons, focus is also being given to the management of 4,400 inmates in vulnerable groups such as the elderly and the disabled.

"We need to create and think about facilities that are more disabled-friendly. Although the

number is small, it is my responsibility to manage this matter," he said in an exclusive interview with Bernama at the minister's office recently.

According to Saifuddin Nasution, the ministry is also looking into the process of replacing dilapidated prisons such as the Pengkalan Chepa Prison in Kelantan and the Alor Setar Prison in Kedah.

Going beyond the traditional approach, the Home Affairs Ministry, through the Prisons Department, also implements rehabilitation programmes outside prison walls such as the parole system and the Compulsory

Attendance Order, which have proven effective in reducing the rate of recidivism.

He said latest data from the Prisons Department showed that only one in 800 programme participants returned to crime after being released, compared with the recidivism rate among prospects who served their full sentences in prison, which recorded a much higher recidivism rate of about 13 out of every 100.

"When they are mentored outside of prison, they gain skills and change. Data shows that rehabilitation outside the walls is much more effective," said Saifuddin Nasution.

Commenting on efforts to reduce the pressure on prisons, which currently house 87,000 individuals compared with the capacity of 73,000, he said the Home Affairs Ministry was finalising an amendment to the Prison Act to allow for house arrest orders for remand prisoners.

He said of the total, 30,000 were prospects who had not been convicted of any offence and some could not afford to pay bail, thus becoming the biggest contributor to overcrowding.

"If we had a house arrest Act for remand detainees, we could release them. This would make prisons less crowded," he said.

Appointment of new Putrajaya Corp president expected to boost development

PUTRAJAYA: The appointment of Datuk Mohd Sakeri Abdul Kadir as the new Putrajaya Corporation president is believed to bring added value in steering Putrajaya's development, in line with the CHASE City vision, said Minister in

the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Datuk Seri Dr Zaliha Mustafa.

She said Mohd Sakeri's appointment is in line with Paragraph 5(1)(a) of the Putrajaya Corporation Act 1995.

"He will lead efficiently, with integrity and clear vision, thereby strengthening the urban development agenda, in line with the CHASE City vision. This includes efforts to enhance the quality of urban maintenance,

digitalisation of municipal services, strengthening of green mobility initiatives, inclusive community development and Putrajaya's long-term planning, in line with the Putrajaya Structure Plan 2050," she said in a statement.

On Friday, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar announced the appointment of Mohd Sakeri as the new Putrajaya Corporation president for a two-year term, until Nov 14, 2027. - Bernama

Revised vehicle loan system gets thumbs up

Car dealers, buyers want rollout of new hire purchase Bill to come with clear guidance from authorities and details made public

BY FAIZ RUZMAN
 newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: Potential vehicle buyers have welcomed the new Hire Purchase (Amendment) Bill 2025, but said its rollout must come with clear guidance from the Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Ministry and Bank Negara Malaysia.

As Malaysia prepares to adopt the reducing balance interest system for car loans, vehicle dealers and buyers said details must be made public.

Puchong-based car dealer Muhammad Hidzeir Haizar, 28, said the new system would change how customers judge long-tenure loans and may reshape buying patterns.

"With a nine-year loan, the interest goes down as the balance gets smaller, and customers will feel the arrangement is fair between them and the bank.

"People always think a nine-year loan puts them at a loss. But with this structure, they can decide based on their actual financial situation," Muhammad Hidzeir told *theSun*.

He said the shift would require dealers to adjust both their pricing and sales strategy to keep older stock moving while preparing for faster turnover cycles among customers.

"For higher cost used car units bought under the old structure, we may need to promote them more aggressively through trade-in rebates or limited-time settlement rebates so inventory does not slow down.

"A customer who buys this year may be able to sell earlier and upgrade faster, which means the repeat purchase cycle becomes quicker and dealers must strategise pricing carefully.



Potential buyers said the new Hire Purchase Bill is easier to understand and does not feel as burdensome. - ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THE SUN

"Clearer direction from regulators is essential before dealers can fully adapt to the new calculation method and plan their stock movements.

"There cannot be confusion during the transition. Used car financing rarely gets meaningful support, so incentives for older stock would help prevent our sales from being negatively affected," he said.

Meanwhile, prospective buyers told *theSun* about how the revised system could influence their loan choices.

Businessman Muhammad Rizqan, 25, from Johor said the reducing balance method feels more transparent for first time borrowers.

"This method is easier to understand and doesn't feel as burdensome. I'm more confident taking a long-term loan now. But on paper, the burden looks lighter and some people may get carried away with the idea of lower interest and take on too many commitments.

"The government's decision is good, but banks must give clearer explanations, especially on the technical parts to avoid confusion among buyers," he said.

Marketing executive Muhammad Aizat Zainol, 26, from Kuala Lumpur, who is considering moving from a motorcycle to a car, said the

amendment makes financing appear more manageable.

"I never really understood car loan structures, but this new law sounds more appealing. Early settlement options help me plan better and choose a car within the right price range," he said.

Private-sector employee Safwan Adlan, 25, from Petaling Jaya said the system gives him clearer expectations about long-term repayment.

"In the long run, it's better because I can expect reductions after two or three years. The first payments may be tougher if banks adjust rates. But overall, it's an improvement.

"I still prefer to finish my loan fully, but if early settlement becomes cheaper, it's a good option to have."

The Hire Purchase (Amendment) Bill 2025 abolishes the flat-rate and Rule 78 formula and replaces it with the reducing balance method, in which interest is charged only on the outstanding loan amount instead of being front-loaded in the early years of a contract. The Bill was approved by Parliament on Oct 8 and is expected to take effect within 18 months of gazettelement, giving banks time to reconfigure systems and adjust product structures before issuing new hire-purchase agreements.

Assoc Prof Dr Ida Yasin said consumers have been anticipating the change and some have delayed purchasing decisions while waiting for the new law to take effect.

She said banks may adjust interest rates upwards to maintain margins once the new calculation model is rolled out.

Universiti Teknologi Mara financial specialist Dr Mohamad Idham Md Razak said the amendments are a significant improvement for consumers, offering a more equitable and transparent approach to car financing.

"Interest now reduces progressively, allowing early payers to enjoy greater savings. This creates a fairer and more transparent system and encourages responsible financial behaviour," he said.

- By FAIZ RUZMAN

No major shift in purchase, financing trends expected

PETALING JAYA: The amended framework under the Hire Purchase (Amendment) Bill 2025 may help consumers better understand vehicle loan pricing but major shifts in purchase or financing trends are not anticipated in the near future.

The Association of Banks in Malaysia (ABM) told *theSun* that the revised payment method is a positive modernisation of consumer credit, but its full implications or assessment on borrower behaviour and vehicle financing demand would take time.

"It is still too early to draw firm conclusions on the potential impact that these amendments will have on consumer demand for vehicle financing, but we expect that the transition to a reducing balance method could

encourage greater transparency and clarity in pricing for consumers.

"However, any changes in demand may not be significant as consumer preferences would continue to be shaped by prevailing economic conditions, income levels and available incentives," ABM said via e-mail.

The association also does not anticipate a major rise in early settlements, despite the new formula making it cheaper for borrowers to pay off loans ahead of schedule.

According to ABM, the industry is evaluating the operational implications for existing accounts; existing contracts would generally remain unchanged. Discussions are ongoing to support a smooth and consistent transition.

Putra Business School economist

Timber tycoon laid to rest in SibU

SIBU: The remains of the late Tan Sri Tiong Hiew King, 90, founder and executive chairman of the Rimbunan Hijau Group who passed away on Tuesday, was laid to rest at Tiong's Memorial Park here yesterday at about 12.30pm.

Earlier, the timber and media tycoon's residence at Jalan Brooke Drive here was filled with about 1,000 people, including media staff, family members, business associates and employees of the group, who arrived as early as 6am.

The casket carrying Tiong's remains was carried into a hearse at 7.48am, and accompanied by several other vehicles, was driven past RH Hotel in the city centre before stopping at the Xin Fu Yuan Methodist Church for final prayers.

The procession then continued past Menara Rimbunan Hijau in Jalan Lanang before proceeding to Tiong's Memorial Park in Jalan Teku for the funeral ceremony.

The late Tiong was born here in 1935 and received his early education at Chung Cheng Primary School, then at Methodist Secondary School and Sacred Heart Secondary School.

His career in the timber industry began while working at his uncle's logging company, before founding the Rimbunan Hijau Group with his siblings in 1975 and successfully building a strong reputation and growing it into a multinational company.

Apart from timber export and processing, the group diversified its business into media and publishing, agriculture including oil palm plantations and mills as well as oil and gas, mining, aquaculture, reforestation, finance, information technology, trading and property development.

In 2010, Tiong received the Malaysian Business Leadership Award - Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kuala Lumpur Malay Chamber of Commerce.

In Malaysia, there are four publicly listed companies under the group, namely Subur Tiasa Holdings Bhd, Jaya Tiasa Holdings Bhd, Rimbunan Sawit Bhd and Media Chinese International Ltd.

According to Forbes, Tiong has an estimated net worth of US\$820 million (RM3.3 billion), ranking 25th on the list of the 50 Richest People in Malaysia in 2025. - Bernama

Three-month bonus for S'gor civil servants

SHAH ALAM: The Selangor government has announced a Special Financial Incentive of three months' salary for civil servants in the state.

Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari said the incentive was a token of appreciation and aimed to motivate civil servants who have worked together to develop the state.

"The incentive of one-and-a-half months' salary has been channelled early this year, while the second incentive of another one-and-a-half months, or a minimum of RM1,000, will be channelled on Dec 18, 2025," he said during tabling of the Selangor Budget 2026 at the Selangor state assembly on Friday.

Amirudin said community leaders, relations officers of Kampung Baru, Bagan and Tersusun, Indian community chiefs, Wanita Berdaya supervisors and Penggerak Belia Selangor will receive one-month allowances.

"Mosque staff will receive RM500 from donations of the state government via Menteri Besar (Incorporated)," he added. - Bernama

Experts call for face-to-face scam awareness for elderly

Rising cases of love, Macau scams prompt calls for hands-on education and community-based programmes for senior citizens

BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI
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PETALING JAYA: Experts believe Malaysia needs targeted, face-to-face scam awareness seminars for senior citizens to better protect this increasingly vulnerable group.

An expert told *theSun* that the elderly were not falling for scams because they were weak, but because they grew up in an era built on trust, a trait now exploited by sophisticated fraudsters.

Malaysia Cyber Consumer Association president Sirajuddin Jalil said the country should introduce scam awareness programmes for the elderly, similar to Singapore's model, as police data show a sharp increase in love and Macau scams involving seniors.

"A more hands-on, simulation-based educational approach is urgently needed to ensure preventive messages are effectively understood by this group," he said.

Among the most common scams targeting senior citizens are:

- ➔ love scams that exploit emotional connections to deceive victims into transferring money;
- ➔ Macau scams involving impersonation of police officers, bank staff or court officials;
- ➔ fraudulent investment or cryptocurrency schemes promising unrealistic returns; and
- ➔ parcel and Customs scams using fake automated messages on WhatsApp.

Sirajuddin added that Macau scams have recently evolved to include physical intimidation, with criminals sending individuals posing as officials to reinforce instructions given over the phone.

"This physical engagement adds psychological pressure and makes elderly victims more susceptible, especially when they are in a state of panic or confusion," he said.

Although the National Scam Response Centre and the SemakMule portal exist, he said their impact among seniors remains limited as many do not use official digital channels and tend to trust face-to-face communication more.

"Preventive education must be delivered through community-based channels rather than relying solely on social media or official websites," he said.

He proposed a national programme similar to a "Senior Cyber Ambassador" initiative, in which trained community volunteers deliver scam prevention talks at mosques, temples, community halls and health centres.

These sessions could include real-life scam call simulations, reporting cases using the 997 hotline and standardised modules to ensure consistent messaging nationwide.

Sirajuddin also called for the National Anti-Scam Roadshow to be expanded and made a core module for community leaders, including village heads, mosque and surau committees, resident



An expert said the elderly were not falling for scams because they were weak, but because they grew up in an era built on trust that is now being exploited by sophisticated fraudsters. – ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

associations and senior citizen activity centres.

He said face-to-face workshops are the most effective for seniors, although digital modules could serve as helpful supplements when supported by family members or caregivers.

"A hybrid approach that combines physical workshops with light digital content, such as short videos, infographics and simple guides, could further enhance the effectiveness of these programmes," he said.

A retired senior police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the rising number of elderly victims has strengthened calls for more regular awareness seminars and community workshops to help seniors recognise and avoid scams.

He added that ignorance remains a key factor in scam cases and many victims were lured by promises of unusually high investment returns.

"Malaysia has long conducted

anti-scam efforts through broadcasts, carnivals and community engagement sessions, although these are not always specifically targeted at senior citizens."

He encouraged continued collaboration between authorities and NGOs to reach at-risk groups, adding that public awareness is crucial to preventing losses.

"Everyone, especially media content providers, should play a role to instil knowledge.

"Malaysians must also know their rights and not be gullible when (receiving instructions during) phone calls," he said.

While awareness among the elderly has improved compared with previous years, he believes more frequent scam seminars would further strengthen understanding.

"Such programmes should be held more regularly with other stakeholders, including community and resident associations as well as local councils," he added.

Bodies of 12 boat capsized victims sent for autopsy

LANGKAWI: The bodies of 12 victims from the boat capsized incident in waters off the Malaysia-Thai border have been taken to the Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital in Alor Setar.

Langkawi district police chief ACP Khairul Azhar Nuruddin said the victims comprised 10 men, a boy and a girl.

"Post-mortem examinations for all previously sent bodies have been completed, while the 12 sent yesterday are also expected to undergo autopsies," he said.

With the transfer of all remains to the hospital, no bodies from the tragedy are being kept at the Sultanah Maliha Hospital in Langkawi.

Khairul Azhar said a meeting with the state Islamic religious authorities is expected to take place tomorrow to determine the next steps, including burial arrangements.

On the 14 survivors, he said they remain in police custody pending further investigation.

Earlier, the 12 bodies were transported from the Sultanah Maliha Hospital in a police truck and arrived at the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency jetty in Bukit Malut at 7.20am.

They were then taken by a marine police boat to Kuala Perlis before being transferred to the hospital in Alor Setar.

To date, 28 victims believed to be of Rohingya origin have been found dead, while 14 others have been rescued after a boat carrying an estimated 70 illegal immigrants capsized in waters near the maritime border. – Bernama

Police seeking suspect over seven break-ins

IPOH: Police are searching for a man suspected of involvement in seven break-ins at business premises in Tanjong Malim on Wednesday.

Muallim police chief Supt Mohd Hasni Mohd Nasir said the suspect, believed to be in his 40s and from Selangor, is thought to have acted alone and gained entry through front doors that were kicked or forced open.

"We have identified the suspect based on several factors, including reports lodged by all seven business owners on the same day the break-ins occurred. Only three of the premises suffered losses, with the suspect escaping with cash and valuables estimated at RM5,200," Mohd Hasni said.

He urged individuals with information on the cases to contact police immediately.

Several CCTV recordings circulating on social media show a suspect dressed as a woman breaking into multiple premises and fleeing with cash and valuables between 4.15am and 6.20am. – Bernama

New fleet upgrades set to strengthen MMEA

PUTRAJAYA: The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) will soon receive new assets, including helicopters, offshore patrol vessels (OPV) and a mothership to strengthen security in the country's waters.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said enhancing the capabilities of the agency has remained a priority for the Home Ministry to ensure it is equipped to handle threats such as arms smuggling and encroachment by foreign fishermen.

"The MMEA is very close to me, which is why I am going all out to improve the capabilities of its assets. It will receive four new helicopters for monitoring

purposes. One OPV is ready and two more are in the process," he said during an exclusive interview with Bernama at his office recently.

A new Turkish-made Multi-Purpose Mission Ship (MPMS), currently under construction, is expected to begin operations in the first quarter of 2027.

The acquisition of the MPMS is seen as a strategic move to boost national defence and maritime enforcement capabilities.

Equipped with advanced specifications, the MPMS would be able to operate continuously for 30 days and will house modern assets, including four fast interceptor boats, two unmanned aerial drones, a helicopter landing

deck, medical facilities and a detention centre.

The 99m vessel, that can accommodate a crew of 70 and 30 passengers, would focus on surveillance in the South China Sea, particularly in addressing foreign vessel intrusions, illegal fishing and cross-border crimes such as smuggling and human trafficking.

Saifuddin Nasution said the MMEA also received the former US Coast Guard cutter *Steadfast* earlier this month.

The 64.16m vessel, which is 10m wide and weighs 1,100 tonnes, can accommodate 12 officers and 63 personnel and travel at speeds of up to 18 knots.

"It will enhance MMEA's

capacity to control nearly 600,000sq km of national borders.

"They are the ones who deal with arms smuggling, drugs, human trafficking, illegal fishing and foreign vessel intrusions," he said.

The agency has also been strengthened with the arrival of four new AW189 super-medium category helicopters.

Saifuddin also stressed the need for stronger intelligence sharing among Asean countries to enhance regional security.

"If Indonesia has intelligence, it will share it with us. If we have intelligence, we can share it with Thailand (and they) can also share it with Singapore." – Bernama

White water rafting draw of Sungai Kiulu

Unique geography of area also provides opportunities for locals to boost income through community-based eco-tourism activities

KOTA KINABALU: Sungai Kiulu, with its powerful currents, challenging rapids and stunning natural scenery, has been a paradise for white water rafting enthusiasts both locally and internationally for the past 20 years.

The area's unique geography has also provided an opportunity for locals to boost their income through community-based eco-tourism activities.

Since the adventure sport gained popularity, eight rafting companies started operations in Kiulu.

However, following the Covid-19 pandemic, only three remain active, including the Kiulu Water Rafting Centre.

Amin Ashraf, 51, an experienced rafting guide at the centre, said they host thousands of tourists annually.

"When we first started in 2005, we only had two or three dingies for rafting. But as demand grew, we expanded our facilities and strengthened safety measures."

He said they currently have 10 craft, each with a capacity to accommodate up to eight passengers, Bernama reported.

He added that about 70% of their clients were foreign tourists from countries such as Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan and China, while the remainder are local visitors from Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah.



White water rafting in Sungai Kiulu is a major attraction for foreign and local tourists. - BERNAMAPIC

Sungai Kiulu offers a rafting route of over 14km, with thrilling rapids and lush tropical rainforest views, making it stand out from other rivers in Malaysia.

"Unlike rivers elsewhere that are narrow and fast, the river here is wider and longer. Tourists can also see wildlife along the way such as birds, iguanas and monitor lizards."

Amin added that during the rainy season, the rapids at Kiulu could reach Grade Four (advanced), providing an even more challenging and exciting experience for adventure seekers.

Gabungan Rakyat Sabah candidate for the Kiulu state seat Datuk Joniston Bangkuai acknowledged Kiulu's potential as an eco-tourism destination.

He has long recognised the area's eco-tourism potential, and since taking

office in 2013, he has pushed for various development programmes.

"Through community-based tourism programmes, locals can now earn up to RM10,000 a month by capitalising on Kiulu's unique geography, its rich culture and handicrafts."

He said there were only three or four tourism operators in Kiulu in 2014 but now the number has grown to over 80, including community-based tourism businesses.

He expressed intent to further internationalise Kiulu's eco-tourism if he is re-elected.

The Kiulu constituency, located about 50km from Kota Kinabalu, has 17,191 voters.

In the 16th Sabah state election, Joniston won the Kiulu seat with a majority of 1,221 votes, defeating five other candidates.

Bajau traditional dance still popular

SEMPORNA: The *Igal*, a dance performed by the Bajau community of eastern Sabah during official ceremonies and festive events such as the annual Regatta Lepa in Semporna, is more than just a graceful form of art. It is also a living symbol of heritage, culture and dignity.

It is no surprise that many Bajau people master the *Igal* as the dance is taught from childhood. One of its notable performers is 2012 Lepa Queen Elina Jikanari, 42, who began learning the dance at the age of seven.

Since earning her title 13 years ago, Elina has seen *Igal* gain recognition beyond Semporna, particularly with the inclusion of Regatta Lepa in Sabah's tourism calendar.

"Interest in *Igal* is very strong here. Children as young as seven usually start showing a passion for it.

"Each year, more tourists come for Regatta Lepa and they're fascinated by the uniqueness of the dance movements."

Elina said performers traditionally wear black, yellow or green *kebaya* outfits without beads or sequins.

Their headpieces, known in the Bajau language as *mahakuttak*, *ladjuk* and *jabang*, are complemented by ornate nail adornments called *salung kuku*, *janggalai* and *solengkengkeng*.

"During performances, a Lepa Queen holds wooden clappers called *bolak-bolak*, that produce rhythmic sounds," said Elina, who has performed as far as Yogyakarta, Indonesia in 2019.

Nur Aina Naziha Abdul Ghafor, 32, another Lepa Queen crowned in 2018, said the title carries the duty of promoting *Igal* and preserving Bajau traditions among younger generations.

She also uses social media to share knowledge and raise awareness about Bajau culture.

Datu Sabri Datu Alawiddin, 33, winner of the 2024 *Igal* Lallah Dorongan (Best Male Dancer) title, said mastering the dance requires learning four key rhythms - *kuntau*, *tabawan*, *tarirai* and *lellang*.

His passion for *Igal* began in primary school and led him to study dance at the Sultan Idris Education University.

"I plan to conduct *Igal* workshops to promote this traditional art beyond our community. If not us, who else would preserve it?" - Bernama

EDUCATION

FOCUS 2025

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Cambodia, Thailand going to be fine, says Trump

President calls three Asean premiers

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump said on Friday he thought Thailand and Cambodia were "going to be fine", after he sought to mediate a flare-up in their border dispute, but the Thai leader continued to demand an apology from Phnom Penh.

Thailand this week suspended a US-brokered ceasefire deal and demanded an apology over allegations that Cambodia had laid fresh landmines that injured Thai soldiers, which Cambodia denies.

Long-running tensions over a disputed border between the two Southeast Asian nations erupted into five days of fighting in July, when at least 48 people were killed and an estimated 300,000 temporarily displaced, before Trump and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim brokered the ceasefire.

"I spoke to the prime ministers of both countries and they're doing great. I think they're going to be fine," Trump told reporters on Friday evening.

But Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said yesterday that Bangkok would not adhere to the agreement until Cambodia admitted its violation and issued an apology for the latest incident.

Anutin posted on Facebook after speaking to Trump and Anwar that Thailand has the right to take any action necessary to protect its sovereignty and ensure the safety of its people and property from foreign threats.

He said he asked Trump and Anwar, who has been a mediator in the dispute, to tell Cambodian Prime Minister Hun

Manet to abide by the agreement and not to interfere in the removal of mines.

Hun said in a Facebook post yesterday that Phnom Penh would continue to implement the deal and hoped both sides would continue to work together in accordance with the agreed principles and mechanism.

Trump also engaged with Malaysia on Friday, a White House official said.

Anwar posted on X that Cambodia and Thailand were ready to "continue choosing the space for dialogue and diplomatic efforts as an effective path to resolution". - Reuters

Alibaba denies helping military target US

BEIJING: Tech giant Alibaba has denied helping Beijing target the United States, telling AFP yesterday that a recent media report was "completely false".

The *Financial Times* (FT) reported early yesterday that Alibaba "provides tech support for Chinese military 'operations' against (US) targets", according to a White House memo provided to the newspaper.

The memo claimed that Alibaba hands customer data, including "IP addresses, WiFi information and payment records", to Chinese authorities and the People's Liberation Army (PLA), the report said.

The FT said it could not

independently verify the claims, adding that the White House believes the actions threaten US security.

An Alibaba Group spokesperson said "the assertions and innuendos in the article are completely false".

The Hangzhou-based firm called the memo a "malicious PR operation (that) clearly came from a rogue voice looking to undermine President Trump's recent trade deal with China".

The dispute highlights persisting suspicions between Beijing and Washington, which are locked in competition for technological superiority.

Since returning to office in

January, President Donald Trump has reignited a fierce trade war with China.

After months of tit-for-tat tariffs, he and counterpart Xi Jinping agreed to a one-year truce late last month.

A spokesman for China's embassy in the United States also denied claims in the reported memo.

"The Chinese government will never require companies or individuals to collect or provide data located in foreign countries in violation of local laws," said Liu Pengyu in a statement on X.

The report adds to growing concern in Washington about China's potential use of advanced

technology to spy.

On Thursday, California-based artificial intelligence firm Anthropic said it had detected and disrupted what it described as the first documented cyber-espionage campaign conducted largely autonomously by AI.

The activities were attributed to a "Chinese state-sponsored group" designated as GTG-1002, Anthropic said.

Asked about the report at a news conference on Friday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian said he was "not familiar with the specifics", adding that Beijing had consistently fought hacking activities. - AFP

Nine killed in Kashmir police station explosion

SRINAGAR: Nine people were killed and 31 injured when confiscated explosives accidentally blew up at a police station in Indian-administered Kashmir, police said yesterday, just days after a car blast in Delhi killed a dozen people.

The incident happened in Nowgam and the explosives at the police station were recovered from Faridabad in the northern state of Haryana earlier this week, just hours before the powerful blast in Delhi that killed 12 people.

Samples from the recovered material were being sent for further forensic examination since Thursday, the region's director-general of police Nalin Prabhat said, and the procedure was being handled with "utmost caution" due to its "unstable and sensitive nature".

"Unfortunately, during this course (on Friday) at about 11.20pm (2am Saturday in Malaysia), an accidental explosion took place.

"Any other speculation into the cause of this incident is unnecessary," he told reporters.

The victims included police



Relatives of the victims who died in the blast arguing with security personnel while demanding the release of the bodies yesterday. - AFP/PIIC

personnel, forensic team members and two crime photographers and other members from the local administration.

"The building of the police station has been severely damaged and nearby buildings

have been affected," Prabhat said.

The explosion comes just days after a powerful blast on Monday killed at least 12 people and wounded 30 others in New Delhi.

It was the most significant security incident since April 22, when 26 civilians were killed at

the tourist site of Pahalgam, triggering clashes with Pakistan.

India's government on Wednesday vowed to bring the "perpetrators, their collaborators, and their sponsors" of the deadly car blast to justice and called it an act of terrorism. - AFP

Duo held with wildlife, drugs

BANGKOK: Thai rangers have detained two men suspected of being part of a wildlife smuggling network, the military said yesterday after they were intercepted in a car carrying 81 macaques near the Cambodian border.

A patrol stopped the vehicle on Friday in the Aranyaprathet district of Sa Kaeo province, and troops found the monkeys stuffed into net bags.

"At 3.20pm, authorities arrested the two suspects and inspected their vehicle," the 12th Ranger Forces Regiment, which is responsible for the area, said in a statement.

The soldiers also seized methamphetamine pills and crystal meth, although no quantities were specified.

During questioning, the men admitted they were involved in a trafficking ring moving macaques from Thailand into Cambodia, the military said.

Troops were working with police to file charges under wildlife protection and narcotics laws.

Last year, Thailand sent almost 1,000 highly endangered lemurs and tortoises back to their home in Madagascar, after conducting the biggest operation against wildlife trafficking involving both countries.

In May, Thai police arrested a man suspected of smuggling two baby orangutans into the kingdom. - AFP

Oil tanker 'likely' seized off UAE

DUBAI: Iran likely seized an oil tanker on Friday, security sources said, stoking concern that Tehran has resumed maritime captures after a lull.

The ship, which had left Ajman in the United Arab Emirates destined for Singapore, was heading for Iranian waters.

Ellie Shafik of Vanguard Tech said the *Talara* had been intercepted by Iran's Revolutionary Guards and detained.

"It's unclear why Iran would likely frame this as a judicially ordered, law-based action, masking what may just be a strategic seizure," she said.

Iran has so far not commented on the incident.

The US Navy said it was "actively monitoring the situation".

"Commercial vessels are entitled to largely unimpeded rights of navigation and commerce on the high seas," said the US 5th Fleet, which patrols the region.

The Marshall Islands-flagged vessel was heading south through the Strait of Hormuz when it was approached by three small boats, maritime security company Ambrey said, adding it had made a "sudden course deviation".

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations said the incident is "believed to be state activity". - AFP



Amazon leaders want voice at climate summit

Conference head reassures tribal chiefs

BELEM: Dozens of tribal protesters blocked the entrance to the UN climate summit in Brazil on Friday to highlight their struggle in the Amazon, prompting high-level interventions to defuse the situation.

The protest lasted about two hours but intensified concerns over security at COP30 after a demonstration on Tuesday.

On Friday, about 60 men and women in tribal garb and headdresses, some carrying babies, formed a human barricade at the main summit entrance as delegates arrived.

Dozens of armed soldiers and military police were guarding the venue entrance, but the United Nations told attendees that there was "no danger".

Beneath the blazing sun, the group demanded to meet President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and stood their ground as diplomats were ushered through side doors.

"We want to be heard, we also want to take part in the negotiations," said Alessandra Korap, a tribal leader.

COP30 president Andre Correa do Lago skipped a morning event to meet the group, accepting the hand of one protester and at another point, holding a baby in a feathered headpiece.

The demonstrators had "strong and very legitimate concerns," said Correa do Lago after the consultations in a nearby hall.

"We had a very positive, very constructive dialogue," he said.

After a second intervention that lasted many hours, Correa do Lago said: "You can be sure that this government will defend you at COP30" and he denied there was any "threat" to their rights.

The protesters, from the Munduruku community, are seeking to advance the demarcation of their homelands.

They also contest the Ferrograo project, a nearly 1,000km railway intended to cross Brazil from west to east to transport grain.

"Fighting for our territories is fighting for our lives," read a banner held by a demonstrator. - AFP



Correa do Lago holds a Munduruku toddler while protesters block the entrance to the conference venue. - AFP/IC

Push to quickly adopt Gaza resolution

NEW YORK: The United States and several Arab and Muslim-majority nations including Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye called on Friday for the UN Security Council to quickly adopt a US resolution endorsing Donald Trump's peace plan for Gaza.

"The United States, Qatar, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Jordan, and Turkiye express our joint support for the Security Council Resolution under consideration," the countries said in a joint statement, adding they were seeking "swift adoption" of the measure.

Last week, the Americans officially launched negotiations within the 15-member Security Council on a text

that would follow up on a ceasefire in the two-year war between Israel and Hamas and endorse Trump's plan.

A draft of the resolution seen on Thursday "welcomes the establishment of the Board of Peace", a transitional governing body for Gaza - that Trump would theoretically chair - with a mandate running until the end of 2027.

It would authorise member states to form a "temporary International Stabilisation Force" that would work with Israel, Egypt and newly trained Palestinian police to help secure border areas and demilitarise the Gaza Strip.

Unlike previous drafts, the latest mentions a possible future Palestinian state.

Friday's joint statement comes as Russia circulated a competing draft resolution to council members that does not authorise the creation of a board of peace or the immediate deployment of an international force.

The Russian version welcomes "the initiative that led to the ceasefire" but does not name Trump.

It also only calls on the UN secretary-general to submit a report that addresses the possibilities of deploying an international stabilisation force.

China has signalled it is prepared to support the Russian draft.

The United States has called the ceasefire "fragile" and warned of the risks of not adopting its draft. - AFP

Trump mulls suing BBC for US\$5 billion

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said on Friday he would likely sue the BBC next week for as much as US\$5 billion (RM20.6 billion) after the broadcaster admitted it wrongly edited a video of a speech he gave but insisted there was no legal basis for his claim.

The British Broadcasting Corporation has been plunged into its biggest crisis in decades after two senior leaders resigned following accusations of bias, including over the editing of Trump's speech on Jan 6, 2021, when radicals stormed the Capitol.

Trump's lawyers had initially set a Friday deadline for the BBC to retract its documentary or face a lawsuit for "no less" than US\$1 billion.

They also demanded an apology and compensation for what they called "overwhelming reputational and financial harm", according to a letter seen by Reuters.

The BBC, which has admitted its editing of Trump's remarks was an "error of judgement", sent a personal apology to Trump on Thursday but said it would not rebroadcast the documentary and rejected the defamation claim.

"We'll sue them for anywhere between US\$1 billion and US\$5 billion, probably sometime next week," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One as he headed to Florida for the weekend.

"I think I have to do that, I mean they've even admitted that they cheated. They changed the words coming out of my mouth."

The documentary, which aired on the BBC flagship *Panorama* news programme, spliced together three video excerpts from Trump's speech, creating the impression he was inciting the riot on Jan 6, 2021.

His lawyers said this was "false and defamatory". - Reuters

Court: Apple must pay Masimo US\$634m

WASHINGTON: A federal jury in California said on Friday that Apple owes medical-monitoring technology company Masimo US\$634 million (RM2.6 billion) for infringing a patent covering blood-oxygen reading technology.

The jury agreed with Masimo that the Apple Watch workout mode and heart rate notification features violated Masimo's patent rights, a Masimo spokesperson said.

An Apple spokesperson said the company disagrees with the verdict and will appeal. Masimo, in a statement, called the verdict "a significant win in efforts to protect our innovations and intellectual property".

The California lawsuit is one branch of a contentious, multi-front patent fight between Apple and Masimo, which has accused Apple of hiring away its employees and stealing its pulse oximetry technology to use in Apple Watches.

The dispute led a trade tribunal to block imports of Apple's Series 9 and Ultra 2 smartwatches in 2023 after finding that Apple's technology infringed Masimo's patents.

Apple removed blood-oxygen reading technology from its watches to avoid the ban and reintroduced an updated version of the technology in August with approval from US Customs and Border Protection.

The International Trade Commission on Friday decided to hold a new proceeding to determine whether Apple's updated watches should be subject to the ban.

Masimo has filed a lawsuit against Customs over the decision. Apple has separately challenged the import ban at a federal appeals court. - Reuters



the **Sun**day

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digital age**

The handmade hustle

Malaysia's creative small-business boom



Inside Malaysia's thriving creative small-business scene

BY DAYANA SOBRI

IT can be easy to overlook the rich tapestry of talent that thrives within our own borders. Yet amid fast fashion, mass production and algorithm-fed content, a growing number of Malaysians are choosing to *sapot lokal* – supporting homegrown artists, makers and visionaries who infuse their craft with

personal stories, culture and care.

Whether you're searching for hand-poured bath treats, quirky ceramic art or storytelling through traditional textiles, these six small local creatives offer more than just aesthetics; they offer meaning. Here's a closer look at the work they do and how you can support them.

Threading heritage through jewellery: Manikam Si Bangsawan (@manikamsibangsawan)

Founded by a medical professional who uses drawing as an escape and prefers to remain mysterious, Manikam si Bangsawan is a contemporary jewellery label that features accessories with timeless designs and natural stones, creating pieces steeped in memory and meaning. Many of the works echo elements of their Malay roots, often reworking forgotten heirlooms into wearable art inspired by Mahsuri and women. Apart from the usual necklaces, bracelets, rings and pendants, Manikam si Bangsawan also offers beautifully embellished phone casings.



Artistic storytelling in playful shapes: Chauxhien (@chauxhien)

Venice Foo, also known as Chau Xhien, is a full-time artist based in North Borneo whose work spans paintings, needlework and hand-poked tattoos, all infused with the vibrant intricacy of a maximalist aesthetic. Since beginning as a muralist in 2015, she has explored a wide range of creative practices – from portrait drawing and crochet to embroidery, beading and weaving – consistently merging detail with playfulness.

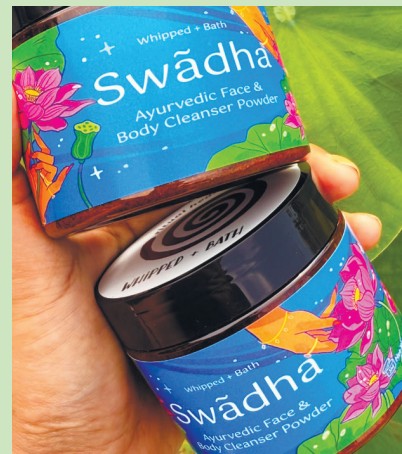


Pretty modesty in pastel: Lolukis (@lo.lukis)

Lolukis, a faith-based gift and stationery brand, is the brainchild of Liyana Othman, a corporate professional currently on a career break. After years in corporate communications at an MNC, she decided to take an unpaid year off to slow down, return to her studies and, unexpectedly, start Lolukis – a home-based, faith-inspired art shop. Some of her popular products include Palestinian-inspired tote bags and stickers, Quranic comfort jars (containing 50 colourful notes with Quranic verses), cutesy sippy cups and calendars.

Wearable chunky 'art gallery': Chonky Artisanal Jewellery (@chonky.my)

Wacky Wearables, a sculptor with exceptional skills, runs Chonky Artisanal Jewellery. Though the handmade pieces may be a tad quirky and appeal more to younger demographics, Wacky Wearables has sculpted several items inspired by popular culture, local flora and fauna, local food and Malaysian batik for collectors. *Nasi lemak* keycaps, floral batik hoop earrings, bookcase-shaped keychains and cartoon clay pins are among their creations.



Self-care rooted in ancient tradition and modern quirks: Whipped Bath (@ whippedbath)

Whipped with love and thoughtful consideration towards skin-related issues by Poornavathanaa Subramaniam, Whipped Bath began as a heartfelt passion project that grew into a proper business with high demand and recognition. Specialising in self-care and all things handmade, Poornavathanaa is an artisan who offers artisanal soaps, whipped scrubs and bath treats that look good enough to eat and feel even better on the skin. Some of her unique creations include *Swadha* (an Ayurvedic face and body cleanser powder), dessert-inspired scrubs, flower-shaped soaps, and handmade face toners.

Feminine power in pink: Adlyn Sofea (@adlyn_sofea)

It's hard to miss Adlyn Sofea, with her striking pink hair and even more impressive artistic talent. One look at her Instagram profile and you can instantly tell it's giving Venus vibes, urging women to channel their feminine power and make it pink. The freelance illustrator and content creator sells vibrant products featuring her quirky illustrations. These include affirmation cards, multipurpose scarves, bag accessories, bookmarks, art posters, wish cards and sticker sheets.



Why supporting small creatives matters

According to 2025 data from the Department of Statistics Malaysia, nearly one million Malaysians were self-employed as of the first quarter of this year, with many working in creative and informal sectors. As gig work continues to rise, local makers, artists and microbrands are increasingly relying on community support and digital visibility to stay afloat.

Beyond economics, supporting small creatives is a form of cultural preservation. When Malaysians buy from a local maker, they're not just purchasing a product – they're investing in the preservation of culture, history and identity.

This is especially relevant as Malaysia's younger generation turns towards value-driven consumption. A 2023 survey by PwC Malaysia revealed that 71% of millennial and Gen Z consumers in the country prefer to support businesses that align with their personal beliefs – such as sustainability, inclusivity or cultural pride.

How to support local creatives (without breaking the bank)

Supporting creatives doesn't always have to mean spending money. Here are a few ways you can be part of the #SapotLokal movement:

- **Engage with their work:** A like, comment or share can help boost visibility in social algorithms.
- **Attend local markets:** Events like Riiuh, Sunny Side Up Market or local art bazaars are great ways to meet makers and learn about their process.
- **Commission or collaborate:** If you're hosting a wedding, planning a brand shoot or writing a zine, consider working with a local artist.
- **Gift consciously:** Swap generic presents for something handmade and meaningful; it'll be remembered longer, too.
- **Share their story:** Word of mouth remains a powerful tool, especially in Malaysia's close-knit circles.



The future of small Malaysian creatives

DESPITE growing interest, small creatives in Malaysia face real challenges. Rising costs, limited access to funding and a saturated digital space often make it difficult to scale beyond a passion project. Yet the landscape is slowly evolving.

The Cultural Economy Development Agency reported that between 2020 and 2023, over RM20 million in grants and programmes were allocated to support creative entrepreneurs and cultural workers across Malaysia. However, many microcreatives remain unaware of, or unable to access, these resources due to a lack of outreach or complex application processes. This is partly due to infrastructure and awareness gaps that remain key.

Based on DOSM data, there is a clear appetite for local art and design, but for that energy to translate into sustainable livelihoods, local creatives and makers need structural support, mentorship and inclusion in national policy conversations.

As Malaysia eyes a digital economy that contributes 25.5% to its GDP by 2025, creatives – often seen as peripheral – could become central players. This includes visual artists, designers, illustrators, ceramicists and more.

That said, the #SapotLokal movement must go beyond hashtags and holiday markets. It must include fair pricing, better access to tools, cross-industry collaborations and public recognition of the value

that small creatives bring – not just to the economy but to Malaysia's cultural legacy.

While the #SapotLokal hashtag may have started as a rallying cry on Instagram and X, it has evolved into a wider ethos – one in which creative labour is recognised, heritage is valued and makers are celebrated as culture-bearers.

It's easy to overlook the hours of invisible work that go into creating a single piece of jewellery, illustration or soap bar. But in showing up for local creatives, Malaysians are making a quiet but powerful statement: that our stories matter, our art matters and our people matter.

But creativity needs more than admiration to survive – it needs structural support, fair compensation and community. As consumers, we hold the power to influence that ecosystem. We can advocate for better policies, engage in respectful collaborations and ensure credit is given where it's due. Most importantly, we can continue to choose locally rooted values over mass-market noise.

So the next time you pause at a creative's stall or scroll past their page, take a moment to recognise the meaning behind their work. Share it, honour it and, if you can, support it. Because when we uplift our small creatives, we aren't just investing in their future – we're shaping a creative, expressive and self-assured Malaysia for generations to come.

Foodie adventures waiting around Klang Valley

BY AQILAH NAJWA JAMALUDDIN

FROM nostalgic comfort to contemporary reinvention, Klang Valley's food scene continues to surprise and seduce. Whether you are craving a soulful bowl of laksa, a cheeky bagel with a spicy twist or

a plate of truffle cream pasta, these new eateries are worth bookmarking for your next dining adventure.

Here are five new spots around the city that deserve a place in your restaurant rotation.

Kedai Kaki Ayam

Hidden in a modest corner of APW Bangsar is Kedai Kaki Ayam, a no-fuss eatery dedicated entirely to one thing done well: *nasi kerabu* with *ayam percik*. The stall is helmed by Kak Long, a veteran of the local food scene whose *nasi campur* in Sentul has been beloved since the mid-80s.

Each plate comes beautifully assembled with fluffy blue pea rice, smoky grilled chicken glazed in creamy *percik* sauce, a generous spoon of *sambal bawang goreng*, a salted egg, crunchy cabbage and a scattering of *keropok*.

It is the kind of dish that hits all the right notes – spicy, savoury and satisfying. If you are ever in need of comfort food that feels like a warm hug, this is where to go.

Address: 29, Jalan Riong, Bangsar, 59100 Kuala Lumpur



Monkey Coffee Shop

Bringing a taste of Seoul to TTDI, Monkey Coffee Shop is the newest spot marrying Korean flavours with Italian favourites. Opened by siblings You Shin and Gina, the café offers a playful yet well-executed menu that leans into fusion without losing familiarity.

Their pizzas are made in a traditional Italian-built oven and come out with perfect char and chew. The Gangnam bulgogi pizza is ideal for those who

want a sweet-savoury combo, while the Hongdae buldak version delivers a proper punch of heat.

Pasta lovers should not miss the truffle sunny pasta or the creamy bulgogi variety. Pair your meal with their coffee and a sweet treat for the whole Monkey experience.

Address: 117, Jln Aminuddin Baki, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, 60000 Kuala Lumpur



Scrappy Dough

The bagel craze in KL gets a fresh update with the arrival of Scrappy Dough's first physical outlet in Sungai Besi. Best known for their bold flavours and rule-breaking recipes, this bakery leans into the experimental with its bagel sandwiches and focaccias.

Their *kam heong* chicken bagel is a standout, packed with smoky spices and

a just-right crunch, while the mala bagel gives the kind of heat that lingers.

The vibe is urban-industrial but cosy enough to hang out in and the photogenic plating makes it a magnet for food-loving Instagrammers. Come for the carbs, stay for the creativity.

Address: 139, Jalan Sungai Besi, Sungai Besi, 57100 Kuala Lumpur

Trattoria Mialino

At the heart of REXKL's ever-growing food scene is Trattoria Mialino, the latest venture by the team behind Basil Gourmet Store. Here, Italian comfort food is the main event, served in a relaxed setting that still feels a little bit special.

Start light with their *frutti mare frito misto* or the M&M deep-fried mozzarella paired with mortadella. Then move on to their heartier offerings like the *guanciale pepe* or *pesto porchetta flatbreads*.

For pasta lovers, the *nduja putanesca* is not to be missed. It is all the familiar flavours you love but done with care and a sense of casual indulgence.

Address: Food Fiction, REXKL, 80, Jalan Sultan, City Centre, 50000



Chope Chope Kopitiam

Chope Chope Kopitiam brings a pork-free twist to beloved local classics inside The Five in Damansara. This stylish spot serves Malaysian and Singaporean staples with a modern touch, keeping the dishes' soul intact.

You will find comforting bowls of *Ipoh kuey teow* soup alongside fragrant *Katong laksa*. If you are in the mood for something adventurous, their fried *assam laksa* with sardines and *wok hei* is your next obsession.

For those who prefer to keep it simple, soft-boiled eggs and fried *foochok* are always a good idea. The setting is sleek yet familiar a nice balance of nostalgia and now.

Address: A-GF-01, Ground Floor, The Five, 49, Jalan Dungun, Bukit Damansara, 50490 Kuala Lumpur





Detox diets: More myth than magic

BY DR TAN SUE YEE

AFTER days of festive feasting, be it Hari Raya, Chinese New Year, Deepavali, Kaamatan, Gawai or Christmas, you might hear someone say, “I’ve eaten so much, I need to go on a detox diet!” Why? To “cleanse and reset” the body. But do detox diets really work?

Detox, short for detoxification, is a buzzword used to describe the removal of toxins from the body, usually after a period of heavy or unhealthy eating. In a recent six-episode Netflix drama series, *Apple Cider Vinegar*, the detox diet was presented as juicing and coffee enemas – arguably one of the more popular versions. In this series, the regimen was used to treat unfavourable health conditions. However, it is important to note that ‘detox’ in a medical context is very different; it refers to the actual, supervised removal of harmful substances (alcohol, drugs or poisons) in hospital or clinic settings.

Historically and traditionally, detox diets have been linked to religious and cultural practices of cleansing and rejuvenation. Today, they are popularised by social media trends and celebrity influences, as well as by growing concerns about living in an increasingly polluted environment.

Detox diets are short-term eating plans (typically less than two weeks) that claim to rid the body of toxins and thus improve health. They may involve multiple approaches, including, but not limited to, severe caloric restriction, juice fasts, or food modifications, often combined with selected supplements, laxatives or

diuretics. People generally experience weight loss after these regimens, which is mainly due to reduced calorie intake, as well as water loss and faecal elimination (when laxatives are used).

Aside from short-term weight loss, there is currently little scientific evidence supporting the effectiveness and safety of detox diets. The British Dietetic Association and many health experts point out that existing studies on commercial detox diets are limited, small-scale and methodologically flawed. Moreover, most detox programmes fail to explain what toxins are supposedly being removed and how the process works.

Research has also noted that most detox diets are ‘do-it-yourself’ regimens – usually liquid-based, low-calorie and nutrient-poor. A recent Northwestern University study found that a three-day juice diet can disrupt the balance of good bacteria in the mouth and gut, potentially affecting digestion and immunity. Restrictive practices like these can easily expose one to nutrient deficiencies, electrolyte

imbalances, dehydration, muscle loss and fatigue. In addition, the use of unregulated supplements or herbal products, if any, may carry potential health risks. Furthermore, research has shown that extreme restrictions can raise stress hormones such as cortisol. This not only increases appetite but also triggers the likelihood of rebound weight gain, undoing the benefits of the diet.

In my first job as a nutritionist at a wellness centre, I saw many clients go through detox programmes. These involved juice diets paired with supplements such as omega-3 fatty acids, fibre and probiotics. Before and after the programme, clients were encouraged to eat unprocessed foods, fruits and vegetables, wholegrains and plain water. Following this ‘journey’, many reported weight loss, improved skin conditions, increased energy levels and better bowel movements. In reality, these benefits were more likely the result of healthier eating habits and hydration than of the detox itself. Nutritional science shows that individuals with significant nutrient deficiencies tend to experience the most tremendous health improvements from dietary interventions as their bodies restore essential functions.

Back then, I also noticed how challenging it was for most clients to stay on track. Some confessed to ‘cheating’ during the programme – sneaking a bite of chocolate or having a mouthful of rice because the restrictions were difficult to maintain. This highlights the reality that detox diets are often unsustainable. Restrictions can easily lead to boredom and cravings, then eventually relapse.

The truth is, our body is already equipped with powerful systems to remove toxins naturally. Our liver, kidneys and gastrointestinal tract work efficiently around the clock to filter, metabolise and eliminate waste. Therefore, there is really no need for special diets to enhance these processes. What matters most is how we care for these existing detox systems and support them with sustainable habits, such as eating a balanced, moderate and varied diet, practising mindful eating and making wise food choices, without unnecessary risks.

For those who are still drawn to or insist on going for a detox diet, it is crucial to do so under the guidance of qualified health professionals. Some may wish to use a detox diet as an initial step or motivational kick-start towards healthier living, but be mindful that detox diets aren’t meant for long-term use, as they can easily lead to nutrient deficiencies if unsupervised.

The bottom line is, detox diets are more of a nay than a yay – just as depicted in the earlier-mentioned series *Apple Cider Vinegar*. Rather than chasing quick fixes, we should focus on maintaining our natural detoxification systems by regularly eating healthily, exercising (which helps us detox through sweating), staying well hydrated, getting quality rest and sleep, and avoiding harmful habits such as smoking and excessive alcohol consumption. In essence, the best detox is the daily practice of healthy, sustainable habits that keep our bodies functioning at their best for as long as possible. Finally, always seek accurate information about nutrition and healthy eating from a registered nutritionist to empower yourself in making informed, healthy choices every day.

Dr Tan Sue Yee is a Council Member of the Nutrition Society of Malaysia, a nutrition consultant, and currently serves as the Manager of Scientific Programs for the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) SEA Region.

“Our body is already equipped with powerful systems to remove toxins naturally.”

Tan



WHEN we think about teenagers, the first things that come to mind might be TikTok dances, exam stress or the struggle to wake up for school. But beneath the surface of memes, homework and WhatsApp group chats, many Malaysian children and teens are quietly grappling with something bigger – their mental health.

In recent years, more young people have been speaking up about anxiety, depression and burnout. Teachers, too, are noticing how stress and emotional struggles show up in classrooms, from declining focus to disruptive behaviour. The conversation is no longer just about grades or discipline – it's about well-being.

Adolescence has always been a complicated phase. It's a time when identity, self-esteem and independence are in flux. Add social media, exam pressure and the uncertainties of a post-pandemic world and you have the perfect storm.

According to Unicef Malaysia, one in five adolescents between 13 and 17 years old experiences depression, while suicide has become the second leading cause of death among young people in the country. These are sobering figures that highlight why mental health can no longer be brushed aside as "just a phase".

For many families, mental health is still a sensitive subject. Some parents equate it with weakness, while others hope discipline alone will fix behavioural issues. But experts stress that emotional outbursts or withdrawal may be signs of deeper struggles, not just bad attitudes.

Earlier this year, a case in Kajang drew national attention when a 14-year-old boy pleaded guilty to punching his teacher. While some were quick to label it a disciplinary failure, Puteri Amiruddin, acting head of innovation and learning experience at Taylor's Digital, Taylor's University, sees it differently.

"Rather than viewing this solely as a disciplinary issue, it may be more constructive to recognise it as a potential sign of deeper emotional and behavioural struggles," she said. Adolescents, she pointed out, often wrestle with emotional regulation and coping mechanisms. When stress piles up, things can explode.

Puteri's call is clear: Malaysia must go beyond punishment and instead nurture a culture of emotional support and digital tools can play a big role in that.

Gone are the days when the only way

Helping teens and children cope in a digital age

BY ASHRAF WAHAB



to seek help was through in-person counselling sessions. Today, smartphones offer a gateway to confidential, affordable and immediate support. This is especially crucial for teens, who may hesitate to speak openly in front of parents or teachers.

"These digital lifelines are essential for students, teachers and parents. Regular use fosters trust and continuity, which are the foundations of long-term well-being," Puteri noted.

The role of schools and parents

Still, apps and hotlines can't do everything on their own. Mental health literacy should be an integral part of school culture. Embedding emotional education in classrooms could help normalise conversations about feelings, stress and coping strategies.

Teachers, too, need training to recognise red flags. Webinars and digital modules can equip them with practical ways to respond when a student is in distress. Parents, meanwhile, can

benefit from online workshops that help strengthen their communication with their children. Many parents, especially those juggling work and household pressures, quietly admit they feel unprepared to handle their teenager's emotional ups and downs.

One of the biggest hurdles in addressing youth mental health is stigma. For too long, seeking help has been seen as shameful or unnecessary.

"Seeking help is not a sign of weakness. It is a step toward healing, understanding and building a safer, more compassionate learning environment," Puteri reminded.

Normalising therapy or counselling starts with conversations at home. Simple check-ins like "How are you really feeling?" can open doors. Schools can also create safe spaces for students to speak up without fear of judgment.

Building a culture of resilience

The bigger picture is about resilience. With consistent support, both online and offline, young Malaysians can learn to manage stress and bounce back from setbacks. Digital platforms offer continuity, but it's the people – parents, teachers, friends – who provide the human touch.

The Kajang case may have made headlines, but it is only one story among many. Each outburst, each quiet withdrawal, each anxious smile hides a world of feelings that deserve to be heard. By weaving digital mental health support into the daily fabric of life, Malaysia can raise a generation that is not only academically capable but also emotionally resilient.

Teenagers and children today are navigating a complex world. They need more than discipline; they need guidance, empathy and access to tools that help them cope. The good news is that Malaysia already has a growing network of digital support systems in place. What's needed now is for families, schools and society to embrace them.

The question is not whether we can afford to make mental health a priority – the question is whether we can afford not to.



Seeking help is not a sign of weakness. It is a step toward healing and understanding."

Puteri

Digital mental health support in Malaysia

Malaysian Mental Health Association (MMHA)

- Online screening tools (Youth, Parent, Anxiety, Depression, Postpartum, etc.)
- Support for caregivers, training, and counselling services
- +603 2780 6803 / +6017 613 3039
- www.mmha.org.my

Talian Kasih 15999

- 24-hour helpline for emotional support and counselling
- Available via phone or WhatsApp
- 15999 | WhatsApp: +6019 261 5999
- www.kpwkm.gov.my

The Befrienders Malaysia

- Emotional support and suicide prevention services
- Staffed by trained volunteers, 24/7 in Klang Valley
- +603 7627 2929
- www.befrienders.org.my

The Help Talk

- Online counselling with licensed therapists
- Covers stress, anxiety, depression, family conflicts, grief and more
- www.thehelptalk.com

PlusVibes

- Malaysian mental health mobile app
- Peer support, coping strategies, and access to professionals
- www.plusvibes.com



The hidden dangers of buying fake perfume

BY HANNEF ESQUANDER

A spritz of fragrance before stepping out of the house often marks the final step in getting ready. It makes us feel complete and confident, as if we're prepared to face the day simply because we smell good. At least, that's what we like to believe.

But with the growing obsession for luxurious scents and designer perfumes, some people find themselves taking a different route just to keep up. Not everyone can afford a bottle of high-end fragrance that can cost hundreds of ringgit. This is where counterfeit perfumes begin to enter the market, offering the same "designer" label and scent at a fraction of the price.

At first glance, these fake perfumes may look and smell nearly identical to the originals. Some even come in packaging so similar that it's almost impossible to tell the difference. But behind the tempting price tag lies a much bigger issue. Many people fail to realise that counterfeit perfumes can pose serious risks, not just to their health but also to the fragrance industry as a whole.

The largest raid involving counterfeit perfumes in Malaysia occurred in October 2020, when enforcement officers in Selangor seized over 1,000 fake perfume bottles worth approximately RM150,000 from an Instagram seller's apartment in Seri Kembangan. These perfumes, falsely branded as Chanel, Victoria's Secret and Tom Ford, were being sold online and on social media, claiming to be authentic.

Distributing counterfeit goods in Malaysia is illegal under the Trademarks Act

2019. Offenders can face penalties of up to RM10,000 per counterfeit item or three years in prison, or both. The next time you consider buying fake perfumes, remember it is not just a harmless bargain – it is a crime that also puts your health and safety at risk.

Counterfeit perfumes are more than just cheap imitations – they pose real health hazards. These fake fragrances often contain dangerous chemicals that can cause skin irritation, allergic reactions and even liver cancer. Unlike genuine perfumes that use safe levels of ethanol, counterfeit ones often contain high amounts of methanol, which breaks down into formalin – a toxic substance known to cause nausea, dizziness, headaches and vision problems, especially when applied to sensitive areas like the neck and wrists.

It gets even worse. If fake perfume comes into contact with the eyes, it can lead to short-sightedness or even permanent blindness. Inhaling the fumes can result in breathing difficulties, while long-term exposure has been linked to neurological conditions and photo contact dermatitis. In an effort to save money, you may end up paying a price in terms of your health.

There is also an ethical side to consider. Buying fake perfume is unfair to the people who worked hard to create the real thing. Perfume makers, designers and brand owners invest time, creativity and resources in developing original fragrances. When someone buys a counterfeit, it robs these creators of the recognition and income they rightfully deserve.

It is also a form of theft. Fake perfumes copy the brand's name, bottle and formula without permission. This violates copyright and trademark laws, damaging the brand's reputation. Even if it seems harmless, supporting counterfeit goods promotes dishonesty and undermines the value of genuine craftsmanship.

How to find affordable, original perfume

So, where can you find original designer perfumes at more affordable prices? Department stores like Sogo Kuala Lumpur and Aeon sell only authentic perfumes, often offering discounts during festive seasons such as Christmas and Hari Raya. They also host Members' Day promotions once a month, offering additional savings for members.

Fragrance and cosmetic distributors, such as Luxasia, also hold warehouse sales several times a year, where genuine designer perfumes can be purchased for as low as RM50. Just keep an eye on their social media for announcements and be sure to pre-register when required, as spots are limited.

If luxury brands are still out of reach, try high-street or mid-range options from Zara, The Body Shop or Bath & Body Works. While they may not carry the prestige of Chanel or Annick Goutal, these brands use safe ingredients and follow proper regulations, giving you peace of mind with every spritz.

Ultimately, what we choose to wear on our skin should reflect more than just good taste. It should show respect for our health, for the people behind the product and for the truth behind the label. A fragrance should lift your confidence – not come with hidden risks and stolen credit.



Behind the bargain price of counterfeit fragrances lies a hidden cost, your health and safety.



Zine for the expressive mind

BY HANNEF ESQUANDER

OUR ideas of freedom vary from one another. For some, it lies in being their most genuine selves or sharing their thoughts and feelings freely, while for others, freedom is about doing things their own way and on their own terms. Creative types are always seeking new ways to express themselves. Journaling and painting are effective, but there is something liberating about the entire process of creating a zine. The most honest voices and straight-from-the-heart emotions are poured onto the pages of these zines – no rules applied.

Zines have come a long way from grimy, black-and-white, photocopied and stapled pages to the properly bound, colour-printed forms they take today. Nevertheless, the spirit of the zine remains the same – independent and DIY.

A special event for zine enthusiasts was held recently. Kuala Lumpur Zine Etc. gathered zine makers, collectors, writers, poets and artists, among others, for a weekend of workshops, performances, bazaars and exhibitions. Suzana Ahmad, also known as Sue, is a member of the organising committee for the independent bookstore Tokosue. She explained what a zine really is for those not familiar with the term.

“Zine is DIY publishing. The core and spirit of zine are very much independent. It’s either you do it on your own or in a very small group of people. If that’s the case, then the concept is sharing. It is not a particularly profitable medium, so

circulation and reprinting are limited. However, as technology advances, zines are now looking more like proper publications, with colour printing, high-quality papers and machine binding. But don’t get mistaken because they are still zines,” she said.

For Wilson Khor, The Working Desk is a publishing house he founded with a few writer friends. The Working Desk began as a publisher of literary zines, compiling the works of writers from Penang, known as NutMag. NutMag has been such a success that it is currently in its 10th edition.

“I started off writing poetry and had no idea what a zine was. In 2013, I decided it was time for me to get my work published. I was also fully aware that the process would not be cheap. I wanted to test the waters with something simple – pages that are stapled together and folded in half into a booklet. The response I received was very encouraging,” he said.

Zines published by The Working Desk received a makeover when Khor was left with no choice but to upgrade to a better printing service provider due to issues with the one they had been using previously. This is how the zines unintentionally began to resemble books and eventually ended up being sold in bookstores. But true to Sue’s words, they are still zines.

Printing is not a significant issue at Bang Bang Zine, as they self-print all their zines. The group, comprising C.C. Teh, Wong Mun Yeong and Shermene Leong, has been in existence since 2017. It all stemmed from their individual need for self-expression or a creative outlet.



Khor’s venture into zine started in 2013 when he was looking for a platform to get his work published.

“The word zine, written in combined older Chinese characters, means ‘I have something to say or express’. I believe that in Malaysia, Chinese zines started along with the punk movement when many people wanted to self-publish their work,” said Teh, who is in charge of communication for Bang Bang Zine.

Bang Bang Zine started as an outlet for the three of them to document their daily lives. Wong has been keeping a sketchbook for as long as he can remember. His daily sketches serve as the source of inspiration for the comic and art zines he creates. Leong is in charge of printing the zines and she has been making zines about the process of risograph printing, which is an art form in itself. All of their zines are printed using this meticulous technique.

The future of zine

“I love reading stories of normal people in literary zines because they are honest and not diluted. It’s also interesting to look back at past zine trends. You’ll notice how certain themes, such as love, anger, or politics, dominate a particular era. I always look at these and think about what happened during that time – whether any major global event occurred and impacted society. I see these zines as a time capsule,” Sue said.

As for Khor, he is pleased with the success that The Working Desk has achieved so far. At the same time, he is proud of the writers who have grown since they were first featured in one of the zines he helped publish.

“We are not publishing books like Penguin or any of the big publications, but with our zines being picked up by bookstores, these up-and-coming writers now have their works available to wider audiences. Earlier this year, two short stories from NutMag zine’s fifth anniversary project called Home Groan were selected as required reading for STPM literature students under the new syllabus,” he said.

Although zines have never truly disappeared, they have gained popularity in recent years. This could be a response

to internet fatigue, where everyone is expected to be online all the time and the line between personal life and work has been blurred by apps like WhatsApp and Gmail. People are returning to analogue and creating things with their own hands. Zines are the perfect place to start.

“People are just tired of life in the digital space and need a way to escape. They find their freedom and peace in zines. With Kuala Lumpur Zine Etc., I hope it will be bigger next year. I would love to see people who came this year, especially the youngsters, joining as vendors and exhibitors next year with their own zines. We are not doing this just for money. We simply love zines. I am an avid collector. Whatever zine we sell at my bookstore, I will always keep a copy for myself,” Sue said hopefully.

Freedom means different things to different people and for many, zines have become a space where they can be genuine and expressive. They carry raw thoughts, unfiltered emotions and stories that might not find a place elsewhere. There is something powerful in these handmade pages – something that speaks from one heart to another. Supporting zines or creating one is not just about art or words; it is about preserving the spirit of independence and honesty.

“People are just tired of life in the digital space and need a way to escape. They find their freedom and peace in zines.”



Printing is not a significant issue at Bang Bang Zine, as they self-print all their zines.



Bang Bang Zine is the brainchild of Leong, Wong and Teh.



Zines have become a space for genuine expression.



Double the words, double the worlds

WHEN the 13th Malaysia Plan (RMK-13) was announced earlier this year, one detail caught the attention of parents nationwide: Preschool will soon be compulsory for children from the age of five. For many families, this feels like a long-overdue step. After all, early childhood is where the foundations of learning, social skills and emotional development are laid. However, as Malaysia takes this step forward, another question naturally arises – what kind of preschool education should we prioritise?

Bilingual education is emerging as a way to nurture sharper minds and stronger cultural roots from the very start.

BY ASHRAF WAHAB

One growing area of focus is bilingual education in early childhood. As parents know all too well, language is not just about communication – it is about opportunity, identity and even how a child thinks and processes the world. In Malaysia, where linguistic diversity is already a way of life, the idea of embedding

bilingualism into preschool classrooms is gaining traction.

Bilingualism from the start

According to Patricia Koh, chief executive and education ambassador of MapleBear Asiawide, starting bilingual education early brings advantages that extend far beyond academic scores.

“When children are introduced to a second language early, the benefits extend far beyond academic achievement or future professional opportunities. Research shows bilingual children develop stronger executive function skills, mental flexibility and even long-term brain resilience,” she said.

In other words, bilingualism isn’t just about polishing up a CV 20 years down the line – it’s about shaping how young brains grow. Neuroimaging studies, for example, show that bilinguals may have larger hippocampal volume – a part of the brain linked to memory and resilience. This suggests that early exposure to two languages can not only boost learning in childhood but also enhance brain health later in life, with some studies linking bilingualism to a delayed onset of dementia.

Won’t two languages confuse a child? This is perhaps the most common parental worry, especially among those who feel that children should “master one language first”. Koh is quick to dismiss this myth.

“Extensive research and decades of practice show the opposite to be true,” she explained.

Children quickly learn to distinguish when and where to use each language. Far from confusing, early immersion helps them adapt fluidly and strengthens communication skills.

Anyone who has observed a bilingual child slipping naturally between two languages – sometimes mid-sentence – has seen this cognitive flexibility in action. What appears to be “mixing” is actually evidence of strong linguistic control.

Malaysia’s shifting demand

It wasn’t too long ago that bilingual early childhood education was seen as a luxury, confined to expensive urban centres. Access was limited, often leaving a gap between parental aspirations and available options. That landscape is now changing.

“There’s been a significant shift,” Koh said.

“Children quickly learn when and where to use each language. What looks like mixing is actually strong linguistic control.”



Teachers use stories and songs to help preschoolers think and express themselves bilingually.

Parents are no longer satisfied with token exposure to a second language, such as weekly lessons or casual vocabulary lists. What they want is immersion – where children truly live and learn in two languages daily.

This aligns neatly with Malaysia’s broader goals. If the nation hopes to remain competitive globally while maintaining its rich cultural identity, raising bilingual or even multilingual citizens is not optional; it’s essential.

Of course, bilingualism doesn't just happen by osmosis – it requires intentional teaching. One model often cited is Canada's immersion system, which has been running successfully for over 50 years. MapleBear, drawing on this tradition, implements a dual-teacher system where two educators lead the classroom, each in their own language.

But Koh stressed that it's not just about splitting languages 50–50.

“True bilingualism goes beyond translating from one's native language. It involves thinking directly in the second language and using it naturally and confidently,” she said.

In practice, this means children learn to express complex ideas, emotions and creativity in both tongues.

Teachers matter more than ratios

Parents often worry about teacher–student ratios, assuming fewer students per teacher automatically means better quality. While ratios matter, Koh argued the real difference lies in a robust curriculum and well-trained teachers.

“Even in early years education, what truly makes the difference is a solid curriculum, with consistent classroom practices, structured lesson plans and rich learning resources,” she said.

Teacher preparation is a recurring theme. Malaysia, like many countries, faces a shortage of educators who are

specifically trained for bilingual settings.

Koh believes targeted investment here is critical.

“A strong pool of well-trained, motivated educators is the foundation of any successful education system and especially critical in bilingual education,” she said.

Another uniquely Malaysian concern is the delicate balance between English proficiency and preserving Bahasa Malaysia or the mother tongue and fluency. Parents want both – a passport to global opportunities without losing roots at home.

Koh reassured that bilingual education is not about replacing a child's national language.

“Bilingualism enriches it,” she explained.

For instance, integrating local cultural elements into the school curriculum, from the school calendar to national traditions. The idea is to give children “an extra dimension” without weakening their primary linguistic and cultural identity.

Technology as a support, not a substitute

In classrooms struggling with a shortage of skilled bilingual teachers,

could technology fill the gap? To a point, yes. Digital tools can standardise lesson quality, provide creative resources and help parents track progress. But Koh cautioned against over-reliance.

“Technology can amplify teachers' work, but it cannot replace the human connection, expertise and inspiration that only teachers can provide,” she said.

Bilingual education doesn't end at the school gates. Parents play a pivotal role in reinforcing what has been learned. Simple practices at home – such as reading bedtime stories in two languages, playing

songs or simply naming objects

in different languages go a

long way. Koh noted that

parents don't need to

be fluent themselves;

showing interest

and encourage-

ment makes all

the difference.

And it should

always feel joy-

ful.

“When parents

celebrate their

child's

progress, no

matter how small,

it strengthens

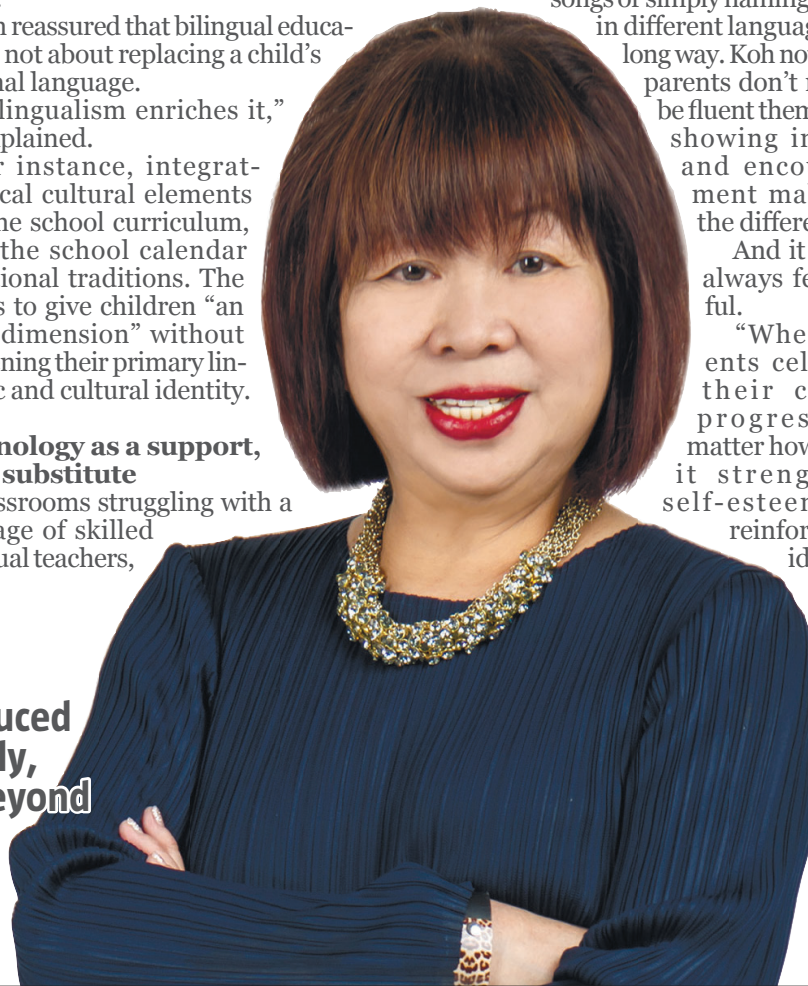
self-esteem and

reinforces the

idea that

“When children are introduced to a second language early, the benefits extend far beyond academic achievement.”

Koh



learning a second language is valuable and enjoyable,” she said.

Opportunities and challenges ahead

As Malaysia prepares to make preschool compulsory, bilingual education stands at a crossroads of opportunity. The nation's relatively young demographic and growing economy point to rising demand. At the same time, challenges remain – training teachers, developing effective policies and ensuring equitable access.

If there's one message Koh hopes policymakers take to heart, it's this: Invest in teachers.

“Teacher preparation and professional development will have a multiplier effect, ensuring all other aspects of the framework can succeed,” she said.

For parents, the decision may feel personal and practical – which preschool to send a child to, how much tuition fees to budget for and whether to prioritise English or Bahasa Malaysia. But on a larger scale, every bilingual preschooler represents something bigger – a future Malaysian citizen who can straddle local identity and global opportunity with equal ease.

As Malaysia moves into this new phase of compulsory early childhood education, the case for bilingualism is clear. After all, why settle for giving a child one world when you can give them two?



Five quick benefits of bilingual preschool

1. Stronger brain power

Studies show bilingual children develop sharper memory, better focus and stronger problem-solving skills.

2. Greater mental flexibility

Switching between languages helps children adapt quickly, think creatively and see challenges from new perspectives.

3. Boosts confidence

Children learn to communicate effectively in various settings, giving them a competitive edge in school and life.

4. Protects brain health long-term

Research links bilingualism to the delayed onset of dementia and Alzheimer's later in life.

5. Expands cultural horizons

Children gain a deeper appreciation of diverse cultures while staying rooted in their own identity.

Preschoolers learning in both English and Bahasa Malaysia develop cultural awareness alongside fluency.



The joy of not knowing

Why not having the answers might be your greatest strength

BY SIMON VELLA

THERE'S a strange pressure these days to have everything figured out.

Not just your career, finances and five-year plan – but also your personality, politics, parenting style, skincare routine and your opinion on everything from oat milk to the world's conflicts.

We're expected to have clarity. Certainty. A take. A framework. Preferably in 280 characters or fewer. But what if and hear me out, you just don't know? What if you're still learning, still listening, still confused? What if the best thing you can do is pause the performance ... and let the question hang?

We're taught that not knowing is weak

From school onwards, we're taught that answers equal intelligence. Raise your hand. Fill in the blank. Show your working.

Admitting uncertainty was often punished – a sign of laziness, inattention or lack of effort. So as adults, we carry that reflex. We bluff. We guess. We pretend to know what others are talking about. We Google or use ChatGPT frantically under the table. We're allergic to saying, "I'm not sure."

But there's quiet wisdom in not knowing. Especially now, when everyone seems sure of everything, all the time. In Malaysian social spaces, from *kopitiam*s to WhatsApp family groups, there's no shortage of confident opinions – on government, neighbours, climate change, chicken prices and just about everything. But scratch beneath the surface and you'll often find people regurgitating headlines, memes or unverified news – not considered thought.



You don't need a fully formed opinion on every trend, scandal or headline.



Open-ended ... not every question needs an instant answer.

We pretend to know what others are talking about. We Google frantically under the table."

The space between opinions ... sometimes silence holds more wisdom than certainty."

It's not stupidity. It's survival. In a society where being unclear is frowned upon, pretending to know is easier than asking for clarity. Better to have a shaky opinion than be accused of being clueless. However, knowing less and being okay with that might actually make us more thoughtful, not less.

Certainty is seductive, but curiosity is healthier

Psychologists call this "epistemic humility" – the ability to recognise the limits of your knowledge. It's what helps us stay open, avoid dogma and resist the false confidence that makes people shout louder instead of think deeper.

Research shows that people with high epistemic humility are better at collaboration, less prone to bias and more comfortable navigating uncertainty. In short, not knowing makes us better humans. However, social media thrives on speed, certainty, and boldness.

We see people online making sweeping statements just five minutes after a news story breaks. We get performative outrage, instant "thought leadership" and endless analysis without time for reflection. The result? Everyone's in broadcast mode. Nobody's in listening mode. And it's exhausting.

What if instead of jumping to conclusions, we took a breath and said, "I need time to understand this"? What if we replaced debate with dialogue? What if "I don't know yet" became a respectable answer?

It doesn't make you weak. It makes you honest. You're allowed to say: "I don't know what I want to do next."

"I don't know if I believe that anymore."

"I don't know what to say – but I'm here to learn."

Uncertainty creates space for growth, grace and for better questions. When you stop clinging to the performance of certainty, you realise how much lighter life feels. You stop needing to be right, stop fighting to win and you start listening to understand.

In the in-between, new truths are born

Not knowing doesn't mean floating forever in indecision. It means recognising that knowledge, identity, even values – evolve. Permit yourself to be a work in progress. That's not indecisiveness, it's development.

You don't have to pick a side on everything and you don't need a fully formed opinion on every trend, scandal or headline. Sometimes the most thoughtful thing you can say is: "I'm still thinking about that."

One of the reasons we fear uncertainty is that we confuse conviction with consistency. We believe that changing one's mind is a sign of weakness or hypocrisy. But it's not. It's maturity.

You're allowed to believe something strongly at 25 and outgrow it by 35. You're allowed to shift your perspective after reading, listening or just living. A confident opinion is impressive. But a humble pivot? That's powerful.

The next time you feel pressured to have a stance, an answer, a five-step plan, try this: pause. Breathe. Say, "I'm still working that out." There's no medal for pretending to know. There's quiet courage in curiosity. In a world racing to be right, the slow grace of not knowing might just be the most radical position of all.



Classic nostalgia

Triumph Bobber nod to days of old with modern power

BY WAHID OOI



The Bobber can be surprisingly comfortable despite a stiff seat.

THE 2025 Triumph Bonneville Bobber reminds us why some bikers get on the wrong side of the law – by default. This is a motorcycle that eggs you on to be “cheeky”, for want of a better word, so read on.

WHAT IS THE 2025 TRIUMPH BONNEVILLE BOBBER?

A review of any model in the Triumph Bonneville line-up needs to begin with a history lesson, as the manufacturer imbues their bikes with spirit of where they came from.

The “bobber” style of motorcycles originated in the late 1920s and 1930s when riders modified their bikes to reduce weight and increase speed by “bobbing” or removing non-essential parts, especially the front and rear fenders.

This post-World War II trend, which became a symbol of rebellion and freedom, was born from soldiers who missed the lightweight European bikes and stripped-down their bulky American motorcycles.

Riders removed or shortened the front and rear fenders, leading to the name “bobber” from the “bobbed” rear fender.

Other common modifications included removing luggage racks, large seats, and other unnecessary components. (The rear brake stayed on for this bike, thankfully.)

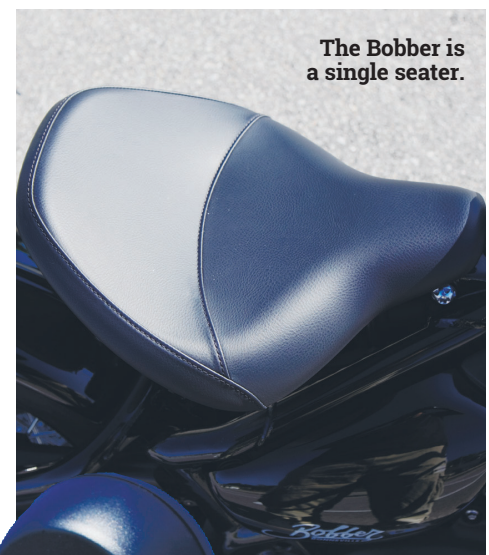
The style has since evolved, with many modern manufacturers creating factory-built bobbers with the same classic aesthetics, but with modern features. Also, extreme weight reduction may not be the main emphasis anymore in the interest of safety and comfort.

Coming back to the Triumph Bobber, it

Instrument dial is a mix of analogue and digital.



The Bobber is a single seater.



follows the same cut-down, minimalist styling of the early bobbers – some of their pictures grace the walls of Ace Cafe in London.

Triumph introduced the Bonneville Bobber in 2016, and it immediately became the company’s best-seller ever.

Back then, it came with a skinny front tyre, while the later Bobber Black version was introduced with a fat front tyre.

It was fitted the 1200cc “High Torque” parallel-twin engine instead of the “High Power” variant found in the Speed Twin and the awesome Thruxton RS.

It also boasted a solo seat which made the rider seemingly sit on air, concealed rear shock to give the frame a “hardtail” look, and modern electronics.

We reviewed back then and came away impressed, noting that it had a very smooth powerband.

Highlights:

- 1200cc, liquid-cooled, 8-valve, SOHC, parallel-twin, with 270° crank angle specifically tuned for this bike.
- The engine produces 76.9hp (57.5kW) @ 6,100RPM, and 106Nm @ 4,000RPM.
- Wet, multi-plate torque assist clutch and chain final drive.
- 47 mm Showa cartridge forks (non-adjustable), RSU monoshock with linkage.

You get LED lights all around.



- ➔ Twin 310mm discs, Brembo 2-piston sliding calipers up front, Single 255mm disc, Nissin single piston sliding caliper at the back.
- ➔ Seat height is adjustable between 690-700 mm.
- ➔ Steering rake angle of 25.4°.
- ➔ Fuel tank capacity: 12 litres.
- ➔ Wet weight of 251kg.

RIDING THE TRIUMPH BONNEVILLE BOBBER

Pre-ride

The manufacturer truly wants the bike to adhere to the original bobber spirit, thus it is uncluttered in almost every department, including the pre-ride setup.

There is no navigation, music streaming, or phone call settings to play with. The throttle is ride-by-wire, therefore allowing for a grand total of two ride modes: Road and Rain. There is cruise control, which is a nice touch.

The seat had been set to the lower position, which also brought it further back from the tank. In this position, our arms were stretched straighter when gripping the handlebar, for the “proper” drag bike upper body ergonomics.

However, the footpegs are set in the middle position (as compared to fully up front like the first Bobber, at in the standard position as on the Bonneville T-Series). A set of er... rearset footpegs would be nice for true drag-racing (more on this later).

Riding experience

Traction control and ABS can be turned on or off. It so happened that it invariably rained when we picked up the Triumph motorcycles for review. So, we set the ride mode to “Rain”, left the traction control and ABS on, and went riding.

We then discovered it was perhaps the universe’s way to let us fully test the bike’s traction control, tyres, suspension, throttle response, and handling in bad weather.

Come to think of it, what is the point of a bike that handles superbly in good weather only to have the rider gripping the handlebar for dear life when it rains.

Given our country’s climate where rain is never an outside possibility (like 60% chance), any motorcycle should be able to handle wet roads.

Throttle response was ultra smooth in this mode, although, we noticed a slightly stronger “kick” compared to the first generation Bobber.

Make no mistake, the engine was able to punch hard when the throttle was snapped open, it was just that there was a slight “lag” before the engine torque came full on, again

in a very linear fashion.

We have said many times previously and we say it again: Triumphs are some – if not the best – handling motorcycles one could buy.

As such, the Bobber came away with top marks in terms of wet handling. We had no fear of steering it through corners with smooth mid-corner rolling speed, instead of tip toeing around with huge amounts of engine braking like novices.

Thankfully, the weather cleared up later in the afternoon and it was time to switch to “Road” mode and let ‘em rip.

Switching to this mode did not have the engine taking on a different character. The engine continued to idle smoothly to a low, rumbling note. The twin exhausts also stayed quiet during this time.

Remembering the old Bobber, we gave it a little more throttle and the bike launched off the line without hesitation.

It was from here that the twin exhausts let out a wonderful, soul stirring booming roar as the world flew by. We repeated the same at the next set of traffic lights, then the next, and the next.

Red lights are normally frowned upon by any road user (us included) because it breaks up your riding rhythm, instead it soon became an addiction to cruise up to traffic lights, hoping that they will turn red.

This was what the purveyors of the bobber genre intended and the Bonneville

Bobber made its intentions crystal clear.

And as we mentioned earlier, rear set footpegs would fit nicely into this kind of tomfoolery, as placing your feet at the back would help to put more bodyweight onto the front tyre for full control while the bike accelerates forward like a rocket.

We could not help ourselves, giggling away as we took off from every green light, glancing in the rear view mirror as we left everyone else sitting at the lights. Oh, how we wished the exhausts could spit blue flames!

The engine’s torque is not limited to charging off in lower gears. There was still plenty of hard acceleration to access in any gear, at any speed. Evidence to this is the small rear sprocket which gave the bike a smooth cruising attitude, while not compromising acceleration.

That very sprocket also allowed for smooth transitions when shutting the throttle, without resulting in abrupt deceleration, especially in corners. We never once ran into the rev limiter although maximum power occurred at only 6,500RPM as the gear ratios were nicely spread out.

Speaking of corners, the Bobber is not exactly built for that purpose. It does corner, mind you, but long, flowing corners are its thing, compared to sharp one.

The fat front tyre needs some effort to get the bike to turn hence requiring a little more careful planning, but once leaned, it

will track through corners easily with some maintenance throttle. From there, it was back on the gas, letting the bike roar its way out.

Another sense of enjoyment was seeing the look of surprise on the faces of some other motorcyclists who thought the Bobber was an anaemic, wannabe classic bike.

With that out of the way, let us look at some of the eccentricities of the bike.

The suspension is slammed low to allow for the maximum possible hard acceleration (and poise, of course), which resulted in a harsher ride over bumpy roads. We lowered the tyre pressures slightly to compensate.

Being low and low-slung, with the rider’s weight placed further back, weight was biased toward the back. Jumping hard onto the front brakes will have the bike weaving.

Since the rear brake disc is quite large, the proper braking technique on this particular bike is to first apply the rear brake hard, followed by the front.

If you are the type of rider who loves twisties, we recommend moving the seat forward, which in turn raises it. That will put more weight on the front suspension and tyre to make the bike turn faster.

Unfortunately, although a simple process, moving the seat position requires the rider to reach the bolt below the rear part of the fuel tank. So make sure you have your tools with you when you ride.

Conclusion

We love this new 2025 Triumph Bonneville Bobber as the makers have turned it into a real bobber, compared to the original which had a much softer power delivery.

This writer is not a cruiser biker but has fallen head over heels for the Bobber due to its torque delivery.

Sending the bike back to Triumph Motorcycles Malaysia was like seeing the girl of our dreams marrying another man while you sat in the pews. Someone please led me RM88,900!

SPECIFICATIONS

Engine: 1200cc, liquid cooled, parallel twin

Power: 78PS @ 6100rpm

Torque: 106Nm @ 4000rpm

Transmission: 6-speed

Front suspension: 47mm Showa cartridge forks

Rear suspension: Mono shock RSU with linkage

We like: Style, nostalgia, power.

We don't like: Cant afford one.



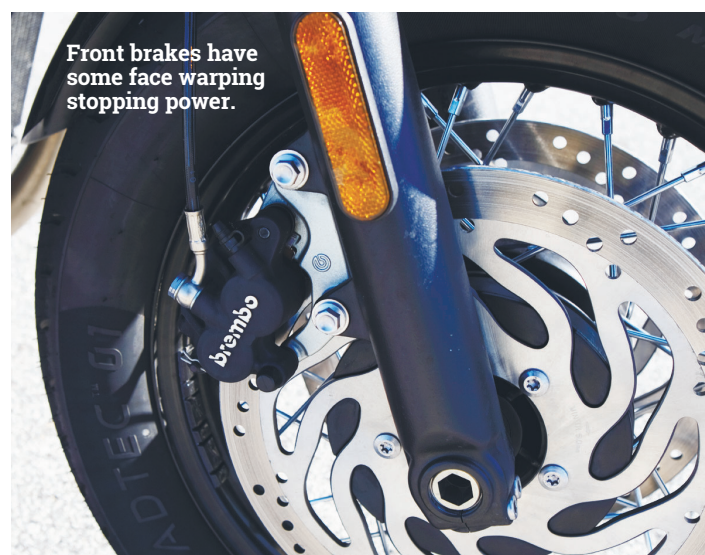
1200cc engine has some muscular torque.



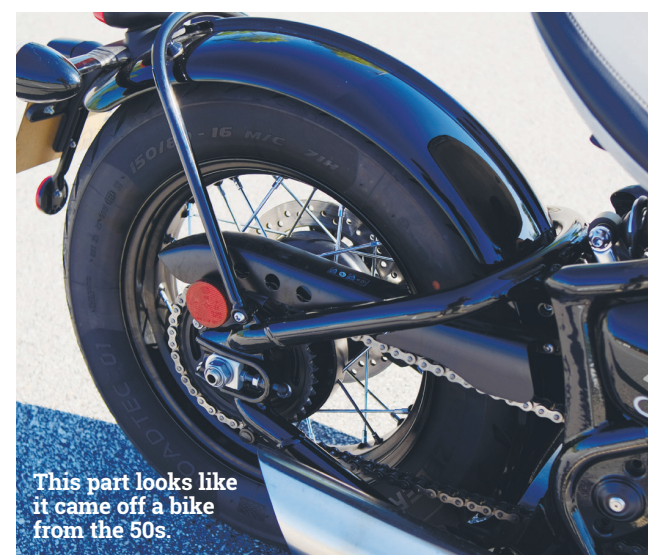
Aftermarket exhaust will match the vibe of the bike.



Fat front tyre is as classic as it gets.



Front brakes have some face warping stopping power.



This part looks like it came off a bike from the 50s.

What is being done about abandoned vehicles?

IF YOU use the Subang Airport Road often, you may have noticed the sheer number of abandoned cars on the shoulders of the road. Particularly when you're heading towards Subang airport.

I have been observing this for the better part of a year, and I have noticed that the cars come and go quite often.

On one day there will be a rusted Proton Saga which will disappear after about a week or two, and then a few days later something else will reappear.

And these are not cars that have met with an accident because they look very old and rusted – they look like they have been placed there to be someone else's problem.

This has been going on for some time, and I do not have a clue as to why it is happening, who are the culprits, why the cars keep disappearing and why they keep reappearing. Perhaps some investigative journalist might want to take this up.

But this also has me wondering, what happens to abandoned cars in Malaysia?

I did some research on Google and apparently this has been a hot topic for quite some time but without any clear resolution.

According to some sources, there have been over 1,000 complaints about abandoned cars from January to May of this year alone. That is a staggering amount by any measure.

And that does not include abandoned motorcycles which are left underneath trees, shrubs, in front of shops and in housing areas.

There has been a lot of talk, but little seems to have been done.

However, credit is always due where it is deserved. Back in 2024, the government introduced an online portal to ease the process of de-registering of vehicles.

This system is meant to enable owners to de-register their vehicles within five minutes provided certain criteria are met, such as the vehicle not being blacklisted or claimed by another party.

Despite that though, abandoned

cars and motorcycles are still on the rise.

This despite the likes of the Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) having a clear-cut process of getting abandoned vehicles off our roads.

This process starts from the moment a complaint is received to a notice being issued to the owner within 14 days, instructing them to remove the car.

If the owner does not respond, the vehicle is then towed to the Taman Connaught depot where the vehicle is kept for three to six months.

An attempt to find the rightful owner is then made and notices will also be issued by DBKL to relevant parties like the police, banking institutions and insurance companies as well.

If the vehicle still remains unclaimed, DBKL will then move to prepare the vehicle and paperwork to dispose the vehicle, and a list of vehicles to be disposed is presented to the executive director of DBKL for endorsement.



WRITTEN BY
KESHY DHILLON

Car for every Malaysian

All-New Proton Saga: 1.5L, CVT – 120PS with Adas features!

FOR more than four decades, the Proton Saga has been a household name in Malaysia – a true national icon that has transported millions since its debut in 1985.

Over 2.1 million units have found homes worldwide, cementing its status as Proton's most trusted and enduring model.

Now, in 2025, the legend continues with the arrival of the fourth-generation Proton Saga, a model that blends new technology, modern design, and Malaysian values in perfect harmony.

Under the bonnet, the new Saga is powered by a 1.5-litre i-GT engine producing 120PS and 150Nm of torque, paired with a CVT transmission, while the lower variants continue with the 4-speed automatic (4AT) gearbox. The upgrade promises a smoother, more refined driving experience without compromising on efficiency.

Visually, the 2025 Saga embraces a completely refreshed design.

It now sports a sculpted hood, a new front grille featuring Proton's "Sulaman Songket" pattern, full LED projector headlamps with DRLs, and a sleek LED tail light bar reminiscent of the Proton X50.

Completing the look are new 15-inch alloy wheels, available in



both two-tone and single-tone finishes.

Safety sees a major leap forward. The new Saga now comes equipped with Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (Adas), six airbags, and structural reinforcements, including a cross-member front seat support and centre pillar reinforcements.

Key safety features include Front Collision Warning, Front Departure Alert, Intelligent High Beam Control, and Lane Departure Warning.

In fact, the 2025 Proton Saga has made history as Malaysia's first A-segment car to receive Asean NCAP recognition for successfully passing the AEB (Autonomous Emergency Braking) Motorcyclist Test.

Additional safety assists include Door Opening Warning,



Rear Collision Warning, Lane Change Assist, and Rear Cross Traffic Alert.

On the inside, the cabin takes a big step up in comfort and style.

It features a 16-inch integrated dual screen setup – combining a 9-inch infotainment display with a 7-inch digital instrument cluster.



Connectivity is also top-notch, with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto offered as standard.

Design details reflect Proton's local touch, with a flat-bottom electric power steering wheel for a sportier feel, "Congkak"-inspired air vents, and wave motifs inspired by Malaysian beaches.

Two new colours join the range – Deep Marine Blue and Space Grey – further enhancing its appeal.

During a short drive, the new

After this, DBKL's procurement unit will call for tenders to handle the disposal and finally an auction is held to sell the vehicles.

I tried scouring through MBPJ's website but could find no similar plan. Odd.

Despite such a clear-cut strategy by DBKL, abandonment is still on the rise, and this is not only an eye sore, but it also takes up precious parking lots and costs municipals millions in cost.

So why don't we have a simpler plan? If a car is left in a parking lot or public area for more than three days, it will automatically be towed and if no one claims it after two months, the council then reserves the right to dispose it in any way it sees fit.

A number of laws will have to be changed and if a vehicle is abandoned on a private premise such as at the parking lot of a condominium, then it just further complicates the issue.

The issue of abandoned vehicles needs to be fixed and it needs to be done fast. Rather than arguing about the noses of our national monument, our parliamentarians would be better off discussing this?

Saga impressed with its improved refinement, sharper handling, and greater stability through corners.

It feels more mature, confident, and sophisticated – clearly a major upgrade from its predecessor.

Pricing details will be revealed soon, but one thing is certain – the 2025 Proton Saga continues the proud legacy of being the car for every Malaysian, now with the technology and design to match modern expectations.

Driver-focused sedan

Mazda3 1.5L returns with enhanced features, premium refinements

BERMAZ MOTOR has reintroduced the Mazda3 1.5L to the Malaysian market, now equipped with upgraded features and refined specifications that elevate its position as one of the most premium compact sedans in its class.

Continuing Mazda's philosophy of "Car as Art," the updated model blends design purity, emotional appeal, and dynamic performance.

Inside, the car presents a cabin that combines refinement, comfort, and function.

A 10.25-inch infotainment display takes centre stage, complemented by a 7-inch multi-info instrument cluster for key driving data. Both systems support Wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, providing seamless smartphone connectivity.



The addition of USB Type-C ports at the centre console and armrest ensures practical convenience for every occupant. Only the hatchback variant receives the Burgundy Red interior.

Under the bonnet, the Mazda3 uses a SkyActiv-G 1.5-litre four-cylinder petrol engine paired

with a SkyActiv-Drive six-speed automatic transmission pushing out 118hp and 153Nm of torque.

True to Mazda's reputation for driver-focused dynamics, the Mazda3 provides precise handling and a stable ride. The vehicle's structure and chassis have been tuned for comfort and predictability, maintaining the brand's distinctive sense of balance and control.

Safety remains one of the key



strengths of the car. It is equipped with nine SRS airbags and a full suite of stability and braking systems, including ABS, EBD, Brake Assist, Dynamic Stability Control (DSC), and Traction Control System (TCS).

Additional systems such as Hill Launch Assist (HLA), Auto Hold Function, and Emergency Stop Signal (ESS) further enhance driver confidence.

Beyond these fundamentals, the Mazda3 incorporates Mazda's i-Activsense advanced safety technologies, providing comprehensive driver assistance and collision prevention.

This systems work together to

enhance awareness, assist with decision-making, and reduce the likelihood of accidents, giving both driver and passengers greater reassurance on every journey.

The Mazda3 1.5L is available in a palette of elegant colours, including Soul Red, Polymetal Grey, Jet Black, Platinum Quartz and Machine Grey. Fully imported from Japan as a CBU model, it is now open for booking at all authorised Mazda dealerships across Malaysia, with prices starting from RM118,900.

All new Mazda3 come with a 5-Year manufacturer's warranty and a 5-Year Free Maintenance Programme, covering all scheduled services, labour, parts, and lubricants. Both are valid for five years or 100,000 km, whichever comes first.

Jetour T2 set to hit roads soon



JETOUR MALAYSIA has revealed that its upcoming all-terrain SUV, the Jetour T2, will be priced at an estimated RM178,888, marking another major step in the brand's expansion in Malaysia.

The announcement follows the model's earlier right-hand-drive debut and reinforces Jetour's growing presence in the premium SUV segment.

Visually, the Jetour T2 commands attention with its bold and boxy styling. It wears a strong, upright stance accentuated by LED headlamps featuring Jetour's distinctive light signature, flared wheel arches and rugged body lines that convey both durability and refinement.

Available in several striking colours – including Khaki White, Aviation Silver and Carbon Black – the T2 projects a premium yet adventurous

personality that fits right in among Malaysia's diverse driving environments.

Under the bonnet, the T2 packs a 2.0-litre TGD i turbocharged engine producing 245PS and 375Nm of torque, paired to a 7-speed dual-clutch transmission.

The drivetrain is complemented by Jetour's X-Intelligent Drive Mode, which automatically adjusts power delivery and traction depending on surface conditions.

This gives the T2 flexibility to move effortlessly between city roads, highways and unpaved terrain without sacrificing control or

efficiency.

Inside, the T2's cabin takes a functional yet luxurious approach.

The layout is driver-focused, combining modern design with long-term comfort. A 15.6-inch infotainment display anchors the dashboard, offering wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, while a 10.25-inch digital instrument cluster delivers clear, customisable driving information.

Safety is a major focus. The T2 comes equipped with six airbags, Adas Level 2 driver assistance, a tyre pressure monitoring system, and a 360° camera to help drivers navigate Malaysia's often unpredictable traffic and road conditions.

The company has launched a Year-End Promotion for the Jetour

Dashing and VT9, offering up to RM12,000 in savings that include a year of free insurance, RM2,000 petrol vouchers, and six months of free instalments.

Customers who book and register either model by Dec 31 will also

receive an extra RM2,000 worth of Jetour Ecological Products, subject to terms and conditions.

Bookings for the Jetour T2 are now open nationwide at authorised dealerships with a booking fee of RM1,000. The model is set for an official launch in the first quarter of 2026.

Hongqi HS6 Phev breaks world record

FAW'S premium sub-brand Hongqi has made global headlines with the HS6 Phev, which has officially entered the Guinness World Records for the longest distance travelled by a plug-in hybrid SUV on a single full charge and full tank – without refuelling.

The remarkable journey began in Shangri-La on Oct 30, taking the SUV through Kunming, Baise, and Wuzhou, before reaching Guangzhou on Nov 3.

By the end of the trip, the HS6 had covered a total distance of 2,327.343km, setting a new benchmark for hybrid efficiency and endurance.

With this achievement, Hongqi has demonstrated that plug-in hybrids can deliver long-distance practicality alongside electric efficiency.

Visually, the HS6 carries Hongqi's signature design language, blending traditional luxury cues with modern flair.

Under the bonnet lies a 1.5-litre turbocharged engine producing 148hp and 225Nm of torque, boasting an impressive thermal efficiency of 45.21%.

The hybrid system comes in two configurations – two-wheel and four-wheel drive – with combined outputs of 225hp

and 495hp, respectively. Depending on the specification, the SUV can reach a top speed of 205kp/h.

Hongqi offers customers a choice between 23.9kWh and 39.5kWh lithium iron phosphate (LFP) batteries, providing pure electric ranges of 152km, 235km, and 250km (CLTC).

When factoring in both fuel and electric power, the HS6 PHEV achieves combined ranges of 1,460km to 1,650km, depending on the configuration – figures that underline its long-distance capability and class-leading efficiency, with features such as 50W wireless phone charging, dual cupholders, a built-in refrigerator, and a 12-speaker sound system.

Passengers are treated to first-class seating, with both front and rear seats offering electric adjustment, ventilation, and heating.

The co-pilot seat goes a step further, incorporating a zero-gravity design, extendable legrest, and a 10-point massage function, providing exceptional comfort for long journeys.

Practicality also plays a part, with 503 litres of boot space, an additional 49 litres of hidden storage, and up to 1,977 litres when the rear seats are folded flat.

Solve The Phrase And Sudoku

#1

A R T
 A

Hint: Brazilian racer who drove for McLaren

Letters Remaining = SEYNO

#2

R N
 P A R

Hint: Princess of Pop

Letters Remaining = BSYEIT

#3

A
 F
 I N I A

Hint: Newton's first law of motion

Letters Remaining = TOELWR

#4

I G O I

Hint: Tubular-shaped pasta

Letters Remaining = NART

#5

H R A N
 A A N

Hint: Newest Mayor of New York City

Letters Remaining = MOZDI

#6

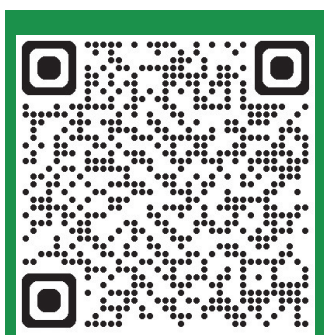
A I

Hint: South Asian classical language

Letters Remaining = TML

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		3	2		9	7	1	5
9		2			1	4		3
		1				2		6

1	6			9			3	
7		5		1	8	4		
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8	7			4		9	2	6



GIANTS VS TITANS
 Gamification for
 a better planet
 from FIRST RAY

Answers
 will be uploaded
 on Sunday,
 November 23 @
thesun.my/puzzles

Your weekend horoscope



ARIES
March 21 – April 19
Your energy and courage make it easy to take the lead and make progress.

Determination helps you push through obstacles but slowing down to think before acting brings better results. People respect your honesty, especially when you show kindness. Creative ideas may appear when you least expect them, giving motivation.



TAURUS
April 20 – May 20
Your steadiness helps you stay practical. Focusing on comfort, security

and small improvements brings satisfaction. You may find pleasure in simple routines or in a peaceful space. Staying patient with others builds understanding and trust. Clear planning supports your goals, especially when handling finances or long-term matters.



GEMINI
May 21 – June 20
Your quick thinking and curiosity make it easy to handle many things at

once. Conversations may lead to new insights. Sharing your ideas openly helps build stronger connections. Staying focused prevents you from feeling scattered or rushed. A thoughtful message or friendly gesture could lift someone's mood.



CANCER
Your caring nature shines as you focus on emotional balance and meaningful

connections. Listening to your instincts helps you make wise choices in matters. Creating comfort at home or spending time with loved ones restores your peace of mind. A conversation can heal misunderstandings.



LEO
July 23 – Aug 22
Your warmth and confidence attract attention. Leadership feels natural, especially

when you combine strength with empathy. Creative ideas flow easily, giving you fresh ways to express yourself. Encouraging others helps your relationships grow and teamwork more enjoyable.



VIRGO
Aug 23 – Sept 22
Your mindset keeps everything running smoothly. Clear organisation and

steady habits help you feel in control. Paying attention to details brings reliable progress. Taking a break or enjoying a small pleasure refreshes your spirit. Your support means a lot to others, especially when you offer calm advice.



If your house is positioned at the bottom of a long downhill slope, where the road descends directly toward your front door, this is not just a visual concern but it is an energetic one.

When all good energy rolls away

Downward slope facing your house may be *feng shui* faux pas

IN *feng shui*, the terrain surrounding your home speaks volumes about your long-term stability. One of the most overlooked yet impactful features is the slope of the road leading directly to your main entrance.

If your house is positioned at the bottom of a long downhill slope, where the road descends directly toward your front door, this is not just a visual concern. It is an energetic one.

From a metaphysical perspective, a road represents the flow of *qi* (energy) that nourishes the land and the occupants of a space.

When a road slopes downward towards your home, *qi* gathers with high momentum but does not settle. Instead of collecting and nourishing your home, it rushes past it or crashes into it too forcefully, creating imbalance.

It is like being at the end of a waterfall, you either get overwhelmed or receive nothing useful.

What is the impact?

Over time, homeowners living at the bottom of such a slope may experience chronic fatigue, mental stress or even financial instability.

There is a sense that “everything comes rushing at once” but leaves just as quickly.

Opportunities might appear but do not stay. You may feel drained more often than energised, despite your efforts to stay grounded. Family members may also notice increased tension or frequent arguments.

This is because *qi* entering the home is too aggressive, like an uninvited guest that barges in rather than flows with respect. It can disturb sleep, concentration and emotional balance. In short, it is hard to build lasting prosperity when your home sits at the energetic “exit lane”.

What can be done?

If you are already living in such a home, *feng shui* offers remedies.

First, consider installing a small wall or raised planter box in front of the main entrance to slow down the incoming *qi*. This helps “catch” the energy and let it settle before entering the home. A thick row of shrubs or even a decorative water feature can act as an energy buffer. Internally, ensure your entryway is not cluttered and has soft lighting to create a gentle transition zone.

Mirrors should be avoided facing the door as they bounce *qi* out, further worsening the outflow. Ultimately, *qi* should arrive with grace, not force and linger long enough to support your intentions. If your house sits at the bottom of a downward slope, it may be time to re-anchor its energy, starting at the very front.

This article is contributed by metaphysics researcher Daniel Siew. Discover more www.danielsiew.com



LIBRA
Sept 23 – Oct 22
Your sense of balance helps you create peace in your surroundings. Cooperation

feels rewarding, and your fairness makes it easier to handle challenges with grace. Beautiful or creative activities bring happiness and calm. Relationships benefit when you speak gently and listen with patience.



SCORPIO
Oct 23 – Nov 21
Your determination and emotional strength give you power to make

deep changes where needed. You may feel more reflective, wanting to understand what truly matters. Honest communication builds trust, especially when you open your heart with care. Protecting your peace keeps you focused and clear-minded.



SAGITTARIUS
Nov 22 – Dec 21
Your adventurous energy pushes you to learn and explore.

Optimism attracts opportunities and sharing your enthusiasm lifts the spirits of others. Staying grounded helps you turn ideas into real progress. Meaningful conversations spark motivation and fresh perspective. Your honesty builds trust.



CAPRICORN
Dec 22 – Jan 19
Your discipline bring steady results. Practical steps lead to success,

especially when you stay organised. People rely on your stability and your calm presence inspires confidence. Responsibilities feel lighter when you take them one piece at a time.



AQUARIUS
Jan 20 – Feb 18
Your innovative spirit helps you see possibilities others might miss. Working

with friends brings inspiration and your fresh ideas spark motivation. Being true to yourself encourages others to do the same. Flexibility helps you handle unexpected turns with ease.



PISCES
Feb 19 – March 20
Your compassion and imagination help you connect deeply with others. Kindness

flows naturally and your calm presence brings peace to your environment. Spending time near nature or in quiet reflection renews your energy. Trusting your intuition helps you make gentle yet wise choices. Creative outlets bring joy.



Australia setback

...as Hazlewood ruled out 1st Ashes Test

AUSTRALIA was dealt a huge blow yesterday with pace spearhead Josh Hazlewood ruled out of the first Ashes Test against England with a hamstring strain, joining Pat Cummins on the sidelines.

The 34-year-old tweaked his hamstring during New South Wales's Sheffield Shield clash with Victoria during the week.

He was initially given the all-clear after a scan, but repeat imaging confirmed the strain.

"Initial scans Wednesday were clear of muscle strain, however follow-up imaging today has confirmed the injury," Cricket Australia said. "Early imaging can occasionally underestimate low-grade muscle injuries.

"As a result, Hazlewood will not travel to Perth and has been ruled out of the first Ashes Test match."

It is a massive setback for the hosts just days out from the opening Test in Perth on November 21 with fellow quick Cummins also missing the match.

Australian captain Cummins has not played since picking up a lower back injury against the West Indies more than three months ago.

He is targeting being back for the second Test in Brisbane on Dec 4, but it is unclear when Hazlewood will be fit enough to feature in the five-Test series.

Reserve fast bowler Sean Abbott is also an injury casualty, hurting his hamstring in the same

match as Hazlewood with his return similarly clouded.

Michael Naser, who has played two Tests, was called up to the squad Saturday as cover.

With Hazlewood and Cummins both absent, Mitchell Starc, Scott Boland and Nathan Lyon will lead a weakened attack in Perth with Brendan Doggett looking likely to make his debut.

The blow came as star England speed king Mark Wood won his battle to be fit in a boost for the hosts as they bid to win the Ashes for the first time in Australia since 2010-2011.

Since then, they have lost 13 Tests and drawn two against their oldest rivals.

Wood, 35, complained of left hamstring stiffness during the tourists' only warm-up game this week.

It was his first match in almost nine months following knee surgery, and he only got through eight overs before leaving the field.

"Following precautionary scans on Friday, England fast bowler Mark Wood has been cleared of any concerns regarding his left hamstring," the England Cricket Board said.

"Wood will continue to train as planned in the build-up to the first Test in Perth."

Barring further complications, an underdone Wood is set to lead the attack, potentially alongside Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson and Josh Tongue. - AFP

Not magic but patience: Bumrah

INDIA'S Jasprit Bumrah (pic) said his five-wicket haul on Friday in the first Test against South Africa was the product of consistency rather than sorcery.

"If you want success, you need patience," Bumrah told reporters.

"Obviously, this is a wicket where the outfield is fast and the wicket is hard. If you're too desperate or you go for a magic ball, the runs come too fast."

Bumrah returned figures of 5-27 for his 16th Test five-wicket haul as India bowled out South Africa for 159 on the first day at Kolkata's Eden Gardens.

Bumrah took five overs to find his rhythm on a pitch that had variable bounce and finally struck in the sixth, rattling the stumps of the left-handed Ryan Rickelton with a



seaming delivery.

He then removed Aiden Markram with a gem. The batsman was caught behind for 31 off a rising ball that flicked the glove and reached a diving Rishabh Pant.

India are playing four spinners on a track that is expected to turn as the match progresses.

But pacer Bumrah, stood out with his control and guile in three spells of seven, five and two overs. He wrapped up the South African innings in 55 overs with his twin strikes soon after tea.

"Feels very good," Bumrah said of his haul. "Wherever you

play in India it is known that spinners will pick a lot of wickets.

"So whenever you are able to make an impact with limited spells because there are majority of spinners in our line-up. - AFP

BRIEFS

WOOD BOOST FOR ENGLAND

PACE spearhead Mark Wood was yesterday cleared any hamstring injury after a precautionary scan in a huge relief for England just days away from the first Ashes Test against Australia. The 35-year-old complained of left hamstring stiffness on Friday during the tourists' only warm-up game before the opening Test in Perth on Nov 21. It was his first match in almost nine months following knee surgery, with the veteran getting through eight overs before leaving the field. "Following precautionary scans on Friday, England fast bowler Mark Wood has been cleared of any concerns

regarding his left hamstring," the England Cricket Board said. "Wood will continue to train as planned in the build-up to the first Test in Perth." Wood is expected to lead the attack in the first Test, potentially alongside Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson and Josh Tongue.

AUSTRALIA STILL THE FAVOURITES: ANDERSON

AUSTRALIA'S Ashes dominance on home soil has been such that it is hard to envision them as anything other than favourites, even if they head into the series with weaknesses that can be exploited by England, fast bowler James Anderson said. England last won the Ashes in 2015 and

have not won a series in Australia since 2011, losing their last three tours by margins of 5-0, 4-0 and 4-0. "I just think that Australia have been so consistent in their team selection over the last 10 years, that this probably is their weakest team (in the last 15 years)," Anderson told TNT Sports. "I think they probably just edge out England in terms of being favourites. It's a tough one to call, so I'd say Australia, just." Anderson, who took a series-leading 24 wickets when England won the 2010-11 series in Australia, agreed with Stuart Broad's assessment but said the hosts still had enough quality to make up for any absences.

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Sinner stays unbeaten

Italian flawless in ATP Finals group stage, Auger-Aliassime reaches last four

JANNIK SINNER stayed on course to defend his ATP Finals title on Friday after seeing off Ben Shelton and completing a perfect group stage, while Felix Auger-Aliassime claimed the last semifinal spot by beating German's Alexander Zverev 6-4, 7-6 (7-4).

Italian Sinner took one hour and 35 minutes to win 6-3, 7-6 (7-3) against spirited Shelton who bowed out of his debut Finals in Turin without a win from his three matches in the Bjorn Borg Group.

Chants of Sinner's name rang out loudly around the Inapli Arena.

As delighted fans hailed their hero, who was all smiles despite losing the year-end world number spot to Carlos Alcaraz.

Sinner will face Alex de

Minaur in the first semifinal overnight.

"The motivation's always there, we're in the semifinals in Turin.

"It's the last tournament of the year, and that's enough motivation to win tomorrow," Sinner told reporters.

"I never underestimate my opponents... I have a lot to lose and he doesn't, so I need to be careful."

The 24-year-old hasn't dropped a set at the Finals since losing the 2023 final to Novak Djokovic and he hasn't even had to play his best tennis to rattle off wins against three of the best players on the planet.

Sinner started Friday's match by immediately breaking Shelton's serve and from there kept up the pressure

without ever giving Shelton, the world number five, any chance of victory, smashing in second serves as fast as 190kph.

"Tough to finish out the season like this, 0-3 at the Finals. For me obviously a great year. A lot of positives," Shelton said.

"This will just make me work harder in the off-season, make me even more excited for the 2026 season. But yeah, it stings, for sure."

Sinner is on course for yet another final showdown against Alcaraz, who before Friday's match was handed the award for securing top spot in the men's rankings at the end of the 2025 campaign.

Alcaraz has won four of his five meetings with Sinner this season, all have been in finals of top level tournaments –

with two deciding Grand Slams.

"I'd be lying if I said that I was super happy about it, to be honest, but he deserves it because he's had an incredible season, he's won two slams and eight tournaments in total which is an enormous number," added Sinner.

"I'm happy for him, he's a great guy and he's got a great team around him."

Auger-Aliassime set up a last-four clash with Alcaraz after coming through a largely hum-drum encounter with world No. 3 Zverev, who ends his year with just the Munich title to his name.

"You want to be in the final but I'll have to go through a great player to do that," Auger-Aliassime said. "I will take my chance if I have it." – AFP

Mclroy closes in on Race to Dubai title

DESPITE struggling with his game, Rory Mclroy once again showed his mastery of the Earth course with a 3-under par 69 in yesterday's second round keeping the world No. 2 way ahead in the Race to Dubai.

Mclroy moved up to tied second place at 9-under par at the halfway stage of the US\$10 million (RM41m) DP World Tour Championship, three strokes behind leader Nicolai Hojgaard of Denmark who fired 65 on day two.

"It was a struggle out there today," admitted Mclroy, who started with a bogey and avoided one on the par-five 18th with a brilliant up-and-down after he had fluffed his second shot from thick rough.

"I had to battle a little more. The conditions were slightly tougher, as well, if you looked at the scoring yesterday compared to today. I missed a couple more fairways today.

"But I felt like I showed my scoring skills today, and, battled well and stayed patient, and got the ball up-and-down when I needed to," continued the Northern Irishman.

"Overall, to shoot 69, I'm pretty pleased considering some of the spots that I found myself."

England's Tyrrell Hatton (67), one of only two players who can stop Mclroy from winning a seventh Order of Merit crown, improved to sit in tied 11th place at 7-under.

But Tyrrell will have to win the tournament and then hope Mclroy finishes outside the top-eight to have a chance. The other player in contention, England's Marco Penge (70) was way down at tied 44th place.

Hojgaard started birdie-eagle and raced to 6-under-par through his front nine, but could pick up only one more shot on the back nine with a birdie on the par-five 14th.

The Dane put himself in a good position adding a 65 to his opening round 67.

"It's good to be back this year in a little bit of form," said Hojgaard, who failed to qualify last year. It's one of my favourite tournaments and favourite courses to play."

Mclroy's Ryder Cup-winning teammates Shane Lowry and Justin Rose both shot rounds of 67 to join him in second place, alongside Rasmus Neergaard-Petersen (67) of Denmark and Daniel Hillier (68) of New Zealand. Two other members of the European Ryder Cup team – Robert MacIntyre (67) and Tommy Fleetwood (71) – were one shot further behind at 8-under with England's Laurie Canter (68) and Sweden's Alex Noreen (68). – AFP



Grant, Kim share halfway lead at Pelican

Australia's Grace Kim and Sweden's Linn Grant at The Annika driven. – AFP/PIC

SWEDEN'S Linn Grant shook off an opening bogey to card eight birdies in a 7-under par 63 on yesterday and seize a share of the second-round lead in the LPGA Annika at Pelican tournament alongside Australia's Grace Kim.

Kim had five birdies and a bogey in her 66 to join Grant on nine-under 131.

"Very, very solid," Grant said of her round on the par-70 Pelican Club layout in Belleair, Florida.

"I hit some really good shots. Tee to green today was very good. I felt like I played similar to yesterday, but I just couldn't get the putts to go in. Today a lot of them went in, so it was really fun out there."

Grant, a six-time winner on the Ladies European Tour, is chasing a second LPGA title to go with her 2023 Dana Open crown.

She said her miscue at her opening hole, the par-four 10th, actually helped her settle in.

"Sometimes bogey on the first kind of helps you relax a little bit, just to get more motivated," she said. "And I think

that was what it was today. I didn't hold on too tight in my putter. I just felt more relaxed."

It showed as Grant promptly birdied 11, 12 and 13. She added two more birdies at 16 and 18 and another three coming in.

"I felt like I scored kind of how I played," she said. "Still left a couple of putts – you always leave a couple of putts out there."

Kim had five birdies in her first 11 holes, including three in a row from the ninth through to the 11th, before her lone bogey at the par-five 14th.

"It is nice to be able to kind of put some close and make the birdie putts," said Kim. "I think that definitely helped."

The leading duo were one stroke in front of overnight leader Ryu Hae-ran, who carded a 68, and Jennifer Kupcho, who shot 66.

Mexico's Gaby Lopez carded a 6-under par 64 to take sole possession of fifth place on 133, one stroke in front of a group headlined by world No. 2 and defending champion Nelly Korda. – AFP

SHORTS

TRUMP MISSES CUT

KAI TRUMP conquered her nerves to cap her LPGA debut with a five-over par 75 yesterday and said she'd have plenty of positives to discuss with her grandfather, US President Donald Trump.

The 18-year-old high school senior, who has signed to play for the University of Miami next year, played the Annika at Pelican tournament in Florida on a sponsor's invitation.

While she'll miss the cut and almost certainly finish last she said her eight-stroke improvement from Friday to yesterday was something to be proud of.

"The first day I was definitely really nervous," Trump said. "I think the nerves just got to me. When I went out there today I felt very calm and peaceful to be honest with you. And that's why I played better."

There were miscues yesterday, including a triple-bogey at the par-four fifth, where she hit a tree. "Things are going to happen," Trump said. "Once it happens you can't go back in time and fix it. The best thing I could do is move on."

THOMAS HAS BACK SURGERY

TWO-TIME major-winner Justin Thomas said yesterday he has undergone a microdiscectomy procedure to treat hip pain and will be sidelined through the start of the 2026 US PGA Tour season.

"Life update – I've had some nagging hip pain for a handful of months and after some time off and worsening symptoms, an MRI showed I had a disc problem that needed to be treated," the 32-year-old American wrote in a social media post.

He said he had a successful procedure in New York and had already left the hospital.

"My next few weeks will be a lot of resting before the rehab process begins," Thomas said. "I have a great team behind me who I fully trust to get me back to a better place than I was before!"

Thomas, who hasn't played since the Ryder Cup at Bethpage in September, had been scheduled to take on England's Tommy Fleetwood, two-time major-winner Xander Schauffele and US Ryder Cup captain Keegan Bradley in a revamped Skins Game this month and the unofficial Hero World Challenge in December. He didn't provide a timetable for his return, but said he would miss some events at the start of 2026.

PARKER DENIES TAKING BANNED SUBSTANCE

FORMER world heavyweight champion Joseph Parker denied yesterday taking a prohibited substance, after learning he had failed a drug test on the day of his shock loss to Fabio Wardley.

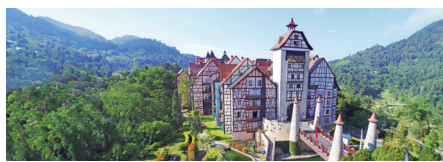
The 33-year-old New Zealander said on social media it was a "real surprise" to learn of an adverse finding from an anti-doping test taken on Oct 25.

Parker suffered an 11th-round stoppage defeat by British boxer Wardley and lost his status as WBO mandatory challenger for undisputed heavyweight champion Oleksandr Usyk.

"The Voluntary Anti-Doping Association (VADA) last night informed all required parties that Joseph Parker returned an adverse finding following an anti-doping test conducted on 25 October in relation to his bout with Fabio Wardley," promoters Queensberry said in a statement.

"While the matter is investigated further, no additional comment will be made at this time."

Parker said he was confident his name would be cleared.



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Messi shines for Argentina in Angola

FOOTBALL ICON Lionel Messi created the first goal and scored the second as world champions Argentina beat Angola 2-0 in an international friendly in Luanda yesterday.

Miami-based Messi set up Lautaro Martinez to put the Albiceleste ahead on 44 minutes. The roles were reversed after 82 minutes with Martinez the creator and Messi the scorer.

Martinez beat 39-year-old goalkeeper Hugo Marques at his near post and Messi struck with a shot into the far corner of the net. Both scorers were substituted late in the second half. It was a predictable outcome as Argentina are second in the world rankings, behind Spain and 87 places above Angola.

The match at the national stadium in the Angolan capital celebrated the 50th anniversary of independence for the southern Africa nation and former Portuguese colony.

Title-holders do not automatically qualify for the next World Cup so 2022 champions Argentina had to play the other nine South American countries home and away to secure a place at the 2026 tournament.

They won 12 matches, drew two and lost four to top the final standings with 38 points, nine more than second-placed Ecuador.

Angola were shock qualifiers for the 2006 World Cup in Germany but won just two of 10 qualifiers for the 2026 tournament to finish 11 points behind group winners Cape Verde. - AFP

Osimhen on the hunt

... as Super Eagles eye World Cup survival

PROLIFIC Nigeria scorer Victor Osimhen could be the key figure when they tackle the Democratic Republic of Congo tomorrow (3am Malaysian time) in a fight for 2026 World Cup qualifying survival in Rabat.

The winners of the African playoffs final advance to a six-nation intercontinental tournament in Mexico during March that involves each football region except Europe.

But the losers will bow out of the contest to be among the record 48 nations that take part in the global showpiece hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Nigeria and DR Congo were among four countries given a second chance to qualify after being the best runners-up from nine African groups.

In the semifinals on Friday, Galatasaray striker Osimhen scored twice in extra time as Nigeria beat Gabon 4-1 while Chancel Mbemba snatched a late 1-0 win for DR Congo over Cameroon.

Osimhen, the 2023 African Player of the Year, scored a hatrick last month in a 4-0 triumph over Benin that enabled Nigeria to squeeze into the playoffs.

The 26-year-old, who continues to wear a protective mask after suffering

serious facial injuries four years ago, posed a constant threat against Gabon and could have notched six goals.

On several occasions he came agonisingly close to scoring before, in the last of 12 minutes added time, he fired wide with only goalkeeper Loyce Mbaba to beat.

"I was gutted after failing to score from that opportunity. It was a bad miss," Osimhen admitted to reporters.

"Sometimes I score amazing goals no one expects and, on other occasions, I miss when people expect me to score.

"I apologised to my teammates after that miss and promised to find the net in extra time, which I did twice."

Nigeria have qualified for the World Cup six times in eight attempts since first achieving the feat in 1994.

The Super Eagles have never missed back-to-back World Cups since their debut and are desperate to atone for a playoff loss to Ghana that deprived them of qualification for Qatar three years ago.

Nigeria are 19 places above DR Congo in the world rankings and favourites to win the clash of the Super Eagles and the Leopards, but Ivory Coast-born coach Eric Chelle is cautious.

"The victory over Gabon means nothing. We now face formidable opponents in DR Congo and, assuming we win, there will be time to celebrate.

"We are trying to create an identity. My players understand what I want and are improving mentally and technically with each international window.

"The key to success over Gabon was passion. It was about working together. We have to rediscover that passion against the Congolese," added the 48-year-old former Mali coach.

While Nigeria have been regular participants at the four-yearly World Cup, the sole appearance by the Congolese came in 1974 when the mineral-rich central African country was called Zaire.

French coach Sebastien Desabre has transformed the always talented but often erratic Congolese into a combative outfit captained by outstanding centre-back Mbemba from Ligue 1 club Lille.

"We have experienced players. What we are putting in place has not happened overnight. We are going to give our all against Nigeria," promised Desabre.

Nigeria have been involved in 16 World Cup qualifying campaigns and DR Congo 12, but the showdown at the 22,000-seat Prince Heritier Moulay El Hassan Stadium will be the first meeting between them. - AFP

Croatia qualifies, Oranje close, Germany in limbo



FROM LEFT: Josko Gvardiol, Van Dijk and Leroy Sane. - REUTERS

CROATIA booked their ticket to the 2026 World Cup in North America with an unconvincing 3-1 win over the in-form Faroe Islands yesterday as the Netherlands all but booked their spot in the finals too.

Germany's qualification hopes still rest on their final Group A match on Tuesday (3.45am) at home to Slovakia despite a Nick Woltemade brace giving them a laboured 2-0 win at Luxembourg.

Victory gave Croatia a six point lead over the Czech Republic at the top of Group L with just a single game left to play.

"For Croatia, for the fans!" a jubilant Gvardiol posted on his X account.

But it was a night when the underdogs struck fear into more illustrious opponents, although without managing to strike a telling blow.

The Faroes, who were on a three-match winning run and still harboured faint hopes of qualification, had the audacity to take the lead against opponents who only needed a draw to progress.

The lead lasted only seven minutes

before Manchester City defender Gvardiol lashed in an equaliser after some hesitant Faroes defending.

With the evergreen Luka Modric still pulling the strings in Croatia's midfield at 40 on the occasion of his 193rd cap, the hosts gradually took control.

And 12 minutes into the second half, Musa fired in at the near post to settle Croatian nerves.

With the Faroes' hopes of becoming the smallest ever nation to reach a World Cup fading fast, Vlasic drove the knife in deeper still 20 minutes from time.

Memphis Depay's Dutch record-extending 55th international goal helped push the Netherlands to the brink of qualification with a 1-1 draw in Poland.

Depay helped to maintain the Oranje's three-point lead at the top of the group, and a massive goal difference advantage of 13 that makes qualification at home to Lithuania on Tuesday (3.45am) a formality.

In Group A, plucky Luxembourg gave Germany plenty of scares in a goalless first

half before Newcastle forward Woltemade bagged a second half brace to keep Germany top of the pool.

"I know it wasn't a pretty game but we gave our all, pushed hard and got the three points," Woltemade told Germany's RTL network.

The four-time world champions need only a point at home to Slovakia on Tuesday to book their ticket to the World Cup.

Their nearest rivals, Slovakia, had two goals chalked off by VAR but Tomas Bobcek struck in injury time in Kosice to snatch a 1-0 victory over Northern Ireland.

Slovakia, though, must win in Germany on Tuesday to top the group and avoid the playoffs.

Elsewhere, Liam Jessop's 20th-minute strike threatened to give Gibraltar a first ever victory - or even draw - in a major tournament qualification match, but Vasilije Adzic and Nikola Krstovic ensured Montenegro avoided a shock defeat to triumph 2-1 in Group L. - AFP

Mbeumo storms down tunnel, left heartbroken

MANCHESTER UNITED star Bryan Mbeumo was visibly upset following Cameroon's unsuccessful bid to qualify for the World Cup. The African team were in playoff action on Friday, aware that only a victory would keep their hopes alive of participating in this summer's tournament in North America.

Mbeumo was part of the starting 11 for Cameroon as they faced off against DR Congo in Morocco. The match remained deadlocked until the 91st minute.

It was then that Chancel Mbemba managed to sneak in at the back post to score past United loanee Andre Onana, triggering jubilant celebrations from DR Congo and leaving the Cameroonian players devastated.

This result means that DR Congo will now face Nigeria in the final, with the victors securing a place in this summer's World Cup.

Following Cameroon's loss, Mbeumo could not conceal his disappointment. Footage shared on social media shows the United forward clearly frustrated as he stormed down the tunnel alone, pausing only briefly to exchange a quick handshake with a member of the coaching staff.

Mbeumo is now expected to return to United and begin preparations for the Premier League match against Everton after the international break.

United are set to lose both Cameroon's Mbeumo and Ivory Coast's Amad to the Africa Cup of Nations next month, a tournament that could see them miss up to six league matches.

United boss Ruben Amorim admitted the loss of the duo would be a blow but insisted it would also provide an opportunity for others in the squad.

"We are going to struggle a little bit, but we already knew it's going to be an opportunity," he said. "When I watch the training, there are players that should be playing ... So other players are going to have the opportunity to help us." - Express Newspapers

MANCHESTER UNITED are reducing the size of their London office as part of Sir Jim Ratcliffe's ongoing cost-cutting measures. Ineos chief Ratcliffe has been tirelessly working to cut costs since he took over the reins at United in February 2024, a trend that continues unabated.

Ratcliffe has been candid about his belief that United must significantly slash spending and has made approximately 450 staff redundancies since assuming control. The petrochemicals tycoon has also withdrawn staff benefits and hiked ticket prices at Old Trafford.

Ratcliffe continues cost-cutting measures

In September, United announced record financial revenue of £666.5 million (RM3.6 billion), record commercial revenue of £333.3m (RM1.8b), and record matchday revenue of £160.3m (RM872m). However, cost-cutting measures persist, with United's London-based staff being relocated from their current Kensington office to a smaller Covent Garden site.

The *Daily Mail* claim that United have prematurely ended their 10-year lease in Kensington after just two years. A rent reduction is believed to be involved, although the club emphasises that saving money isn't the primary motive for the move, citing the new location as more beneficial.

The facility was deemed cutting-edge at the time, incorporating an LED tunnel

designed to give employees the sensation of being at Old Trafford.

However, Ratcliffe's arrival in February 2024 transformed the landscape entirely, with him bringing in consultants to carry out a comprehensive review and pinpoint potential cost-cutting opportunities. Hundreds of job losses have subsequently occurred, with Ratcliffe showing no remorse for his choices.

During an appearance on *The Business* podcast last month, Ratcliffe declared: "The costs were just too high. There are some fantastic people at Manchester United, but there was also a level of mediocrity and it had become bloated." – Express Newspapers



Explosive twist

Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk (right) scores a goal that was later disallowed. – REUTERS

Premier League panel rule Van Dijk's goal should have stood against City

THE Premier League's Key Match Incidents (KMI) panel has ruled that Virgil van Dijk's disallowed goal in Liverpool's 3-0 defeat to Manchester City should have been allowed.

However, it was also concluded that VAR was correct not to challenge the on-field decision after the Dutchman's powerful header was dismissed by assistant referee Stuart Burt, under the supervision of Chris Kavanagh.

Had Van Dijk's header not been disallowed due to Andy Robertson being in an offside position, the reigning champions could have equalised the match at 1-1.

The Scottish defender was deemed to be obstructing Gianluigi Donnarumma's view as he ducked, allowing the ball to pass him.

The *Times* has now claimed that the KMI panel disagreed with the judgement of Kavanagh and Burt, but they also agreed that the VAR official, Michael Oliver, was right not to intervene.

The verdict comes after PGMOL chief Howard Webb defended VAR's decision to disallow the goal that left Van Dijk and Reds boss Arne Slot enraged.

"For sure Michael (Oliver), a huge decision in a big game," said Webb on *Sky Sports*.

"As the ball moves towards Robertson – three yards out from goal in the middle of the six-yard box – he makes that clear action to duck below the ball. It goes just over his head and finds the goal in the half of the six-yard box where he is.

"The officials have to make a judgement, did that clear action impact on the goalkeeper and his ability to save the ball? That's where

the subjectivity comes into play. They looked at that action so close to the goalkeeper and formed that opinion.

"I know that's not a view held by everybody but it's not unreasonable to understand why [the officials] would form that conclusion when the player is so close to the goalkeeper, the ball is coming right towards him and he has to duck to get out of the way.

"They form the conclusion that it impacts Donnarumma's ability to dive towards the ball and make the save.

Once they've made that on-field decision, the job of the VAR is to look at that and decide was the outcome clearly and obviously wrong. Only Donnarumma truly knows if he was impacted by this and we have to look at the factual evidence."

Liverpool had already contacted the PGMOL over the incident, seeking clarification as to why their goal was not awarded.

The wording of the relevant Law 11 stipulates a player in an offside position is only penalised on becoming active by: "interfering with play by playing or touching a ball passed or touched by a teammate or interfering with an opponent by preventing an opponent from playing or being able to play the ball by clearly obstructing the opponent's line of vision or challenging an opponent for the ball or clearly attempting to play a ball which is close when this action impacts on an opponent or making an obvious action which clearly impacts on the ability of an opponent to play the ball." – Express Newspapers

SPORTS TOTO RESULTS
DRAW NO: 6048/2025 DATE: 15/11/2025 (SAT)
STM LOTTERY SDN. BHD.
196901000090 (8420-D)

TOTO 4D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

4D 1st Prize **1479**
2nd Prize **9018**
3rd Prize **2853**

Special		Consolation	
2220	1071	8959	2144
2429	1802	4711	7707
3395	6739	4355	5856
3392	1496	2098	7220
6035	3920	7113	8040

4D JACKPOT
Jackpot 1 **RM 15,119,812.08**

1479	9018	9018	1479
1479	2853	2853	1479
9018	2853	2853	9018

Jackpot 2 **RM 238,006.67**
Winning combination of any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.

4D Zodiac

1st Prize **1479** + ROOSTER
2nd Prize **9018** +
3rd Prize **2853** +
4th Prize **Special Prize** +
5th Prize **Consolation Prize** +
6th Prize **Any 4D drawn number**

TOTO 5D & 6D PRIZE PAYMENTS GUARANTEED IN FULL

5D 1ST **4 3 2 4 1**
4TH **3 2 4 1**
2ND **5 7 4 3 1** 5TH **2 4 1**
3RD **2 2 4 4 3** 6TH **4 1**

6D 1ST **9 9 0 8 3 8**
2ND **9 9 0 8 3** or **9 0 8 3 8**
3RD **9 9 0 8** or **0 8 3 8**
4TH **9 9 0** or **8 3 8**
5TH **9 9** or **3 8**

TOTO GAMES GIVES YOU MORE WINNING CHANCES!

SUPREME 6/58 (4) (35) (46) (47) (52) (55)
Jackpot **RM 24,938,729.74**

POWER 6/55 (1) (17) (25) (27) (40) (44)
Jackpot **RM 4,451,763.22**

STAR 6/50 (2) (16) (20) (33) (38) (50) + (10)
Jackpot 1 **RM 12,164,412.69**
Jackpot 2 **RM 100,000.00**

Toto 4D Jackpot 2 **RM 681,838**
Toto 4D Jackpot 1 (i-System) **RM 449,539**
Toto 4D Jackpot 2 (i-System) **RM 73,005** won on 12/11/2025!
Visit www.sportstoto.com.my for e-Results and more info.

WINNING NUMBERS **dama cai**
PAYMENT GUARANTEED IN FULL

Draw Date: 15/11/25 (Sat) Draw No: 5995/25 Venue: WISMA GENTING, KL

1+3D SUPER 1+3D

1st Prize **4766**
2nd Prize **5624**
3rd Prize **3700**

Starters		Consolation	
8928	9296	8633	7377
7873	7620	8692	8992
4017	7837	0469	5748
0007	2268	6627	0968
5335	0173	4533	3636

1-3D Jackpot

Jackpot 1 **RM9,903,620.50**

4766 + 5624	5624 + 4766
4766 + 3700	3700 + 4766
5624 + 3700	3700 + 5624

Jackpot 2 **RM200,236.50**
Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of 10 Starter Prizes.

3-3D Bonus

1st Prize	Bonus	1st Prize Bonus
414 766 + DRAGON		RM91,666.60
2nd Prize	Bonus	2nd Prize Bonus
205 624 + DOG		RM530,000.00
3rd Prize	Bonus	3rd Prize Bonus
983 700 + GOAT		RM699,097.10

Starters		Consolation	
978 928	559 296	568 633	767 377
497 873	197 620	238 692	368 992
934 017	797 837	440 469	405 748
360 007	572 268	356 627	870 968
065 335	330 173	474 533	123 636

3D

1st Prize	2nd Prize	3rd Prize
766	624	700

3D Jackpot

Jackpot **RM647,606.70**

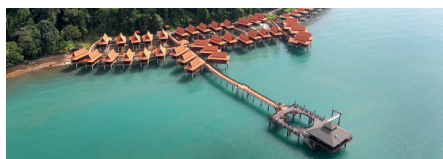
766 + 624 + 700	624 + 700 + 766
766 + 700 + 624	700 + 766 + 624
624 + 766 + 700	700 + 624 + 766

Winning combination matches the Top 3 Prizes in any order.

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RESULTS

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

EUROPE

GROUP A: Luxembourg 0 Germany 2 (Woltemade 49, 69), **Slovakia 1** (Bobcek 90+1) **Northern Ireland 0.**

GROUP G: Finland 0 Malta 1 (Grech 82), **Poland 1** (Kaminski 43) **Netherlands 1** (Depay 47).

GROUP L: Croatia 3 (Gvardiol 23, Musa 57, Vasic 70) **Faroe Islands 1** (Turi 16), **Gibraltar 1** (Jessop 20) **Montenegro 2** (Adzic 33, Kristovic 42-pen).

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES:

Japan 2 Ghana 0, Korea Rep 2 Bolivia 0, Oman 2 Sudan 0, Uganda 2 Chad 1, Kenya 0 Equatorial Guinea 0, Angola 0 Argentina 2, Egypt 0 Uzbekistan 2, Comoros 1 Namibia 0, Saudi Arabia 1 Côte d'Ivoire 0, Tunisia 3 Jordan 2, Morocco 1 Mozambique 0, Venezuela 1 Australia 0.

Awalan heading MLBF until 2027

DATUK Awalan Abdul Aziz will continue to helm the Malaysia Lawn Bowls Federation (MLBF) for another two years after being returned unopposed as president for the 2025-2027 term.

According to a statement by MLBF, the decision was made at the federation's 26th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at the National Lawn Bowls Centre in Bukit Kiara, yesterday. This will be Awalan's third term as the MLBF president since he first elected to the position in 2021-2023 and continued his reign for a second term from 2023-2025.

"Under Datuk Awalan's dynamic leadership, lawn bowls has grown to great heights with remarkable achievements. It is without a doubt that Datuk Awalan's leadership has been instrumental in the sport's strong showing globally," it said.

Among Malaysia's best achievement under Awalan include being the overall champions of the recently-concluded World Cup 2025 here with a gold and three bronze medals, finishing ahead of giants like Australia, England, New Zealand, Scotland and Wales.

Meanwhile, the other top two posts - deputy president and vice president - also remained unchanged as the incumbents won unopposed.

Tengku Datin Seri Noor Hazah Tengku Abdul Aziz and Datuk Tun Ahmad Faisal Tun Abdul Razak retained their positions as deputy presidents, while Rustam Affandi Maktar and Shuib Hashim continued as vice-presidents. - Bernama

THE national kabaddi squad aim to bring home two gold medals from the 2025 SEA Games in Thailand next month.

National kabaddi head coach M. Palaniandy expects his men's and women's teams to strike gold in the three stars event (involving teams of three players per side), which will be making its debut at the biennial Games.

He added they have been preparing since April, including undergoing a 40-day training stint at two locations in India - Puducherry and Haryana.

"The players are all ready for action.

"They are physically in top

Kabaddi sets sights on two gold medals

shape, and I hope they will take care of themselves and stay injury-free ahead of the SEA Games," he said after deputy chef de mission Nazmizan Muhammad visited the squad on Friday.

Palaniandy also reminded his players to be wary of hosts Thailand, who can dash their hopes of striking gold.

Meanwhile, national karate exponent S. Prem Kumar is determined to defend his men's under-55 kilogramme (kg) kumite gold medal he won at the 2023

South East Asian (SEA) Games in Cambodia.

He also expressed his hope that he could help Malaysia seize the men's team kumite gold medal they lost previously to Vietnam.

"Of course I want to defend my gold. I've prepared for 12 months. Besides the individual event, if possible I want (gold) for both events, including the team event," he said on Friday.

National karate head coach R. Sharmendran said his charges

were ready to achieve the three-gold mission set by the Malaysian Karate Federation, adding that his mission was to help Malaysia win, regardless of his role as a coach or athlete. "At the end of the day, it's about the nation and national interest, not personal interest. Whoever wins, it's for Malaysia," said the under-75kg men's kumite gold medallist.

The 2025 Thailand SEA Games will be held in Bangkok, Chonburi and Songkhla from Dec 9-20. - Bernama

Pearly-Thinaah eye on title

Sze Fei-Izzuddin fall in Japan Masters semis

NATIONAL top women's doubles pair Pearly Tan-M. Thinaah moved a step closer to securing their third title of the season after smashing their way into the Japan Masters 2025 final in Kumamoto today.

In yesterday's semifinals of the Super 500 tournament at the Kumamoto Prefectural Gymnasium, Pearly-Thinaah lived up to their top billing as they needed 57 minutes to fend off a fierce challenge from home duo and third seeds Yuki Fukushima-Mayu Matsumoto, winning 24-22, 23-21 to reach their seventh final of the season.

The result also saw the 2025 World Championships runners-up extend their impressive head-to-head record over Fukushima-Matsumoto to 5-1.

The world No. 2 will battle for the title today against another home duo and fourth seed Rin Iwanaga-Kie Nakanishi, who upset second seed Kim Hye Jeong-Kong Hee Yong of South Korea 21-16, 21-11.

On paper, the Malaysians hold the upper hand over the Japanese pair by recording six victories in eight meetings so far.

Pearly-Thinaah claimed their first title this year at the Thailand Open in May, followed by their second crown in the Arctic Open in Vantaa, Finland, last month.

However, there will be no second Malaysian representative in the final today after

professional men's doubles pair and second seed Goh Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin Mohd Rumsani were stunned by home pair and unseeded duo Hiroki Midorikawa-Kyohei Yamashita 12-21, 17-21 in 38 minutes, earlier.

The Japanese pair will face top seed from South Korea, Kim Won Ho-Seo Seung Jae in today's final.

In January, Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin captured their only title of the season so far after defeating Won Ho-Seung Jae 21-15, 13-21, 21-16 at the India Open 2025.

Their bid for a second title this year, however, was thwarted when they fell 16-21, 17-21 to the same Korean pair in the Japan Open 2025 final in July. - Bernama



M. Thinaah (left) and Pearly Tan. - BERNAMAPIC

Tengku Amir Shah to race in RMSIR

A TOTAL of 28 teams from various countries are competing in the 35th edition of the Raja Muda Selangor International Regatta (RMSIR), starting today.

The nine-day race starts from Port Klang to Pangkor Island in Perak before sailing to Penang Island and the final leg is scheduled to end on Langkawi Island.

Adding to the excitement of the glamorous event, this year's race is also being attended by the Raja Muda of

Selangor, Tengku Amir Shah Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, who has consented to participate in the prestigious regatta.

RMSIR chairman Irsyad Ismail said Tengku Amir Shah has participated in the tournament more than three times, making this year's competition even more interesting. "What's more fascinating is that this regatta will be attended by the Raja Muda's wife, Datin Paduka Seri Afzaa Fadini Abdul Aziz.

"Sailing is actually a hobby for the Raja Muda and he is very passionate about sailing," Irsyad said at the RMSIR opening ceremony at the Royal Selangor Yacht Club, yesterday.

The RMSIR, which began in 1990, is the second oldest sailing competition in Asia and the most difficult in Southeast Asia.

The RMSIR was the brainchild of the Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah when he was the Raja Muda of Selangor. - Bernama

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Draw No: 285/25 Date: 15/11/2025

4D Classic			
1st Prize	9518		
2nd Prize	7504		
3rd Prize	5969		
SPECIAL		CONSOLATION	
6896	3106	1441	1343
9766	9106	6309	6956
8668	7991	1874	3807
0595	6871	5927	5750
5759	3144	2149	5114

4D Jackpot	
Jackpot 1	RM10,849,508.42
9518 + 7504	9518 + 5969
7504 + 9518	7504 + 5969
5969 + 9518	5969 + 7504
Jackpot 2	RM171,013.65
PARTIALLY WON	
Winning pair matches any 1 of Top 3 & any 1 of Special prizes.	

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1 8 11 17 19 23 28 29	
+	
31 36	
Grand Prize	
RM1,000 EVERY DAY for 20 years	
2nd Prize	
RM1,000 EVERY DAY for 100 days	

Jackpot Gold	
Jackpot 1	RM10,408,172.02
Jackpot 1 - Group 1 + Golden Number	
Jackpot 2	RM100,000.00 WON
Jackpot 2 - Group 2 + Golden Number	
GROUP 1	1 8 0 4 6 9
GROUP 2	18046 OR 80469
GROUP 3	1804 OR 0469
GROUP 4	180 OR 469
GROUP 5	18 OR 69
OR 04	
GOLDEN NUMBER	15

All jackpot amounts stated above are for this Draw. Subject to T&Cs of the Scheme. Please visit to www.magnum4d.my for more info. THE BIGGER PLAY IS TO PLAY RESPONSIBLY

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Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (right) hands the captain's armband to Bernardo Silva as he leaves the pitch after receiving a second yellow card during the 2026 World Cup Group F qualifier against Ireland at Aviva Stadium in Dublin on Friday. – AFP/IC

How many WC games could CR7 miss?

Portugal manager Martinez says Ronaldo red card was harsh

BY JAMIE BRAIDWOOD

CRISTIANO RONALDO risks being suspended for Portugal's opening match of the World Cup after his red card for violent conduct against the Republic of Ireland on Friday.

The 40-year-old, who has confirmed that next summer's tournament will be his sixth and final World Cup before retiring, was shown a straight red card for the first time in his Portugal career after swinging an elbow at Ireland defender Dara O'Shea off the ball.

The 2-0 defeat in Dublin means Portugal must take a point against Armenia in their final World Cup qualifier on Sunday in order to top their qualifying group ahead of Hungary and Ireland, who meet to decide who goes through to the play-offs.

Red cards in World Cup qualifying carry an automatic one-match ban. However, the suspension could be increased to as many as three games, with a decision to be taken by the Fifa Disciplinary Committee.

Fifa regulations state that suspensions from qualifying fixtures must carry over into the final tournament and cannot be served in non-competitive games such as friendlies.

Unless Portugal have to go through the playoffs, Ronaldo therefore risks being suspended from his country's first two matches at the World Cup if the Fifa Disciplinary Committee takes action.

Fifa's disciplinary code states that players could face an increased suspension of "at least three matches or an appropriate period of time for assault, including elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting or hitting an opponent".

Ronaldo's first red card in international football came on his 226th appearance for Portugal and came after the Republic of Ireland boss Heimir Hallgrímsson urged the referee to take strong action against Ronaldo and not allow him to control the game.

Ronaldo threw an elbow towards O'Shea while the two tussled in the

Ireland box and he was originally given a yellow card for the challenge, before a VAR review recommended an on-field review and referee Glenn Nyberg upgraded the punishment to a red card.

Ronaldo was furious to be dismissed, with his tantrum mocked by the Ireland fans in Dublin, and he had words for Ireland boss Hallgrímsson as he eventually stormed off the pitch.

Hallgrímsson later revealed that Ronaldo "complimented me for putting pressure on the referee" due to his pre-match comments.

"It was his action on the pitch that cost him the red card," Hallgrímsson said. "It had nothing to do with me – unless I got into his head."

"No, I think we spoke enough when he came off. There was nothing to speak about. This was just a moment of a little silliness from him, I would say."

The red card harmed Portugal's chances of getting back into the game and it leaves Roberto Martinez's side requiring a point against Armenia in their final qualifying match.

Martinez did not criticise Ronaldo, instead turning the attention on Hallgrímsson and saying that his pre-match comments urging the officials to be stronger left a "bitter taste".

"The red card is just a captain that has never been sent off before in 226 games – I think that just deserves credit – and today, I thought it was a bit harsh because he cares about the team," Martinez said.

"He was 60 minutes or 58 minutes in the box being grabbed, being pulled, being pushed and obviously when he tries to get away from the defender..."

"I think the action looks worse than what it actually is, I don't think it's an elbow, I think it's a full body, but from where the camera is, it looks like an elbow. But we accept it."

"The only thing that leaves a bitter taste in my mouth is at the press conference yesterday, your coach was talking about the aspect of the referees being influenced, and then a big centrehalf falls on the floor so dramatically at the turn of Cristiano's body." – The Independent