



No signs of impending top leadership change in Bersatu

Party MPs stand firm with president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and deputy, says elected rep.

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'No' to penalising underage girls

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Minors who willingly participate in sexual activity in statutory rape cases should not be criminalised, but protected and given opportunity to learn from mistakes and rebuild their lives: Minister



More than 4,400 Armed Forces personnel and over 7,800 assets are on standby for immediate flood relief deployment. – ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THE SUN

Real Property Development Act slated for tabling in June next year

New law to replace Housing Development (Control and Licensing) Act 1966 as part of broader housing reform agenda by govt.

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Armed Forces launch ops to identify, monitor flood hotspots

Full deployment of assets to be triggered automatically once heavy rainfall leads to rising water levels, says defence minister.

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'No' to penalising minors in consensual sex cases

➤ Teens need space to learn from mistakes, rebuild lives and avoid long-term stigma or trauma: Minister

■ BY KIRTINEE RAMESH
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PETALING JAYA: The government has reaffirmed that minors involved in consensual sexual activity should be protected and rehabilitated rather than criminalised.

This is following recent calls for punitive action against underage girls who willingly engage in sexual intercourse.

In the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, Sri Aman MP Datuk Seri Doris Sophia Brodi expressed concern over the 16,951 out-of-wedlock teenage pregnancies recorded between 2020 and 2024.

She asked the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry about its position on a suggestion by Kelantan police chief Datuk Mohd Yusoff Mamat that girls involved in statutory rape cases should also be charged alongside adult male offenders.

Mohd Yusoff had said nearly 90% of statutory rape cases were found to be consensual, based on police investigations.

"Currently, the law is geared towards prosecuting men only while investigations show that in many cases, both parties were willing (participants).

"When a report is lodged, we still have to open an investigation and charge the man

under the Penal Code or the Child Act, even if the act was consensual."

In response to the question by Doris, minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri firmly rejected the idea of criminalising minors, adding that existing laws already classify sexual intercourse with a girl under 16 as statutory rape regardless of consent.

Nancy said children lack the maturity and capacity to fully comprehend the long-term consequences of their actions.

"Minors must be protected, guided and rehabilitated, not punished.

"They need space to learn from mistakes, rebuild their lives and avoid long-term stigma or trauma," said Nancy, adding that this applied equally to underage boys.

She said the ministry prioritises counselling, education and structured support systems to safeguard the wellbeing of children.

She added that existing laws and programmes already focus on intervention, protection and rehabilitation for minors who are in conflict with the law.

Nancy said addressing teenage pregnancy requires more than legislation.

"This issue needs greater public awareness, strong family institutions and community involvement.

"Adults have a responsibility to guide and

protect children. They must never be exploited."

Earlier, Parit Buntar MP Tuan Mohd Misbahul Munir Masduki had requested a racial breakdown of teenage pregnancies and measures to reduce the trend.

Based on Health Ministry data, 16,951 unmarried pregnant teenagers were recorded at government facilities from 2020 to 2024.

A total of 41,842 pregnancies among those aged 19 and below were recorded between 2020 and 2024, covering both married and unmarried teens.

According to the Health Ministry, this involves about 50% Malay, 11% *Iban*, 9% *Orang Asli* (Peninsular Malaysia), 5% Chinese, 3% Indian and the remaining comprising various other ethnic groups.

Nancy said the ministry is rolling out several initiatives to address the problem, namely:

- the Reproductive and Social Health Education Policy and Action Plan to strengthen reproductive health literacy in schools and communities;

- expanded KafeTEEN centres, comprising 18 hubs and a mobile KafeTEEN truck, offering reproductive health services and psychosocial counselling;

- peer educator programmes in 143 secondary schools in collaboration with the Education Ministry; and

- the upcoming National Family Policy and Action Plan aimed at empowering parents and strengthening family resilience.

Nancy stressed that curbing unwed teen pregnancies requires collective efforts.

Mixed views on co-teaching

■ BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI
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PETALING JAYA: As Malaysia explores co-teaching, educators are split between calling it either a blessing or a new headache.

While some teachers say squeezing two adults into one classroom sounds like an ideal situation, others say it feels more like a group assignment they never signed up for.

Ikatan Guru Muslim Malaysia president Azizie Hassan said many teachers have mixed feelings about the co-teaching model.

"With two teachers in one classroom, control becomes more effective and learning activities can be carried out in a more organised and engaging manner.

"However, some teachers regard co-teaching as an added burden. They expressed concerns about timetable misalignment, the lack of time for joint lesson planning and differences in teaching styles, which could lead to minor conflicts," he told *theSun*.

Azizie said teachers were also worried about increased documentation, such as preparing lesson plans and teaching materials.

He highlighted concerns of teachers over the lack of specialised training, adding that most current training is limited to brief workshops or internal professional learning community sessions.

"Teachers want more structured professional training, including dedicated modules on co-teaching strategies, collaborative classroom management techniques and the pedagogy of moral, Islamic and character education."

Azizie said teachers generally view classroom sharing positively when there is good mutual understanding.

"Many believe it can enhance teaching and that teachers can take on different roles. For example, one leads core instruction while the other monitors students and maintains discipline."

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Institute of Inclusive Development and Advancement deputy director Dr Anuar Ahmad said meaningful education reform extends beyond structural changes or introducing new teaching methods.

"Real reform requires shifts in ideas, philosophy and classroom culture. Introducing co-teaching without aligning it with the broader principles of inclusive education is unlikely to succeed.

"Without a holistic plan that addresses philosophy, structure and school culture, even well-intended teaching reforms risk becoming superficial improvements rather than genuine change."

Anuar said co-teaching is most effective in inclusive classrooms.

He added that it is otherwise simply a waste of human resources, especially when there is already a shortage of subject teachers.

"Co-teaching is different from 'team teaching' and should not be confused with the practice of having a teaching assistant. Originally, co-teaching was implemented in inclusive education.

"In this model, a single class has two teachers teaching simultaneously, in which one teacher instructs all students while the other focuses on students who are slower learners or have special needs."

He pointed out that for large mainstream classes without special-needs students, a teaching assistant model is more suitable while for smaller mainstream classes with fewer than 30 students, team teaching is the preferred approach.

Anuar said proposals for co-teaching, which requires two teachers to simultaneously teach different disciplines in an integrated way, are even more challenging.

"Can it be done? Certainly. But will it be effective? Will it increase workload? Do our schools have enough teachers to make it feasible? In education management, the diversity of challenges requires diverse solutions. A one-size-fits-all approach is unsuitable."

PM discusses palm oil products tariff rate with Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA: Malaysia is ready to export products such as chicken, bird's nest and animal feed to Ethiopia, in addition to providing expertise in oil palm cultivation and high-quality seedlings, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"I also proposed a review of import tariff rates on Malaysian palm oil products, which are gaining traction in the Ethiopian market," he said after a four-eye meeting with Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed Ali on Wednesday.

Anwar said both leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in tourism, education, health, research as well as technical and vocational education and training.

He agreed to continue Malaysia's support for Ethiopia's economic reform agenda through the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme.

Anwar said he highlighted the vast potential in artificial intelligence, semiconductors, the *halal* industry, cybersecurity and emerging opportunities in Malaysia.

"Malaysia also welcomes more active participation from Ethiopian companies in trade missions and business-matching activities."

Anwar also expressed appreciation for Ethiopia's support for Malaysia's aspiration to join BRICS, and congratulated the country on its selection as host of the COP32 climate summit in 2027.

Ethiopia was Malaysia's 26th-largest trading partner in Africa in 2024, and is the first country visited by Anwar on his tour of the continent.

From Addis Ababa, Anwar will travel to Johannesburg in South Africa to attend the G20 Leaders' Summit and then visit Nairobi in Kenya from Nov 23 to 24, before returning to Kuala Lumpur. – Bernama



Anwar and Abiy Ahmed at a joint media conference held at the National Palace in Addis Ababa yesterday. – BERNAMAPIC

BY IKHWAN ZULKAFLEE
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Bersatu MPs close ranks behind Muhyiddin

PETALING JAYA: There is no indication at this point that Bersatu president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin is preparing to hand over his leadership role to his deputy Datuk Seri Hamzah Zainuddin, according to a party lawmaker.

Rompin MP Datuk Abdul Khalib Abdullah said a dinner event hosted by Muhyiddin for 18 Bersatu MPs at his residence took place in a calm and cordial atmosphere, with no signs of tension or leadership rifts.

He said the meeting, held on Tuesday night, focused primarily on current political developments, strengthening internal unity and reinforcing the party's long-term direction and ideals.

"On behalf of my fellow Bersatu MPs, this gathering demonstrates that the party's leadership and elected representatives continue to uphold the spirit of collective struggle, organisational discipline and the core

► Dinner gathering of 18 elected reps focused on party direction and showed no signs of leadership shift or rift, says lawmaker

values that have served as the foundation of Bersatu's strength since its inception.

"We stand firmly with the president, deputy president and the top leadership, who have been entrusted with steering Bersatu forward and

championing the people's interests without fear or compromise," he said in a statement.

Abdul Khalib added that Bersatu remained confident in its readiness to navigate the political challenges under the current leadership.

According to media reports, 18 Bersatu MPs, including Hamzah, were present at the dinner with Muhyiddin.

The group reportedly included those who had expressed dissatisfaction over disciplinary action taken against Hamzah, as well as those concerned over the sacking of Tasek Gelugor MP Wan Saiful Wan Jan and the suspension of Machang MP Wan Ahmad Fayhsal Wan Ahmad Kamal.

Previous media reports had also suggested that Hamzah might be replaced as opposition leader in Parliament, though no decision has

been made regarding the matter.

Amanah lawmaker Mohd Sany Hamzan even openly congratulated Bersatu's Putrajaya MP Datuk Dr Radzi Jidin in Parliament for supposedly going to assume Hamzah's position in the August house.

Tensions within Bersatu escalated recently after 120 division chiefs signed a statutory declaration calling for Hamzah to be given a more prominent role in guiding the party.

Following the episode, seven division leaders including Wan Saiful were dismissed from the party.

Tempasuk incumbent rolls out new 2025–2030 vision

KOTA KINABALU: Tempasuk seat incumbent Datuk Mohd Arsad Bistari is offering the constituents a new vision, Visi Era Baharu Tempasuk 2025–2030 (T30) in the 17th Sabah state election.

Mohd Arsad, 50, said the vision is an integrated development plan focusing on economic transformation, infrastructure empowerment and improving the welfare of the people in Tempasuk.

The Gabungan Rakyat Sabah (GRS) candidate said the plan is based on the genuine needs of the local populace and is confident it can be achieved through organised planning and consistent action.

"The Visi Era Baharu Tempasuk 2025–2030 or T30, has seven core pillars: economy, infrastructure, education, social, administration, religion and youth. Today, I want to focus on the first three pillars," he told Bernama yesterday.

Elaborating on the economic pillar, Mohd Arsad said its primary focus is to develop the Tempasuk population through entrepreneurship programmes based on modern agriculture and fisheries, in addition to attracting the manufacturing sector to create more job opportunities.

Regarding the infrastructure pillar, Mohd Arsad gave his assurance that the upgrading of village roads, water supply systems, halls and community centres would be continued in stages.

"For the long term, I will continue the efforts begun five years ago to build a small dam in the constituency to meet future water and electricity supply needs."

Under the welfare pillar, he said

the focus would be on caring for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, women and low-income families. This, he said, is to ensure that the planned development is inclusive and improves the residents' quality of life.

Beyond the future direction, Mohd Arsad also explained that the people's trust and support for his leadership thus far stemmed from his close relationship with the community and his consistent presence on the ground.

"The people of Tempasuk know that I do not only appear during the election season. I am present in difficult times, during floods, emergencies and whenever they need a representative to voice their needs."

He highlighted that over 100 small and medium-scale infrastructure projects have been successfully implemented throughout his term of service, such as the construction of village roads, water systems, public facilities and various educational and youth programmes.

"Alhamdulillah, among the most significant achievements are the large-scale upgrading of village infrastructure, the empowerment of youth and education, as well as crisis management and public welfare initiatives."

Mohd Arsad emphasised that T30 is part of his commitment to continuing efforts that have proven impactful and are believed to be capable of propelling Tempasuk towards a more holistic progress.

Polling is set for Nov 29, with early voting on Nov 25.

Umno still afloat, says Bung Moktar



Bung Moktar said BN is offering a fresher slate of candidates, with almost half comprising new faces of mostly professionals and young leaders in the upcoming Sabah polls. – PIC FROM BUNG MOKTAR RADIN FACEBOOK PAGE

KOTA KINABALU: "The ship has not sunk" – that was the firm response of Sabah Umno chairman Datuk Seri Bung Moktar Radin to several comrades who urged him to leave Umno after the party's defeat in the 14th general election.

For Bung Moktar, "the ship has not sunk" became his guiding motto as Barisan Nasional (BN) chairman in Sabah – one that has kept him steadfast in steering Umno and BN through one of their most difficult periods following the 2018 defeat.

"It was really tough when Barisan Nasional lost in 2018. Not only were we betrayed, but there were attempts to close down Sabah Umno. I said, 'the ship has not sunk'. What sank was only a perception – the ship remains anchored."

The defeat in the 16th Sabah state election in 2020, which saw BN securing only 14 of the 40 seats it contested, also served as a crucial lesson that ultimately strengthened the party's strategy and resilience.

"In 2020, we faced a snap election with no preparation at all and I had no prior experience. But for this election, I am focused and have crafted the strongest strategy for the party. We planned everything from A to Z and we have learned from our mistakes."

For the Sabah polls, BN is offering a fresher slate of candidates, with 81% of the 45 candidates being new faces. Nearly half of them are professionals and young leaders, said Bung Moktar.

"They include doctors, engineers and various other professionals. This reflects BN's readiness to change. We must accept that our country, including Sabah, is facing new expectations from the young generation."

He added that BN's focus is encapsulated in the slogan "We Will Bring Sabah Back", symbolising the party's commitment to rejuvenate leadership, restore public confidence and revive development momentum.

On his statement, "Why not try me?" (as chief minister) Bung Moktar explained that it signifies his readiness to shoulder greater responsibility.

With six terms as the Kinabatangan MP, he said he understands the needs of the people. He said if given the mandate, his administration would focus on resolving basic issues, such as water supply and energy, economic empowerment and poverty reduction. – Bernama

Melalap candidate pledges more homes, stronger agriculture sector

TENOM: Pakatan Harapan (PH) candidate Datuk Jamawi Ja'afar says housing improvements and agricultural empowerment will be his main priorities if voters in Melalap give him the mandate.

Jamawi, 51, said he aims to expand low-cost housing projects under the Housing and Urban Development Board to meet the needs of local residents, as current projects are insufficient to cope with the growing demand.

He said the matter is urgent, as many households, particularly in rural areas,

accommodate up to four generations under one roof, a situation that can strain family relationships and potentially lead to social issues.

"I am grateful to have brought in a housing project under the board that is now 70% complete, but it is still nowhere near enough. There are only 50 houses, yet we have received 412 applications so far.

"If we (PH) are given the mandate, it will make it easier for us to secure additional allocations to build more

homes in the Melalap area, particularly to meet the needs of young people," he said.

He also plans to address the long-standing delay in constructing commercial building lots, which have been stalled for years due to cost constraints despite the sites being ready.

"We can collaborate with companies from the peninsula to develop shophouses and public housing," he said, adding that the town in Melalap currently has only one commercial building lot and its structure is severely dilapidated.

For the agriculture sector, Jamawi, plans to request the Sabah government to gazette suitable forest areas as permanent food production parks under the State Agriculture Department, such as in Tawau. This, he said, could provide opportunities for youths who are interested in venturing into the field, in addition to increasing their source of income.

Jamawi will be in an eight-cornered fight for the Melalap seat, which has 21,320 registered voters. – Bernama



New property law set for 2026 tabling, says minister

➤ 'Major reforms include stricter enforcement, protection for buyers and nationwide rollout of digital sale-and-purchase agreements'

BY QIRANA NABILLA
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PUTRAJAYA: The Real Property Development Act (RPDA) is in its final draft stage and is expected to be tabled in June 2026, Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming announced yesterday. The Act will replace the Housing Development (Control and Licensing) Act 1966 (Act 118).

Speaking at the Madani Housing Reform ceremony, he said the move forms part of the ministry's broader housing reform agenda, under which five major reforms were unveiled yesterday.

"The RPDA will replace Act 118 with a modern framework that protects buyers, aims to expand regulation to cover commercial projects and updates legal provisions to reflect market needs, including new development models such as retirement villages, rent-to-own schemes and mixed-use residential-office projects."

Nga added that from January until October this year, 326 compound offer notices totalling RM1.54 million were issued to developers found violating Act 118.

Meanwhile since 2010, the Housing Department has opened 158 investigation papers against developers conducting unlicensed projects under Section 18(a) of Act 118.

"Of these, five projects were successfully prosecuted, while some cases could not proceed due to complaints being filed years after the project was abandoned or difficulties in obtaining statements from developers."

Nga emphasised that the oversight



Nga, with National Housing Department director-general Datuk Jayaselan K. Navaratnam, at the launch of the Madani Housing Reform yesterday. The minister said the new Act has wider oversight and heavier penalties. — AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THE SUN

will be strengthened with clearer and more comprehensive investigative powers, heavier penalties for serious or repeated offences and early intervention mechanisms to prevent high-risk projects from becoming unlicensed or distressed.

He urged developers and stakeholders to maintain strict compliance as a high-integrity industry is essential for a stable, sustainable and credible housing market.

Nga also highlighted the other four major reforms introduced under the housing reform agenda, including the Electronic Sales and Purchase Agreement (eSPA) which aims to digitalise property transactions and end the era of manual SPA.

"The system allows buyers to sign agreements digitally from anywhere, including overseas, while integrating with eKYC (know-your-customer) verification and the Inland Revenue Board's eStamping system.

"During its pilot phase, 118 eSPAs have been successfully signed. The rollout of eSPA nationwide from January next year is expected to streamline the buying process,

reduce costs and enhance transparency in property transactions."

Nga also highlighted that the system has made Malaysia one of the most advanced countries to implement a fully digital SPA system.

He said Malaysians can sign agreements from anywhere, while foreign buyers from China, Australia, Taiwan, Singapore and Japan can purchase property in Kuala Lumpur remotely.

"The system shortens processing time, reduces costs and simplifies administrative procedures, with integration to the Inland Revenue Board ensuring immediate payment tracking.

"If implementation proceeds smoothly, the government expects an additional RM8 billion in revenue next year through eSPA."

Other major reforms include:

- housing integrated management system - monitors projects from registration to handover, tracking data and finances in real time to prevent fund mismanagement;
- Teduh - public system allowing buyers to track project progress, verify licenses and report

misconduct, while serving as a reference for banks; and

- housing development account audit system - ensures that homebuyer funds are used only for their project, closing loopholes that previously led to abandoned developments.

"Developers will no longer be allowed to take money from Project A's account and transfer it to Project B, eventually causing Project C to become abandoned. This will never happen again," said Nga.

He stressed that these reforms collectively aim to ensure that every sen paid by buyers is properly utilised for the completion of their homes.

"Through the reforms, the Madani government is committed to ensuring that no private housing project is left abandoned by 2030. The initiatives are not just technical adjustments but represent a new chapter for Malaysia's housing ecosystem."

Nga added that the integration will position the Housing Department as a one-stop centre for developers, buyers and financial institutions, paving the way for a transparent, digital and resilient housing market.

Community module to tackle human-wildlife conflict in Johor

ISKANDAR PUTERI: The Wildlife and National Parks Department has developed the Community Module for Wildlife Protection to provide guidance and knowledge on skills and safety procedures for local communities in handling human-wildlife conflict issues in Johor, the Johor state legislative assembly was told yesterday.

State Environment and Health Committee chairman Ling Tian Soon said that the module covers an introduction to key wildlife species, the use of approved deterrent tools, and reporting and early warning protocols to Perhilitan.

He said through the module, communities would be trained and organised into groups by specific areas, acting as support teams in the field to assist with community patrols.

"In addition, communities are trained to relay information promptly and carry out early deterrent actions in accordance with the department's standard operating procedures (SOP)."

He was responding to a question from Hahasrin Hashim (BN-Panti) regarding the state government's plans for using drones and night patrols in wildlife conflict areas for early detection, as well as community warning SOP.

Ling (BN-Yong Peng) also explained that the implementation of the module is expected to have a positive impact in enhancing preparedness and awareness among communities in high-risk wildlife conflict areas, particularly in Johor.

He added that the effort aligns with a collaborative management approach between government agencies and the community to ensure a balance between human safety and the country's biodiversity sustainability.

"Through this initiative, the department is confident that early detection, community warnings and responses to wildlife conflicts can be comprehensively improved."

He also noted that the effort is in line with the state government's goal to strengthen the sustainable and effective management of human-wildlife conflicts. — Bernama

Guidelines for gold panning to be announced soon

KOTA BHARU: The complete guidelines and conditions for gold panning activities in Kelantan will be announced after it is tabled in the next state executive council (exco) meeting, said Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Dr Mohamed Fadzli Hassan.

He said the Land and Mines Office is studying the proposal to ensure that panning activities would not affect the safety of panners and the environment.

"The proposal to grant permission is still in the review stage and has not been finalised.

"There may be confusion regarding the previous declaration. When I said the government proposed and will make conditions, it means that it has not been implemented yet.

"We are currently reviewing the matter before presenting it at the next exco meeting," he told reporters

after the exco meeting on Wednesday.

"We want to regulate this activity. Panning is allowed, but the use of certain equipment such as mobile machines is considered industrial and is not allowed. Industrial activities need to apply for a licence and go through stricter procedures."

He added that the determination of the gold purchase price, buyers and monitoring of the number of

panners will be coordinated through the licence that will be issued.

He also said the encouraging response to gold panning activities shows the potential for it to become one of the new tourism products in Kelantan.

"We want to examine all aspects. However, the conditions have not been announced yet, so I do not want to comment further. The SOP will be announced first."

He said gold mining requires high costs. So far, the state government has issued 20 licences, but only four companies are active, including one large company.

"We welcome local companies that are capable of participating in this industry. Bumiputera companies that are truly capable are also welcome. So far, not many companies can carry out large-scale mining." — Bernama

Russian toddler dies from box jellyfish sting in Langkawi

ALOR SETAR: A two-year-old Russian boy, who was reported to have been stung by jellyfish at Cenang Beach in Langkawi last Saturday, died at the Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital on Wednesday.

His father Nikita Iakubanets, 32, said his son Vladimir was pronounced dead at 9.46am after four days of treatment.

"The doctor said our child was poisoned by jellyfish, then his heart stopped. The doctor also said our child had (major) injuries on his legs caused by jellyfish, and that it was a 'box jellyfish'."

Iakubanets, who was accompanied by his wife Olga, 32, added that the medical team at the hospital did their best to save their son and expressed gratitude for their efforts.

Recalling the incident, he said the family was swimming at Cenang Beach when they heard their son scream.

He added that his wife then carried their son to the shore and tried to administer CPR before taking him to a nearby clinic.

Iakubanets said his son was first referred to the Sultanah Maliha

Hospital, before being sent to the Sultanah Baiyah Hospital the following day.

He also said this was their first visit to Malaysia and Langkawi after arriving on Nov 14, and they had planned to stay until Nov 26.

Meanwhile, his wife said they plan to cremate their son and take his ashes home to Khabarovsk, Russia.

"Our son is our hero. He is our little angel. Every day we told him we loved him, and he always said he loved us too."

Meanwhile, the Kedah Fisheries Department has confirmed the

presence of box jellyfish in Langkawi.

Its director Sukri Deris said their presence this year has been detected at a moderate level and is not at a scale that would completely halt recreational activities.

"Nevertheless, their presence is sufficient to pose a danger to activities in these waters, whether recreational or commercial activities such as fishing."

He said the species could be found in waters from around Australia up to Southeast Asia, and that the monsoon transition may have carried them into

Langkawi waters.

"Changing sea current patterns may also be pushing the species closer to shore, in addition to large volumes of water discharged from land due to heavy rainfall, which carries nutrients into the sea.

"This may influence the presence of box jellyfish near the coastline, as food sources become more abundant in coastal areas when more freshwater flows into the sea.

"Continuous announcements will also be made to raise awareness of the dangers posed by jellyfish." – Bernama

■ BY FAIZ RUZMAN
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KUALA LUMPUR: The Armed Forces have activated "Op Murni" and begun early mobilisation nationwide after identifying 5,648 locations at risk of flooding as the Northeast Monsoon approaches.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said the operation is already in effect, beginning with the early-warning and monitoring phase, while full deployment would be triggered automatically once heavy rainfall leads to rising water levels.

"We are now in the early mobilisation phase, in which the military identifies and monitors all areas with flood potential.

"There is no waiting period. When it starts to rain and flooding begins, we will move forward immediately to carry out rescue and assistance," he said during an operational briefing at the Defence Ministry (Mindef) camp yesterday.

He said the Armed Forces have stationed 4,428 personnel, including 266 officers and 4,162 of other ranks, supported by more than 7,800 mobility assets for immediate deployment.

These include 506 land mobility assets, 7,355 water mobility assets, 6,729 lifejackets and 19 air assets, in addition to rapid-deployment support such as modular tents, ambulances and tactical transport vehicles.

Among the assets showcased at the Op Murni preparation ceremony were field ambulances, water trailers, mobile kitchens, TATRA trucks (Czech-made high-mobility military trucks), AMDAC trucks (Malaysian-made military support vehicles), as well as rescue boats equipped with safety gear.

Mohamed Khaled said Op Murni will be executed in four phases – mobilisation, rescue, assistance and post-flood recovery – depending on the development of the

Flood preparation ops launched

➤ Personnel and assets ready for immediate mobilisation, rescue, assistance and recovery: Defence minister

monsoon season.

He emphasised that the timeline of the operation is event-driven, and not bound to a fixed date.

He also confirmed issuance of an "Op Murni Initial Directive" appointing the army chief as the lead commander responsible for coordinating all three services – the army, navy and air force.

The army chief has also issued an operational directive, placing the Western Field Commander in charge of Peninsular Malaysia and the Eastern Field Commander to oversee Sabah and Sarawak.

"At this stage, we are identifying potential hotspots based on past flood records, Meteorological Department data and information from officers on the ground."

He added that the Armed Forces will continue operating jointly under the National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma).

"The Armed Forces are part of Nadma's framework and complements the roles of all agencies. Everyone works together."

He said some assets procured through Nadma, including specialised vehicles and Bailey bridges, have been handed to the

Armed Forces, adding that additional equipment may be requested depending on the scale of the upcoming monsoon weather.

"If there is a need for additional assets, we will bring it to the attention of the government."

On whether more personnel may be deployed to high-risk areas, Khaled said the army would rely on real-time assessments.

"If rainfall increases and the situation becomes dangerous, then we will deploy additional personnel."

According to background information from Mindef, the ministry has also positioned 17 key assets at the camp for fast movement into affected areas, including seven-tonne trucks, ambulances, water trailers, modular tents and boats fitted with safety equipment.

Separately, Khaled also commented on the recent ceasefire developments between Thailand and Cambodia.

"The situation is indeed complicated. Malaysia will continue its efforts to act as a facilitator, maintaining communication between our commanders and theirs to ensure conflicts are reduced. This is an ongoing effort."

Drug cases fall by 7.9% nationwide

PUTRAJAYA: Cases of drug addiction and abuse nationwide recorded a 7.9% drop from January to September compared with last year.

National Anti-Drugs Agency director-general Datuk Ruslin Jusoh said 156,316 cases were recorded as of September, compared with 169,691 cases for the same period in 2024.

"Of that number (156,316 cases), 83.2%, or 76,467 individuals, were involved with synthetic drugs, specifically *syabu* (methamphetamine), with the majority aged between 15 and 39.

"Addiction to synthetic drugs also involves 'magic mushrooms' or synthetic *ganja*, 'yaba' pills, ecstasy and ketamine.

"These drugs are easier to obtain and produce faster effects compared with traditional drugs such as heroin and *ganja*."

In a separate development, Ruslin said the focus of the agency this year is to carry out its mandate in implementing the amendments to the Drug Dependents (Treatment and Rehabilitation) Act 1983, which were passed in October 2024.

The amendments aim to differentiate the definitions of a drug dependant and a drug abuser, as well as to broaden the scope of treatment and rehabilitation for dependants.

They also grant authority to rehabilitation officers to issue certificates for individuals to undergo voluntary drug treatment and rehabilitation at the agency.

"We want the public to know that those who are involved may come forward voluntarily to receive treatment. To date, voluntary attendance is still low compared with those who attend through court orders." – Bernama

Remisier loses RM471,000 in scam

ALOR SETAR: A bank remisier suffered losses amounting to RM471,100 after being deceived by a non-existent investment syndicate advertised on Facebook last September.

Kedah police Commercial Crime Investigation Department head Supt Loi Yew Lik said his unit received a report from the complainant at the Kulim district police headquarters at 1.50pm on Tuesday.

He said on Sept 16, the victim saw an investment advertisement on the social media platform. The scheme was offered by a company named CMIA Capital Partners and promised lucrative returns.

"The complainant was convinced by screenshots of testimonials and was told the investment was risk-free. The complainant then contacted an individual named Cheryl, a 'representative' from the investment company."

He added that the complainant began making 14 payments totalling RM471,100 into a bank account under the name CH Keystone.

Loi said the complainant initially received a return of RM21,100, but was then asked to make additional payments.

He also said the complainant suspected he had been cheated after his follow-up messages received no response. – Bernama

Kelantan Customs records over RM22 million in seizures

KOTA BHARU: The efforts of the Kelantan Customs Department to curb smuggling activities have resulted in 29 drug seizure cases involving RM22.87 million recorded from January to October.

Its director Wan Jamal Abdul Salam Wan Long said the achievement is among the biggest successes in recent years and came through operations targeting drug smuggling and undeclared vehicles in Balakong, Selangor and Kuala Lumpur.

"During operations from Oct 14 to 16, enforcement teams seized three cars and a motorcycle, with a total value, including taxes, of RM395,910."

He added that 18.32kg of drugs valued at RM1.5 million found inside one of the cars were also seized.

Wan Jamal said the value of the seized vehicles and drugs was RM1.72 million, adding that the success came after public information led the team to monitor the vehicle.

He said the case is being investigated under Section 135(1)(d) of the Customs Act 1967 and Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952. – Bernama



Wan Jamal (second, left) showing the seized drugs during a press conference at Wisma Kastam Padang Bongor. – BERNAMAPIC



SCAN ME

Concern over marine park violation

NGO labels situation as 'carbon bomb' and calls for cessation of oil and gas operations in protected zones

BY HARITH KAMAL
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PETALING JAYA: Environmental watchdog RimbaWatch has raised serious concerns over oil and gas activities taking place in the waters off Sarawak within the Luconia Shoals National Park (LSNP), Malaysia's largest marine park, despite its legal designation as a "Totally Protected Area."

Covering a sizeable 1,011,772ha

within the Coral Triangle Implementation Area - a multilateral initiative to protect some of the world's most biodiverse waters - LSNP was gazetted by the Sarawak government in 2018.

Sarawak Premier Tan Sri Abang Johari Abang Openg, who was chief minister at the time, stated that the park was mainly for conservation and preservation purposes, and would remain out of bounds for oil and gas exploration.

However, RimbaWatch's new policy brief "An Assessment of Oil and Gas Exploration and Production in the Luconia Shoals National Park", shows that the entire LSNP overlaps with seven active oil and gas blocks - SK318, MLNG Dua, SK320, F29/F14, SK418, SK316 and 3B.

"These blocks host 31 wells, seven platforms and at least five gas pipelines, commercialising eight known fields," it said.

"Five of the seven blocks began operations after the park's 2018

gazettement, all of which obtained environmental impact assessment approvals from the Environment Department."

RimbaWatch highlighted LSNP's ecological importance, describing it as a biodiversity hotspot.

"While publicly available biodiversity data on LSNP is limited, WWF-Malaysia describes it as one of Sarawak's "richest marine habitats," home to 12 submerged reefs, two atolls and diverse marine mammals.

"The Beting Patinggi Ali area is among the South China Sea's most productive fishing zones, supporting reef fish, small pelagic fish and tuna.

"The coral reefs are mainly hard corals (Acropora, Montipora, Fungia), with soft corals, sea fans and sponges, and the area hosts species such as sperm and common minke whales."

Despite its protected status, LSNP functions as a multiple-use area, with commercial fisheries - including illegal trawling - and

ongoing oil and gas exploration.

RimbaWatch also warned that oil and gas activities pose severe environmental risks, including acoustic disturbance to marine mammals, reef and seabed damage, increased sedimentation, oil spills and infrastructure failures.

"Between 2014 and 2022, the Environment Department recorded 130 oil spills in Malaysian waters, with damage to marine life cited as the primary impact.

"LSNP is described as a potential 'carbon bomb', containing at least 14.3 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas - about 20% of Malaysia's remaining gas reserves - with projected emissions of nearly one billion tonnes of greenhouse gases."

RimbaWatch director Adam Farhan added that contrary to the Sarawak government's promise that LSNP would be out of bounds for oil and gas exploration, the park has instead become a major site for fossil fuel development.

"This not only threatens reefs, fish, whales and sharks, but also undermines Malaysia's climate commitments.

"Existing environmental laws have failed to prevent this, highlighting the urgent need to align state economic and conservation goals."

The report recommends strengthening the National Park and Nature Reserves Ordinance 1998 to explicitly prohibit harmful activities such as oil and gas exploration.

It also calls on Petros and Petronas to end operations in the Coral Triangle Implementation Area and other protected marine zones, while urging the federal government to commit to a fossil fuel phase-out aligned with a 1.5°C global pathway.

RimbaWatch further encourages Malaysia to support a fossil fuel non-proliferation treaty, joining other Global South nations in establishing a global framework for an equitable energy transition.

Massive task to monitor Malaysia-Thai border

KOTA BHARU: The Malaysia-Thai border in Kelantan is a frontline that continuously tests the nation's security control, officer integrity and the readiness of enforcement agencies in combating smuggling and cross-border crime involving land and sea.

Despite stronger enforcement and the shutdown of all illegal jetties along the Golok River, Kelantan police chief Datuk Mohd Yusoff Mamat said the biggest challenges do not only come from outside but also from within.

These include attempts by criminal and extremist networks to establish operational bases, as well as isolated cases of misconduct, power abuse and corruption among enforcement personnel.

"I am issuing a clear warning. We will take uncompromising action, whether they are General Operations Force (GOF) members or civilians. They are traitors to the country," he said in an interview at the Kelantan

police contingent headquarters recently.

There are three official entry points in the state under the Immigration, Customs, Quarantine and Security (ICQS) complex - Rantau Panjang, Bukit Bunga and Pengkalan Kubor.

Seventeen GOF posts monitor the most active stretch of 45km of the border, with each responsible for about two kilometres.

"It is not easy to secure the entire river. There are many 'rat lanes', especially in the forested belts of Tanah Merah and Jeli. Smugglers on both sides simply wait for an opening and cross using small boats," he said.

During the dry season, the river becomes shallow enough for smugglers to walk across within seconds. During floods, the borderline disappears entirely, offering seamless passage by boat.

Limited fencing, lighting and surveillance systems coupled with local cross-border movements further complicate enforcement.



Of the 163km Kelantan-Thai border, about 91km covers river areas requiring tailored approaches, from patrol boats and drones to fencing. - BERNAMAPIC

To reinforce control, demolition of 233 illegal jetties from Pengkalan Kubor to Jeli is underway and is expected to take two months.

Since the border crossing ban via illegal routes took effect on Dec 1 last year, Mohd Yusoff said illegal entry by Malaysians into Thailand has dropped by nearly 90%, while activity at entertainment centres in Sungai Golok has plunged 85%.

These areas, including Tak Bai in Narathiwat province, have long attracted young people from Kelantan with their affordable entertainment, massage services, food and goods.

The absence of similar entertainment options in Kelantan has made Thai border towns popular weekend destinations for youths seeking leisure activities.

However, smuggling along the border continues in both directions. Malaysians bring in cheaper goods, food and beauty products from Thailand, while Thai nationals

smuggle controlled items such as diesel, cooking oil, sugar and rice from Malaysia to sell at higher prices.

Between January and September, authorities recorded 1,335 contraband seizures worth over RM275 million and arrested 104 individuals for illegal crossings.

"That is why I propose speeding up the construction of a security wall or fence along the river buffer zone, not only for security but also to defend national sovereignty."

He said the wall would also function as a flood mitigation structure during monsoon months.

Of the 163km Kelantan-Thai border, about 91km covers river areas requiring tailored approaches, from patrol boats and drones to fencing.

Mohd Yusoff said the government has approved RM1.5 billion for the security wall to be built from Tumpat to Tanah Merah.

Beyond land borders, threats also emerge off Kelantan's coastline facing the South China Sea.

Maritime director Kapt Erwan Shah Soahdi identified 10 smuggling hotspots from Pantai Geting to Tok Bali, known for illegal migrants and contraband.

He said smugglers were using increasingly sophisticated methods, aided by lookouts stationed near Pulau Tengkorak to alert them of enforcement presence.

"They observe from a distance and alert smugglers before patrols arrive. This is one of the biggest challenges because their network is highly organised," he said.

Syndicates also use small high-speed boats capable of landing at Geting in Tumpat and Tok Bali in Pasir Puteh within minutes to drop off smuggled goods before swiftly returning to Thai waters, making detection and pursuit extremely difficult, Bernama reported.

To enhance border surveillance, Erwan Shah said the Kelantan Maritime Agency plans to instal the Remote Sensored Site SWASLA radar system along the East Coast, covering Terengganu and Pahang, adding that the system would enable early detection of smuggler boats before they reach Malaysian waters.

He said a new four-hectare maritime post on Pulau Tengkorak, set for development next year, would serve as a forward operations centre to improve response time. The initiative complements the upcoming Tok Bali Maritime Complex announced under Budget 2026, reinforcing efforts to strengthen maritime security on the East Coast.

Despite upgrades to sea and air assets, the vast and challenging maritime zone from the Golok River to the Tok Bali part of the South China Sea remains one of the most demanding enforcement areas in Peninsular Malaysia.

Smuggling, illegal migration and incursions by foreign fishing vessels continue to test surveillance capabilities, underscoring the need for advanced radar systems and stronger coastal infrastructure.

Together, the land border along the Golok River and the maritime border in the South China Sea form Malaysia's twin defensive lines.

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Flooding worsens in Vietnam, death toll at 16

➤ Naval forces deployed to help stranded citizens as waters reach record highs

HANOI: The death toll from a new round of torrential rain, flooding and landslides in central Vietnam since the weekend has risen to 16, with water levels rising further in already inundated towns and villages, a government report said yesterday.

Rainfall exceeded 150cm in several parts of central Vietnam over the past three days. The region is home to a key coffee production belt as well as the country's most popular beaches, but is highly prone to storms and floods.

The floods and landslides have left five people missing, and inundated more than 43,000 houses and over 10,000ha of crops, according to the report from the government disaster management agency.

Traders on Wednesday said the floodwaters have inundated coffee farms and hampered an ongoing coffee harvest in the region.

More than 553,000 households and businesses are facing blackouts after power grids were damaged by the floods, according to the government.

Photographs shared on state media reports showed residents, including children, sitting on the roofs of flooded houses and calling for help via social media platforms.

"Any group out there, please help! We have been sitting on the roof since 10pm last night, including kids and adults," a resident of Khanh Hoa province posted on a local Facebook page.

Alongside the post was a photograph of a group of people sitting on the metal roof of a flooded house as rain lashed down.

The photos also showed several residential areas in Khanh Hoa, Gia Lai and Dak Lak provinces submerged in water.

Naval forces have been deployed to help

stranded citizens in Khanh Hoa, the Vietnam News Agency reported yesterday, adding that floodwaters have reached record highs in many areas.

A seven-year-old girl was rescued on Wednesday in Da Lat after being buried by a landslide, the *Nhan Dan* newspaper reported.

The landslide, triggered by heavy rain, knocked down and buried part of the house where the girl was staying, according to the report.

A photo accompanying the report showed the girl's hand sticking out from a pile of soil, rock and broken concrete as rescuers arrived.

She was pulled out after an hour and a half with a broken leg and rushed to the hospital.

She is now in stable condition, according to the report.

The national weather forecast agency on Wednesday warned of more flooding and landslides to come, with heavy rain set to continue in the region. – Reuters



Residents wading through floodwaters near inundated vehicles in Nha Trang, Vietnam's coastal province of Khanh Hoa yesterday. – AFPIC

Fake Filipina mayor jailed for human trafficking

MANILA: A Philippine court yesterday sentenced Alice Guo, a Chinese national who became a mayor while masquerading as a Filipina, and seven others to life in prison on human trafficking charges, state prosecutors said.

Guo, who served as mayor of a town north of Manila, was found guilty of overseeing a Chinese-operated online gambling centre in which hundreds of people were forced to run scams or risk torture.

The sprawling complex, which included office buildings, luxury villas and a large swimming pool, was raided in March last year after a Vietnamese worker escaped and called police.

More than 700 Filipinos, Chinese, Vietnamese, Malaysians, Taiwanese, Indonesians and Rwandans were found on site, along with documents allegedly showing that Guo was president of a company that

owned the compound.

All eight defendants, some of whom were foreign nationals, were sentenced to life in prison, said state prosecutor Olivia Torrevillas outside a regional courthouse in Manila.

She declined to name Guo's co-defendants due to a confidentiality law.

A Philippine Anti-Organised Crime Commission spokesperson told reporters in a group chat that Guo and three others had been convicted of "organising trafficking" inside the compound.

Four others were found guilty of "acts of trafficking", the spokesperson said.

Guo, 35, was arrested by Indonesian police in September last year after fleeing the Philippines.

Although she was elected mayor of Bambang town, the site of the scam centre, a Manila court ruled in June that as a Chinese citizen, Guo was never eligible for

the position.

The Chinese embassy yesterday did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

The transnational scam industry has ballooned in Southeast Asia in recent years, with thousands of scammers estimated to be involved.

Victims in the wider region were conned out of up to US\$37 billion (RM154 billion) in 2023, according to a United Nations report, which said global losses were likely "much larger".

The centres flourished in the Philippines under former president Rodrigo Duterte after the government regulator was given the right to issue operating licences nationwide.

President Ferdinand Marcos announced a ban on offshore gambling operations amid mounting public fury over the Guo case in 2024, ordering foreign nationals working at the sites out of the country. – AFP

Indonesia evacuates stranded climbers after volcano erupts

JAKARTA: Indonesian authorities yesterday evacuated more than 900 people and were facilitating the safe return of 170 climbers stranded after the eruption of the Semeru volcano, one of the country's tallest mountains.

The alert level was maintained at its highest after Semeru on Java island erupted 10 times on Wednesday, emitting massive plumes of ash and sending lava and rocks as far as 13km down its slopes, officials said.

The climbers were stuck overnight at a lakeside camping area at the foot of the volcano about 6.4km from the crater but were being helped to safety yesterday, said Semeru national park official Septi Wardhani.

"All climbers with their guides are safe. The situation is under control."

Footage from Indonesia's volcanology agency showed a huge cloud of hot ash billowing from the crater.

Its last major eruption was in December 2021, when at least 51 people were killed.

The 3,676m high Mount Semeru is one of about 130 active volcanoes in Indonesia, which straddles the Pacific Ring of Fire, a highly seismically active zone, where different plates on the earth's crust meet and create a large number of earthquakes and volcanoes.

East Java's rescue agency deployed dozens of personnel to assist the evacuation, with 956 people living close to the volcano already moved to schools, mosques and government buildings, said agency official Prahista Dian.

"We have also deployed personnel to see whether there are still residents trapped," he added. – Reuters

Seoul arrests two for negligence after ferry runs aground

SEOUL: South Korea's coast guard launched an investigation yesterday into a ferry that ran aground, arresting the first officer and an Indonesian crew member for suspected gross negligence, officers said.

The two were at the helm of the vessel and are suspected of waiting too long to override the autopilot, allowing the ship to run into an uninhabited island in a busy passage approaching the southwestern port of Mokpo, the coast guard officers said.

The 26,546-tonne ship, with a passenger capacity of 1,010 and multiple decks for cargo and passenger vehicles, ran aground as it approached Mokpo from the southern island of Jeju but remained upright as all 267 people on board were rescued.

The incident rekindled memories in South Korea of the 2014 *Sewol* ferry disaster that killed more than 300 people, many of whom were children on a school trip.

Mokpo coast guard investigator Kim Hwang-gyun told a briefing that the crew members in the latest incident had given conflicting testimony.

In an initial testimony, the first officer said he was watching news on his phone at the time of the incident.

Kim said the investigation would include a forensic examination of the crew members' phones, the ferry's navigation data and vessel traffic control in the area.

Seaworld, the operator of the ferry, did not answer telephone calls seeking comment at its Mokpo office.

Several people received medical attention but no lives were in danger and the ferry sustained minor damage to the hull, other coast guard officials said.

The vessel did not veer off course and was sailing at 22 knots (40kph) within regulation when it failed to make a turn, said Kim.

Authorities will examine why the ship was unable to change course in time in the area's narrow navigation channels. – Reuters



Trump signs Bill requiring release of Epstein files

➤ Insiders say administration could lean on redactions, procedural delays to keep details out of public eye

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump signed into law on Wednesday legislation requiring the release of government records on convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, spurring a showdown over whether he would allow full disclosure or return to trying to bury the case.

Trump stunned Washington over the weekend, reversing his months-long opposition to the Epstein Files Transparency Act and ensuring it sailed through Congress on Tuesday in a rare show of bipartisan unity.

The Republican president, a former friend of the late sex offender, announced on social media on Wednesday that he had signed the Bill, forgoing any media spectacle of the event.

Insiders warn that even with Trump's signature, his administration could lean on redactions, procedural delays or lingering federal investigations to keep explosive details out of the public eye.

"Once the president signs the Bill, he must apply and execute it faithfully. There must be no funny business from Trump," said top Democrat Chuck Schumer in a speech on the Senate floor.

"He must not use the excuse of frivolous investigations to release some Epstein documents, while intentionally hiding others that deserve to be seen by the American public."

Epstein, a wealthy financier, moved in elite circles for years, cultivating close ties with business tycoons, politicians, academics and celebrities to whom he was accused of trafficking girls and young women for sex.

Trump and his allies spent years pushing theories about powerful Democrats being protected over involvement with Epstein, framing the case as a potent symbol of how powerful men can hide behind lawyers, money and connections.

But Trump himself was a longtime associate of Epstein, raising questions over what he knew about the notorious figure.

The saga dented public trust in the US justice system and raised suspicion among voters who believe important pieces of the story were either



Epstein's victims and Congressional lawmakers attending a bipartisan vigil hosted by the Democratic Women's Caucus on Tuesday in Washington, DC. – AFP/IC

hidden or ignored.

Epstein's 2019 arrest fuelled a storm of outrage and pressure for a full accounting of his network, finances and the people who helped him evade justice.

Conspiracy theories about a cover-up only deepened after his death in a New York jail soon after, which was ruled a suicide.

Passage of the Epstein Files Transparency Act in Congress marked a moment of deep emotional resonance, with abuse survivors filling the House gallery as the vote was called, hugging and cheering when it passed.

Under the law, the Justice Department has a month to dump its unclassified files online, in a searchable trove of transcripts, flight logs and communications that could unearth unseen names and connections.

The text makes only narrow exceptions for personal data and genuine legal and security concerns.

But analysts question whether officials will

comply, or argue that sensitive material cannot be released because related probes remain active, including a new investigation ordered by Trump last week into Epstein's ties with Democrats.

"(This) might be a big smoke screen, these investigations, to open a bunch of them as a last-ditch effort to prevent the release of the Epstein files," said Kentucky Republican Thomas Massie, who pushed the House vote.

The Justice Department and FBI said in July they had uncovered no evidence in a review of the files that would support further action, and it was not clear if the new probe ordered by Trump would hamper disclosure.

Attorney-General Pam Bondi was pressed on the justification for further investigation and said there was "new information".

"If there are any victims, we encourage all victims to come forward. And we will continue to provide maximum transparency under the law." – AFP

BRIEFS

POLITICIAN CHARGED WITH STEALING COVID FUNDS

TALLAHASSEE: A federal grand jury in Florida has indicted US Representative Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick on charges of stealing federal Covid-19 relief funds and directing the money to her 2021 congressional campaign, the US Justice Department said. Representatives for Cherfilus-McCormick, a Democrat, did not immediately respond to Reuters requests for comment. She has previously denied wrongdoing, local media reported. The indictment accuses Cherfilus-McCormick, 46, and others of receiving a US\$5 million (RM20.8 million) overpayment through her family-owned healthcare company and routing the money through multiple accounts to disguise its source. – Reuters

TURKIYE TO HOST COP31 CLIMATE SUMMIT

ISTANBUL: Turkiye will host next year's COP31 climate summit in the Mediterranean resort city of Antalya after Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced the withdrawal of Canberra's bid, Anadolu Ajansi reported. "What has been agreed is that (Australian Climate Change Minister) Chris Bowen will be COP president for negotiations. The conference and the COP presidency will go to Turkiye, and there will be a pre-COP meeting, particularly focusing on climate financing in the Pacific, the Pacific Resilience Facility, in the lead-up to COP next year, held in the Pacific," he said. "The rules of the climate conferences are that they have got to be done by consensus. If it was not a consensus, then it would have gone to Bonn in Germany." – Bernama-Anadolu

'Mastermind' in murder of mayor arrested in Mexico

MEXICO CITY: Mexican authorities on Wednesday announced the arrest of an alleged mastermind in the assassination of a popular opposition mayor, a vocal critic of the government's security policies whose murder has shocked the country and sparked mass protests.

Carlos Manzo, mayor of Uruapan in the major avocado-producing state of Michoacan, was shot and killed during a public Day of the Dead celebration on Nov 1 while he was with his family.

Manzo had repeatedly accused the federal government of failing to act against organised crime.

Security Minister Omar Garcia Harfuch identified the detainee as Jorge Armando "N," withholding his last name as is custom in Mexico.

He said investigations linked the man to a criminal group in Michoacan that works for the powerful Jalisco New Generation Cartel.

"This arrest represents a key step in dismantling the criminal structure responsible for this attack," he said at a press conference.

He added that an analysis of phones from previously detained suspects "allowed for the identification of a messaging group in which the attack was coordinated".

Following the murder, President Claudia Sheinbaum deployed over 10,500 security force members to Michoacan under a new plan to combat extortion and dismantle criminal gangs. Manzo's wife has since succeeded him as mayor of Uruapan.

While several other suspects in the murder have been arrested or killed, including a minor, authorities have not yet clarified the motive for the attack. – Reuters

Meta to remove underage Australians from platforms

SYDNEY: Australians aged below 16 would be removed from Facebook and Instagram on Dec 4, tech giant Meta said yesterday, as Canberra prepares to enforce sweeping laws banning teens from social media.

From Dec 10, Australia would force social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram and TikTok, to remove users under the age of 16 or face hefty fines.

Meta said it would start removing teenagers from its platforms ahead of the ban coming into force.

"From today, Meta will be notifying Australian users it understands to be aged between 13 and 15 that they will lose access to Instagram, Threads and Facebook," it said in a statement.

"Meta will begin blocking new under-16 accounts and revoking existing access from Dec 4, expecting to remove all known under-16s by Dec 10."

There are around 350,000 Instagram users aged between 13 and 15 in Australia and around

150,000 Facebook accounts, according to government figures.

Meta has started warning impacted users that they will soon be locked out.

"Soon, you will no longer be able to use Facebook and your profile will not be visible to you or others," reads a message sent to impacted users.

"When you turn 16 years old, we will let you know that you can start using Facebook again."

Teenagers will be able to access their accounts "exactly as you left it" once they turn 16 years old, Meta told them.

Accounts that were flagged by mistake could verify their age using a "video selfie" or by providing government-issued ID.

Social media companies have previously described the laws as "vague", "problematic" and "rushed".

Meta again voiced its concerns yesterday.

"We share the Australian government's goal of creating safe, age-appropriate online

experiences, but cutting teens off from their friends and communities is not the answer."

There is keen interest in whether Australia's sweeping restrictions could work as regulators around the globe wrestle with the dangers of social media.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon will introduce a similar Bill to restrict children's social media use.

And the Dutch government advised parents this year to forbid children aged under 15 from using social media apps, such as TikTok and Snapchat.

Social media companies caught flouting the laws would face fines of up to AU\$49.5 million (RM133 million).

On paper, the ban is one of the strictest in the world.

But some experts are concerned that the law would be merely symbolic because of the difficulty in implementing and policing online age verification. – AFP

Gaza situation dire after flooding: UN

NEW YORK: Four days after heavy rains inundated large swaths of the Gaza Strip, Palestinians are living in an extremely dire condition, United Nations (UN) humanitarian aid workers said on Wednesday, reported Xinhua.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (Ocha) said the situation continues despite efforts by the UN and its partners to reach people in need following the floods.

It said the latest estimates show that more than 18,600 households were impacted while thousands lost their shelters or were again displaced.

"This number continues to increase as partners complete additional assessments to gauge the extent of the damage caused by the storm."

Ocha said as winter draws near, its partners working on shelter warned that the volume of items entering Gaza is insufficient to meet people's needs.

It said since shelter supplies were allowed into Gaza in September following a six-month ban, the world body, its partners and UN member states have brought in 60,000 tents, 346,000 tarpaulins and 309,000 bedding items.

It said as part of the winterisation response, its partners focusing on child protection have distributed 48,000 children's winter clothing kits across the strip since the ceasefire came into effect on Oct 10.

The office said its partners working on nutrition note a gradual decline in the number of patients admitted for malnutrition treatment over the past two months, with about 9,280 cases admitted last month, compared with more than 11,740 in September.

Ocha said its partners leading water and sanitation efforts reported that over the past two days, they have distributed diapers, towels, jerry cans and other critical items to meet the hygiene needs of 400,000 people.

"However, they warn that sanitation and hygiene conditions in Gaza are deplorable, with no wastewater treatment capacity in the strip due to widespread destruction of infrastructure after two years of war.

"The dilapidated state of Gaza's sanitation systems puts public health at risk."

The office continues to call for items currently restricted from entry into Gaza, including equipment to rehabilitate critical infrastructure, to be allowed into the strip.

Ocha also reiterated the need for NGOs to be permitted to bring assistance into Gaza, and for the opening of additional crossings and routes to enable the UN and its partners to reach people in need more efficiently. – Bernama-Xinhua

Washington approves peace plan for war in Ukraine

➤ Proposal includes Kyiv giving up territory and some weapons, say sources

LONDON: US President Donald Trump has approved a 28-point plan for peace between Russia and Ukraine that US officials developed in consultation with Russian and Ukrainian officials, Xinhua reported, citing NBC News on Wednesday.

Trump's Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, Vice-President J.D. Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner were involved in formulating the plan, NBC quoted its sources as saying.

Three US officials reportedly told NBC that the framework for the peace deal still needs to be presented to the Ukrainians.

The United States has signalled to President Volodymyr Zelensky that

Ukraine must accept the US-drafted framework to end the war with Russia that proposes Kyiv giving up territory and some weapons, two people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

The sources, who asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the matter, said the proposals included cutting the size of Ukraine's armed forces, among other things.

Such a plan would represent a major setback for Kyiv as it faces further Russian territorial gains in eastern Ukraine and with Zelensky addressing a corruption scandal, which on Wednesday saw parliament dismiss the Energy and Justice ministers.

The White House declined to comment on the matter.

Rubio said: "Ending a complex and deadly war such as the one in Ukraine requires an extensive exchange of serious and realistic ideas. Achieving a durable peace would require both sides to agree to difficult but necessary concessions."

Ukraine has had no role in preparing the proposals, the sources said.

Zelensky, who was holding talks in Turkiye on Wednesday with President Tayyip Erdogan, was due to meet US army officials in Kyiv yesterday.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has long demanded that Kyiv renounce plans to join the US-led Nato military alliance and withdraw its troops from four provinces that Moscow claims as part of Russia.

Russian forces are grinding forward, while carrying out frequent attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure.

The Kremlin said Russian representatives would not be

involved in Wednesday's talks in Ankara but Putin is open to conversations with the United States and Turkiye about the results of the discussions.

On Wednesday, citing a US official with direct knowledge of the matter, online news agency Axios reported that the US plan envisages Ukraine granting Moscow part of eastern Ukraine it does not control in return for a US security guarantee for Kyiv and Europe against Russia.

A European diplomat, commenting on the purported new US proposals said they could be another attempt by the Trump administration "to push Kyiv into a corner", but added that there could be no solution that did not take into consideration Ukraine's position or that of Washington's European allies.

Another European diplomat said the suggestion that Ukraine cut its army seemed like a Russian demand rather than a serious proposal. – Reuters

Russian drone, missile strike kills 26

TERNOPIL: At least 26 people have been killed and many listed as missing in a Russian drone and missile attack that hit apartment buildings in the western Ukrainian city of Ternopil, said Ukraine Interior Minister

Ihor Klymenko on Wednesday.

He said 26 people are missing after the overnight strikes, including three children, while nearly 100 people have been hurt.

Russia sent 476 drones and 48 missiles at Ukraine, striking energy

and transport infrastructure, and forcing emergency power cuts in several regions in frigid temperatures.

Klymenko said emergency crews were working through the night, combing the site of the shattered apartment building.

"A lot of work lies ahead. The main thing is to find those who could still be under the rubble.

"In the building where two entrances were completely burned, not a single apartment was left intact. The flames flared up instantly and engulfed the building in a wave. People were terrified and tried to jump out of windows"

Officials said three children were among the dead.

Poland, a Nato member state bordering western Ukraine, temporarily closed Rzeszow and Lublin airports in the southeast of the country, and scrambled Polish and allied aircraft as a precaution to safeguard its airspace.

Zelensky urged allies to increase pressure on Russia to end the war, including by providing Kyiv with more air defence missiles.

Energy infrastructure was hit in seven Ukrainian regions in the attack, officials said.

Restrictions have been placed on power usage for consumers across the country.

Russia, which denies deliberately targeting civilians, said it had launched airstrikes in response to what it called "terrorist attacks" on Russian territories.

It said Ukrainian forces had fired four US-made missiles at the southern Russian city of Voronezh.

Ukraine's military said on Tuesday it had attacked military targets in Russia with the missiles. – Reuters



Ukrainian rescue personnel and medics at the site of a damaged residential building following the air strike. – AFPIC

WHO aims to vaccinate 40,000 children in Palestine

GENEVA: The World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Wednesday it aims to vaccinate more than 40,000 children against various diseases in Gaza as it takes advantage of the recent ceasefire.

WHO and its partners vaccinated over 10,000 children under the age of three in the first eight days of an initial

phase of the campaign launched on Nov 9.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said phase one of the programme has been extended until tomorrow and hopes to protect children against measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B, tuberculosis, polio,

rotavirus and pneumonia.

Phases two and three of the campaign, which is being conducted in collaboration with Unicef, the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees and the Health Ministry in Gaza under Hamas control, are planned for December and January.

He said he is "encouraged

to see that the ceasefire continues to hold, as it allows WHO and its partners to intensify essential health services across Gaza and support the necessary re-equipment and reconstruction of its devastated health system"

The United Nations Security Council voted on Monday to

endorse the plan of US President Donald Trump, which facilitated the establishment of a ceasefire on Oct 10 between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The truce has been marked by several outbreaks of violence in the Palestinian territory, devastated by over two years of hostilities. – AFP

Leading with heart and humility

Voices of Reason
by Dr Chris Ong Siew Har

LEADERSHIP begins with self-reflection. One question often asked by those who aspire to lead effectively is: "Am I a good leader?"

In this rapidly growing digital era, where workplaces are made up of age-diverse employees, leadership requires more than authority or power; it demands adaptability, empathy and genuine guidance.

A good leader remains humble while possessing the ability to influence, motivate and shape a clear direction forward. They empower their teams by helping them to grow and recognise their potential, ensuring that both individuals and the organisation can succeed together.

Leadership is a responsibility to uplift others and support them when they face challenges, correcting mistakes effectively and providing the necessary tools to perform better.

Effective leadership is also rooted in collaboration and understanding between a leader and his employees. When employees respect and trust one another, teams become stronger and more future-ready.

Richard Branson quoted this meaningfully: "Your employees are your company's real competitive advantage. They are the ones making the magic happen, so long as their needs are being met."

What makes a good leader?

Good leaders use clear and cordial communication, listen with empathy and demonstrate compassion and accountability. They build confidence and trust, encouraging their team to take ownership as well as share ideas. Growth, innovation and team satisfaction increase under leaders who foster collaboration rather than control.

A leader who assigns tasks wisely based on strengths prevents burnout while supporting individual development. When challenges arise, they create a structured plan and offer coaching to help team members learn and excel instead of criticising them.

What makes a bad leader?

On the other hand, a poor leader often lacks communication skills and empathy. They may avoid accountability and govern through fear, leading to stress, stagnation and disengagement. When employees feel undervalued or intimidated, productivity and creativity will decline.

A poor leader provides unclear instructions yet blames employees for failing to meet expectations. They may speak harshly, refuse



Good leadership is not a destination but a continuous journey. Every mile brings stronger teams, brighter ideas, positive vibes and a more resilient organisation. – **PIC COURTESY OF DR CHRIS ONG SIEW HAR**

to listen or address their own shortcomings and offer little support, resulting in low morale and weak team performance.

Characteristics of a good leader

Ultimately, leadership is not defined by position or titles. True leadership is demonstrated through actions that encourage growth, inspire success and strengthen unity.

Good leaders build trust, nurture potential and guide others with sincerity and purpose. In today's dynamic world, the best leaders are those who embrace continuous learning, remain open to diverse perspectives and lead with heart and vision.

Strong leadership is not about commanding respect but it is also about earning it. Good leaders inspire and uplift their team, welcoming new ideas and helping individuals grow in their roles. They understand that respect is given to those who deserve it, not demanded by authority.

A good leader cultivates a collaborative and respectful workplace culture where employees feel valued and confident to contribute.

➤ Vision and purpose

Good leaders have a clear and inspiring vision of the future. They align daily tasks with long-term goals, helping employees understand the purpose behind their work. This fosters stronger commitment, motivation and job satisfaction that drive organisational growth.

➤ Communication and empathy

Effective communication builds trust and

supports transparent dialogue between leaders and employees. When paired with empathy, leaders can better prevent conflicts, support their team through challenges and create a psychologically safe and harmonious environment.

➤ Empowerment, integrity and accountability

The three principles form the foundation of a positive leadership culture:

- Empowerment that encourages employees to take initiative and apply their skills with confidence;

- Integrity to ensure honesty, fairness and ethical decision-making;

- Accountability to promote responsibility and ownership of outcomes. Good leaders encourage proactive action and trust their teams to perform while the leaders stay informed through open updates instead of control;

➤ Adaptability and continuous learning

Strong leaders are flexible and resilient when facing change. They continuously learn new skills, embrace innovation and motivate their team to do the same. Importantly, they celebrate team success without fear of others surpassing them. Knowing that a leader thrives when the team thrives.

Characteristics of a bad leader

A bad leader focuses on power, control and personal gain. Their behaviour creates a toxic work environment where creativity, motivation and trust disappear.

➤ Poor communication, lack of transparency

Employees quickly lose confidence when leaders withhold information or give unclear instructions. This leads to confusion, misalignment, missed deadlines and disengagement. Over time, morale drops and productivity declines as employees feel undervalued and unsupported.

➤ Micromanagement, blaming others

Micromanaging reflects insecurity and a lack of trust in the team's abilities. Combined with a blame-shifting attitude, it destroys confidence and prevents employees from taking initiative because they fear mistakes will be punished instead of corrected constructively.

➤ Favouritism, unfair treatment

Showing bias or rewarding personal relationships over merit causes frustration and resentment. It erodes trust, undermines teamwork and may even push high performers to leave the organisation.

➤ Lack of trust and respect

When leaders dismiss feedback, ignore feelings or focus on themselves, team members feel discouraged and disconnected. Capable talent may withdraw or "quiet quit", resulting in poor overall performance and diminished loyalty.

Let's face it, great leaders don't just pop out of management. Organisations need to set the stage by sprinkling a bit of patience.

To grow leaders who inspire instead of perspire under pressure, we should:

- boost team morale because morning coffee or tea can't do all the motivating;

- foster an inclusive and respectful culture, free from "my way or the highway" or diva-like attitudes;

- support continuous growth and career development, even leaders have homework to do; and

- encourage reflections with purpose and compassion because even the best leaders should pause and think, "Am I leading or just managing traffic?"

Good leadership is not a destination but a continuous journey. Every mile brings stronger teams, brighter ideas, positive vibes and a more resilient organisation.

Along the way, leaders strengthen their teams, spark creativity and build organisations tough enough to handle whatever comes next.

So, buckle up, keep learning and remember: the best leaders lead with heart, humour and a touch of humility. Happy leading!

Dr Chris Ong Siew Har is the dean of the Faculty of the Hospitality and Tourism, Berjaya University College.
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Laughter is the best medicine for a happy marriage

Under One Roof

Q: My husband and I have been married for nearly 20 years and the relationship has started to feel stale. We are mostly just going through the motions. We don't want a long list but do you have one meaningful suggestion that can help?

Focus on the Family Malaysia: When author Ted Cunningham was asked, "What's the best advice you ever got on marriage?" His reply was short and to the point: "That's easy – lighten up and laugh!"

Why did he immediately narrow in on the importance of humour and light-heartedness? It is because life can be a grind. Our daily routines are rarely easy and can be demanding, and at times we face real hardship.

That is why we all need moments of rest and

refreshment along the way. Retreats and oases are absolutely indispensable to life's journey; they help us breathe again. We believe marriage ought to be the same.

You may think, "My marriage? An oasis?" But this is precisely what it can be if you take the time to share healthy doses of laughter.

A couple's role is not to suppress the good moments but to enjoy them together. Remember that the two of you are married because there was a time when being together felt exciting.

If you feel that you have lost that spark, make an effort to rekindle it. Fan the flames. If you can lighten up, laugh and enjoy the journey side by side, you are already halfway towards achieving genuine marital joy. And in the process, you will be able to eliminate much of the monotony and boredom that have characterised your "daily grind" in the first place.

Q: A friend of mine often takes her young

children to PG-13 and R-rated movies, and she doesn't seem to think twice about it. Do you think that is wise?

Focus on the Family Malaysia: One of the most baffling things about parenting in this day and age is that many mums and dads who would do anything for their children seem completely oblivious to the harm of exposing them to inappropriate entertainment.

Parents who take their young children to PG-13 and R-rated movies risk causing them serious emotional and mental harm, influencing them in ways that may not be immediately visible.

At a recent screening of a movie that was pushing the boundaries, a man asked a mother sitting next to him, "Since you haven't seen this movie, do you worry that the content can be detrimental to your child?"

Her response was telling. Instead of saying something like, "Yes, I'm concerned about how the messages and visuals in movies may affect

my child and I've made sure this one is safe", she gestured broadly and said, "Look at all the children here".

In other words, her justification was not about the welfare of her child but simply that others were making the same choice.

We believe responsible parenting involves being informed about what your children may be exposed to before it happens. Therefore, parents should carefully screen movies and make entertainment choices based on what is best for their children.

This article is contributed by

Focus on the Family Malaysia, a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting and strengthening the family unit. It provides a myriad of programmes and resources, including professional counselling services, to the community.

For more information, visit family.org.my.
Comments: letters@thesundaily.com



Taking action

Young activist talks biodiversity conservation in Malaysia - P12

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Young advocate redefines conservation

GREEN DREAM

BY AMEEN HAZIZI

WHEN people talk about Malaysian youth and climate, the conversation often circles around protests, forums or policy statements. But for Aidil Iman Aidid, 26, environmental action begins somewhere more grounded.

It starts with Malaysians actually seeing the natural world they live in. The 19-30 age group is online, vocal and informed, but many of them have never stood inside a mangrove forest or watched local wildlife up close. Aidil wants to change that.

Aidil is currently a member of WWF-Malaysia, but he makes it clear he speaks here in his personal capacity. Outside of work, he has built a reputation as one of the most active youth voices on climate and biodiversity



Aidil during an environmental engagement session.

➤ Aidil Iman Aidid leads rise of youth in Malaysia's biodiversity activism



A reminder of the lush forest environments that Aidil is working hard to protect. – PICS FROM FREEPIK



Forest habitats like this play a key role in Malaysia's biodiversity.

issues, with more than 27,800 followers on X (formerly Twitter). His posts on conservation, especially those about wildlife, forest loss and environmental policy, often go viral because they are direct, local and relatable.

For him, the problem is not that youth do not care. It is that they care about the crises they can see, and overlook the ones they cannot.

"Climate change is the issue young people connect with the most, but biodiversity loss is another crisis that deserves just as much attention," he said.

He believes the gap between the two issues is shrinking, but not fast enough. Most young Malaysians first learn about climate change through school or social media. Heatwaves, haze and floods feel urgent, so they gain traction. Biodiversity loss feels slower and quieter, although the consequences are just as severe.

"Youth activism in Malaysia is strong when it comes to climate change, but we need to give the same energy to biodiversity loss. I have seen growing participation in conservation work, which gives me hope," he said.

To bridge that gap, Aidil leads *Jejak Liar*, a

The kind of wildlife Aidil believes should be central to youth conservation awareness.



youth programme that takes urban Malaysians into the field for hands-on conservation work. Many participants come from Klang Valley. Most have seen nature through photos, not real encounters. The programme intentionally brings them into forests, rivers and wetlands so they can see the complexity of these ecosystems for themselves.

"We take young people from cities like Klang Valley and bring them to biodiversity sites. When they observe birds or learn to identify

species themselves, they finally understand how fragile these ecosystems are and why they are worth protecting," he said.

Aidil has seen the impact of these trips up close. Students who previously only cared about climate news online suddenly pay attention to local species, forest corridors and water quality. Office workers who joined as volunteers return asking how they can support community conservation groups. A single moment of spotting wildlife in the field becomes more powerful than a hundred news articles.

Aidil believes Malaysians cannot protect what they do not experience. A mangrove boardwalk at low tide. A river that turns milky after rain. A trail where cicadas pulse in waves. These are not things a young person can learn about only in classrooms or infographics.

Aidil's approach is simple. Bring people outside. Let them see what is at risk. Let that experience shape how they speak, vote, organise and act.

Exposure leads to empathy, which leads to change. For Aidil, that is how Malaysia builds a generation that fights for nature not out of fear, but out of understanding.

Hidden heart of Sarawak: Bintulu's best-kept secrets await

LONG regarded as Sarawak's industrial engine, Bintulu is stepping into the limelight as one of East Malaysia's most exciting travel frontiers for 2026. Once a quiet town along the coastal trade route, Bintulu now beckons with untouched nature, living heritage and a surge in new connectivity, making it prime for rediscovery as Visit Malaysia Year approaches.

Nature's playground

Tucked between rainforests and the South China Sea, Bintulu offers a rare blend of wild beauty and biodiversity that is fast becoming a draw for eco-conscious travellers. Just half an hour from town, Similajau National Park unfolds over a mosaic of beaches, mangroves and rare tropical forest.

Adventurers can trek to Golden Beach's sweeping sands, spot the Sarawak langur, gibbons and over 185 bird species, or join local river cruises that reveal nocturnal estuarine crocodiles and seasonal turtle nesting. The surrounding mangrove ecosystems play a vital role in coastal conservation, while additionally supporting community-led tours that spotlight medicinal plants, firefly habitats and traditional fishing methods.

Did you know? From March to September, green sea turtles quietly return to Similajau's beaches to nest, an ecological event that adds seasonal wonder to Bintulu's status as an eco-tour gem.

Culture that lives and breathes

Beyond its natural wonders, Bintulu's heartbeat is best felt in its vibrant Pasar Tamu, historic temples and diverse festivals. The



Similajau National Park. – SIMILAJAU NATIONAL PARK OFFICIAL FACEBOOK

town's identity is shaped by Melanau, Iban, Malay and Chinese traditions, flowing through daily life and colourful gatherings. Among the most iconic is the Borneo International Kite Festival, held every September.

It is a dazzling spectacle that draws thousands of visitors and transforms the town's skies into a canvas of colour and creativity. This year's edition welcomed 160 kite flyers from 29 countries, including first-time participants from Haiti, Macau (China) and Tamil Nadu (India). This festival not only uplifts small businesses and artisans, but also showcases the warmth and hospitality Bintulu is known for.

Gateway to undiscovered Sarawak

Strategically positioned along Sarawak's central coastline, Bintulu serves as a gateway to lesser-known destinations such as Mukah, Belaga and the remote upriver settlements of the Rajang – places still largely untouched by



Borneo International Kite Festival. – OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF BINTULU DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

mass tourism.

Mukah, just a few hours away, offers a deeper dive into Melanau heritage, especially at the Mukah Kaul Festival Site at Kala Dana Beach, where rituals, performances and community gatherings celebrate the sea's bounty and ancestral traditions.

As infrastructure improves from upgraded highways to regional airports and eco-lodges, Bintulu is quietly transforming into an immersive and off-grid experience.

Youthful travel surge and easy access

Bintulu is no longer just a quiet coastal town. It is becoming one of Sarawak's most sought after towns. With improved roads, regional transport upgrades, and digital platforms such as RedBus that provide bus ticket online booking, getting here is easier than ever.

The most popular routes link Bintulu with Miri, Sibul and Kuching are often used by students heading off to study or adults



Mukah. – PIC FROM SARAWAK TRAVEL

commuting for work. Strengthening its role as a key transport link, the online bus ticket platform has also partnered with Damri to launch a Brunei-Bintulu route, expanding cross-border travel and opening up new opportunities for regional tourism.

In total, RedBus now offers over 30 routes to and from Bintulu, with nearly 20,000 passengers recorded between January and October 2025. Travellers aged 18-36 make up 79% of all passengers – a clear sign of growing youth interest in exploring the heart of coastal Sarawak.

This new wave of connectivity is helping travellers rediscover Bintulu's charm, a place where nature, culture and community come together.

Whether you are tracing Sarawak's coastline, venturing deeper inland or beginning a cross-border journey from Brunei, Bintulu is your starting point to see a different side of Borneo.



KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia Debt Ventures Bhd (MDV) has approved green technology project financing for more than 148 companies, amounting to RM2.26 billion to date, said Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Chang Lih Kang.

He said MDV launched a RM2 billion sukuk programme in 2022 to finance technology-based projects and contracts under its mandate.

In essence, he said, MDV uses the proceeds from its sukuk to provide green technology financing supported by three government-backed initiatives, including the Green Technology Financing Scheme.

"The government is also expanding the Green Investment Tax Allowance and the Green Income Tax Exemption to hydrogen technology, in addition to import duty and tax exemptions for renewable energy equipment, including hydrogen-related systems.

"This includes providing a 100% investment tax allowance on hydro-

MDV greentech financing approvals reach RM2.26b

➤ More than 148 companies have received funding from Malaysia Debt Ventures to date

gen project capital expenditure for 10 years, which can be deducted up to 100% from statutory income," he said during Minister's Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Chang was responding to Rodiyah Sapiee (GPS-Batang Sadong), who asked about government incentives to spur the hydrogen economy.

Chang said several policy measures were being considered to reduce the cost of hydrogen production, including renewable energy tariff packages, relaxed grid access, the use of Renewable Energy Certificates, and the gazettement of specific land to accelerate infrastructure development.

On Rodiyah's supplementary question regarding the proposal to establish a hydrogen investment zone, Chang said, such a zone could accelerate the country's economic growth and position Malaysia as a regional hydrogen hub and a competitive hydrogen investment centre in the Asia Pacific.

He noted that the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation has set up a working group to implement incentives under the Hydrogen Economy and Technology Roadmap.

"It is a platform that coordinates the national hydrogen economy agenda, including engagement with other agencies and ministries such as the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry," he said.

The working group would also formulate a comprehensive incentive package covering specific energy tariffs, fiscal incentives such as the Green Investment Tax Allowance and pioneer status, import tax exemptions, and infrastructure support, he added. – Bernama



Fadillah (back row, sixth from left) with winners of the Energy Efficiency Challenge 2025. Also present is Energy Commission CEO Siti Safinah Salleh (back row, fourth from left). – BERNAMAPIC

EE Challenge has major impact on promoting prudent energy use: Fadillah

PUTRAJAYA: The Energy Efficiency Challenge (EE Challenge) has made a significant impact in promoting prudent energy use, successfully saving 1.7 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of energy, equivalent to RM900,841, over its 12-year implementation from 2014 to 2025.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy Transition and Water Transformation Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof said the programme's success also helped prevent 1,316 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions during the same period.

"This reduction is equivalent to the growth of more than 54,850 trees over 10 years. This achievement shows that consistent small efforts can create a big impact," he said at the EE Challenge 2025 prize-giving ceremony yesterday.

Fadillah said this year's EE Challenge recorded more than double the savings achieved in 2024, with energy savings of

133,030 kWh, or RM60,395.

He said the EE Challenge is part of the Malaysia Energy Literacy Programme (MELP), a national energy literacy initiative aimed at building an energy-savvy society through edutainment activities and interactive learning.

The national programme, he added, will be expanded beginning next year, including through content integration into the Malaysian Digital Education Learning Initiative platform under the Ministry of Education.

Additionally, the programme will be broadened through state-level carnivals to give communities the opportunity to participate in various energy education-based activities and competitions.

"This step is crucial in shaping an energy-literate society capable of making smart energy consumption decisions," he said.

Fadillah stressed that energy efficiency

does not rely solely on technological advancements but begins with personal attitude, discipline and awareness, especially among the young generation.

He emphasised that energy-efficient habits are cultivated through small daily choices, such as turning off unused lights, avoiding waste and valuing available resources.

"Energy efficiency, disciplined consumption and care for the environment are part of that kindness. It is not merely about technology or policy, but a reflection of our morals, wisdom and our responsibility as stewards of the earth," he said.

Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Hang Kasturi, Melaka, was named the Most Energy-Efficient School, emerging as the top secondary school nationwide in fostering a culture of energy efficiency. Second place went to SMK (P) Sultan Ibrahim, Johor, and third was SMK Kerteh, Terengganu. – Bernama

Sports Toto posts higher revenue of RM1.5b for Q1'26



PETALING JAYA: Sports Toto Bhd (SPToto) reported revenue of RM1.5 billion in the first quarter ended Sept 30, 2025 (Q1'26), an increase of 3.7% compared to RM1.44 billion in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

Pre-tax profit fell 34.2% from RM68.4 million in the corresponding quarter of the previous year to RM45 million in the quarter under review.

The increase in revenue was mainly driven by higher sales from STM Lottery Sdn Bhd and H.R. Owen Plc, while the lower pre-tax profit was mainly due to lower results from STM Lottery.

For the quarter ended Sept 30, 2025, STM Lottery recorded revenue growth of 5.4% compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous year, despite the number of draws remaining the same in both quarters. The growth was mainly driven by higher average sales per draw, attributed to higher accumulated jackpot prizes in the Lotto games. However, pre-tax profit dropped by 20.8%, primarily due to higher prize payout in the quarter under review.

H.R. Owen posted revenue growth of 1.9% compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous year, primarily driven by higher sales volume in the new car sector, supported by increased vehicle deliveries during the current quarter. It reported a lower pre-tax loss of RM9.4 million in the current quarter, compared to a loss of RM11.5 million in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, which was mainly attributed to higher revenue recorded in the current quarter.

The board has declared a first interim dividend of 2 sen per share, amounting to about RM26.56 million. The dividend is payable on Jan 16, 2026.

The directors remain cautiously optimistic that the group's business will remain stable and resilient.

U Mobile's **ULTRA5G** now at Bangi, Putrajaya, PJ New Town

PETALING JAYA: U Mobile, Malaysia's newest 5G network provider, announced yesterday that its ULTRA5G experience is now live in Bangi, Putrajaya and Petaling Jaya New Town.

In a statement, U Mobile said these three outdoor clusters now have the ULTRA5G experience available throughout the entire townships. This means U Mobile customers will be able to enjoy a seamless experience on the telco's next generation 5G network anywhere in these locations.

U Mobile chief technology officer Woon Ooi Yuen said, "U Mobile is excited that our ULTRA5G experience, powered by both 5G Standalone and 5G Non-Standalone technologies, is now available to our customers in Bangi, Putrajaya and Petaling Jaya New Town. We are committed to bring the deepest and widest 5G coverage to all Malaysians. Since the start of our deployment, we have already brought our 5G advanced technology network to not only these three outdoor clusters, but also indoors in 30 buildings, with many more to come."

He added that with ULTRA5G being made available in the various locations, residents or professionals working in the private or public sector in these areas will now be able to enjoy enhanced experiences such as crystal-clear video calls, seamless streaming and gaming, even in crowded environments. The company is also looking to drive businesses in these areas to fully leverage the benefits of 5G technology with relevant solutions to enhance business efficiency and productivity.

ULTRA5G coverage can be identified via the network name "UM ULTRA5G" on devices.

➔ **Bangi:** ULTRA5G now covers the corridor stretching from Universiti

➔ Next-gen network deployed not only in these three outdoor clusters but also indoors in 30 buildings, with many more in coming months



The U Mobile team marking the successful deployment of ULTRA5G in Putrajaya

Tenaga Nasional to Bandar Baru Bangi, serving the education institution's diverse academic community (with full campus coverage available from December), as well as Bangi's residential and commercial areas.

ULTRA5G also covers the township's industrial park, unlocking enterprise digitalisation possibilities.

➔ **Putrajaya:** ULTRA5G is now available across Putrajaya, covering the vast majority of its precincts and key administrative zones, supporting public sector innovation. The new outdoor coverage footprint includes areas surrounding prominent landmarks such as Seri Perdana Complex and the Putrajaya International Convention Centre. In addition,

ULTRA5G also extends to major public spaces including Putrajaya Botanical Garden, Taman Wetland Putrajaya, Putrajaya Lake, Seri Gemilang Bridge, Seri Wawasan Bridge as well as commercial and residential areas across all precincts.

➔ **Petaling Jaya New Town:** ULTRA5G is available from Kampung Sungai Way to PJ New Town, covering Seksyen 51A, Jalan 222, PJ New Town and Seksyen 52 (around Taman Jaya LRT and nearby amenities), enhancing the digital experience for customers who live, work and play in this matured residential and commercial area.

U Mobile's ULTRA5G is also available at Tesco Klang, Tesco Extra Ipoh, Mydin Terengganu, Mydin Seremban 2, Berjaya Times Square,

Bangsar Village 1, Bangsar Village 2, Sunshine Bertam Mall, Sunshine Square and Kota Bharu Mall besides offices in Mayland Square Putrajaya, KL Eco City Strata Office, Ministry of Communications, Galleria PJH, Menara PJH, Plaza Berjaya, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, Menara PJX, Perak Techno Trade Centre and Kompleks Tabung Haji Putrajaya.

U Mobile said ULTRA5G is also available at Mandarin Oriental, Cititel Mid Valley; Dewan Perdana Felda, Hospital KPJ Tawakal, Hospital Assunta, Kuala Lumpur International Airport Terminal 1, Kota Kinabalu International Airport, Langkawi International Airport, Penang Sentral and Terminal Bersepadu Selatan.

Capital A to distribute 1.69b AAX shares in last stage of revamp

KUALA LUMPUR: Capital A Bhd will distribute 1.69 billion new shares in AirAsia X Bhd (AAX) to its eligible shareholders via a dividend-in-specie, marking the final stage of its restructuring plan.

In a statement yesterday, the group said the move forms part of the final phase in the disposal of its airline business to AAX, consolidating all AirAsia-branded airlines under a single entity and paving the way for Capital A's transformation into a multi-platform travel and digital group.

The entitlement date for the distribution is Dec 3, 2025, at 5pm, with the distribution ratio estimated at 389 AAX shares for every 1,000 Capital A shares held.

"Capital A shareholders whose names appear in the record of depositors at 5pm on the entitlement date will be entitled to receive the distribution shares and will not be required to pay for them," it said.

The group added that the actual number of shares to be received will be calculated based on a formula relating to the number of Capital A shares held on the entitlement date.

"Fractional entitlements to the distribution shares will be disregarded," it said.

Capital A said the exercise represents a major milestone in its comprehensive regularisation plan, which also includes a proposed capital reduction to offset accumulated losses.

"The overall restructuring is targeted for completion by December, after which Capital A plans to apply for an uplift from its Practice Note 17 (PN17) status," it said.

Its chief financial officer, Mun Hui Teh, said the setting of the entitlement date is a monumental milestone, marking a step closer to the final phase of the airline business disposal that will complete the consolidation of all AirAsia airlines under AirAsia X.

Following the consolidation, a unified AirAsia Group will operate as a single airline entity. — Bernama

Wasco Greenergy launches IPO prospectus, targets Indonesia expansion

BY DEEPAKSHMI MANICKAM
sunbiz@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Wasco Greenergy Bhd is targeting regional growth and rising biomass demand as it launches its IPO prospectus for a Main Market listing.

The company aims to raise RM75 million from the initial public offering, mainly for expansion, operational upgrades, research and development, and listing costs.

Upon listing at an issue price of RM1 per share, Greenergy is expected to have a market capitalisation of RM500 million.

Speaking at a press conference in conjunction with the prospectus launch, Greenergy CEO Lee Yee Chong said Indonesia will be a key market post-listing, supported by a stronger after-sales network and growing interest in biomass energy solutions.

He said the company already operates two branches in Indonesia and intends to add two more service centres



Upon listing at an issue price of RM1 per share, Greenergy is expected to have a market capitalisation of RM500 million. — BERNAMAPIC

to strengthen accessibility and response time.

"We are very much involved in Malaysia and Indonesia. It consists of 90% of our market within this context," Lee said. "Our major business is after-sales because we have a lot of equipment that requires continuous servicing. Adding more branches will give us better accessibility and faster response time for customers."

He added that Indonesia's palm oil industry, which controls more than half of the global market share, positions it as a major growth market for biomass-based power solutions due to the abundance of feedstock.

"For the next few years, biomass energy is going to pick up in Indonesia just because of the abundance of feedstock," he said. "We can see Malaysia leading in this area with policy changes

like FIT and carbon tax, and Indonesia will follow. Singapore is another market where the high carbon tax creates opportunities."

Part of the expansion proceeds will be used to scale Greenergy's renewable energy business, particularly a model that provides "clean steam" to industrial complexes using biomass waste collected from palm mills.

Lee explained that while palm oil mills traditionally use biomass internally, industrial manufacturers such as food and beverage players are now seeking ways to reduce Scope 1 emissions.

"In the past five years, we have taken biomass waste from the palm oil industry and used it in industrial complexes where they can reduce carbon emissions," he said.

"Some customers can invest themselves, but many are not familiar with palm biomass fuel. So we offer options they can own the system or we can invest and operate it for them. They

buy clean steam the same way we buy green electricity."

Responding to a question on market share, Lee said, Greenergy maintains strong positions in Malaysia and Indonesia for non-utility steam turbines, holding more than 68% share in Indonesia. However, its biomass boiler share remains below 5%. The company plans to grow this segment by pushing its engineered, industrial-grade boilers beyond the palm oil mill market.

"We pride ourselves as an engineering outfit. We don't just do standard boilers. We want to introduce our specialised boilers to industrial users to help them decarbonise. For standard palm mill boilers, the market is large. Indonesia produces 50 million tonnes of palm oil compared to Malaysia's 20 million tonnes so there is ample opportunity to raise our share."

Lee said the company also sees emerging demand in Indonesia's growing sugar industry, though palm biomass remains its core strength.

EdgePoint hits 16,000-site milestone in five years

➤ Expansion across three markets reflects rising regional demand for scalable digital infrastructure: CEO

KUALA LUMPUR: EdgePoint Infrastructure, Asean's leading independent telecommunications infrastructure company yesterday marked its 5th anniversary by reaching the milestone of 16,000 sites.

EdgePoint's portfolio now comprises 11,080 sites in Indonesia, 3,025 in the Philippines, and 1,900 in Malaysia, with the 16,000th site located in Sumatra. Since its founding in 2020, EdgePoint has built a market leading regional presence by working with all major Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) and business partners to deliver scalable digital infrastructure throughout the region.

CEO and founder Suresh Sidhu said, "Our three markets are each at different stages of growth, but they share a common focus where governments and businesses are both prioritising investments in digital connectivity. Reaching the 16,000-site milestone in five years is a clear reflection of

this regional momentum, and it reinforces that EdgePoint is the right partner to support this growth as we deliver efficiently at speed, and at scale".

He added that these 16,000 sites are a testament of their commitment to always delivering the best and to do this they maintain deep relationships with their customers ensuring they understand their needs, adopt new technologies and creative solutions, manage lean operations to stay nimble and hire the best in the industry.

Looking ahead, he said, they anticipate a significant increase in investments in Asean as both public and private sectors accelerate efforts to strengthen digital infrastructure, ensuring economies remain competitive and agile.

"As the region embraces cloud and AI, robust and sustainable digital infrastructure will be the foundation that enables this next wave of growth. We look forward to finding new ways to work with our customers' ensuring connectivity is accessible to all," said Suresh.

EdgePoint Towers Sdn Bhd CEO, Muniff Kamaruddin said, "Our focus in Malaysia will be to continue supporting our partners in advancing 5G rollout and expanding coverage to underserved rural areas, ensuring that no community is left behind in the digital economy. We are also enhancing our

capabilities in in-building coverage solutions to meet the growing demand for seamless connectivity in high-density urban environments. We are fully committed to playing an active role in strengthening the nation's telecommunications infrastructure and working with all partners in Malaysia to achieve the country's digital hub ambitions".

Suresh added, "I'm particularly proud of our ability to deliver new towers and collocate tenants on our sites. With nearly 26,000 tenants across the three countries, this means our infrastructure is also meeting the objective of being shared by the industry. This success also reflects the support of our shareholders Digital Bridge and ADIA, and the dedication of our people, all united by a shared vision for sustainable growth and delivery excellence. Our corporate philanthropy programmes aimed at schools have also impacted the lives of over 7,500 children in the region. As we celebrate these milestones, our focus is on the future, to continue supporting the growth of advanced networks via innovative infrastructure solutions to create new opportunities for businesses, communities, and governments across Asean."

At EdgePoint, he added they are driven by the belief that connectivity is not just about networks, but about empowering people and economies to thrive in a rapidly evolving digital world.

Velesto sustains profitability on higher rig utilisation

KUALA LUMPUR: Velesto Energy Bhd reported its financial results for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2025 (Q3'25), delivering sustained profitability driven by higher rig utilisation.

For Q3'25, Velesto achieved revenue of RM240 million (Q3'24: RM352 million).

Profit after tax (PAT) increased to RM50 million (Q3'24: RM43 million), while earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (ebitda) stood at RM115 million (Q3'24: RM126 million).

In line with stronger bottom-line performance, Velesto said, in a statement that it continued to deliver higher PAT and ebitda margin at 21% (Q3'24: 12%) and 48% (Q3'24: 36%) respectively.

Utilisation rate was 81% (Q2'25: 57%) and average daily charter rate recorded at US\$111k/day (Q2'25: US\$123k/day).

Velesto president Megat Zariman Abdul Rahim said, "Our performance this quarter reflects Velesto's continued focus on maximising rig utilisation and strengthening operational excellence. We remain committed to securing long-term contracts that enhance earnings visibility and support sustainable value creation. As of September 2025, our order book stood at RM1.1 billion, underpinned by a robust tender book of RM3.2 billion. Our interim dividend of 0.75 sen per share, paid on Nov 18, together with improvements in the total shareholder returns over the recent months and years, demonstrates our commitment to delivering consistent value to our shareholders."

Sedania Innovator off to solid start in FY26

PETALING JAYA: Sedania Innovator Bhd began its financial year on a strong footing, delivering solid year-on-year growth for the first quarter ended Sept 30, 2025 (Q1'26).

The group recorded revenue of RM22.43 million, a 41% increase from RM15.88 million in the same quarter last year, supported by sustained growth across its sustainable brands and sustainable consumer technology segments.

In a statement yesterday, the company said their earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (Ebitda) rose to RM1.81 million from RM0.44 million, reflecting stronger operational efficiency, while operating profit improved to RM1.24 million from an operating loss of RM0.16 million one year ago.

Chairman Tun Md Raus Sharif said the results underscore the group's disciplined and strategic approach to growth: "This quarter's performance demonstrates that our strategic emphasis on sustainable growth and operational discipline is delivering tangible results. Our consumer brands and technology solutions continue to gain strong traction, backed by effective execution and increasing market demand. Sedania is building a solid foundation, and we remain confident in our long-term trajectory as we continue creating value for all stakeholders."

Managing director Datuk Azrin Mohd Noor said, "We started the quarter strong, with year-on-year growth recorded across both our sustainable brands and consumer technology segments. This

reflects the strength of our diversified portfolio and the impact of enhanced cost discipline and operational improvements. As we scale our brands internationally and expand our fintech ecosystem, our focus remains on sustainable growth and creating meaningful value for the communities we serve."

Sedania said the sustainable brands segment which includes Offspring and Tanamera, recorded RM18.79 million in revenue, a 40% year-on-year increase from RM13.39 million. Growth was supported by strong domestic performance, expanding international demand and strengthened digital and retail channels.

The sustainable consumer technology segment, it added, delivered RM3.39 million in

revenue, a 42% year-on-year increase. The fintech division contributed RM3.1 million following higher adoption of As-Sidq and its GoHalal Financing Programme.

Looking ahead, Sedania said, it remains optimistic about sustaining its positive trajectory throughout FY26. The group's focus includes expanding international markets and retail presence for Offspring and Tanamera; accelerating adoption of As-Sidq and the GoHalal Financing Programme among financial institutions and digital ecosystems. With clear priorities centred on innovation, operational discipline and long-term value creation, the group is well-positioned to build on its strong start to the quarter.

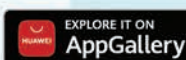


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Affin Bank reports 9.2% profit before tax growth

➤ PBT increase from RM494 million to RM540 million attributed to higher net income

KUALA LUMPUR: Affin Group recorded a Profit Before Tax (PBT) after zakat of RM540.1 million for the financial period ended Sept 30, 2025 (9M2025), representing an increase of RM45.4 million or 9.2% compared to RM494.7 million recorded in the previous corresponding period.

The increase in PBT was primarily attributed to a higher net income by RM136.1 million, partially offset by an allowance for impairment losses by RM14.8 million, compared to a write-back of impairment losses of RM69.5 million in the previous corresponding period.

The gross loans and financing marked a year-on-year growth of 7.7%, achieving a value of RM76.1 billion, as compared to RM70.1 billion for the corresponding period ended 30 September 2024.

Customer deposits increased by 4.5% to RM77.3 billion, while the Current Account and Savings Account (CASA) ratio dropped to 25.8% as of Sept 30, 2025, as compared to 26.9% as of Sept 30, 2024.

Affin Group president & group CEO Datuk Wan Razly Abdullah (*pic*) said: "Our third quarter performance reflects disciplined execution in a changing interest rate environment.

"While the recent OPR reduction has resulted in some Net Interest Margin compression, we are actively managing through repricing and growing our CASA base to mitigate the impact and support sustainable net interest income.

"Our high margin personal financing portfolio continues to expand in line with this strategy."

He said the recent launch of the Selangor and Sabah Visa debit cards reflects the group's strategy to tap regional market opportunities through localised product offerings.

"Payroll account initiatives further underpin this strategy by anchoring salary relationships and driving sticky CASA



balances. Our new FINTURA youth banking segment supports CASA growth by attracting younger customers early, strengthening deposit inflows and building deeper engagement at every life stage," he said.

Wan Razly said fee based income continued to expand, driven by stronger demand for their new wealth and investment solutions, including Islamic Structured Investment Product (ISP) offerings, which provide value-add to their customers and diversify their revenue base.

"On the operational excellence front, we have upgraded our treasury and risk management platform to FIS Treasury and Risk Manager - Quantum Edition across all three banking entities, giving us real time visibility over cash and liquidity, integrated front to back workflows and stronger risk and control capabilities.

"This supports our ongoing improvements and more data-driven balance sheet decisions. This achievement has also been recognised with an Operational Excellence Award in acknowledgment of the significant process enhancements delivered.

"The group also completed an upgrade of

its AML system in July 2025, further strengthening its compliance framework and transaction monitoring controls," he added.

He said their business pipeline across key segments remains healthy and they are growing with discipline.

"We continue to closely monitor asset quality, especially in the SME segment, and apply proactive credit risk management and prudent provisioning in line with both the current GDP environment and the more moderate growth outlook expected next year," he added.

As part of the group's transformation journey, he said, they have entered into a share purchase agreement to acquire Pheim Asset Management Sdn Bhd.

This acquisition will enable them to develop new funds with differentiated investment themes, complement their existing private banking and wealth business, said Wan Razly, adding that it also broadens their suite of asset management, portfolio management and advisory solutions for their clients.

He said this move supports their long-term vision and strategy to build a more comprehensive universal banking franchise.

JCorp's new catalyst arm signs pacts with HGC and Legan

KUALA LUMPUR: Johor Capital Group (JCG), a newly established entity under Johor Corporation (JCorp), a catalyst created to channel capital into high-impact, high-value opportunities that will build Johor's long-term economic resilience and competitiveness, yesterday signed two memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with HGC Global Communications Limited (HGC) and Legan Group (Legan), marking a major step forward in Malaysia's ambition to become a regional hub for digital connectivity, data infrastructure and AI innovation.

The MoU with HGC establishes a strategic partnership to develop an integrated digital infrastructure that encompasses submarine and terrestrial cable systems, cable landing stations, internet exchanges and data centre interconnect (DCI) businesses under the East-West Gateway (EWG) Project.

The East-West Gateway Project aims to strengthen Asia's digital corridor, improving network resilience and data traffic efficiency between major regional markets while anchoring Malaysia as a key connectivity hub within the global internet backbone.

Under this collaboration, JCG will serve as HGC's Malaysian infrastructure partner. It will facilitate terrestrial fibre connectivity and provide access to its assets, including land, buildings and critical physical infrastructure.

This will ultimately support the deployment of an alternative next-generation submarine and terrestrial network across the region.

JCG signed a separate MoU with Legan Group to establish a framework for collaboration in the ownership, development and operation of next-generation data centres and AI data centres in Malaysia, particularly in Johor, which is fast emerging as Southeast Asia's data and AI innovation corridor.

Through this partnership, JCG and Legan will focus on developing AI-ready facilities capable of supporting high-density computing requirements, while advancing Malaysia's commitment to sustainable and energy-efficient digital infrastructure.

Beyond infrastructure, Legan Group will power innovation across industries such as manufacturing, logistics, finance, and healthcare, delivering "secure & safe" Agentic AI for enterprise and governments.

By introducing multi-brand GPU platforms, agentic AI solutions, AI-HPC clusters, smart facility management and other advanced digital services, the collaboration will better serve customers in Malaysia and beyond, accelerating digital transformation and building long-term sustainable AI value chain not just for business, but for the region.

Council: CPO to rebound towards RM4,500 on festive demand, slower output

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's palm oil production surged by 203,000 tonnes (+11.0%) in October, reaching its highest monthly output in a decade, said Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC).

The Council said Sabah led the month-on-month increase with a gain of 72,000 tonnes (+19.5%), followed by Sarawak at 61,000 tonnes (+14.6%) and Peninsular Malaysia at 68,000 tonnes (+6.5%).

The strong production performance in October was supported by the late arrival of the monsoon, improved fertilisation application and favourable rainfall patterns throughout 2024, it added.

Exports in October were similarly robust and exceeded expectations, rising 265,000 tonnes (+18.6%) to 1.69 million tonnes. Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for most of the improvement, with exports to the region hitting a record 577,000 tonnes, representing 34% of Malaysia's total palm oil exports during the month.

Exports to China also climbed to a five-month high of 110,000 tonnes.

MPOC said Malaysia's palm oil stocks rose to 2.46 million tonnes in October, the highest level since April 2019, despite export growth outpacing production.

This means the rise in stocks was not driven by production or export dynamics, but rather by softer domestic consumption. In addition, it added, Malaysia imported 708,000 tonnes of palm oil from Indonesia between January and October 2025, a 266% increase from 193,000 tonnes in the same period last year.

Palm oil prices in the global market eased 4% in November as stocks continued to accumulate, while sunflower, soybean and rapeseed oil prices were largely unchanged, widening palm oil's discount to soft oils.

As of mid-November, palm oil traded at a US\$120 discount to sunflower oil, US\$48 and US\$34 below soybean oil and rapeseed oil.

MPOC said the temporary widening of palm oil's discount is expected to spur import demand, particularly in markets preparing for Ramadan.

In 2026, it said, Chinese New Year and Ramadan will fall in the same month of February, when production is typically at its seasonal low due to fewer harvesting days.

Historically, it added, Ramadhan begins about a month after Chinese New Year, providing a buffer for stock building.

"This overlap is likely to push domestic consumption higher than normal in January and February as households and businesses stock up in preparation for the festive season," said MPOC.

In 2025, it said, palm oil traded at premium or a narrow discount to soybean oil for most of the year, curbing India's palm oil imports. As a result, India's vegetable oil stocks have fallen to 1.7 million tonnes in October 2025, significant below the 2.4 million tonnes recorded a year earlier.

Pipeline stocks also remain sharply lower than port stocks, indicating limited incoming vegetable oil shipments. Indian importers are therefore expected to take advantage of the recent weakness in palm oil prices to replenish

domestic vegetable oil inventories.

Meanwhile, Indonesia's policy uncertainty continues to lend support to palm oil prices.

Market reports suggest the government may adjust export duties to secure sufficient domestic feedstock and the timing of Indonesia's shift to a higher biodiesel mandate – whether B45 or B50, remains a key swing factor that will influence exportable supplies in 2026.

"Palm oil prices are expected to find strong support at RM4,100 – RM4,200 in December and could trend higher toward RM4,500, driven by stable import demand ahead of Chinese New Year and Ramadan," said MPOC.

It said exceptionally strong production from July to October 2025 also implies a sharper-than-usual seasonal decline in output in December and into Q1 2026 as oil palm trees enter their biological resting phase.

MPOC said the onset of monsoon in mid-November is also expected to disrupt harvesting activities.

TOKYO: Shoppers could face higher prices for phones, laptops and other gadgets next year, manufacturers and analysts warn, as AI data centres hoover up memory chips used in consumer electronics.

The world's biggest technology companies are ploughing head-spinningly huge sums into building the hardware that powers artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT.

Their insatiable demand is snarling up a supply chain kept tight on purpose by chipmakers who are keen to avoid price drops that dent profits, experts say.

In 2026, supply chain pressure for memory chips "will be far greater than this year," Lu Weibing, president of Chinese electronics giant Xiaomi, said this week.

"Everyone will likely observe that retail prices for products will see a significant increase," he told an earnings call.

William Keating, head of semiconductor and tech consulting firm Ingenuity, expects the same.

"All companies that manufacture PCs, smartphones, servers etc will be impacted by the shortage," Keating told AFP.

Shoppers face higher prices for phones, laptops

➤ AI data centres hoover up memory chips used in consumer electronics

"End result: consumers will pay more."

In high demand are key chips known as DRAM and storage components called NAND, which are found in everyday gadgets but are also needed to help process the vast amounts of data crunched by generative AI.

That's driving up memory chip prices, which in turn is turbocharging revenue for the firms that produce them such as South Korea's Samsung and SK hynix, and Micron and SanDisk in the US.

"AI-related server demand keeps growing, and this demand significantly exceeds industry supply," Samsung Electronics executive vice-president Kim Jae-june said last month.

Samsung said on Sunday that it plans to build a new semiconductor plant in South Korea to meet the soaring demand, while SK hynix recently reported its best-ever quarterly performance, "driven by the full-scale rise in prices of DRAM and NAND".

Industry analysts TrendForce have

lowered their 2026 global production forecasts for smartphones and notebook laptops.

"The memory industry has begun a robust upward pricing cycle," which "forces downstream brands to hike retail prices," TrendForce said.

Cars may also be affected, although Keating noted that a smaller portion of their tech relies on memory chips.

Last week China's largest contract chipmaker SMIC said customers were hesitant to place orders owing to uncertainty over how many phones, cars, or other products the memory chip industry can supply.

The cause of the shortage is two-fold.

AI-driven demand is greater than anticipated, but memory chip

makers have also been "drastically cutting" spending on expanding capacity in recent years, Keating explained.

"Keep capacity tight, keep prices high is basically their mantra."

"They've done this deliberately to ensure that there's no repeat of the most recent memory price collapse, which cost the memory makers tens of billions in losses."

Price jumps for memory chips "are huge and the trend is continuing," said Stephen Wu, founder of the Carthage Capital investment fund.

"Consumers and enterprises should expect higher memory prices, longer lead times, and more take-or-pay contracts through at least early 2026," Wu said. - AFP



Pedestrians stand in front of an electronic quotation board displaying the foreign exchange rate of the US dollar against the yen in Tokyo yesterday. - AFP/PPIC

Japan 'concerned' by yen wobbles ahead of stimulus

TOKYO: Japan's government said yesterday it was worried about "one-sided" and "rapid" fluctuations of the yen, as speculation grows that Tokyo might intervene to prop up the beleaguered currency.

The yen has fallen to its lowest level against the dollar since January on concerns about a purported stimulus package worth at least ¥20 trillion (RM540 billion) that was expected on Friday.

"We are currently observing one-sided and rapid movements in the foreign exchange market, and we are concerned about it," top government spokesman Minoru Kihara told reporters.

"The government is closely watching excessive fluctuations and disorderly movements, including speculative movements in the foreign exchange market, with a high sense of vigilance," he said.

The exchange rate is slipping "with the kind of slow, ominous momentum that policymakers in Tokyo pretend to tolerate but absolutely do not welcome," said Stephen Innes at SPI Asset Management.

"We're less than a figure from the zip code where 'verbal vigilance' turns into the unmistakable thump of real intervention orders," he said.

After a string of poor election results, new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's government is putting together a massive supplementary budget to help Japanese households.

Her cabinet was expected to sign off on the stimulus - the third in three years - on Friday, local media said, putting its size at ¥21.3 trillion, including ¥2.7 trillion in tax cuts.

As well as weakening the yen, concerns that the stimulus will add to Japan's already colossal debt pile have also pushed yields on government bonds to record highs this week.

Reports also say that Takaichi - an acolyte of big-spending former premier Shinzo Abe - will push back the target date for achieving a primary budget surplus.

"If the government excessively expands the scale of economic measures... concerns about fiscal deterioration could lead to a rise in long-term interest rates (yields)," Takahide Kiuchi, executive economist of

Nomura Research Institute, said this week.

"Additionally, a decline in confidence in fiscal and monetary policy could result in a weaker yen, which would drive up prices," offsetting the effects of stimulus, he said.

Kihara said Takaichi's government "will strategically implement fiscal measures to build a strong economy and enhance economic growth rates."

"Through this path, we aim to reduce the government debt-to-GDP ratio to achieve fiscal sustainability, and ensure market confidence," Kihara said.

Meanwhile, a member of a key panel advising Takaichi said this week that the Bank of Japan is unlikely to raise its benchmark interest rate before March.

"The starting point is fiscal policy," Goushi Kataoka told Bloomberg News.

If the stimulus package is implemented effectively, domestic demand could expand as early as the first quarter of next year, and "depending on the situation, conditions could be in place for a rate hike as soon as March," said Kataoka. - AFP

Google opens AI engineering centre in Taiwan

TAIPEI: Alphabet's Google opened a new AI infrastructure hardware engineering centre in Taiwan yesterday - its biggest outside of the US - in what Taiwan's president said was a show of confidence in the island as a trustworthy technology partner.

The island is home to the world's largest contract chipmaker, TSMC, whose chips are widely used by companies like Nvidia that are driving the global artificial intelligence boom.

Taiwan has been keen to tout its strong tech ties with US companies amid tensions with China, which claims the democratically governed island as its own.

Taiwan's government has also repeatedly warned of the risks involved in using Chinese-developed AI systems like DeepSeek, while China's government has dismissed such concerns.

"This also allows the world to see that Taiwan is not only a vital part of the global technological supply chain, but also a key hub for building secure and trustworthy AI," Taiwan President Lai Ching-te said at the centre's opening ceremony.

Raymond Greene, the de facto US ambassador in Taipei, said the new Google engineering centre reflects the deep partnership between the United States and Taiwan.

"Building on this foundation of innovation, we are entering a new era of opportunity, a new golden age in US-Taiwan economic relations," he said.

The centre's work will focus on integrating chips - including Google's TPU AI processors - onto motherboards and attaching them to servers, said Greg Moore, Google Cloud's director of platforms development.

Google established its Taiwan infrastructure engineering team in 2020 and said the team has since tripled in size, with several hundred staff set to be employed at the new centre.

The tech giant also operates two other centres in Taiwan that develop consumer electronics hardware and has run a data centre on the island since 2013. It has also invested in multiple international subsea cables.

"This is not just an investment in an office, it's an investment in an ecosystem, a testament to Taiwan's place as an important centre for global AI innovation," said Aamer Mahmood, Google Cloud's vice-president of platforms infrastructure engineering. - Reuters



Nvidia reports 'off the charts' demand for AI chips

➤ CEO brushes off market talk of artificial intelligence bubble

SAN FRANCISCO: Nvidia shares climbed on Wednesday after it beat quarterly earnings expectations on fierce demand for its sophisticated chips that power artificial intelligence.

The solid results come amid increasing talk among Wall Street analysts of an AI bubble, with all eyes on how Nvidia, the industry's bellwether company, will weather the doubts.

"There's been a lot of talk about an AI bubble," Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang said on an earnings call.

"From our vantage point, we see something very different."

Huang reasoned that companies around the world are shifting from classical computing machines and software relying on CPUs to AI-infused systems needing graphics processing units (GPUs) that are Nvidia's specialty.

Add to that software programmes rapidly adapting to the AI age and a trend of AI "agents" capable of independently tending to computer work, according to Huang.

"Nvidia is chosen because our singular architecture enables all three transitions across every phase of AI," Huang said.

"Our customer financing is up to them. We see opportunity to grow for quite some time."

AI is already paying off for internet giants in

the form of improved recommendation engines and efficiencies, according to Huang.

"The internet has trillions of pieces of content," Jensen said.

"How could they possibly figure out what to put in front of you and your tiny screen, unless they have really sophisticated recommender systems to do so well – that has gone generative AI."

AI industry rivals have been pouring billions of dollars into Nvidia's prized GPUs to power the technology despite questions regarding how the investments will pay off.

Wedbush analyst Dan Ives referred to Nvidia earnings as a "pop the champagne" moment for the tech sector and a sign that worries of an AI bubble are overstated.

Nvidia reported profit of US\$31.9 billion on record-high quarterly revenue of US\$57 billion, sending shares up more than 5%.

It also took in some 60% more money in the quarter than it did during the same period the prior year, according to earnings figures.

"Blackwell sales are off the charts, and cloud GPUs are sold out," Huang said, referring to the latest model of its state-of-the-art hardware.

"The AI ecosystem is scaling fast – with more new foundation model makers, more AI startups, across more industries, and in more countries."

Revenue in the current quarter is expected to

be US\$65 billion, nearly US\$3 billion more than forecast by Wall Street analysts.

Most of the money brought in during the recently ended quarter came from Nvidia's unit devoted to GPUs for data centres.

Nvidia was valued at more than US\$4.5 trillion based on the number of outstanding shares.

In the period, Nvidia announced strategic partnerships with OpenAI to deploy at least 10 gigawatts of systems for next-generation AI infrastructure, while Anthropic will adopt one gigawatt of compute capacity using Nvidia's latest systems.

Nvidia is caught up in President Donald Trump's trade war with China, where Beijing has responded by expressing national security concerns about Nvidia chips and urging Chinese businesses to rely on local suppliers instead.

Sales of H-20 GPUs, which are designed for the Chinese market due to US restrictions on exports of AI chips to that country, tallied only US\$50 million in the quarter, according to chief financial officer Colette Kress.

"Sizable purchase orders never materialised in the quarter due to geopolitical issues and the increasingly competitive market in China," Kress said on an earnings call.

"To establish a sustainable leadership position in AI computing, America must win the support of every developer and be the platform of choice for every commercial business, including those in China." – AFP

Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Tesla CEO Elon Musk and Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang look at US President Donald Trump during the US-Saudi Investment Forum in Washington. – REUTERS/SPIC



Many Fed members inclined against December cut

WASHINGTON: Many US Federal Reserve officials were leaning against another rate cut in December, meeting minutes showed on Wednesday, a move sure to infuriate President Donald Trump as he pushes for lower rates.

The minutes come amid heightened uncertainty surrounding the economic outlook, with policymakers recognising risks to the jobs market and concerns that inflation could be more persistent than expected – even after the impact from Trump's tariffs fade.

"Many participants suggested that, under their economic outlooks, it would likely be appropriate to keep the target range unchanged for the rest of the year," said the minutes of the Oct 28-29 gathering.

At the meeting, Fed officials voted to make a second straight interest rate cut this year, bringing the benchmark lending rate to a range between 3.75% and 4%.

But Fed chairman Jerome Powell said shortly after unveiling the decision last month that a further reduction in December was "not a foregone conclusion".

Any decision to keep rates steady is likely to anger Trump, who said on Wednesday he would "love to fire" Powell and urged Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to "work on" the central bank chief.

According to the minutes released on Wednesday, "participants expressed strongly differing views about what policy decision

would most likely be appropriate" in December.

While "most participants" found that further rate cuts would likely be appropriate over time, several indicated they did not necessarily view another 25 basis point reduction as the best choice for the upcoming meeting.

Many officials agreed that the rate-setting committee should be "deliberate in its policy decisions," partially also because there is less availability of key economic data.

A record-long government shutdown from October to mid-November paused the release of government economic reports – including those on inflation – leaving policymakers and business in a fog as they gauge the state of the world's biggest economy. – AFP

G20 billionaires could end world poverty with one year's earnings, says Oxfam

JOHANNESBURG: Billionaires in the world's leading economies made US\$2.2 trillion last year, which would have been enough to lift all the world's poor out of poverty, global campaign group Oxfam said yesterday.

The British-based charity urged this weekend's summit of the powerful G20 group of major economies to back initiatives by the host, South Africa, to address massive global wealth inequality and the debt undermining developing countries.

Billionaires in the 19 countries that are part of the grouping made US\$2.2 trillion last year as their combined wealth grew to US\$15.6 trillion dollars, it said, basing its figures on the *Forbes* list.

"The annual cost to lift up the 3.8 billion people who currently live below the poverty line is US\$1.65 trillion," it said in a statement.

Oxfam backed a recommendation that South Africa will present to the Nov 22-23 summit for the establishment of an international panel to tackle inequality in the same way the UN's IPCC works on the threat from global warming.

"If the South African G20 establishes a new International Panel on Inequality it will be a tremendous step in addressing the inequality emergency," executive director Amitabh Behar said in the statement.

Oxfam also called for the world's wealthy to be "fairly taxed in order to help end poverty and fight the climate breakdown."

Calling for action on debt, it said, 3.4 billion people live in countries that spend more on interest repayments than on education or health.

The G20 includes 19 countries as well as the European Union and African Union, which together represent 85% of global GDP and two-thirds of the world population. – AFP

Warner Music enters into licensing deal with AI music startup

WASHINGTON: Warner Music Group and AI startup Udio announced on Wednesday they have settled a US copyright lawsuit and struck a deal to cooperate on a licensed artificial intelligence music creation service.

The landmark agreement resolves litigation between the major label and Udio, while establishing what the companies described as a "clear framework" for developing AI-powered music tools that compensate artists and songwriters.

The settlement comes as the music industry grapples with the rapid rise of generative AI tools that can create songs mimicking artists' voices and styles, raising thorny questions about copyright, compensation and creative control.

The agreement follows a first-of-its-kind deal struck between Universal Music Group and Udio last month to work together on the new service, which will launch in 2026.

Udio – backed by investors including Andreessen Horowitz and will.i.am – and other AI companies like OpenAI have been accused by major record companies of using their songs to "train" artificial intelligence models which can produce music that apes human artists.

The service uses artificial intelligence to generate complete songs from text descriptions provided by users.

Udio will build a platform allowing users to create remixes, covers and new songs using the voices and compositions of participating artists, who will be credited and paid for their work. – AFP

MARKET ROUND-UP: NOV 20

20-Nov-2025

Bursa Malaysia

Trade Statistics

	Net (in RM million)	Participation
Retail	-39.02	15.56%
Institutions	+50.16	39.54%
Foreign	-11.14	44.90%

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

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

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

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Bursa Indices

INDEX	CHANGE
FBMEMAS	12,031.00 +5.71
FBMKLCI	1,619.96 -3.93
CONSUMER PRODUCTS	536.62 +2.16
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS	166.40 +1.07
CONSTRUCTION	318.12 +1.63
FINANCIAL SERVICES	18,423.30 -20.68
ENERGY	757.29 -1.40
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	487.30 -2.29
HEALTH CARE	1,554.72 +16.25
TRANSPORTATION	1,012.13 -5.83
PROPERTY	1,033.16 +8.47
PLANTATION	8,226.20 +0.67
FBMSHA	12,024.60 +10.33
FBMACE	4,973.56 +50.81
TECHNOLOGY	60.43 +1.25

TURNOVER: 4.708 bil **VALUE: RM2.941 bil**

Bursa ends lower, dragged down by profit-taking

BURSA Malaysia's benchmark index reversed Wednesday's gains to close lower yesterday, weighed down by profit-taking, as selling in selected heavyweights intensified during the last two hours of trading, as investors turned cautious despite mostly higher performances across regional markets.

At 5pm, the FBM KLCI slipped 3.93 points, or 0.24%, to 1,619.96 from Wednesday's close of 1,623.89.

The benchmark index opened 4.55 points firmer at 1,628.44 and fluctuated between 1,619.26 and 1,629.69 throughout the trading session.

Gainers thumped decliners 692 to 452, while 547 counters were unchanged, 1,095 untraded and 10 suspended.

Rakuten Trade Sdn Bhd vice-president of equity research Thong Pak Leng said investors are awaiting the release of the delayed US September jobs report, which was pushed back due to the government shutdown.

Back home, the benchmark index reversed earlier gains as buying interests have shifted to mid and small cap stocks.

Among heavyweights, Maybank lost three sen to RM9.90, CIMB and Tenaga Nasional fell four sen to RM7.53 and RM13.14, respectively, IHH Healthcare sank 12 sen to RM8.13, while Public Bank rose two sen to RM4.30.

On the most active list, V.S. Industry and Perak Transit eased half-a-sen to 44 sen and 28 sen, respectively, Aquawalk slid 2.5 sen to 35.5 sen, while Zetrix AI increased one sen to 85.5 sen, and Tanco was two sen firmer at RM1.03.

Among the top gainers, Nestle climbed RM1 to RM113.30, BLD Plantation gained 52 sen to RM13.30, and Petronas Dagangan rose 36 sen to RM21.48. - Bernama

Top 20 Actives

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-PWLG	0.230	-0.005	-2.13	3,389,341
HSI-PWLO	0.145	-0.005	-3.33	3,123,785
HSI-CWKR	0.135	-	-	2,922,646
HSI-CWKI	0.140	-	-	2,820,542
HSI-CWK7	0.075	-0.010	-11.77	2,386,281
HSI-PWL4	0.170	-0.005	-2.86	2,234,666
HSI-CWIQ	0.170	-0.010	-5.56	850,001
VS	0.440	-0.005	-1.12	747,469
AQUAWALK	0.355	-0.025	-6.58	682,595
HSI-CWKO	0.290	-	-	648,324
ZETRIX	0.855	+0.010	+1.18	619,908
HSI-PWNP	0.690	-0.005	-0.72	608,065
TANCO	1.030	+0.020	+1.98	598,251
PTRANS	0.280	-0.005	-1.75	570,868
ALIBABA-C49	0.130	-0.010	-7.14	479,250
NEXG	0.375	+0.040	+11.94	441,133
TENCENT-C48	0.145	+0.005	+3.57	433,538
MMAG	0.080	-	-	432,669
CAPITALA-WA	0.190	-0.100	-34.48	400,255
HSTECH-H41	0.540	+0.015	+2.86	394,000



Top 20 Gainers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
NESTLE	113.300	+1.000	967
BLDPLNT	13.300	+0.520	1,064
PETDAG	21.480	+0.360	2,773
CHINTEK	10.860	+0.300	231
UTDPLT	28.300	+0.300	7,817
MPI	30.700	+0.280	2,810
KGB-WB	4.020	+0.270	2,204
KGB	5.420	+0.260	46,264
NIKKEI-CR	1.000	+0.230	41
99SMART-C3	0.380	+0.205	20
FPI	1.570	+0.170	11,121
MCEMENT	6.450	+0.170	14,779
UNISEM	3.340	+0.160	9,763
BKAWAN	19.260	+0.140	2
PENTA	3.910	+0.140	13,407
APM	3.150	+0.130	250
VSTECs	4.150	+0.130	4,582
SCGBHD	2.160	+0.120	103,577
SPRITZER	2.850	+0.120	10,836
NSOP	5.910	+0.110	262

Top 20 Gainers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
OCK-WB	0.015	+200.00	28,394
99SMART-C3	0.380	+117.14	20
ARTRONIQ-WA	0.010	+100.00	19,115
NEXGBINA-WC	0.020	+100.00	7,232
JPG-CN	0.120	+100.00	59,047
NEXG-C74	0.020	+100.00	692
PARLO-WA	0.010	+100.00	18,332
SIMEPROP-C48	0.010	+100.00	1,881
KGB-C2	0.035	+75.00	3,300
NEXG-C76	0.035	+75.00	120
MCOM	0.050	+66.67	160
NEXG-C82	0.040	+60.00	710
TANCO-CD	0.125	+56.25	550
DNEX-C40	0.030	+50.00	31,580
IJM-C1J	0.015	+50.00	5,000
NATGATE-CY	0.015	+50.00	1,510
SNS-CE	0.030	+50.00	10
XDL	0.015	+50.00	402
KGB-CV	0.110	+46.67	760
UNISEM-C42	0.070	+40.00	2,500

World Stocks/Commodities

INDEX	CLOSING	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY CHANGE (%)
DJIA [US]	46,138.77	47.03	0.1
S&P 500 [US]	6,642.16	24.84	0.38
NASDAQ [US]	22,564.23	131.38	0.59
NYSE [US]	21,168.28	-4.31	-0.02
EURO STOXX 50 [EUR]	5,607.42	65.37	1.18
FTSE 100 [UK]	9,580.10	72.69	0.77
DAX [GER]	23,427.76	264.84	1.14
NIKKEI 225 [JPN]	49,823.94	1,286.24	2.65
TOPIX INDEX [JPN]	3,299.57	53.99	1.66
HANG SENG INDEX [HK]	25,835.57	4.92	0.02
CSI 300 [CHN]	4,564.95	-23.34	-0.51
MSCI ASIA PACIFIC	219.3	-1.16	-0.53
SHANGHAI SE COM [CHN]	3,931.05	-15.69	-0.4
KOSPI INDEX [SK]	4,004.85	75.34	1.92
SENSEX INDEX [IND]	85,689.97	503.5	0.59
ASX 200 [AUS]	8,552.71	104.85	1.24
ALL ORDINARIES INDX [AUS]	8,834.02	112.64	1.29
FBM KLCI	1,619.96	-3.93	-0.24
STRAITS TIMES INDEX [S'PORE]	4,511.47	6.25	0.14
WTI [US\$/BBL.]	59.84	0.4	0.67
BRENT [US\$/BBL.]	63.91	0.4	0.6
GOLD [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	4,065.00	-17.8	-0.44
SILVER [COMEX] [US\$/T OZ]	51.29	-0.21	-0.41
PLATINUM [US\$/T OZ]	1,557.56	10.16	0.7
COPPER [COMEX] [US CENTS/LB.]	509.3	-0.4	-0.08
COPPER 3MO [LME] [US\$/MT]	10,752.50	33	0.31
CORN [US CENTS/BU.]	442.25	0.75	0.17
WHEAT [US CENTS/BU.]	552.5	3	0.55
SOYBEAN OIL [CBOT] [US CENTS/LB.]	51.35	-0.07	-0.14
COCOA [ICE] [US\$/MT]	5,104.00	-324	-5.97
RUBBER [S'PORE] [US CENTS/KG]	171.8	-1.1	-0.64

As at 6pm, Nov 20.

Top 20 Losers (By RM)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (RM)	VOLUME ('00)
PPB	11.140	-0.460	9,218
KLK	20.600	-0.200	11,861
SUNCON	5.730	-0.130	65,135
IHH	8.130	-0.120	82,532
AMBANK	5.730	-0.100	69,098
CAPITALA-WA	0.190	-0.100	400,255
CATL-C1	0.270	-0.100	1,650
MSNIAGA	1.200	-0.100	328
BAIDU-C4	0.160	-0.095	366,588
LYSAGHT	2.500	-0.090	6
SUPERMX-C5H	0.060	-0.090	200
TENAGA-C3N	0.060	-0.090	20
NIKKEI-HT	0.545	-0.085	4,549
CATL-C4	0.075	-0.070	4,000
MAXIS	4.130	-0.070	17,690
HSI-CWKL	0.025	-0.065	1,000
ALLIANZ-PA	18.440	-0.060	15
BURSA	8.170	-0.060	9,696
CARLSBG	17.180	-0.060	826
DIALOG	1.840	-0.060	142,092

Top 20 Losers (By %)

STOCKS	CLOSING (RM)	+/- (%)	VOLUME ('00)
HSI-CWKL	0.025	-72.22	1,000
RHBBANKC63	0.005	-66.67	1,000
SUPERMX-C5H	0.060	-60.00	200
TENAGA-C3N	0.060	-60.00	20
BORNOIL	0.005	-50.00	43,942
GENTINGC3M	0.005	-50.00	500
HARTA-C2U	0.005	-50.00	200
PICHEM-C10	0.015	-50.00	117
SCBUILD	0.005	-50.00	850
CATL-C4	0.075	-48.28	4,000
AEON-C44	0.015	-40.00	295
BAIDU-C4	0.160	-37.26	366,588
CAPITALA-WA	0.190	-34.48	400,255
BAT-C37	0.010	-33.33	5,103
GCB-C30	0.020	-33.33	14,000
SG	0.010	-33.33	35,630
SP500-H57	0.020	-33.33	786
HSTECH-C44	0.025	-28.57	1,390
KOSSAN-C88	0.040	-27.27	4,000
CATL-C1	0.270	-27.03	1,650

MARKETS/FROM THE BROKERS

SUNBIZ presents extracts of a selection of commentaries and research reports received from stockbrokers on counters that could be of interest to investors.

Compiled by SunBiz Team

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Wawasan Dengkil kicks off 70MW renewable energy JV

DENGKIL: Earthworks and civil engineering construction services provider Wawasan Dengkil Holdings Bhd announced that its wholly owned subsidiary Wawasan Dengkil Sdn Bhd (WDSB) has entered into a shareholders agreement with Nestcon Infra Sdn Bhd and WD Solar Kedah Sdn Bhd (JV Co) to co-invest and develop a 70 megawatt (MW) large scale solar photovoltaic (PV) plant and ancillary equipment and facilities under the LSS Petra 5+ programme located at Mukim Ayer Puteh, Kedah (Project LSS5+) (proposed joint venture).

To facilitate the proposed joint venture, JV Co was incorporated to develop, finance, construct, operate and maintain Project LSS5+, with a shareholding structure of WDSB at 70% and Nestcon at 30%.

The project will be undertaken under a 21-year solar power purchase agreement with Tenaga Nasional Bhd, enabling the long term sale of renewable electricity and providing the group with a recurring revenue stream.

In conjunction with this, Wawasan Dengkil proposes to diversify the existing principal activities of the group and its subsidiaries to include investment in renewable energy and related activities (proposed diversification).

Executive Director Lim Soon Yik said the proposed diversification allows them to evolve from a construction-focused contractor into a renewable energy asset investor and operator.

Barring any unforeseen circumstances and subject to all requisite approvals being obtained, the proposed joint venture is expected to be implemented by the fourth quarter of 2025. The proposed diversification will take immediate effect upon obtaining shareholders' approval of Wawasan Dengkil at the EGM to be convened.

Ringgit ends lower as US rate-cut hopes fade

THE ringgit ended lower against the US dollar yesterday as expectations for a US interest rate cut have been significantly reduced, signalling the markets remain unconvinced of another rate cut in the December meeting.

At 6pm, the ringgit eased to 4.1565/1645 versus the greenback from Wednesday's close of 4.1480/1530.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd's chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said that coupled with scanty data points, the degree of policy uncertainties has become elevated and this would support the value of US dollar in the near term.

"The US Dollar Index (DXY) is hovering slightly above 100 points as the flow of economic data points post-reopening of the US government has not been forthcoming.

"In addition, the Federal Reserve officials are not keen to cut interest rates," he told Bernama.

At the close, the ringgit traded higher against a basket of major currencies.

It appreciated versus the yen to 2.6446/6498 from 2.6598/6632 at Wednesday's close, strengthened against the euro to 4.7916/8008 from 4.8013/8071 on Wednesday, and went up vis-a-vis the British pound to 5.4367/4472 from 5.4451/4516 previously.

The ringgit traded mixed against Asean currencies.

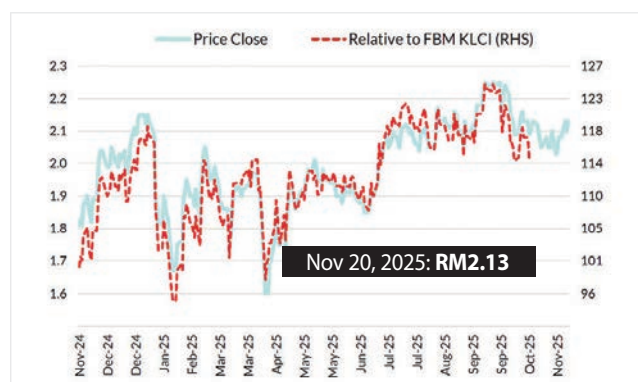
It inched up versus the Singapore dollar to 3.1809/1873 from 3.1810/1851 on Wednesday, but edged down against the Thai baht to 12.8093/8395 from 12.7977/8191 at Wednesday's close, depreciated vis-a-vis the Indonesian rupiah to 248.3/248.9 from 248.2/248.6, and was flat against the Philippine peso at 7.04/7.05.

Exchange Rates			
FOREIGN CURRENCY	SELLING TT/OD	BUYING TT	BUYING OD
1 US Dollar	4.2305	4.0845	4.0745
1 Australian Dollar	2.7530	2.6410	2.6250
1 Brunei Dollar	3.2320	3.1300	3.1220
1 Canadian Dollar	3.0040	2.9200	2.9080
1 Euro	4.8730	4.7160	4.6960
1 New Zealand Dollar	2.3780	2.2900	2.2740
1 Singapore Dollar	3.2320	3.1300	3.1220
1 Sterling Pound	5.5180	5.3400	5.3200
1 Swiss Franc	5.2740	5.0480	5.0330
100 UAE Dirham	116.2800	110.2300	110.0300
100 Bangladesh Taka	3.5230	3.2800	3.0800
100 Chinese Renminbi	59.7500	57.2200	N/A
100 Danish Krone	66.8900	61.5400	61.3400
100 Hongkong Dollar	54.7700	52.0400	51.8400
100 Indian Rupee	4.8500	4.5500	4.3500
100 Indonesian Rupiah	0.0262	0.0237	0.0187
100 Japanese Yen	2.7100	2.5850	2.5750
100 New Taiwan Dollar	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 Norwegian Krone	42.5700	39.1500	38.9500
100 Pakistan Rupee	1.5300	1.4200	1.2200
100 Philippine Peso	7.2700	6.8400	6.6400
100 Qatar Riyal	117.0700	111.1300	110.9300
100 Saudi Riyal	113.7800	108.0100	107.8100
100 South Africa Rand	25.4500	22.9900	22.7900
100 Sri Lanka Rupee	1.4100	1.2900	1.0900
100 Swedish Krona	45.6000	41.5200	41.3200
100 Thai Baht	13.5900	12.0400	11.6400

Source: Malayan Banking Bhd/Bernama

Eco World Development Group Bhd

Buy. Target price: RM3.00



Source: Bloomberg

PERMODALAN Darul Ta'zim (PDT), SD Guthrie and ECW have entered into a strategic partnership to develop 935 acres of land in Kulai into Eco Business Park 8. Concurrently, ECW also entered into a conditional sale and purchase agreement (SPA) with SDG as the vendor to acquire these 935 acres of freehold land for a total cash consideration of RM814.8 million. Under the agreement, ECW, SDG and PDT will hold stakes of 65%, 25% and 10% in the JV.

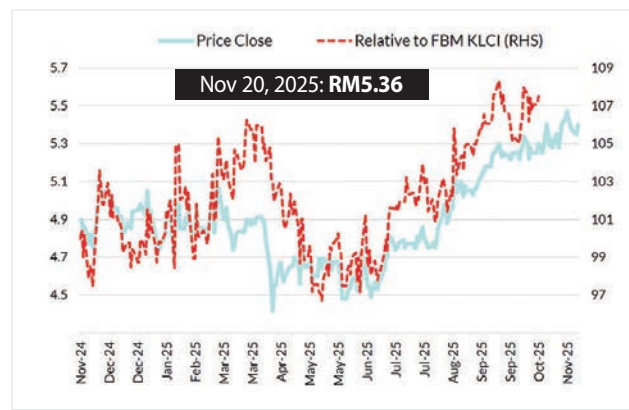
The purchase consideration translates into a land cost of RM20/sqf. Although this is higher than the price that ECW paid for the Quantum Edge industrial park land (at RM12/sqf in 2023), land prices in Johor – especially for industrial plots – have escalated over the past few years, due to strong demand driven by foreign and local direct investments in Iskandar Malaysia. We are not overly concerned with the payment terms, i.e. 15% upon signing of the SPA, and the remainder within three months from the unconditional date of the SPA. This is because ECW completed the sale of 138 acres of land worth RM694 million at Eco Business Park I in Iskandar Malaysia to Microsoft Payments (M) on Nov 18.

We are positive on ECW's continuous efforts in landbanking, especially in the Iskandar Malaysia region. The burgeoning demand in that area is driven by better cross-border connectivity, as well as incentives under the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone. The land is strategically located near Senai International Airport and connected to the North-South Expressway, just 1.4km away from ECW's Quantum Edge industrial park.

BUY with RM3.00 TP – RHB Research, Nov 20

SD Guthrie Bhd

Buy. Target price: RM6.95



Source: Bloomberg

SD Guthrie Land Ventures (SDGLV) has entered into a subscription and shareholders' agreement (SSA) with Permodalan Darul Ta'zim (PDT) and EcoWorld to subscribe shares in Eco Business Park 8 (EBP8), a SPV for the development of SDG's land in Kulai, Johor into an industrial park. SDG will have a 25% stake in the SPV, while PDT and ECW will hold 10% and 65%. EBP8's share capital will increase to RM10 million, of which shareholders will subscribe for the shares according to their portions. SDG will fund its obligation using internal funds.

To be developed over 10 years, with a preliminary GDV of RM3.75 billion, the park will feature a mix of industrial lots, ready-built factories and commercial properties that cater for high-growth sectors like E&E, clean technology and logistics. Strategically located near the Senai International Airport, major highways and seaports – it provides excellent connectivity and logistical advantages that support business growth. We note that the land is currently held under 12 titles and planted with oil palms. The land is also located within Flagship F of the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JSSEZ), and EBP8 is currently in the initial stages of development planning.

EBP8 will acquire around 941 acres of land from SDG for a sale consideration of RM814.8 million, translating to an ASP of RM20/sqf. We are positive on the selling price, as previous land transactions in Kulai have been made at around RM12-15/sqf.

BUY with RM6.95 TP. – RHB Research, Nov 20

Solarvest Holdings Bhd

Buy. Target price: RM3.49



Source: Bloomberg

1H'26 revenue of RM307.2 million translated into a core PATAMI of RM37.4 million, tracking at 48.2% and 49.4% of our and consensus full-year estimates. Q2'26 revenue rose 63.1% YoY or 23% QoQ to RM169.5 million, underpinned by progress billings for utility-scale CGPP projects and stronger solar electricity sales from Large Scale Solar (LSS) 4 plants. This delivered core PATAMI of RM20.3 million (+120.2% YoY, +18.1% QoQ). The net margin remains healthy at ~12%, supported by higher-margin contributions from projects that are nearing completion.

Solarvest's outstanding orderbook expanded 12.3% QoQ to RM1.33 billion as at 1H'26, comprising 83% utility-scale contracts (CGPP and LSS5) and 17% commercial, industrial, and residential jobs. The group aims to further enlarge its orderbook by securing additional packages under LSS5 and LSS5+. Its cumulative 130MWp capacity under the Powervest programme provides recurring revenue and/or developer profit upside.

Government initiatives including the Battery Energy Storage System Programme (MyBeST) and the Self-Consumption Scheme (SELCO) offer new growth avenues for Solarvest's project pipeline. Notably, the group recently formed a partnership with Brookfield targeting the development of 1,500MWp of renewable energy (RE) projects under these schemes and the Corporate Renewable Energy Supply Scheme (CRESS) over the next 3-5 years.

A key risk to monitor is potential margin compression, should the existing contracts not be exempted from the recently expanded Sales & Service Tax scope. Vigilant cost management will be critical to mitigate this risk.

BUY with RM3.49 TP. – RHB Research, Nov 20

HAWT HOTELS



1 Hotel Copenhagen
Country: Denmark

Across its 252 rooms and 30 suites, 1 Hotel Copenhagen invites guests to unwind in serene spaces defined by organic textures, natural light and locally inspired details. Rooms feature

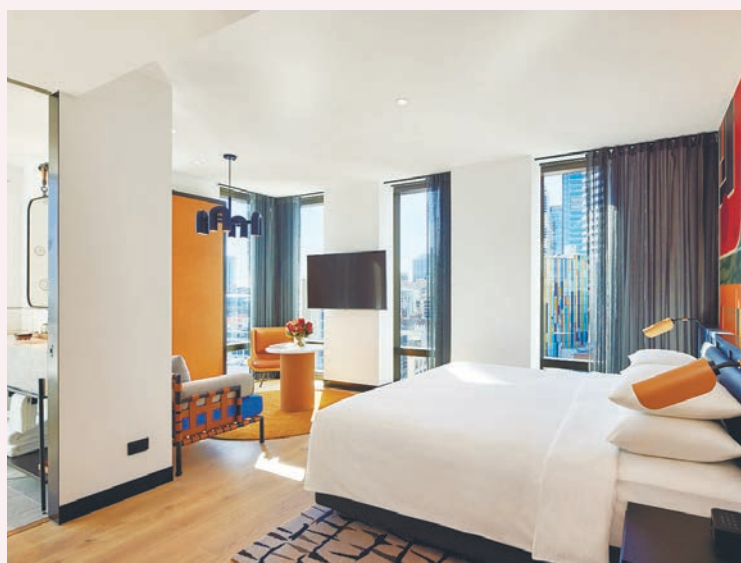
warm, tactile finishes such as reclaimed wood, woven textiles, sustainably sourced bedding and mineral-based paints. Bathrooms continue the nature-led aesthetic with stone basins, rainfall showers and leafy accents that evoke a forest retreat.

— PIC BY MIKKEL VANG



JW Marriott Cam Ranh Bay Resort & Spa
Country: Vietnam

The resort features 203 elegantly designed guest rooms and private villas, each thoughtfully curated to inspire restoration and a deep sense of connection. Interiors reflect the coastal beauty of Cam Ranh with organic tones, natural materials and refined wooden accents, including lattice partitions that echo traditional Vietnamese design. Wellness seekers can enjoy The Spa by JW, featuring eight treatment rooms and a revitalising vitality pool.



Caption by Hyatt Central Sydney
Country: Australia

Located in the heart of Haymarket, the 174-room hotel blends community-first hospitality, tech-enabled convenience and locally inspired design, creating a dynamic space for travellers and locals to connect. Each room features distinctive wall art by Sydney artist Chris Yee and illustrations by Melbourne-based creative Samy Baby, adding a unique local touch. Offering cultural immersion, nearby landmarks include the Capitol Theatre and Sydney's Chinatown.



Caption By Hyatt Kabutocho Tokyo
Country: Japan

Steps away from Kayabacho and Nihonbashi subway stations, the 195-room hotel places guests within easy reach of Tokyo Station, Marunouchi and Ginza, with convenient

connections to Haneda and Narita airports. Vibrant design motifs in its rooms nod to local streetscapes and the distinctive hand signals once used on the trading floor of the Tokyo Stock Exchange, offering guests a visual journey into the neighbourhood's rich history as the first financial hub.



Club Med South Africa Beach & Safari
Country: South Africa

Scheduled to open in July 2026, it will feature 411 accommodations, including Superior and Deluxe rooms as well as an Exclusive Collection Ilanga section with 66 suites. For the first time in Club Med's history, a resort experience will be paired with an exclusive private safari adventure. Located within an 18,000ha game reserve, Mpilo Safari Lodge will be reserved for Club Med guests, offering premium tented accommodation with panoramic views and a full range of amenities.

Malaysians lose up to RM350 per trip despite spending days hunting for deals

MALAYSIANS are losing between RM200 and RM350 per overseas trip to exchange rate markups they never see, even as they spend up to two days hunting for the best travel deals.

New research by international money app Wise revealed that while 31% of Malaysian travellers claim to save over RM500 by chasing promotional deals, only 41% prioritise checking exchange rates when booking.

The result? That RM2,500 weekend in Singapore quietly costs RM180–RM250 more. A RM5,000 Bangkok getaway becomes

RM350–RM450 pricier. Even a RM15 latte in Melbourne creeps up to RM16.50.

The culprit: hidden exchange rate markups. Many providers mark up the exchange rate 3–6% above the real mid-market rate and pocket the difference – without clear disclosure on receipts or booking confirmations.

“We’ve created a culture where ‘good deal’ means the flashiest promo code or the cheapest headline price, but Malaysians are leaving money on the table by not looking at the rate. When the exchange rate is 3–6% worse than the mid market rate, a RM3,000

‘budget’ trip can quietly become RM3,300. Our message is simple: look at the rate, not just the price, so every ringgit goes further abroad,” said Wise Malaysia country manager Yen Ting Chiam.

Unlike traditional providers, Wise uses the mid-market exchange rate with no hidden markups. With the Wise account and card, Malaysians can hold, convert and spend over 40 currencies transparently. Travellers can also lock in preferred rates with auto conversion and get two free ATM withdrawals a month worldwide, avoiding overpriced airport money changers.



Wise uses the mid-market exchange rate with no hidden markups.



MrBeast opens park in Saudi Arabia

▶ YouTube superstar launches attraction featuring obstacle course-like challenges

MRBEAST, the world's most followed YouTuber with over 450 million subscribers, opened a temporary amusement park in Riyadh last week, the latest celebrity drawn to Saudi Arabia as it aspires to become a major entertainment hub.

Eager for a chance to meet the social

media star, families and teenagers gathered at "Beast Land", a venue featuring obstacle course-like challenges similar to those in his popular videos where contestants compete for massive pay days.

Hani Abu al-Naja said he travelled all the way from the city of Khobar, around 400km east of Riyadh, with his four children and four nephews for the opening.

"It was a surprise for them," the 42-year-old Palestinian said, beaming with joy. MrBeast's park

will be open until Dec 27 as part of Riyadh Season, a major annual festival launched to promote the capital city as a tourist hub, as Saudi Arabia seeks to attract high-profile celebrities to diversify its oil-reliant economy.

"The majority of our audience is outside of North America and we have a large concentration of people who watch our videos in the Middle East.

"A lot of times when we do stuff, we do it in the West or in other places and I just really wanted to do something fun for our fans who live around here," he said in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

After a dramatic countdown on giant screens, MrBeast appeared on stage surrounded by flames, lasers,

confetti and a swarm of shining drones to intense applause.

He opened briefcases and huge chests with bundles of cash. Every day, the visitor with the highest score will win 7,000 riyals (RM7,760), and in 45 days, the participant with the best overall score will receive one million riyals.

'Craziest thing'

The influencer had earlier posted a video from the gates of the new park in Riyadh, shaped like a blue tiger's head with flashing lightning bolts for eyes, reminiscent of his logo, with neon lights beaming on the attractions.

"This thing is the craziest thing that I've ever done, I can't wait for you guys to experience this," he said in the clip.

With more followers across his social media platforms than there are people in the US, the 27-year-old influencer - whose real name is Jimmy Donaldson - has built a digital empire over the years thanks to his prodigious output of content often featuring contests and challenges.

The kingdom, where 75% of Saudis are under 35 years of age, is the perfect playground for influencers such as MrBeast, whose content is mostly watched by children and young people.

Smartphone market penetration in the kingdom stands at over 98%, while internet penetration stands at nearly 98%, both well above the global average, according to PwC.

Saudis rank "among the most avid media consumers in the world",



The world's most followed YouTuber, MrBeast has over 450 million subscribers.



Fans of Donaldson, commonly known by MrBeast, visit the 'Beast Land' temporary amusement park in Riyadh's Boulevard City entertainment complex. - ALL PICS BY AFP

according to the consultancy.

Human rights groups accuse the kingdom of inviting international stars and "art-washing" to obscure its poor human rights record, including a high rate of executions.

In 2023, *Time* magazine named MrBeast one of the world's most influential people.

That same year, *Forbes* put his net worth at around half a billion dollars.

Saudi Arabia has been building multiple leisure and entertainment attractions, including Qiddiya near Riyadh, billed as an "entertainment city" of theme parks and a motorsports racetrack. - AFP

Rebooted Harlem museum celebrates rise of Black art

AFTER the Studio Museum reopened recently in its gleaming new building, New York's premier institution for Black art finds itself looking back and looking forward at the same time.

Colourful signs featuring permanent works have sprouted near the museum's home in Harlem, a centre point in Black life and imagination in America for more than a century.

The museum, closed for the more than seven-year project, has commissioned new works to commemorate the reboot, which features expanded studios for the institution's artists-in-residence programme.

But the 57-year-old museum is also hearkening back to its roots with a retrospective of the late Tom Lloyd, whose electronically programmed wall sculptures anticipated today's digital age.

Some of the same pieces were hung in the museum's inaugural 1968 show back when works by artists of African descent were mostly absent from New York's leading museums.

Today's art scene is very different. Rashid Johnson, Amy Serald and others are regularly showcased in shows at the Guggenheim, Whitney and other nameplate New York museums, which have also hosted retrospectives belatedly recognising Black movements.

"In the time of the museum's life, we have seen this incredible trajectory

and some of that is a result of the work that the museum did in its establishment and its early years," said Studio Museum director Thelma Golden, who oversaw a more than US\$300 million (RM1.2 billion) drive to finance a teardown and newbuild project that cements the museum's ties to Harlem.

"The aperture opens, but even with that, we still believe deeply in the work that continues to need to be done."

'Truly current work'

The museum's history is laid out in photos of the 1968 groundbreaking, and there are posters of jazz nights, "Uptown Friday" gatherings, high school programmes and of shows such as a retrospective of James Van Der Zee, a famed photographer during the Harlem Renaissance.

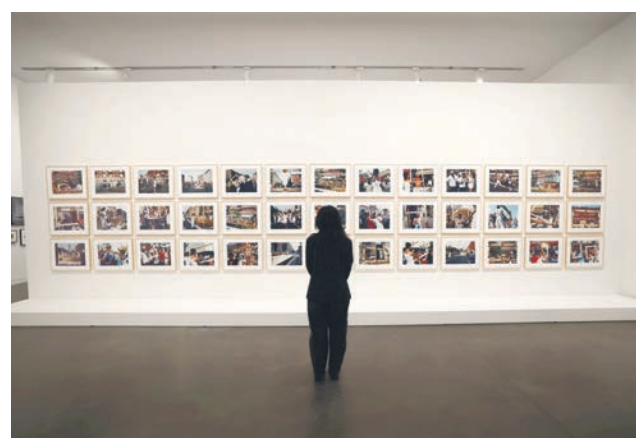
The founders' ambitions included creating a place distinct from New York establishments such as the Museum of Modern Art.

The Studio Museum will present "truly current work", founders wrote in 1966. The work "could turn out to be a flash in the pan or could conceivably begin an entire new school or new direction in art."

Backers also sought to redefine Harlem, "which is all too often equated with slums, violence and other evils", and to deepen the commitment of supporters - some white - to "make New York City a united city rather than



A person looks at a piece by US artist Howardena Pindell entitled *Autobiography: Scapegoat*.



A visitor attends the press preview for the Studio Museum in Harlem in New York.

one which is currently divided by an invisible Berlin wall".

Key turning points included 1981,

when the Studio Museum broke ground at its current address at 144 West 125th Street.

Another shift came after Golden joined in 2000, when the mission statement was expanded beyond US-born creators to artists of African descent "locally, nationally and internationally".

Signature works

That broadened scope is boldly expressed on the building's exterior with a red, black and green flag by David Hammons inspired by the Pan-African flag of the 1920s associated with activist Marcus Garvey.

Another signature work is Houston Conwill's *The Joyful Mysteries*, containing statements by seven prominent Black Americans written for future generations. The time capsules will be opened in September 2034, 50 years after their creation.

The new edifice itself nods to Harlem's architectural vernacular, with a mass of geometries in gray concrete and glass. The building has received rapturous reviews.

Golden described the site as aiming to "redefine what a museum can be in its space and content".

She credited her predecessors, not all of whom lived to see Black art achieve mainstream acceptance.

"I am well aware that they did not get to see the fruits of the labour. The inheritance I have from them is that they believed so deeply that that belief carries from 1968 to this moment," Golden said. - AFP

Rediscovering Southeast Asia with fresh eyes

➤ Exploring Bali, Bangkok, Singapore, Phu Quoc

THE chime of temple bells at dawn in Bali. The sizzle of woks down Bangkok's neon alleys. The kaleidoscope of spices in Singapore's cultural enclaves. For many travellers, South East Asia is well-worn and familiar territory. But it is also an opportunity to revisit destinations with fresh perspective.

Hilton's 2025 Trends Report revealed the draw of nostalgia: 58% of global travellers say they revisit childhood destinations to relive cherished memories, while more than 70% seek authentic cultural immersion to forge deeper connections with a place.

Nowhere lends itself more beautifully to rediscovery than South East Asia. Four familiar destinations invite travellers to see them through a new lens.

Forge deeper connection with Bali

Bali's Uluwatu Temple is famous for its sunset views and traditional *kecak* dance, where most visitors arrive at dusk with their cameras raised. To experience it differently, slip in earlier for a hushed wander through the temple grounds or linger after the crowds leave, when twilight washes the cliffs in a quiet calm. A guided tour with a local guide can unlock the temple's spiritual layers and the deeper meaning behind the *kecak* dance, transforming a photo-op into a richer memory.

Or venture out to Waterblow Nusa Dua, where the sea surges spectacularly through a



Visitors to Singapore can take a private tour of The Intan, a cultural gem in the form of a heritage home museum.



Embark on a tour to get a glimpse into the rich tapestry of daily Balinese life.

rocky gap, offering stunning photo opportunities. Head there in the early morning during low tide to explore the coastline, hidden coves and rock pools along the Nusa Dua promenade. It is often in these unhurried moments that the island reveals its best-kept surprises.

Explore lesser-known districts in Bangkok

Bangkok's Chinatown, Yaowarat, may be famous for its late-night food stalls but wander into Talad Noi by day and a quieter story unfolds. Here, narrow lanes are scrawled with street art, antique Chinese shophouses have been reinvented as cafes and pockets of Portuguese-inspired architecture whisper of centuries past. Spend a day wandering through Bangkok's oldest neighbourhood and experience a quieter, more relaxed side of the city.

Across the Chao Phraya river, Bang Krachao, also called Bangkok's "Green Lung", offers a different kind of rediscovery. Explore the area on a bicycle, on foot or take a slow kayak ride along the Khlong Phi Lok canal for a more intimate view of its lush natural landscape. A visit to the Bang Kobua Community introduces travellers to a way of life still deeply rooted in agriculture, with opportunities to join in traditional activities such as natural tie-dyeing or herbal incense-making to immerse in the rhythms of Thai living.

Discover Singapore's hidden sides

For many, Singapore is a whirl of shopping streets and skyline views. But hop on a bumboat to Pulau Ubin and the pace changes. Here,

kampung houses lean into coconut palms, hornbills dart across mangroves and nature trails teeming with wildlife thread through the island. Travellers can wander the island on foot or join a guided *kampung* tour to explore Ubin's cultural heritage and discover the natural landscapes and historic landmarks that have shaped the island's unique identity.

Nestled in western Singapore, Jurong Lake Gardens is a green community sanctuary inspired by Chinese and Japanese garden design. This sprawling waterfront destination, with over 19 trails that wind past themed gazebos and tranquil ponds, offers a space for slow afternoons, quiet reflection and leisurely walks. Visitors can also spend their time meandering through its various attractions, from the Cloud Pagoda and Bonsai Garden to the Waterlily Pavilion and Butterfly Maze.

Step into Phu Quoc's traditional way of life

Vietnam's island jewel is best known for its beaches, but look closer and its soul lies in tradition. One of Phu Quoc Island's oldest fishing villages, Ham Ninh Fishing Village features stunning natural landscapes and fresh seafood. Join local fishermen for a fishing trip and try your hand at net fishing to experience their daily life and gain a deeper appreciation of the island's seafood heritage.

Home to some of the world's finest pepper, spend a day at Phu Quoc's Pepper Farms alongside farmers harvesting pepper and learning sustainable cultivation techniques, before enjoying a hands-on cooking session using freshly picked pepper to create authentic local dishes.

Chinese students get 'snow break', free access to ski resorts

CHINESE authorities in the northwestern Xinjiang region have announced their first official snow holiday for more than 70,000 students, a push to bolster the country's ice and snow economy and boost children's physical fitness.

Local authorities in Altay prefecture, a region in Xinjiang known for its ski resorts, recently said on their official Wechat that students will get nine days off as part of an extended break from the end of November.

The move "aims to fully leverage the region's unique ice and snow resources, allowing students to connect with nature, inherit culture and improve their physical fitness during the holiday," they said.

During the snow holiday, primary and secondary students from Altay City will have free access to multiple ski resorts as well as free public transport. Local cultural venues, libraries and museums will also hold ice and snow-themed events, Altay authorities said.

It comes as Chinese authorities try to expand events linked to ice and snow as a new growth sector. The country is targeting to grow winter sports, tourism and equipment manufacturing with a projected value of 1.5 trillion yuan (RM877.6 billion) by 2030.

Northern regions, such as Beijing, Inner Mongolia, Heilongjiang and Xinjiang are key areas which will see expanded training facilities, development of elite winter sports hubs and the hosting of international events, China's State Council said last year. – Reuters

BRIEFS

ALIBABA GROUP LAUNCHES MAISEAT FOR GLOBAL EVENTS TICKET PURCHASING

Damai Entertainment has launched its new brand Maiseat, a global events service platform designed to eliminate ticketing hassles and provide a smooth, reliable path to world-class live entertainment. The platform offers international users access to concerts, sporting events, music festivals, theatre productions and more at home and abroad. The Maiseat platform is now live, offering support in simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean and other languages. Fully integrated with Alipay's global payment network, Maiseat provides users with diverse payment methods and multi-currency settlement options. Maiseat serves as the international counterpart to Damai, China's largest events ticketing platform. While Damai focuses on users in mainland China and the wider Greater China region, Maiseat is designed to reach global audiences and international markets. The platform features ticketing and event access for more than 10 events, including Yue Yunpeng & Sun Yue's 2025 "Si Hai Fu Lin" World Tour in Kuala Lumpur.

AIRASIA X MAKES INAUGURAL FLIGHT TO ISTANBUL

AirAsia X (AAX), the medium to long-haul low-cost carrier, has launched its inaugural direct flight from Kuala Lumpur to Istanbul, marking the airline's entry into Turkiye. Flight D7 604, departed from Kuala Lumpur International Airport Terminal 2 on Nov 14 at 9.35am and landed at Sabiha Gokcen International Airport at 4.05pm local time. This launch marked the first-ever AAX service to Turkiye, as the airline expands its footprint beyond Asia. Istanbul, famed for its *halal* tourism offerings, is a captivating blend of ancient heritage and modern vibrancy. Spanning two continents across the majestic Bosphorus Strait, the city dazzles with its timeless landmarks such as the Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace, alongside bustling bazaars, vibrant street life and a thriving culinary scene. AAX flies to Istanbul with four times weekly flights, offering more than 150,000 seats annually with competitive fares from RM749 all-in-one-way.

Ahn Hyo Seop's wax figure heading to Singapore

MADAME Tussauds Singapore will receive actor Ahn Hyo Seop's wax figure on Dec 2.

Known for captivating audiences with his performances in popular dramas and movies such as *Business Proposal*, *Omniscient Reader: The Prophet* and *A Time Called You*, Ahn has established himself as a true heartthrob among fans.

Most recently, he voiced Jinu, the leader of the fictional K-pop boy band Saja Boys, in the Netflix animated film *KPop Demon Hunters*, which was released in June.

"We're beyond excited to welcome Ahn to our K-Wave Zone, he's the heartthrob that fans around the world have been swooning over. It's time to grab your cameras and your fellow K-drama fans, because this is one proposal you definitely don't want to turn down," said Madame

Tussauds Singapore general manager Steven Chung.

The new wax figure, created after Ahn participated in a personal sitting, captures the actor's "charismatic CEO" persona. A detail that will delight fans, the wax figure showcases the original suit from Ahn's *Business Proposal* filming wardrobe, which the actor graciously donated.

This elegant look highlights the actor's flawless appearance and enchanting presence, immersing visitors in the romantic world of K-dramas. The figure previously debuted at Madame Tussauds Hong Kong before coming to Madame Tussauds Singapore.

Now part of the K-Wave Zone at Madame Tussauds Singapore, the figure is now part of an exclusive showcase celebrating global *Hallyu* icons.



Ahn with his wax figure at Madame Tussauds.



The new album will feature 16 tracks, including *Still Don't Care*.
— PIC BY DANA TRIPPE

POP superstar Meghan Trainor has announced her seventh full-length album *Toy With Me*, set for release April 24 next year. To give her fans a taste of the upcoming album, Trainor has released a new upbeat single *Still Don't Care*.

In her new era, Trainor dances between vulnerability and empowerment, encouraging fans to embrace themselves despite any challenges they may be facing. All the while, she delivers infectious pop production and witty songwriting with more precision than ever.

On the new music, Trainor says: "*Still Don't Care* really sets the tone for this whole *Toy With Me* era. It is bold, fun, a little cheeky and full of confidence. This song came from a place of growth for me. I am learning to care less about perfection and more about what actually makes me happy."

"I am learning to shake off negativity, choosing joy and living life my way because at this point in my life and career, I am ready to be

Meghan Trainor shakes off bad vibes

➤ Singer drops new single ahead release of album in 2026

done worrying about pleasing everyone. *Still Don't Care* is my reminder to myself and to anyone who has ever felt judged. *Toy With Me* feels like the most honest and fearless I have ever been."

The new album will come after 2024's *Timeless*, which was Trainor's most confident and ambitious record yet. *Timeless* was

accompanied by her first and biggest headline tour in eight years.

Shortly after the tour wrapped, the singer-songwriter was also honoured with the Hitmaker Award at the Billboard Women in Music Awards, celebrating ten years of hits since the release of her debut album *Title* and chart-topping smash *All About That Bass*.

Freddie Mercury's extraordinary life, talent inspire collectible coins

FREDDIE MERCURY is being celebrated with a new Royal Mint coin design, which the Queen singer's sister said would have "meant the world" to him.

The coin design depicts the charismatic showman mid-performance, accompanied by his signature. Details on the coin tell the story of Mercury's extraordinary talent through carefully-crafted design elements, the Royal Mint said.

The singer's four-octave vocal range is represented by a musical staff that runs around the edge of the coin, spanning from bass to treble notes. A studded armband edge design draws inspiration from Mercury's Live Aid performance outfit. Some coins also feature colour, bringing the singer's yellow jacket to life in the coin design and capturing his vibrant energy.

The coin release comes in the same year as the 40th anniversary of the Live Aid concert which took place in 1985, and also the 40th anniversary of Mercury's solo studio album *Mr Bad Guy*, released in the same year.

The coin, approved by Mercury Songs Limited, is available to buy from the Royal Mint website from Nov 18. Mercury's sister Kashmiria Bulsara visited the Royal Mint to strike the first coin.

She said: "Striking the first coin at the Royal



The coin design depicts Mercury centre stage mid-performance with elements that showcase his extraordinary talent.

— PIC FROM THE ROYAL MINT

Mint was such an emotional and proud moment for me."

"Freddie would have been absolutely delighted to see himself honoured in this way and to know that his family was part of bringing this tribute to life."

"He always had such respect for British traditions and institutions, and to have the Royal Mint celebrate his legacy with such beautiful artistry would have meant the world to him."

"The coin perfectly captures his passion and the joy he brought to millions through his music." Royal Mint director of commemorative coin

Rebecca Morgan said: "Having Kashmiria visit us to strike the first Freddie Mercury coin was incredibly moving and made this project even more special."

"Freddie Mercury wasn't just a musician. He was a force of nature who transformed every stage he stepped onto. This coin captures that electric energy and celebrates a truly global icon whose influence continues to inspire generations."

"The level of detail in this design, from his signature to the musical staff representing his incredible vocal range, makes this one of our most special commemorative pieces."

Mercury, who is adored for hits such as *A Kind of Magic*, *We Will Rock You*, *I Want to Break Free*, *We Are the Champions*, *Don't Stop Me Now* and *Bohemian Rhapsody*, died in 1991.

The Freddie Mercury collectable coin continues the Royal Mint's tradition of celebrating people who have left a lasting legacy on the world stage.

Other artistes in the Mint's "music legends" coin series include David Bowie, George Michael, Shirley Bassey and Paul McCartney.

The Royal Mint will also gift a gold proof version of the coin to the Mercury Phoenix Trust, the Aids charity founded in his memory.
— Bernam-PA Media/dpa

Bridget Jones gets own statue in London's Leicester Square

BRIDGET Jones has joined the likes of Mary Poppins, Harry Potter and other beloved film characters with her own statue in London's Leicester Square.

Oscar winner Renee Zellweger, who has played the titular character in all four *Bridget Jones* films, attended the unveiling of the statue which celebrates 25 years since the first movie *Bridget Jones' Diary*, was released.

"It's pretty crazy. It's kind of strange. It's not something that you... ever expect... it's quite a surprise," Zellweger told Reuters.

Asked what she made of the statue, which depicts Bridget with her hair tied back, dressed in a mini skirt and holding a pen and diary, she said: "I mean, she's adorable... she's really cute. Looks like Bridget to me."

Author Helen Fielding created the character of Bridget Jones more than 30 years ago for a newspaper column that detailed Bridget's love life. Her first book *Bridget Jones's Diary* was published in 1996 and three more followed.

Bridget Jones's Diary was turned into a 2001 film with Hugh Grant and Colin Firth, starring alongside Zellweger.

Movies *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason* and *Bridget Jones's Baby* followed in 2004 and 2016 respectively. *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy* was released in February.

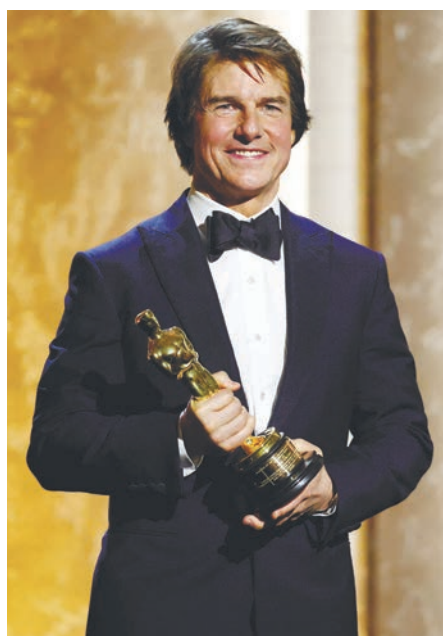
"My daughter's generation now like Bridget, and that means a huge amount to me because it hardly ever happens," Fielding said of the character's enduring popularity.

"So I feel very, very lucky and yeah, I'm proud of Bridget."

The Bridget Jones statue is part of the Scenes in the Square trail of sculptures of film characters in Leicester Square, where many movie premieres are held. The trail was launched in 2020 and also includes statues of Laurel, Hardy and Batman among others.



Zellweger says the news comes as a surprise.
— REUTERS/SPIC



Cruise poses with his honorary Oscar during the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences 16th Governors Awards in Los Angeles.

— PICS FROM REUTERS

Tom Cruise receives honorary Oscar

HOW does a person summarise the 45-year career of Tom Cruise in a four-minute speech? "Mission impossible," said director Alejandro Inarritu last Sunday as Hollywood celebrated the movie star with an honorary Oscar.

Inarritu, who directed Cruise in an untitled film set for release next October, introduced the *Top Gun* star and said his talent extended beyond the dangerous stunts he has become famous for.

"It is not how far he runs or how high he jumps. It's how precisely he decides to move, those tiny calibrations," Inarritu said.

Honorary Oscar statuettes were handed out to Cruise and three others selected by the Board of Governors of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The 63-year-old Cruise, a four-time Oscar nominee who has never won the award, was chosen for work in films from *Risky Business* to two *Top Gun* movies and the *Mission: Impossible* franchise. He also has become a prominent champion for the movie business as it faces competition from streaming and social media.

Accepting his award, Cruise talked about how seeing movies in a cinema impressed him as a child. "Suddenly, the world was so much larger than the one that I knew," he told a crowd of luminaries that included Steven Spielberg, Leonardo DiCaprio and Ariana Grande. He said he worked every job he could to earn money for movie tickets.

"I will always do everything I can to support this art form and to champion new voices, to protect what makes cinema powerful, hopefully without too many more broken bones," he said to laughter. Cruise broke his ankle while filming a stunt in 2017.

"Making films is not what I do. It's who I am," Cruise added.

The gala also honoured Dolly Parton with the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award for her charitable efforts, including founding a library that has provided more than 300 million books to children. She accepted her award via video.

Other honorees were actor and choreographer Debbie Allen and production designer Wynn Thomas.

— Reuters

Wicked meets Wizard of Oz

➤ Second chapter expands beyond musical, explores overlap with classic 1939 film

WHEN Universal Pictures split its musical adaptation of *Wicked* into two films, the move was derided by some critics as a cynical — if spectacularly successful — money grab.

But with *Wicked: For Good* out in cinemas around the world this week, its stars and filmmakers say the decision has freed them up to expand the *Wizard of Oz* prequel far beyond the Broadway musical on which it is based.

The result includes an expanded new take on one of the most famous moments in movie history, with the arrival in Oz of a young girl from Kansas called Dorothy.

And the additional running time also allows for two brand new songs — one of which, *The Girl in the Bubble*, sees Ariana Grande's popular, pink-clad heroine Glinda confront her unlikely dark past.

"It happens in the wings of the Broadway show. You see the before and after moments," Grande said at a recent press conference.

But in the second film, we see "beneath the bubbly, shiny, perfect exterior" and "spend some more time with that darkness," she added.

Wicked: For Good picks up several years after the first *Wicked*, with Cynthia Erivo's Elphaba now living as a rebel in exile, unfairly smeared by all as an evil witch.

Glinda, meanwhile, has become the poster girl of the Wizard's regime — a position that brings her privilege and popularity, but also awakens guilt and shame, stemming from her childhood.

"She's gotten everything she's always dreamt of, and yet has never been more alone," explained Grande.

The pop singer already received a best supporting actress Oscar nomination for the first *Wicked*. Universal is expected to pour resources into seeing she wins the statuette this time around, and she is already the bookmakers' favourite.

Erivo is also a strong best actress hopeful, according to awards prediction site Gold Derby, and has a new song *There's No Place Like Home*.

'Two stories collide'

Beyond making space for new Oscars-eligible original songs, the two-movie structure allowed the filmmakers to explore the overlap between the stories of *Wicked* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

Wicked: For Good takes place largely concurrently with the events of the classic 1939 movie and L. Frank Baum's novel, as Dorothy and her little dog Toto are swept away by a tornado from Kansas to Oz.

In the Broadway musical, Dorothy is only seen once as a fleeting silhouette.

The film shows her several times, from skipping down the yellow brick road to being kidnapped by flying monkeys.

Her face is never clearly shown, to emphasise that Dorothy is merely a useful but clueless pawn in the political machinations of Oz.

"We had more time" to explore the intersection of the two stories "in the second film, which, for a lot of audiences, is a lot of fun. When the girl from Kansas finally arrives, how do the two stories collide?" said producer Marc Platt.

With the first film having grossed over US\$750 million (RM3.1 billion) worldwide, Universal is clearly betting that many, many fans will set off to see the wizard one more time.

— AFP



Erivo (sixth from left), Grande (fifth from right), Tan Sri Michelle Yeoh (fourth from right) and other cast members attend the premiere of *Wicked: For Good* at Lincoln Centre for the Performing Arts in New York. — AFP/IC

Train Dreams traverses early 20th century American logger's 'ordinary life' on screen

JOEL Edgerton described the American drama movie *Train Dreams* as a "Western epic sort of celebration of an ordinary life".

"And I think there's something so dignified in this," the Australian actor, who stars as an American logger named Robert Grainer, said.

The film, which takes place in the 1900s and explores Robert's life, is based on a 2011 novella by Denis Johnson.

Robert helps develop railroads across the US, spending long spans of time away from his wife Gladys Grainer, played by Felicity Jones, and their infant daughter.

Train Dreams, currently in limited cinemas, will stream on Netflix today.

Edgerton said portraying Robert's struggles

with work-life balance came surprisingly easy to him.

"I know what it is to be in love. I'm in love right now. And I wrestle with how to marry work and life, and I felt like Robert was just me with an ax in his hand," the *Warrior* actor said.

For director Clint Bentley, Edgerton has a special ability to convey a lot of emotion with even the smallest gestures.

"The fact that he (Edgerton) can do so much with so little and that he can break your heart with just a look off in the distance or stumbling over a line. I think he's just such a powerful actor, but in such a humble way that it's really beautiful to watch," Bentley said.

— Reuters



Edgerton attends the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences 16th Governors Awards.



Has Bollywood lost its charm?

► Indian film industry battles paid reviews, fake sale claims

INDIA'S US\$60 billion (RM249.8 billion) Bollywood industry is facing a deepening credibility crisis, as insiders warned manipulated film reviews and inflated box office numbers are distorting public perception, ultimately hurting ticket sales.

Streaming platforms have disrupted traditional cinema but industry veterans say Bollywood's woes are also self-inflicted – including the trend to declare a film a “hit” even before its release.

“If you don’t engage these influencers and critics, they will write bad reviews, even if the film is good,” producer-distributor Suniel Wadhwa told AFP.

“If the film is bad, they will write good things about the film, provided the producer or studio has paid them.”

Trade analyst and veteran distributor Raj Bansal said audiences have grown sceptical of early rave reviews.

“As soon as the media gives four stars, people message me saying, ‘Sir, that means the movie is not good,’” Raj said.

“And, even if the film is good, they don’t trust it.”

That distrust is now visible at the box office.

“Regular cinema-goers wait to know the correct reports,” Raj said.

That means ticket sales during the vital opening shows “take a



Moviegoers have grown sceptical of early rave reviews that have inadvertently distorted public perception, ultimately hurting ticket sales.

major dip” as film fans wait for word of mouth or “genuine reviews” to come out, he added.

Industry insiders alleged some influencers have “rate cards”, with prices rising for films that generate low pre-release buzz.

Producers, meanwhile, are accused of bulk-buying tickets to inflate opening-week numbers.

“Everything is bought and manipulated,” Raj said, referring to reviews and social media personalities.

Bleak

Sudhir Kasliwal, owner of Jaipur’s Gem Cinema, recalled seeing hundreds of online bookings for one of superstar Shah Rukh Khan’s releases, but only a fraction of the audience showed up in person.

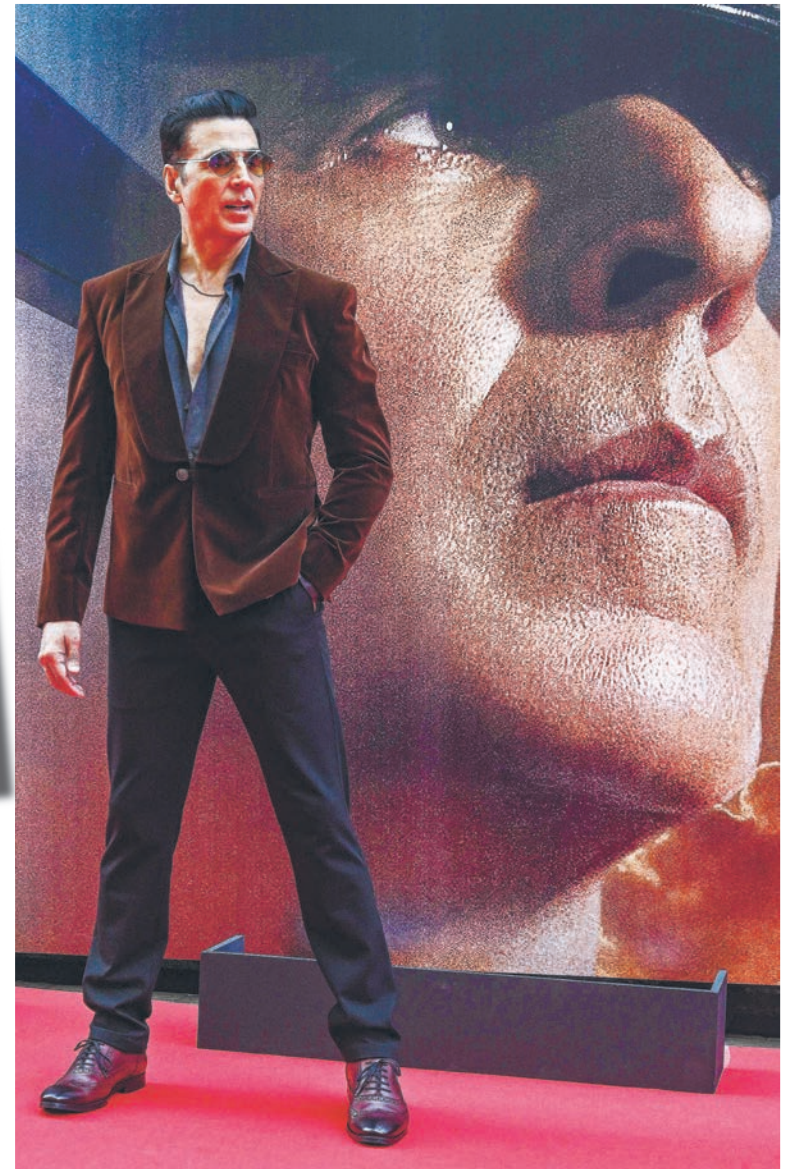
“Producers, directors and actors themselves buy tickets... the future of Bollywood looks very bleak if this practice continues,” Sudhir said.

“The wrong messages are conveyed to people and unless good content is produced, things will never improve.”

Recent controversies include Bollywood A-lister Akshay Kumar’s fighter jet action movie *Skyforce*.

The film’s director denied allegations of so-called “block booking” to boost first-week numbers, but a Mumbai-based trade analyst claimed its gross was inflated from about US\$6 million to over US\$9 million.

“Online booking platforms showed full houses, but many theatres were nearly empty,” the



Akshay during an event for the promotion of his upcoming war film *Sky Force* in Mumbai.

analyst said, requesting anonymity.

Raj said critics who refuse to play along also risk being sidelined, while those who comply “flourish”.

“Whenever I (post) that the film has opened with weak collections (ticket sales), I receive a barrage of calls from actors, producers asking me to remove it,” he said.

Appetite to buy

Suniel said the box office collection of the 2025 romantic comedy horror *Thamma* was also manipulated, claiming true sales were around US\$15 million while the film reported US\$18 million.

Thamma’s director Aditya Sarpotdar defended the US\$18 million figure, calling it the “most accurate”, having come from distributors and exhibitors.

“When a film is still in theatres, the collection figures between producers and the trade will vary.

“Producer numbers are always the honest numbers,” Aditya said.

Experts warned falsifying box office data has lasting consequences, from inflated star salaries to shrinking opportunities for new talent.

“You can’t take the audience for granted. They know the truth,” said Suniel, adding that to have reviews and ticket sales manipulated was “a very sad situation”.

Streaming platforms, now major players in film distribution, have begun demanding audited box office figures before striking deals which has added pressure on producers.

“Streamers have now become sharp and careful about the film they are choosing,” said Suniel.

Despite the backlash, few expect the trend to end anytime soon.

“This practice will continue” Suniel said, until producers and studios lose their “appetite to buy tickets.”



Bollywood actors Ayushmann Khurrana (left) and Shradha Kapoor during the trailer launch of romantic comedy horror film *Thamma* in Mumbai.
– ALL PICS FROM AFP



**WITH OUR DIGITAL EXPANSION,
WE ARE HIRING!**

- 1) Executive/Senior, IT
- 2) Assistant Manager/Manager, IT

Responsibilities:

- For Manager/Assistant Manager - Manage and oversee the daily operations of the IT department, with supervisory skills.
- Oversee the design, implementation, and maintenance of networks, servers, databases and IT platforms.
- Lead the IT team in delivering effective support and services across the group. Plan and manage the IT budget, including resource allocation, expenditure tracking and cost optimization.
- Assist the IT team in delivering effective support and services across the group.
- Develop, implement, and manage IT strategy, infrastructure, and operations.
- Provide technical support and resolve hardware and software issues.
- Monitor system and website performance, ensuring data security and integrity.
- Undertake any other assignments as directed by management.

Requirements:

- Diploma/Bachelor's degree in Information Technology or related field.
- Asst Manager/Manager: Minimum 5+ years' working experience in IT, with proven leadership or supervisory skills.
- Executive/Senior: Minimum 1+ years' working experience in IT.
- Strong knowledge of systems, networks, and software applications.
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving abilities.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Independent, reliable, and able to provide 24/7 standby support when required.

Send in your CV with your photo via email to:
thesun.hr2@gmail.com / hr@thesundaily.com

WE ARE HIRING
JOIN OUR TEAM
MEDIA SALES - Specialist

Job Description

- Building and sustaining strong working relationship with advertising agencies and clients.
- New business development and business retention.
- Conceptualise, plan and execute creative and innovative marketing campaigns to enhance brand visibility and engagement.
- Create, develop and continuously improve marketing material, presentations and proposals that showcase our products/services effectively.

Requirements

- SPM level with at least two years of experience.
- Diploma or Bachelor's degree in business, marketing or other related fields.
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply, training will be provided.
- Good communication, presentation, problem-solving and organisational skills.
- Passionate in client servicing.
- Possess own transport and willing to travel.
- Able to start work immediately.

Office based in Petaling Jaya (Five-day week)

MEDIA SALES - Representative/Agent (Freelance)

Requirement

- Minimum one year sales experience in classified ad, print and digital advertising.
- Those without sales experience but with media advertising knowledge may also apply.
- Attractive commission package and incentives.
- Able to start immediately.
- Central, Northern, Southern, East Coast and Sabah/Sarawak.

Send in your CV with your photo via email to : thesun.hr2@gmail.com

Pawnbrokers' forfeited pledges under Section 23 of the Pawnbrokers' Act 1972
Pawnbrokers' (Control and Licensing) Regulations 2004

The above will be sold by public auction during the first week of December 2025 at YMCA, No. 211 Macalister Street, Penang for articles pawned in January 2025 and earlier commencing from the date and time stated below:-

Date	Time
03.12.2025 (WEDNESDAY)	11:00 A.M

Note: Interested bidders are to register with the licensed auctioneer 7 working days before the auction date.

*Term and conditions apply.

A Denny's & Co Sdn Bhd
Licensed Auctioneers
22-07-704 Penang Chinese Town Hall,
Jalan Masjid Kapitan Keling,
10200 Pulau Pinang
Tel no's: 04-2611551/2; 012-4849430

DALAM MAHKAMAH SESYEN DI KUALA LUMPUR
DALAM WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA
GUAMAN NO:
WA-B52NCVC-71-02/2025

ANTARA

GOH WAN PING
(No. K/P: 910618-14-5168) ... PLAINTIFF

DAN

1. **THEVANDRAN A/L K.RAGAVAN**
(NO K/P: 721117-10-5827)
(disaman dalam kapasiti tunggal Thevan Realty, sebuah agensi hartanah yang didaftarkan di bawah Lembaga Penilai Pentaksir, Ejen Harta Tanah dan Pengurus Harta No Pendaftaran, E(3) 0751)
2. **AB RAZIF BIN ASMUNI**
(NO K/P: 800618-06-5021) ... DEFENDAN-DEFENDAN

NOTIS PENYAMPAIAN GANTI DALAM BENTUK IKLAN

Kepada:

AB RAZIF BIN ASMUNI
2-17 The Place, Jalan PJU 8/5G, Damansaran, 47820 Petaling Jaya, Selangor

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu dalam Mahkamah Sesyen di Kuala Lumpur melalui Guaman No.: **WA-B52NCVC-71-02/2025** oleh Plaintiff yang beralamat di K-5-3 Solaris Mont Kiara, Jalan Solaris Mont Kiara, 50480 Kuala Lumpur dimana tuntutan Plaintiff terhadap kamu antara lain untuk membayar jumlah RM350,000.00, faedah dan kos.

Dan telah diperintahkan pada 11.11.2025 bahawa penyampaian sesalanan Writ Saman Terpinda dan Pernyataan Tuntutan Terpinda keduanya bertarikh 19.10.2025 dalam tindakan ini disampaikan ke atas kamu secara penyampaian ganti seperti berikut:-

(i) Dengan menampalkan satu salinan Writ Saman Terpinda dan Pernyataan Tuntutan Terpinda tersebut bersama dengan satu salinan perintah penyampaian ganti ini di Papan Notis Mahkamah Sesyen, Kuala Lumpur dan menyerahkan secara penampalan di alamat Defendan Ke-2, **AB RAZIF BIN ASMUNI** di 2-17 The Place, Jalan PJU 8/5G, Damansaran, 47820 Petaling Jaya, Selangor; dan

(ii) Dengan mengiklankan satu Notis sekali di dalam akhbar tempatan "The Sun" dan bahawa penampalan dan pengiklankan tersebut merupakan dan disifatkan sebagai penyampaian yang sempurna dan memuaskan bagi Writ Saman Terpinda dan Pernyataan Tuntutan Terpinda tersebut tujuh (7) hari selepas tarikh akhir serahan.

Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membela tindakan tersebut, kamu mestilah memasukkan kehadiran ke atas tindakan tersebut empat belas (14) hari dari tarikh penyampaian. Jika kamu ingkar berbuat demikian, Penghakiman boleh diberikan terhadap kamu.

Bertarikh pada 11 November 2025

TT

Tetuan Mastura Partnership
Pegumcara bagi Plaintiff

Notis Penyampaian Ganti Dalam Bentuk Iklan ini difailkan oleh Tetuan Mastura Partnership bagi pihak Plaintiff yang dinamakan di atas yang mempunyai alamat penyampaian di K-5-3, Solaris Mont Kiara, Jalan Solaris Mont Kiara, 50480 Kuala Lumpur.
Tel No. : 03-6201 5566 & 03-6201 6655; Fax No. : 03-6201 0000
Email: info@masturapartnership.com.my
(Ruj: 12.02.MPFT-350)

DALAM MAHKAMAH SESYEN DI BALIK PULAU
DALAM NEGERI PULAU PINANG
GUAMAN SIVIL NO.
PD-B52NCC-41-10/2025

ANTARA

PUBLIC BANK BERHAD
(NO. SYARIKAT: 196501000672 (6463-H)) ... PLAINTIFF

DAN

1. **CHEW BAK KOH**
(NO. K. P. 591008-02-5091)
2. **VELVET KHOR POH SIEW**
(NO. K. P. 671209-07-5378) ... DEFENDAN-DEFENDAN

NOTIS IKLAN

Kepada:-
CHEW BAK KOH
(NO. K. P. 591008-02-5091)
3A-7-18, Setia Triangle, Persiaran Kelicap, 11900 Bayan Lepas Pulau Pinang

CHEW BAK KOH
(NO. K. P. 591008-02-5091)
No. 16, Lorong Cengal 2/1, Taman Cengal, 13400 Butterworth Pulau Pinang

VELVET KHOR POH SIEW
(NO. K. P. 671209-07-5378)
3A-7-18, Setia Triangle, Persiaran Kelicap, 11900 Bayan Lepas Pulau Pinang

VELVET KHOR POH SIEW
(NO. K. P. 671209-07-5378)
No. 16, Lorong Cengal 2/1, Taman Cengal, 13400 Butterworth Pulau Pinang

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa satu Writ bermeterai bertarikh 10-10-2025 telah dikeluarkan ke atas kamu dalam Mahkamah Sesyen di Balik Pulau, Pulau Pinang dalam Guaman Sivil No. **PD-B52NCC-41-10/2025** oleh Public Bank Berhad yang mempunyai alamat di Ground & First Floor, 7320 - 7322, Jalan Raja Uda, 12300 Butterworth, Pulau Pinang dan diperintahkan bahawa Writ bermeterai tersebut bersama dengan Pernyataan Tuntutan bertarikh 10-10-2025 disampaikan kepada kamu secara penyampaian ganti dengan menampalkan kertas-kertas kausa bersama dengan Perintah untuk Penyampaian Ganti bermeterai di Papan Notis Mahkamah Sesyen di Balik Pulau, Pulau Pinang, dan pada satu bahagian yang jelas kelihatan di alamat-alamat terakhir yang diketahui iaitu pada 3A-7-18, Setia Triangle, Persiaran Kelicap, 11900 Bayan Lepas, Pulau Pinang dan/atau No. 16, Lorong Cengal 2/1, Taman Cengal, 13400 Butterworth, Pulau Pinang dan memasukkan satu iklan dalam suatu surat khabar tempatan berbahasa Inggeris iaitu "The Sun" untuk satu (1) tarikh dan bahawa penampalan dan pengiklankan itu hendaklah disifatkan sebagai penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup bagi Writ tersebut dalam tempoh masa **tujuh (7) hari** dari tarikh akhir penampalan dengan kos penyampaian ganti dijadikan kos dalam kausa.

Jika kamu berhasrat untuk membela tindakan tersebut kamu mestilah hadir sama ada secara sendiri atau melalui peguambela kamu di hadapan Mahkamah Sesyen di Balik Pulau, Pulau Pinang pada **01-12-2025 jam pukul 9.00 pagi**. Jika kamu ingkar hadir sedemikian, satu penghakiman boleh dibuat terhadap kamu oleh Mahkamah.

Bertarikh 21 November 2025.
..... T.T
Pegumcara Plaintiff

Notis ini dikeluarkan oleh Tetuan Wong & Loh, Pegumcara Plaintiff yang beralamat di 44, Jalan Cantonment, 10350 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang.

NOTICE IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT AT JOHOR BAHRU
SUMMON NO:
JA-A72NCVC-1192-10/2025

Notice is hereby given to **KANG LIWEI** (Passport No.: EC3077816) to appear in the Johor Bahru Magistrate Court at 9.00 a.m. on 28-11-2025, Friday or contact Messrs. S.K. SONG before the above date for the hearing of the above summons. Location of the Court is at Johor Bahru Magistrate Court, Level 23A, Menara MSC Cyberport, No.5, Jalan Bukit Meldrum, 80300 Johor Bahru, Johor.

In the event, if you failed to appear, the court may grant any order that the Court deems fit.

This notice is filed by Messrs. S.K. SONG, Advocates & Solicitors, whose address for service is at No.75A, Jalan Mutiara 1/9, Taman Mutiara Mas, 81300 Skudai, Johor. [Ref: SKS/L 9635/25/LIM] TEL NO.: 07-556 8187 FAX NO.: 07-556 8188 COURT BOX NO.: 95

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KUALA LUMPUR
AT THE TERRITORY OF WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN KUALA LUMPUR (COMMERCIAL DIVISION)
COMPANIES (WINDING UP) PETITION.
NO. WA-20NCC-1113-10/2025

IN THE MATTER OF SECTION 464(1) AND SECTION 465(1)(a) OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016

AND

IN THE MATTER OF MAJUKAR SDN BHD (COMPANY NO. 197801002816 / 39811-K)

AND

IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES (WINDING UP) RULES 1972 AND RULES OF COURT 2012

MAJUKAR SDN BHD (COMPANY NO. 197801002816 / 39811-K) ... PETITIONER

ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION.

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for the Winding-Up of the abovementioned company by the High Court, was on the 27-10-2025 presented by MAJUKAR SDN BHD (Company No. 197801002816 / 39811-K) AND that the said Petition is directed to be heard at the High Court of Malaya, at Kuala Lumpur, at 9.00 o'clock in the forenoon, on Tuesday, 13-01-2026; and any creditor or contributory of the said company desiring to support or oppose the making of an order on the said Petition may appear at the time of the hearing by himself or his counsel for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished to any creditor or contributory of the said company requiring the same by the undersigned on payment of the regulated charges for the same.

The Petitioner's registered address and business address is B7-15-3, Block 7, Phase 2, Pantai Hillpark, Pantai Dalam, 59200 Kuala Lumpur, Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur.

The Petitioner's Solicitors is Messrs. Fyiona, Lai & Dennis Thong, Advocates & Solicitors of 13A-3, Menara 1 Mont Kiara, Jalan Kiara, Mont Kiara, 50480 Kuala Lumpur.

SGD. MESSRS. FYIONA, LAI & DENNIS THONG
.....
SOLICITORS FOR THE PETITIONER

NOTE: -

Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on or send by post to the abovementioned Solicitors, notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their Solicitors (if any) and must be served, or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the abovementioned Solicitors not later than twelve o'clock noon of the 12-01-2026.

This **ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION** is filed by Messrs Fyiona, Lai & Dennis Thong, Solicitors for the Petitioner abovementioned bearing address for service at 13A-3, Menara 1 Mont Kiara, Jalan Kiara, Mont Kiara, 50480 Kuala Lumpur. Tel: 03-6211 1128 / 017-6662721 Fax: 03-6211 9393 Email: office.fldt@gmail.com (Ref: YF.FLLIT(WU).993.25.Majukar)

PROCLAMATION OF SALE IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KUALA LUMPUR
EXECUTION NO.: WA-38-1563-06/2025

WILL SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION
ON TUESDAY, THE 02ND DECEMBER 2025 AT 09:00 AM
ELECTRONICALLY ON THE e-LELONG WEBSITE, e-LELONG OPERATION CENTER KUANTAN COURT COMPLEX, PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR
Please visit <https://elelong.hehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb>

RESERVED PRICE	RM	459,000.00
PLAINTIFF	:	AMBANK (M) BERHAD
DEFENDANT	:	ROYSTON PETER
TITLE NO./LOT NO.	:	GRN 177237, LOT 13899
MUKIM/DISTRICT/STATE	:	SEMENYIH / ULU LANGAT / SELANGOR
SOLICITOR	:	MESSRS B H GAN, NOR & KIM (KL)

A 2-STORY INTERMEDIATE TERRACE HOUSE
LAND AREA : 1,647.00 SQUARE FEET / 153.00 SQUARE METER
PROPERTY ADDRESS : NO. 10, JALAN KP 2/19, TAMAN KAJANG PRIMA, 43000 KAJANG, SELANGOR

The property will be sold on an "as is where" basis subject to a reserve price and to the conditions of sale as printed in the Proclamation Of Sale as per link below:
<https://elelong.hehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb/home/index>

Bidders are required to register on the website <https://elelong.hehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb> and submit the payment of ten per cent (10%) of the reserve price as deposit in the form of Bank Draft in the name of the Plaintiff at the latest by (1) working day before the auction date. Please refer to the Proclamation Of Sale for submission method.

For any inquiries please contact the company appointed by the Plaintiff:
ARENA AUCTIONEERS SDN BHD
TEL NO.: 03-7845 5890 / 03-7842 2137 / 03-7832 4047
HIP NO.: 012-327 5047
E-mail: aasb@arenaauctioneers.com Website: arenaauctioneers.com

PROCLAMATION OF SALE IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KUALA LUMPUR
EXECUTION NO.: WA-38-1868-07/2025

WILL SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION
ON THURSDAY, THE 04TH DECEMBER 2025 AT 09:00 AM
ELECTRONICALLY ON THE e-LELONG WEBSITE, e-LELONG OPERATION CENTER KUANTAN COURT COMPLEX, PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR
Please visit <https://elelong.hehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb>

RESERVED PRICE	RM	310,000.00
PLAINTIFF	:	AMBANK (M) BERHAD
DEFENDANT	:	CHONG SIEW CHIN
TITLE NO./LOT NO.	:	GERAN NO. 2911268M/11699, LOT NO. 31416
MUKIM/DISTRICT/STATE	:	BANDAR CHERAS / ULU LANGAT / SELANGOR
SOLICITOR	:	MESSRS AZHAR & WONG (KL)

A UNIT OF CONDOMINIUM
FLOOR AREA : 1,012.00 SQUARE FEET / 94.00 SQUARE METER
PROPERTY ADDRESS : NO. A8-10-7, BLOCK A8, GREEN ACRE PARK KONDOMINIUM, BANDAR SUNGAI LONG (RPANGSA), 43000 KAJANG, SELANGOR

The property will be sold on an "as is where" basis subject to a reserve price and to the conditions of sale as printed in the Proclamation Of Sale as per link below:
<https://elelong.hehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb/home/index>

Bidders are required to register on the website <https://elelong.hehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb> and submit the payment of ten per cent (10%) of the reserve price as deposit in the form of Bank Draft in the name of the Plaintiff at the latest by (1) working day before the auction date. Please refer to the Proclamation Of Sale for submission method.

For any inquiries please contact the company appointed by the Plaintiff:
ARENA AUCTIONEERS SDN BHD
TEL NO.: 03-7845 5890 / 03-7842 2137 / 03-7832 4047
HIP NO.: 012-327 5047
E-mail: aasb@arenaauctioneers.com Website: arenaauctioneers.com

PROCLAMATION OF SALE IN THE HIGH COURT OF MALAYA AT KUALA LUMPUR
EXECUTION NO.: WA-38-1822-07/2025

WILL SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION
ON TUESDAY, THE 02ND DECEMBER 2025 AT 09:00 AM
ELECTRONICALLY ON THE e-LELONG WEBSITE, e-LELONG OPERATION CENTER KUANTAN COURT COMPLEX, PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR
Please visit <https://elelong.hehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb>

RESERVED PRICE	RM	291,600.00
PLAINTIFF	:	AMBANK ISLAMIC BERHAD
DEFENDANT	:	HAZIDA BINTI MOHD ARIFFIN
TITLE NO./LOT NO.	:	HSM 11111, PT NO. 10A97
MUKIM/DISTRICT/STATE	:	TELOK PANGLIMA GARANG / KUALA LANGAT / SELANGOR
SOLICITOR	:	MESSRS SDEK TEH WONG & DENNIS (KL)

AN END UNIT SINGLE STOREY TERRACE HOUSE WITH EXTRA LAND
LAND AREA : 2,077.00 SQUARE FEET / 193.00 SQUARE METER
PROPERTY ADDRESS : NO. 28, JALAN SATRIA 6, TAMAN SATRIA, 42500 TELOK PANGLIMA GARANG, SELANGOR

The property will be sold on an "as is where" basis subject to a reserve price and to the conditions of sale as printed in the Proclamation Of Sale as per link below:
<https://elelong.hehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb/home/index>

Bidders are required to register on the website <https://elelong.hehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb> and submit the payment of ten per cent (10%) of the reserve price as deposit in the form of Bank Draft in the name of the Plaintiff at the latest by (1) working day before the auction date. Please refer to the Proclamation Of Sale for submission method.

For any inquiries please contact the company appointed by the Plaintiff:
ARENA AUCTIONEERS SDN BHD
TEL NO.: 03-7845 5890 / 03-7842 2137 / 03-7832 4047
HIP NO.: 012-327 5047
E-mail: aasb@arenaauctioneers.com Website: arenaauctioneers.com

NOTIS JUALAN SECARA LELONG AWAM Akta Pemegang Pajak-Gadai(81)1972

Sandaran-sandaran yang tidak ditebus Pemegang Pajak Gadai yang tersebut dibawah ini yang mana sandaran-sandaran itu telah di-gadai dalam tempoh seperti di bawah Akan Di-jual Dengan Lelong Umum Di The YMCA of Penang, No 211 Macalister Road, 10400 Georgetown, Penang. Pada Hari 31th December 2025, Waktu 9.30am.

NEGERI PULAU PINANG

No. NAMA PAJAK GADAI
ALAMAT PAJAK GADAI

- 1 **Pajak Gadai Sheng Lon (Bayan Baru) Sdn Bhd**
54 Jalan Tengah, Taman Sri Tunas, 11950 Bayan Lepas, Penang.
- 2 **Pajak Gadai Sheng Lon Sdn Bhd (Jelutong)**
124 Jalan Jelutong, 11600 Georgetown, Penang.
- 3 **Pajak Gadai Sheng Lon Sdn Bhd (Bukit Jambul)**
88Q Jalan Tun Dr Awang, 11900 Bukit Jambul, Penang.
- 4 **MCG Pawnshop Sdn Bhd**
2952 Jalan Perai, Taman Inderawasih, 13600 Seberang Perai, Penang.
- 5 **Hoong Goon Pawnshop Sdn Bhd**
4-D Jalan Bayan Lepas, 11900 Bayan Lepas, Penang.
- 6 **Pajak Gadai Wangmax Sdn Bhd**
500 Jalan Dato Keramat, 10460 Penang.
- 7 **Pajak Gadai Wangmax Fettes Sdn Bhd**
16 Jalan Fettes, 11200 Tanjung Tokong, Penang.
- 8 **Pajak Gadai Wangmax Farlim Sdn Bhd**
63 Jalan Pisang Embun, 11500 Farlim, Penang.
- 9 **Pajak Gadai Cheng Chang Sdn Bhd**
8 Jalan Penanti 1, Taman Penanti, 14000 Bukit Mertajam, Penang.
- 10 **MCG Pawnshop (Nibong Tebal) Sdn Bhd**
34 Jalan Besar, Taman Merbah, 14300 Nibong Tebal, Penang

Sandaran-sandaran tersebut boleh diperiksa dengan Pemegang Pajak Gadai berkenaan diatas pada 21th Nov 2025 sehingga 27th Nov 2025, pukul 10.00 Pagi sehingga 4.00 Petang sebelum tarikh jualan lelong itu.

Neoh Boon Hooi Licensed Auctioneer
Pelelong Berlesen

KB-38-1133-10/2025
PERISYTIHARAN JUALAN
DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI SUNGAI PETANI
PERMOHONAN UNTUK PERLAKSANAAN NO: KB-38-1133-10/2025

Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 256 dan 257 Kanun Tanah Negara, 1965
Dan
Dalam perkara mengenai Gadaian Perserahan No: 4399/2014 (bertarikh: 26/02/2014) ke atas semua bahagian tanah yang dipegang di bawah HSD 59999, PT 7786, Mukim Bandar Padang Serai, Daerah Kulim, Kedah
Dan
Dalam perkara mengenai Aturan 83 Kaedah-Kaedah Mahkamah, 2012
ANTARA
PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD (No. Syarikat: 197301001433) ... PLAINTIF
DAN
MOHAMMAD TERMIZI BIN AZLAN (No. Kad Pengenalan: 781109025039) ... DEFENDAN

Menurut Perintah Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia di SUNGAI PETANI mengenai Perintah Jualan dan Perintah bertarikh 22 September 2025 dan 11 November 2025, adalah dengan ini disyitarkan bahawa Timbalan Pendaftar/Penolong Kanan Pendaftar Pusat Operasi e-Lelong di Kuantan

AKAN MENJUAL SECARA
LELONG AWAM
Pada Hari Selasa, 6 Januari 2026, Pada Jam 11:00 pagi,
SECARA ELEKTRONIK DI LAMAN WEB e-LELONG, PUSAT OPERASI e-LELONG,
KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KUANTAN, PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR

NOTA: Bakal pembeli adalah dinasihatkan agar membuat carian Hakmilik secara rasmi di Pejabat Tanah dan memeriksa semua tanggungan, bebanan serta mengenai pasti dengan tepat hartanah tersebut sebelum jualan lelongan dijalankan.

Sila layari <https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb>

BUTIR-BUTIR HAKMILIK:
No. Hakmilik : HSD 59999
No. Lot : PT 7786
Mukim/Daerah/Negeri : Bandar Padang Serai / Kulim / Kedah
Pegangan : Hakmilik Kekal
No. Petak/No. Tingkat/No. Bangunan :
Keluasan Tanah : 1399.0000000000 kaki persegi / 130.0000000000 meter persegi
Pemilik Berdaftar : MOHAMMAD TERMIZI BIN AZLAN
Syarat Nyata : Tanah yang terkandung dalam hakmilik ini hendaklah digunakan sebagai tapak untuk satu bangunan kediaman (Rumah Teres Kos Sederhana) sahaja
Sekatan Kepentingan : Tiada
Bebanan / Lain-Lain : Digadaiakan kepada Public Islamic Bank Berhad melalui Gadaian Pers No 4399/2014
Kawasan Rizab :
Kaveat :

LOKASI DAN PERIHAL HARTANAH:
Hartanah tersebut adalah rumah teres intermediate bertingkat satu yang beralamat pos di 738, Jalan Legenda 22/1, Taman Legenda, 09400, Padang Serai, Kedah.

HARGA RIZAB:
Hartanah tersebut akan dijual atas "sepertimana sedia ada" tertakluk kepada satu harga rizab sebanyak **RM 260,000.00 (RINGGIT MALAYSIA: DUA RATUS ENAM PULUH RIBU SAHAJA)** dan kepada syarat-syarat jualan yang dilampirkan. Pembida yang berminat hendaklah mendepositkan 10% daripada harga rizab dalam bentuk Bank Draft di atas nama **PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD 1 HARI BEKERJA** sebelum tarikh lelong awam. Baki harga belian hendaklah dibayar oleh pembida yang berjaya kepada **PUBLIC ISLAMIC BANK BERHAD** dalam tempoh seratus dua puluh (120) hari dari tarikh jualan. Untuk butiri-butiri selanjutnya, sila berhubung dengan:-

Firma Guaman : **WONG & LOH**
Alamat : **NO. 44, CANTONMENT ROAD, 10350, PG, MY**
No. Telefon : **04-2286989**
No. Fax : **04-2287989**
No. Rujukan : **GT/LYK/PH/VN/AT/PIBB/L/2025/008**

NOTIS JUALAN SECARA LELONG AWAM
Akta Pemegang Pajak-Gadai (81) 1972
Sandaran-sandaran yang tidak ditubus Pemegang Pajak Gadai yang tersebut dibawah ini Akan Di-juai Dengan Lelong Umum

Di-Sastraia Hotel, 28 Jalan Pahlawan Taman Legenda Pada Hari 02hb Disember 2025, Indah 08000 Sungai Petani Kedah. Waktu 10.30 Pagi

NEGERI KEDAH	
NAMA PAJAK GADAI	ALAMAT PAJAK GADAI
Pajak Gadai EMJ Sdn Bhd	12 Lorong 1, Taman Ria 08000 Sungai Petani
Pajak Gadai Kah Yuit Sdn Bhd	15 Taman Cenderawasih Jalan Kelang Lama 09000 Kulim
Min Seng Pawshop Sdn bhd	7 Jalan Baling 09300 Kuala Ketil
Pajak Gadai San Heng Loong Sdn Bhd	LC 1203 Jalan Baling 09400 Padang Serai
Pajak Gadai Sin Yit Foh Sdn Bhd	23-B Main Road 06300 Kuala Nerang
Pajak Gadai Sing Lee Seng Sdn Bhd	5 Jalan Semiling 08100 Bedong
Pajak Gadai Poh Fook Sdn Bhd	158 Jalan PSK 3 Pekan Simpang Kuala 05400 Alor Setar
Pajak Gadai Sungai Petani Sdn Bhd	174 Jalan Kuala Ketil 08000 Sungai Petani
Pajak Gadai Poh Guan Sdn Bhd	200 Jalan Tunku Putra 09000 Kulim

Sandaran-sandaran tersebut boleh diperiksa dengan Pemegang Pajak Gadai berkenaan diatas pada 24hb NOVEMBER 2025 sehingga 26hb NOVEMBER 2025, pukul 10.00 pagi sehingga 4.00 petang sebelum tarikh jualan lelong itu.

Ikian Bertarikh 21-11-2025 CHONG KIAN CHONG
Pelolong Berlesen
011-40392589

FOCAL PARK SDN BHD (358698-H)

NOTIS LELONG AWAM KENDERAAN UNTUK DILELONG SEPERTI SEDIA ADA
TEMPAT & TARIKH LELONG : East Coast Region (Kota Bharu, Kuantan & Termerloh)
26-11-2025 (Rabu) Pukul 11:00pagi

TARIKH MELIHAT : SEBELUM TIGA HARI LELONG
(Pukul 9:00pagi - 4:00petang)
PERTANYAAN (Tel): Kota Bharu 07-7747972, Kuantan 017-4973133,
Termerloh 012-428 7538

FPAC - PELELONG BERLESEN : a) En Mohd Fawzi Bin Ibrahim (33056) &
Mr Mazenan Bin Haji Mohamad (01/2024)

Alamat : Lot 5198, Petak 41 Jalan 20, Kawasan Perindustrian Pengkalan Chepa, Fasa 2, Pengkalan Chepa, 16100 Kota Bharu.
: Lot 10869, Lot 10870 & Lot 10871 Jin Tanah Putih,
Tanah Putih 25100 Kuantan
: PT5101 & 5102, Kampung Megat Segama, 28000 Termerloh

SILA LAYARI LAMAN WEB KAMI : <http://www.focalpark.com.my>

Item	Reg No	jenis & Model	Tahun
AM1	CDJ1331	HONDA - CITY E	2013
AM2	CDL7789	MITSUBISHI TRITON 2.5 AT VGT	2014
AM3	DEM6140	NISSAN - ALMERA 1.0 TURBO VLP	2022
AM4	TBG7874	PERODUA MYVI 1.3	2012
AM5	VNY7849	PROTON SAGA 1.3	2025
AM6	BNF31	BMW - 520i Steptronic 2.0	2011
AM7	DDC4866	PERODUA AXIA 1.0 G (A)	2017
AM8	DDC6920	PROTON SAGA 1.3 PREMIUM CVT	2017
AM9	DEJ6891	PROTON SAGA 1.3	2022

(Perhatian: Kenderaan-kenderaan diatas yang tidak dibida dalam perolehan akan dilelong semula pada 03-12-2025)

PA-38-1397-10/2025
PERISYTIHARAN JUALAN
DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG
PERMOHONAN UNTUK PERLAKSANAAN NO: PA-38-1397-10/2025

Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 256 dan 257 Kanun Tanah Negara, 1965
Dan
Dalam perkara mengenai Gadaian Perserahan No: 0701SC2017000030 (bertarikh:10/01/2017) ke atas semua bahagian tanah yang dipegang di bawah **GM 3193, Lot 15307, Mukim 14, Daerah Seberang Perai Tengah, Pulau Pinang**
Dan
Dalam perkara mengenai Aturan 83 Kaedah-Kaedah Mahkamah, 2012
ANTARA
PUBLIC BANK BERHAD (No. Syarikat: 196501000672) ... PLAINTIF
DAN
KOONG SIAN EE (No. Kad Pengenalan: 810429035383) ... DEFENDAN

Menurut Perintah Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia di PULAU PINANG mengenai Perintah Jualan dan Perintah bertarikh 14 Julai 2025 dan 10 November 2025, adalah dengan ini disyitarkan bahawa Timbalan Pendaftar/Penolong Kanan Pendaftar Pusat Operasi e-Lelong di Kuantan

AKAN MENJUAL SECARA
LELONG AWAM
Pada Hari Rabu, 17 Disember 2025, Pada Jam 11:00 pagi,
SECARA ELEKTRONIK DI LAMAN WEB e-LELONG, PUSAT OPERASI e-LELONG,
KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KUANTAN, PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR

NOTA: Bakal pembeli adalah dinasihatkan agar membuat carian Hakmilik secara rasmi di Pejabat Tanah dan memeriksa semua tanggungan, bebanan serta mengenai pasti dengan tepat hartanah tersebut sebelum jualan lelongan dijalankan.

Sila layari <https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb>

BUTIR-BUTIR HAKMILIK:
No. Hakmilik : GM 3193
No. Lot : Lot 15307
Mukim/Daerah/Negeri : 14 / Seberang Perai Tengah / Pulau Pinang
Pegangan : Hakmilik Kekal
No. Petak/No. Tingkat/No. Bangunan :
Keluasan Tanah : 1195.0000000000 kaki persegi / 111.0000000000 meter persegi
Pemilik Berdaftar : KOONG SIAN EE
Syarat Nyata : Tanah ini hendaklah digunakan untuk tujuan kediaman sahaja
Sekatan Kepentingan : Tiada
Bebanan / Lain-Lain : Digadaiakan Kepada Public Bank Berhad Melalui Gadaian Perserahan No. 0701SC2017000030 yang didaftarkan pada 10-01-2017
Kawasan Rizab :
Kaveat : Kaveat Persendirian atas Tanah oleh Public Bank Berhad melalui No Per 0701B2016002127 didaftarkan 17-11-2016

LOKASI DAN PERIHAL HARTANAH:
Hartanah tersebut adalah sebuah rumah teres bertingkat satu intermediate (intermediate single-storey terraced house) yang beralamat pos di 62A, Jalan Impian Indah 2, Taman Impian Indah, 14000, Bukit Mertajam, Pulau Pinang.
HARGA RIZAB:
Hartanah tersebut akan dijual atas "sepertimana sedia ada" tertakluk kepada satu harga rizab sebanyak **RM 291,600.00 (RINGGIT MALAYSIA: DUA RATUS SEMBILAN PULUH SATU RIBU ENAM RATUS SAHAJA)** dan kepada syarat-syarat jualan yang dilampirkan. Pembida yang berminat hendaklah mendepositkan 10% daripada harga rizab dalam bentuk Bank Draft di atas nama **PUBLIC BANK BERHAD 1 HARI BEKERJA** sebelum tarikh lelong awam. Baki harga belian hendaklah dibayar oleh pembida yang berjaya kepada **PUBLIC BANK BERHAD 1 HARI BEKERJA** dalam tempoh seratus dua puluh (120) hari dari tarikh jualan. Untuk butiri-butiri selanjutnya, sila berhubung dengan:-

Firma Guaman : **WONG & LOH**
Alamat : **NO. 44, CANTONMENT ROAD, 10350, PG, MY**
No. Telefon : **04-2286989**
No. Fax : **04-2287989**
No. Rujukan : **GT/LYK/PH/KH/PBB/L/2022/016**

PERISYTIHARAN JUALAN
DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG
PERMOHONAN UNTUK PERLAKSANAAN NO: PA-38-1274-09/2025

Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 256 dan 257 Kanun Tanah Negara, 1965
Dan

Dalam perkara mengenai Gadaian Perserahan No: 0799SC2019008055 (bertarikh: 25/03/2019) ke atas semua bahagian tanah yang dipegang di bawah **Pajakan Negeri 5961/M1/2/3 Petak Aksesori: A217, A225 & A226, Lot 14659, Mukim 12, Daerah Barat Daya, Pulau Pinang**
Dan

Dalam perkara mengenai Aturan 83 Kaedah-Kaedah Mahkamah, 2012
ANTARA
OCBC BANK (MALAYSIA) BERHAD (No. Syarikat: 295400-W) ...PLAINTIF
DAN
HO CHIN YUEN (No. Kad Pengenalan: 690503066205) ...DEFENDAN
LEW SHU MEI (No. Kad Pengenalan: 630221075708)

Menurut Perintah Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia di PULAU PINANG mengenai Perintah Jualan dan Perintah bertarikh 15 Mac 2024 dan 21 Oktober 2025, adalah dengan ini disyitarkan bahawa Timbalan Pendaftar/Penolong Kanan Pendaftar Pusat Operasi e-Lelong di Kuantan

AKAN MENJUAL SECARA
LELONG AWAM
Pada Hari Isnin, 1 Disember 2025, Pada Jam 11:00 pagi,
SECARA ELEKTRONIK DI LAMAN WEB e-LELONG, PUSAT OPERASI e-LELONG, KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KUANTAN, PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR

NOTA: Bakal pembeli adalah dinasihatkan agar membuat carian Hakmilik secara rasmi di Pejabat Tanah dan memeriksa semua tanggungan, bebanan serta mengenai pasti dengan tepat hartanah tersebut sebelum jualan lelongan dijalankan.

Sila layari <https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb>

BUTIR-BUTIR HAKMILIK:
No. Hakmilik : Pajak Negeri 5961/M1/2/3 Petak Aksesori: A217, A225 & A226
No. Lot : Lot 14659
Mukim/Daerah/Negeri : 12 / Barat Daya / Pulau Pinang
Pegangan : Hakmilik Pajakan
No. Petak/No. Tingkat/No. Bangunan : 3 / 2 / M1
Keluasan Tanah : 0.0000000000 kaki persegi / 0.0000000000 meter persegi
Pemilik Berdaftar : HO CHIN YUEN, LEW SHU MEI
Syarat Nyata : Petak ini hendaklah digunakan untuk tujuan rumah pangsa
Sekatan Kepentingan : Tanah yang dibermilki ini tidak boleh dipcah sempadan, pindah milik, dicagar, pajak, pajakan kecil atau dengan apa jua urusan sekalipun tanpa mendapat kebenaran bertulis daripada Pihak Berkuasa Negeri
Bebanan / Lain-Lain :
Kawasan Rizab :
Kaveat : Satu Kaveat Persendirian telah dimasukkan oleh OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Berhad pada 29/10/2018

LOKASI DAN PERIHAL HARTANAH :
Hartanah tersebut adalah A duplex condominium unit together with three car park bays as accessory parcels yang beralamat pos di 118-83-02-06, Persiaran Bayan Indah, Putra Place Condominium, 11900, Bayan Lepas, Pulau Pinang
HARGA RIZAB :
Hartanah tersebut akan dijual atas "sepertimana sedia ada" tertakluk kepada satu harga rizab sebanyak **RM 590,490.00 (RINGGIT MALAYSIA: LIMA RATUS SEMBILAN PULUH RIBU EMPAT RATUS SEMBILAN PULUH SAHAJA)** dan kepada syarat-syarat jualan yang dilampirkan. Pembida yang berminat hendaklah mendepositkan 10% daripada harga rizab dalam bentuk Bank Draft di atas nama **OCBC BANK (MALAYSIA) BERHAD 1 HARI BEKERJA** sebelum tarikh lelong awam. Baki harga belian hendaklah dibayar oleh pembida yang berjaya kepada **OCBC BANK (MALAYSIA) BERHAD** dalam tempoh seratus dua puluh (120) hari dari tarikh jualan. Untuk butiri-butiri selanjutnya, sila berhubung dengan:-

Firma Guaman : **GHAZI & LIM**
Alamat : **19TH FLOOR, PLAZA MWE NO 8, LEBUH FARUQHAR, 10200, PG, MY**
No. Telefon : **04-2633688**
No. Fax : **04-2633188/2627433**
No. Rujukan : **071/23/JBL/LJ/R**

NOTIS JUALAN SECARA LELONG AWAM
Akta Pemegang Pajak-Gadai (81) 1972
Sandaran-sandaran yang tidak ditubus Pemegang Pajak Gadai yang tersebut dibawah ini Akan Di-juai Dengan Lelong Umum

Di-The Ymca Penang Pada Hari 03hb DISEMBER 2025, 211, Macalister Road 10400 Penang Waktu 12.00 Tengah Hari

NEGERI PULAU PINANG	
NAMA PAJAK GADAI	ALAMAT PAJAK GADAI
Pajak Gadai Emas Jaya Sdn Bhd	29 Jalan Usahawan 4 Pusat Perniagaan 13200 Kepala Batas.
Pajak Gadai YS Sdn Bhd	442 Jalan Penang 10000 Penang
Pajak Gadai Kah Hin Sdn Bhd	6688 Jalan Bagan Ajam 13000 Butterworth
YMC Capital Sdn Bhd	47 Jalan Permatang Rawa Bandar Perda 14000 Bukit Mertajam
Shun Chang Sdn Bhd	228 Jalan Pasar 14000 Bukit Mertajam
Sing Tai Foh Sdn Bhd	716 Jalan Raya 14200 Sungai Bakap
Pajak Gadai Lian Hin Sdn Bhd	1078 Jalan Che Ahmad 14300 Nibong Tebal
Pajak Gadai Sun Heng	16 Jalan Keruing Kawasan Perniagaan Simpang Ampat 14100 Simpang Ampat
Yong Chang Dang Sdn Bhd	293 Jalan Burmah 10350 Penang
Sing Yee Li Sdn Bhd	46 Jalan Todak 2 Pusat Bandar Seberang Jaya 13700 Perai
Lee Thong Tang Sdn Bhd	167 Medan Kikik 1 Taman Inderawasih 13600 Perai
Pajak Gadai Butterworth Sdn Bhd	776 G Taman Kekaya Jalan Bagan Ajam 13000 Butterworth
Pajak Gadai MVJ Sdn Bhd	6679 Jalan Baru 14100 Simpang Ampat
Chung Hin Pajak Gadai	313 Lebuhr Chulia 10200 Penang

Sandaran-sandaran tersebut boleh diperiksa dengan Pemegang Pajak Gadai berkenaan diatas pada 24hb NOVEMBER 2025 sehingga 26hb NOVEMBER 2025, pukul 10.00 pagi sehingga 4.00 petang sebelum tarikh jualan lelong itu.

Ikian Bertarikh 21-11-2025 CHONG YAW KEAT
Pelolong Berlesen
011-40392589

PERISYTIHARAN JUALAN
DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG
PERMOHONAN UNTUK PERLAKSANAAN NO: PA-38-1330-09/2025

Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 256 dan 257 Kanun Tanah Negara, 1965
Dan
Dalam perkara mengenai Gadaian Perserahan No: 0704SC2023022324 (bertarikh: 12/10/2023) ke atas semua bahagian tanah yang dipegang di bawah **Geran Mukim 2516, 10115, Mukim 13, Daerah Timur Laut, Pulau Pinang**
Dan
Dalam perkara mengenai Aturan 83 Kaedah-Kaedah Mahkamah, 2012
ANTARA
Standard Chartered Saadig Berhad (No. Syarikat: 2908081022118/023437-K) ...PLAINTIF
DAN
Yeeh Heng Choon (No. Kad Pengenalan: 900326075293) ...DEFENDAN

Menurut Perintah Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia di PULAU PINANG mengenai Perintah Jualan dan Perintah bertarikh 22 Ogos 2025 dan 28 Oktober 2025, adalah dengan ini disyitarkan bahawa Timbalan Pendaftar/Penolong Kanan Pendaftar Pusat Operasi e-Lelong di Kuantan

AKAN MENJUAL SECARA
LELONG AWAM
Pada Hari Selasa, 9 Disember 2025, Pada Jam 11:00 pagi,
SECARA ELEKTRONIK DI LAMAN WEB e-LELONG, PUSAT OPERASI e-LELONG,
KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KUANTAN, PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR

NOTA: Bakal pembeli adalah dinasihatkan agar membuat carian Hakmilik secara rasmi di Pejabat Tanah dan memeriksa semua tanggungan, bebanan serta mengenai pasti dengan tepat hartanah tersebut sebelum jualan lelongan dijalankan.

Sila layari <https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb>

BUTIR-BUTIR HAKMILIK:
No. Hakmilik : Geran Mukim 2516
No. lot : 10119
Mukim / Daerah / Negeri : 13 / Timur Laut / Pulau Pinang
Pegangan : Hakmilik Kekal
No. Petak/No. Tingkat/No. Bangunan : 241 / 10 / M18, No. Petak: Akasori A244
Keluasan Tanah : 699.6540000000 kaki persegi / 65.0000000000 meter persegi
Pemilik Berdaftar : Yeeh Heng Choon
Syarat Nyata : Petak ini hendaklah digunakan untuk tujuan rumah pangsa sahaja.
Sekatan Kepentingan : Tiada
Bebanan / Lain-Lain :
Kawasan Rizab :
Kaveat :

LOKASI DAN PERIHAL HARTANAH :
Hartanah tersebut adalah Rumah Pangsa 3 Bilik yang beralamat pos di 5-09-07, Villa Kejora, Hillir Paya Terabong 2, Relau, 11900, Bayan Lepas, Pulau Pinang.
HARGA RIZAB :
Hartanah tersebut akan dijual atas "sepertimana sedia ada" tertakluk kepada satu harga rizab sebanyak **RM 290,000.00 (RINGGIT MALAYSIA: DUA RATUS SEMBILAN PULUH RIBU SAHAJA)** dan kepada syarat-syarat jualan yang dilampirkan. Pembida yang berminat hendaklah mendepositkan 10% daripada harga rizab dalam bentuk Bank Draft di atas nama **STANDARD CHARTERED SAADIG BERHAD 1 HARI BEKERJA** sebelum tarikh lelong awam. Baki harga belian hendaklah dibayar oleh pembida yang berjaya kepada **STANDARD CHARTERED SAADIG BERHAD** dalam tempoh seratus dua puluh (120) hari dari tarikh jualan. Untuk butiri-butiri selanjutnya, sila berhubung dengan:-

Firma Guaman : **SEE RAMSUN & TAN**
Alamat : **8 TAVOY ROAD, 10050, PG, MY**
No. Telefon : **04-2295811**
No. Fax : **04-2295988**
No. Rujukan : **CKM/LCS/ER/SCB/23/3817**

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PERISYTIHARAN JUALAN
DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG
PERMOHONAN UNTUK PERLAKSANAAN NO: PA-38-1242-09/2025

Dalam perkara mengenai Seksyen 256 dan 257 Kanun Tanah Negara, 1965
Dan
Dalam perkara mengenai Gadaian Perserahan No: 0799SC2021018433 (bertarikh: 18/08/2021) ke atas semua bahagian tanah yang dipegang di bawah **Geran 57513/M1/3/10, 4739, Mukim Seksyen 5, Bandar George Town, Daerah Timur Laut, Pulau Pinang**
Dan
Dalam perkara mengenai Aturan 83 Kaedah-Kaedah Mahkamah, 2012
ANTARA
Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad (No. Syarikat: 198401003274 (115793-P)) ...PLAINTIF
DAN
Sim Eng Koong (No. Kad Pengenalan: 830608075151) ...DEFENDAN

Menurut Perintah Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia di PULAU PINANG mengenai Perintah Jualan dan Perintah bertarikh 2 Julai 2025 dan 22 Oktober 2025, adalah dengan ini disyitarkan bahawa Timbalan Pendaftar/Penolong Kanan Pendaftar Pusat Operasi e-Lelong di Kuantan

AKAN MENJUAL SECARA
LELONG AWAM
Pada Hari Selasa, 2 Disember 2025, Pada Jam 11:00 pagi,
SECARA ELEKTRONIK DI LAMAN WEB e-LELONG, PUSAT OPERASI e-LELONG,
KOMPLEKS MAHKAMAH KUANTAN, PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR

NOTA: Bakal pembeli adalah dinasihatkan agar membuat carian Hakmilik secara rasmi di Pejabat Tanah dan memeriksa semua tanggungan, bebanan serta mengenai pasti dengan tepat hartanah tersebut sebelum jualan lelongan dijalankan.

Sila layari <https://elelong.kehakiman.gov.my/bidderweb>

BUTIR-BUTIR HAKMILIK:
No. Hakmilik : Geran 57513/M1/3/10
No. lot : 4739
Mukim / Daerah / Negeri : Seksyen 5, Bandar George Town / Timur Laut / Pulau Pinang
Pegangan : Hakmilik Kekal
No. Petak/No. Tingkat/No. Bangunan : 10 / 3 / M1
Keluasan Tanah : 710.0000000000 kaki persegi / 66.0000000000 meter persegi
Pemilik Berdaftar : Sim Eng Koong
Syarat Nyata : Petak ini hendaklah digunakan untuk tujuan rumah pangsa sahaja.
Sekatan Kepentingan : Tiada
Bebanan / Lain-Lain : Kaveat Persendirian Atas Petak No. Perserahan 0799B2021004096 didaftarkan pada 11 Mei 2021.
Kawasan Rizab :
Kaveat :

LOKASI DAN PERIHAL HARTANAH :
Hartanah tersebut adalah Rumah Pangsa 3 Bilik yang beralamat pos di Unit No. 5-02-03, Lorong Gangsa, Taman Lembah Hijau, 11600, Jelutong, Pulau Pinang
HARGA RIZAB :
Hartanah tersebut akan dijual atas "sepertimana sedia ada" tertakluk kepada satu harga rizab sebanyak **RM 360,000.00 (RINGGIT MALAYSIA: TIGA RATUS ENAM PULUH RIBU SAHAJA)** dan kepada syarat-syarat jualan yang dilampirkan. Pembida yang berminat hendaklah mendepositkan 10% daripada harga rizab dalam bentuk Bank Draft di atas nama **STANDARD CHARTERED BANK MALAYSIA BERHAD 1 HARI BEKERJA** sebelum tarikh lelong awam. Baki harga belian hendaklah dibayar oleh pembida yang berjaya kepada **STANDARD CHARTERED BANK MALAYSIA BERHAD** dalam tempoh seratus dua puluh (120) hari dari tarikh jualan. Untuk butiri-butiri selanjutnya, sila berhubung dengan:-

Firma Guaman : **SEE RAMSUN & TAN**
Alamat : **8 TAVOY ROAD, 10050, PG, MY**
No. Telefon : **04-2295811**
No. Fax : **04-2295988**
No. Rujukan : **CKM/LCS/ER/SCB/22/3724**

NOTICE OF COURT

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF AFM MART SDN. BHD. (REGISTRATION NO. : 200901027053 (870155-T)) (IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING UP)

NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT pursuant to Section 459 of the Companies Act 2016, the Final Meeting of the Company will be held at 83B, Jalan SS15/5A, 47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan on 22nd December, 2025, Monday at 2.00 p.m. for the following purposes :-

- To receive and consider the Liquidator's Statement Of Accounts showing the manner in which the winding up has been conducted and any explanations arising therefrom.
- To resolve that under Section 518(3)(b) of the Companies Act 2016, that the books, accounts and documents of the Company and of the Liquidator thereof, be destroyed after the expiration of three (3) months from the date of the Final Meeting.

Dated this 21st November 2025

WONG NYOK HAR (F)
Liquidator

LPGA announces 2026 schedule

THE LPGA Tour announced its 2026 schedule yesterday with 33 events worldwide and a record total prize fund of US\$132 million (RM550m).

On the eve of the season-ending Tour Championship at Naples, Florida, the series looked ahead to next year, a campaign that will include the Solheim Cup in the Netherlands next September.

"I'm incredibly proud of what we've built and even more excited about what we're headed," LPGA commissioner Craig Kessler said.

"This schedule reflects the work we've put into elevating our courses, improving our routing, and continuing to grow purses."

The tour will visit 13 nations next year, including two swings through Asia and another into Europe.

Women's majors begin with the Chevron Championship in Houston on April 23-26.

The 20th edition of the biennial Solheim Cup will be played at Dutch course Bernardus on Sept 11-13 with Angela

Athletes chase to compete for the largest prize fund in Tour's history

Stafford serving as captain for holders United States against a Europe squad guided by Swede Anna Nordqvist.

The 2026 LPGA season will begin with the Tournament of Champions at Lake Nona in Orlando from Jan 29-Feb 1.

Thailand, Singapore and China will host the next events before the tour returns to the United States for the Founders Cup at Sharon Heights in Menlo Park, California.

Between the LPGA's European major stops will be the Women's Scottish Open on July 23-26 at Dundonald Links.

The final Asian swing includes October and November events in China, South Korea, Malaysia and Japan.

Next year's US\$11 million (RM45.8m) Tour Championship will be Nov 19-22 at Tiburon in Naples. - LPGA

2026 LPGA TOUR SCHEDULE

DATE	TITLE (LOCATION) PURSE (US\$1 = RM4.16)
Jan 29-Feb 1	Hilton Grand Vacations (USA) US\$2.1m
Feb 19-22	Honda LPGA Thailand (Thailand) US\$1.8m
Feb 26-March 1	HSBC Women's World Championship (S'pore) US\$3m
March 5-8	Blue Bay LPGA (China) US\$2.6m
March 19-22	Fortinet Founders Cup (USA) US\$3m
March 26-29	Ford Championship (USA) US\$2.25m
April 2-5	Aramco Championship (USA) US\$4m
April 16-19	JM Eagle LA Championship (USA) US\$3.75m
April 23-26	The Chevron Championship (USA) US\$8m
April 30-May 3	Mexico Rivera Maya Open (Mexico) US\$2.5m
May 7-10	Mizuho Americas Open (USA) US\$3.25m
May 14-17	Kroger Queen City Championship (USA) US\$2m
May 29-31	ShopRite LPGA (USA) US\$2m
June 4-7	US Women's Open (California) US\$12m
June 11-14	Dow Championship (USA) US\$3.3m
June 18-21	Meijer LPGA Classic (USA) US\$3.25m
June 25-28	KPMG Women's PGA Championship (USA) US\$12m
July 9-12	The Amundi Evian Championship (France) US\$8m
July 23-26	ISPS HANDA Women's Scottish Open (Scotland) US\$2m
July 30-Aug 2	AIG Women's Open (England) US\$9.75m
Aug 13-16	The Standard Portland Classic (USA) US\$2m
Aug 20-23	CPKC Women's Open (Canada) US\$2.75m
Aug 27-30	FM Championship (USA) US\$4.4m
Sept 11-13	Solheim Cup (Netherlands) US\$ TBD
Sept 25-27	Walmart NW Arkansas Championship (USA) US\$3m
Oct 1-4	Lotte Championship (Hawaii) US\$3m
Oct 15-18	Buick LPGA Shanghai (China) US\$3.2m
Oct 22-25	BMW Ladies Championship (South Korea) US\$2.35m
Oct 29-Nov 1	Maybank Championship (Malaysia) US\$3m
Nov 5-8	Toto Japan Classic (Japan) US\$2.1m
Nov 12-15	The Annika (USA) US\$3.25m
Nov 19-22	CME Group Tour Championship (USA) US\$11m
Dec 11-13	Grant Thornton Invitational (USA) US\$2.05m

322 Notices

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND IN THE MATTER OF CREATIVE DESIGN INDUSTRY SDN. BHD. (201401046257 (1122445-A)) (In Members' Voluntary Winding-Up)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company duly convened at Wisma Cheng & Co, 180-3, Jalan Munshi Abdullah, 75100 Melaka on 17th November 2025 at 10.00 a.m., the following Special Resolution was duly passed:-

"That CREATIVE DESIGN INDUSTRY SDN. BHD. be wound up voluntarily and that Ms. Lee Wei Chan of Wisma Cheng & Co, 180-3, Jalan Munshi Abdullah, 75100 Melaka be and is hereby appointed as Liquidator for the purpose of winding-up the Company."

Dated this: 21st November 2025

NEW KIN KOCK
Director

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2016 AND CREATIVE DESIGN INDUSTRY SDN. BHD. (201401046257 (1122445-A)) (In Members' Voluntary Winding-Up)

Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the abovementioned Company which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 21st December 2025 to send in their names and addresses with particulars of their debts and claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the undersigned Liquidator and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, by their solicitors or personally to come and prove their said debts and claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof, they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts and claims are proved.

LIQUIDATOR LEE WEI CHAN
Wisma Cheng & Co, 180-3, Jalan Munshi Abdullah, 75100 Melaka.

Dated this: 21st November 2025

322 Notices

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG DALAM KEBAKRAPAN NO. PA-29NCC-255-04/2025

Per:
Lai Yeu Hoong
[No. K/P: 550319-07-5175 / 4740658]
Penghutang Penghakiman

Ex parte:
Hong Leong Bank Berhad
[No. Syarikat: 193401000023 (97141-X)]
Pemutang Penghakiman

NOTIS
Dalam perkara Petisyen Pemutangan Penghakiman bertarikh 08-09-2025

Kepada:
Lai Yeu Hoong
16-22-06, Serina Bay
Hilir Sungai Pinang
11600 Georgetown
Pulau Pinang

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa satu Petisyen Pemutangan telah dikeluarkan terhadap kamu dalam Mahkamah ini oleh Hong Leong Bank Berhad yang beralamat di Tingkat 30, Menara Hong Leong, No. 6, Jalan Damanlela, Bukit Damansara, 50490 Kuala Lumpur dan Mahkamah telah memerintahkan supaya Petisyen Pemutangan tersebut disampaikan kepada kamu dengan menampalkan salinan-salinannya berserta satu salinan termeterai Perintah Untuk Penyampaian Ganti pada Papan Notis Mahkamah Tinggi di Pulau Pinang dan di tempat ketara di premis terakhir Penghutang Penghakiman di 16-22-06, Serina Bay, Hilir Sungai Pinang, 11600 Georgetown, Pulau Pinang dan juga dengan menyiarkan Notis ini sekali di dalam akhbar harian tempatan berbahasa Inggeris iaitu "The Sun" dan bahasa penampalan dan penyiaran sedemikian disifatkan penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup akan Petisyen Pemutangan tersebut kepada kamu Lai Yeu Hoong [No. K/P: 550319-07-5175 / 4740658] tujuh (7) hari selepas hari terakhir penampalan atau penyiaran.

DAN SELANJUTNYA AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa Petisyen Pemutangan tersebut akan didengar di Mahkamah ini pada 31 hari bulan Disember, 2025 pada pukul 9.00 pagi pada hari yang mana kamu Lai Yeu Hoong [No. K/P: 550319-07-5175 / 4740658] dikehendaki hadir, dan jika kamu tidak hadir Mahkamah boleh membuat Perintah Kebankrapan terhadap kamu dalam ketahadiran kamu.

Petisyen Pemutangan tersebut boleh diperiksa oleh kamu atas permohonan di Mahkamah ini.

Bertarikh pada 11 November 2025

tandatangan
.....
MASYITAH BINTI AYOIB
Penolong Kanan Pendaftar
Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia
Georgetown

Notis ini difailkan oleh Tuetan Kek Ooi & Lee Hong, Peguamcara bagi Pemutang Penghakiman yang dinamakan di atas dan alamat untuk penyampaian kepadanya ialah di 53, Tingkat 1, Lebuhraya Pantai, 10300 Pulau Pinang.

DALAM MAHKAMAH TINGGI MALAYA DI PULAU PINANG DALAM KEBAKRAPAN NO. PA-29NCC-336-05/2025

Per:
Mathevanan A/L Maniam
[No. K/P: 790822-07-5095]
Penghutang Penghakiman

Ex parte:
Hong Leong Bank Berhad
[No. Syarikat: 193401000023 (97141-X)]
Pemutang Penghakiman

NOTIS
Dalam perkara Petisyen Pemutangan Penghakiman bertarikh 23-09-2025

Kepada:
Mathevanan A/L Maniam
No. 1, Lorong Bertam Ria 1
Taman Bertam Ria
13200 Kepala Batas
Pulau Pinang

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa satu Petisyen Pemutangan telah dikeluarkan terhadap kamu dalam Mahkamah ini oleh Hong Leong Bank Berhad yang beralamat di Tingkat 30, Menara Hong Leong, No. 6, Jalan Damanlela, Bukit Damansara, 50490 Kuala Lumpur dan Mahkamah telah memerintahkan supaya Petisyen Pemutangan tersebut disampaikan kepada kamu dengan menampalkan salinan-salinannya berserta satu salinan termeterai Perintah Untuk Penyampaian Ganti pada Papan Notis Mahkamah Tinggi di Pulau Pinang dan di tempat ketara di premis terakhir Penghutang Penghakiman di No. 1, Lorong Bertam Ria 1, Taman Bertam Ria, 13200 Kepala Batas, Pulau Pinang dan juga dengan menyiarkan Notis ini sekali di dalam akhbar harian tempatan berbahasa Inggeris iaitu "The Sun" dan bahasa penampalan dan penyiaran sedemikian disifatkan penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup akan Petisyen Pemutangan tersebut kepada kamu Mathevanan A/L Maniam [No. K/P: 790822-07-5095] tujuh (7) hari selepas hari terakhir penampalan atau penyiaran.

DAN SELANJUTNYA AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa Petisyen Pemutangan tersebut akan didengar di Mahkamah ini pada 25 hari bulan November, 2025 pada pukul 9.00 pagi pada hari yang mana kamu Mathevanan A/L Maniam [No. K/P: 790822-07-5095] dikehendaki hadir, dan jika kamu tidak hadir Mahkamah boleh membuat Perintah Kebankrapan terhadap kamu dalam ketahadiran kamu.

Petisyen Pemutangan tersebut boleh diperiksa oleh kamu atas permohonan di Mahkamah ini.

Bertarikh pada 11 November 2025

tandatangan
.....
MASYITAH BINTI AYOIB
Penolong Kanan Pendaftar
Mahkamah Tinggi Malaysia
Georgetown

Notis ini difailkan oleh Tuetan Kek Ooi & Lee Hong, Peguamcara bagi Pemutang Penghakiman yang dinamakan di atas dan alamat untuk penyampaian kepadanya ialah di 53, Tingkat 1, Lebuhraya Pantai, 10300 Pulau Pinang.

DALAM MAHKAMAH SESYEN DI KUANTAN DALAM NEGERI PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR, MALAYSIA GUAMAN NO: CA-852-8-08/2025

ANTARA

GERHANA SINARAN SDN. BHD. (No. Syarikat: 201801029507 [1291533-T]) ...PLAINTIF

DAN

1. SRS MAKMUR SDN. BHD. (No. Syarikat: 201601003449 [1174375-W])

2. TENGGU HUSSIN SHAH BIN TENGGU MUSTAFA KAMAL (No. K/P: 740711-06-5745) ...DEFENDAN-DEFENDAN

NOTIS IKLAN

Kepada:
SRS MAKMUR SDN. BHD.
A137-1, Jalan Tun Ismail 6,
25000 Kuantan,
Pahang

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Sesyen Kuantan oleh **GERHANA SINARAN SDN. BHD. (No. Syarikat: 201801029507 [1291533-T])** melalui Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan masing-masing bertarikh 7.8.2025 (selepas ini secara kolektifnya dirujuk sebagai "**Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut**") dan Mahkamah telah memerintahkan bahawa Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut diserahkan kepada kamu secara penyampaian ganti dengan menampalkan sesalinan Perintah Penyampaian Ganti bertarikh 27.10.2025 dan sesalinan Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut di Papan Notis Mahkamah Sesyen Kuantan, dan penampalan di alamat terakhirnya kamu yang diketahui di A137-1, Jalan Tun Ismail 6, 25000 Kuantan, Pahang, dan dengan mengiklankan Notis ini mengenai Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut dalam satu akhbar tempatan iaitu "**The Sun**" dan **AKHIRNYA ADALAH DIPERINTAHKAN** bahawa penyampaian tersebut hendaklah menjadi satu penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup ke atas kamu dalam masa **empat belas (14) hari** selepas tarikh akhir penampalan-penampalan dan pengiklankan tersebut.

Bertarikh pada 21 November 2025

t.t
.....
Peguamcara Plaintiff
Tuetan WK Wong & Co.

NOTIS IKLAN (Penyampaian Ganti terhadap Defendan Pertama) ini difailkan oleh Tuetan WK Wong & Co., peguamcara bagi pihak Plaintiff yang mempunyai alamat penyampaian di K-3A-8, No. 2, Jalan Solaris, Solaris Mont Kiara, 50480 Kuala Lumpur. [Tel: 03-23893465]

Email: wkwonglegal@gmail.com
[Ruj: ST/JW/25/10381/LIT/GS/SRS]

DALAM MAHKAMAH SESYEN DI KUANTAN DALAM NEGERI PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR, MALAYSIA GUAMAN NO: CA-852-8-08/2025

ANTARA

GERHANA SINARAN SDN. BHD. (No. Syarikat: 201801029507 [1291533-T]) ...PLAINTIF

DAN

1. SRS MAKMUR SDN. BHD. (No. Syarikat: 201601003449 [1174375-W])

2. TENGGU HUSSIN SHAH BIN TENGGU MUSTAFA KAMAL (No. K/P: 740711-06-5745) ...DEFENDAN-DEFENDAN

NOTIS IKLAN

Kepada:
TENGGU HUSSIN SHAH BIN TENGGU MUSTAFA KAMAL
No. 4, Lorong Bandar Kuantan Putri 1,
Off Jalan Bandar Kuantan Putri 2,
26060 Kuantan, Pahang

AMBIL PERHATIAN bahawa suatu tindakan telah dimulakan terhadap kamu di Mahkamah Sesyen Kuantan oleh **GERHANA SINARAN SDN. BHD. (No. Syarikat: 201801029507 [1291533-T])** melalui Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan masing-masing bertarikh 7.8.2025 (selepas ini secara kolektifnya dirujuk sebagai "**Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut**") dan Mahkamah telah memerintahkan bahawa Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut diserahkan kepada kamu secara penyampaian ganti dengan menampalkan sesalinan Perintah Penyampaian Ganti bertarikh 27.10.2025 dan sesalinan Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut di Papan Notis Mahkamah Sesyen Kuantan, dan penampalan di alamat terakhirnya kamu yang diketahui di No. 4, Lorong Bandar Kuantan Putri 1, Off Jalan Bandar Kuantan Putri 2, 26060 Kuantan, Pahang, dan dengan mengiklankan Notis ini mengenai Writ Saman dan Pernyataan Tuntutan tersebut dalam satu akhbar tempatan iaitu "**The Sun**" dan **AKHIRNYA ADALAH DIPERINTAHKAN** bahawa penyampaian tersebut hendaklah menjadi satu penyampaian yang sempurna dan cukup ke atas kamu dalam masa **empat belas (14) hari** selepas tarikh akhir penampalan-penampalan dan pengiklankan tersebut.

Bertarikh pada 21 November 2025

t.t
.....
Peguamcara Plaintiff
Tuetan WK Wong & Co.

NOTIS IKLAN (Penyampaian Ganti terhadap Defendan Ke-2) ini difailkan oleh Tuetan WK Wong & Co., peguamcara bagi pihak Plaintiff yang mempunyai alamat penyampaian di K-3A-8, No. 2, Jalan Solaris, Solaris Mont Kiara, 50480 Kuala Lumpur. [Tel: 03-23893465]

Email: wkwonglegal@gmail.com
[Ruj: ST/JW/25/10381/LIT/GS/SRS]

Weatherald, Doggett to debut in first Ashes Test

AUSTRALIA skipper Steve Smith said yesterday it was "really exciting" to see Jake Weatherald and Brendan Doggett make their debuts in the opening Ashes Test against England, backing them to perform on the biggest stage.

The pair, both 31, will earn their baggy green caps at a sold-out Perth Stadium today – the first time Australia have chosen multiple debutants in a Test since early 2019.

Weatherald's inclusion as Usman Khawaja's sixth opening partner since David Warner retired last year means in-form Marnus Labuschagne can return to his favoured No. 3.

Labuschagne was dropped ahead of Australia's mid-year Test tour of the West Indies after an extended lean spell but came

roaring back with five centuries in eight innings this season for Queensland.

Incumbent No. 3 Cameron Green edged out Beau Webster as the all-rounder and will now come in at six, behind Smith at four and Travis Head at five.

"I'm really excited for him. He's worked hard for a long period of time and I think he's going to complement Uzzie (Khawaja) pretty well up top."

Doggett, an outstanding bowler in domestic cricket over recent years, will pull on an Australia shirt for the first time.

After Josh Hazlewood was ruled out with a hamstring strain. Boland and Doggett lead the pace attack alongside Mitchell Starc, with Smith confident they will rise to the occasion. -AFP



Mushfiq joins the elite in Test

BANGLADESH'S Mushfiqur Rahim joined an elite club yesterday by scoring a century in his 100th Test, achieving the feat against Ireland in Mirpur.

Resuming on 99 overnight, Mushfiqur reached his hundred with a single in the second over of the morning session on day two of the second Test.

His knock placed him among an exclusive group of players to have marked the 100-Test milestone with a hundred.

It was the 13th Test ton for Mushfiqur, who is now level with

Mominul Haque for the highest number of centuries in Test cricket for Bangladesh.

He eventually fell to left-arm spinner Matthew Humphreys for 106, edging to second slip where Andy Balbirnie completed a sharp catch.

The Ireland team offered warm applause as Mushfiqur left the field to loud cheers from the home crowd at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium.

Bangladesh team won the first Test by an innings and 47 runs. -AFP

LEWIS HAMILTON has dismissed suggestions of friction within Ferrari after team chairman John Elkann's recent comments that he and teammate Charles Leclerc should "focus on driving and talk less".

Speaking to reporters ahead of this weekend's Las Vegas Grand Prix, the seven-times world champion said he had not taken Elkann's comments personally and remained in regular contact with the Ferrari chief.

"John and I, we speak almost every week, so we have a great relationship," Hamilton said when asked about Elkann's remarks.

Hamilton smooths over Ferrarigate

"I didn't have a reaction to it. We look into those things too much."

Leclerc echoed Hamilton's comments, saying he viewed the remarks as a reflection of Elkann's desire to win.

"I know John is a very ambitious person and wants to push everyone to the maximum to get the maximum results," he said.

"He loves Ferrari, I love Ferrari, we all love Ferrari and we try to do the

best in every situation."

Ferrari suffered a double retirement in Sao Paulo on Sunday, their third race of the season without either driver in the points.

Close runners-up to McLaren last season, they have slipped to fourth in the constructors' standings – behind champions McLaren, Mercedes and Red Bull.

Hamilton, in his first season with Ferrari, said responsibility for their

struggles was shared across the organization. But despite their ups and downs this season, the Briton said there were no problems with team harmony.

"I joined this team knowing full well that it takes time to steer a ship in a different direction," he said.

"This is a huge team. There are so many little parts and we can't fix it quickly. It takes real time."

The setbacks had only underlined

his and Ferrari's resilience, he added.

"It's like we're climbing up a mountain and then you arrive at the weekend and you slip a few steps back or 10 steps back and you have to then get back up and try again," he said.

"I back this team 100% and I back myself 100%. I know that when we get things right, it's going to be amazing. I truly believe that's going to happen." – Reuters

Max's title bid hinges on Vegas win

Norris chasing third consecutive win after Mexico and Brazil victories

EVEN if he cannot win the Formula One title in Las Vegas this weekend, McLaren's Lando Norris could end Max Verstappen's reign on the same floodlit Strip where the Red Bull driver celebrated a fourth successive crown last year.

If Verstappen falls too far behind the Briton after the Saturday night spectacular then McLaren, already constructors' champions for a second year in a row, will be assured of both titles in the same season for the first time since 1998.

The Dutch driver is third overall and 49 points adrift of championship leader Norris, who makes his career 150th race start on Saturday, with 58 remaining to be won in the last two rounds after Las Vegas.

Norris needs to stretch his lead over Verstappen by nine points to ensure the final races of the triple header – Qatar and Abu Dhabi – become a straight title duel between him and second-placed teammate Oscar Piastri, who is 24 points behind.

Australian Piastri could equally take back the overall lead if he wins and Norris fails to score.

The only problem is McLaren do not expect it to be one of their stronger races, with Mercedes and Ferrari likely in the mix as well as Red Bull.

"I think it was our worst race last year," Norris said, of a track with low grip and possibly the coldest temperatures of the season, after winning in Brazil this month.

"Mercedes were incredibly strong there last year, as well as Red Bull and Ferrari. I think we were the bottom of those four. So we'll wait and see.

"Obviously we've improved a lot of things this year, so I'm not going to be too negative

about it."

McLaren have won 14 of 21 so far and Norris is chasing his third win in a row, after Mexico and Brazil. He has now beaten his Australian teammate in the last six races.

Another win would be a huge step towards a first title for the 26-year-old but Verstappen showed, in coming from the pitlane to third at Interlagos, that you dismiss him at your peril.

"We will try and perform as best we can and keep pushing as we have nothing to lose," said Verstappen, winner in 2023.

"Vegas is a fast circuit, there is low downforce and temperatures look pretty low this week so we will need to be managing our tyres well."

Norris knows what to expect: "Max will be a threat because he always is," he said after Interlagos. "He's always there, he's always fighting and I'm sure he'll fight to the end."

Last year's winner George Russell has a milestone of his own

to celebrate, like Norris making his 150th start, while rookie Mercedes teammate Kimi Antonelli is fresh from his best result yet of second in Brazil.

Mercedes are second overall but still battling Ferrari and Red Bull for the runner-up slot and taking nothing for granted.

Ferrari have something to prove after a grim dou-

ble retirement in Brazil led to the Italian team's chairman John Elkann suggesting drivers Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton should talk less and focus on driving.

"Over the past few events we have showed good speed and have been able to fight at the front.

We will aim to repeat it this weekend," said team boss Fred Vasseur. – Reuters



Lando Norris (left) and Max Verstappen. – AFPIC

Leipzig's bid to bounce back against Werder

SECOND-PLACED RB Leipzig are hoping to bounce back from their loss to Hoffenheim with a home win over Werder Bremen on Sunday (10.30pm Malaysian time), with Germany's successful World Cup qualification earlier this week providing a shot of confidence.

Germany, with three RB players in the squad, crushed Slovakia 6-0 in their final qualifier on Tuesday in Leipzig to secure their 2026 World Cup ticket as winners of Group A.

David Raum was a starter, while second half substitutes Ridle Baku and 19-year-old Assan Ouedraogo scored a goal each. Teenager Ouedraogo also became the youngest player to score for Germany on his debut.

"Every good result helps. Winning is beneficial to us," said Leipzig's director for sport Marcel Schaefer. "It was a fantastic night for German football and for RB Leipzig."

Schaefer also had special praise for Ouedraogo, a Schalke 04 youth player, who joined Leipzig last year.

"You could see it on the very first day of training. We didn't expect him to make such a big impact so quickly, which makes it even more pleasing," he said.

Schaefer will need Ouedraogo in top form if

they are to bounce back from their 3-1 loss to Hoffenheim, with Werder unbeaten in the league since September and having won three and drawn two of their last five matches.

"Just one good half is never enough in football," Schaefer said. "We showed promising attacking moments in Hoffenheim, but defensively we weren't as consistent as we needed to be. We want to win. Our home record has been very good, and we've put in strong performances here. We want to build on that."

The pressure is on with Leipzig, unbeaten at home this season, in second place in the Bundesliga. On 22 points, they are six behind leaders Bayern Munich but only marginally ahead of a quartet of teams.

Borussia Dortmund and VfB Stuttgart are a point behind in third and fourth respectively, with Bayer Leverkusen fifth on 20 and Hoffenheim in sixth on 19 points.

Champions Bayern dropped points for the first time this season when they drew 2-2 at Union Berlin, and will be looking to make amends when they host Freiburg on Saturday.

Dortmund entertain Stuttgart, also on Saturday, with third spot up for grabs, while Leverkusen travel to VfL Wolfsburg. – Reuters

Danes dreading playoff draw after World Cup qualifying debacle

DANISH fans and media were tearing their hair out after the national side fumbled the chance of direct qualification for next year's World Cup with poor performances against Belarus and Scotland and a further nightmare might await in the playoffs.

Neighbours Norway topped their group to go through to the finals automatically but Sweden had to settle for a playoff berth through the Nations League and are among the fourth seeds.

The Danes, one of the four top seeds in the playoffs, could therefore face an angst-filled one-off semifinal against local rivals the Swedes to have any chance of progressing.

"It would be a horror scenario because the consequence of a Danish defeat would mean that Denmark would have to spend the summer on the couch watching Sweden and Norway participate in the finals, which we were one goal against Belarus away from participating in," Lasse Voge, sports editor for newspaper BT, said yesterday.

The Danes came into the final interna-

tional window of 2025 firmly in control of their own destiny but somehow managed to find themselves 2-1 down at home to Belarus on Sunday before coming back to scrape a 2-2 draw.

That left them needing a point against Scotland to guarantee qualifying for the tournament in the US, Canada and Mexico.

However, the Scots ripped up the script with two stunning stoppage-time goals that saw them qualify for the World Cup for the first time since 1998, with the Danes dumped into the playoffs.

"For Denmark to get one point over two games and finish 4-2 here... we have to look ourselves in the mirror and say that it's simply not good enough," former Denmark striker Nicklas Bendtner said on TV2 on Wednesday.

"Denmark will not advance from that playoff game if the national team makes the same mistakes they have made here.

"We can just forget about that," his former international colleague Lars Jacobsen added. – Reuters

Malaysian doubles reach Australian Open quarters

THREE Malaysian pairs, including mixed doubles duo Chen Tang Jie-Toh Ee Wei, confirmed their spots in the quarterfinals of the 2025 Australian Open after defeating their respective opponents yesterday.

In the second round held at Sydney Olympic Park, Tang Jie-Ee Wei, the tournament's top seeds, had no difficulty overcoming Taiwanese pair Liu Kuang Heng-Jheng Yu Chieh 21-16, 21-14, and will next face the latter's compatriots, Ye Hong Wei-Nicole Gonzales Chan.

Men's doubles pair Man Wei Chong-Tee Kai Wun, meanwhile, defeated Denmark's Christian Faust Kjaer-Rasmus Kjaer 21-11, 21-16 to book a meeting against Raymond Indraa-Nikolaus Joaquin from Indonesia.

Earlier, Raymond-Nikolaus eliminated another Malaysian men's doubles pair, Choong Hon Jian-Muhammad Haikal Nazri, on their way to the quarterfinals.

Malaysia's professional men's doubles pair Goh Sze Fei-Nur Izzuddin Rumsani were pushed to work hard before confirming their quarterfinal slot with a 21-23, 21-17, 21-10 win over Taiwan's Liu Kuang Heng-Yang Po Han.

The second seeds of the tournament are scheduled to meet a professional pair from two countries, namely Goh V Shem-Choi Sol Gyu who defeated Wan Arif Wan Junaidi-Yap Roy King 21-19, 21-13. – Bernama

SHORTS

Sing Hie, Mui Hong eye Deaflympics doubles redemption

THE hopes of Siw Sing Hie and Siong Mui Hong of delivering the country's first gold medal at the Deaflympics 2025 here were dashed after they both crashed out in the second round of the women's singles tenpin bowling event today.

Sing Hie and Mui Hong knocked down 912 pins (six points) and 854 pins (three points) at the Higashiyamoto Grandbowl to end their challenges in fourth and fifth positions out of six bowlers in Group C.

Ukraine's Anzhelika Zhukova topped the group with 1,062 pinfalls (15 points), followed by Singapore's Adelia Naomi Yokoyama (1,010 pinfalls, 12 points); and Ukraine's Kateryna Kovalchuk (965 pinfalls, nine points).

Mui Hong attributed their failure to record good scores to difficulties adapting to the lane conditions.

"We had a little difficulty due to the lane's oily conditions. We tried to make some adjustments, but it was not meant to be.

"It's okay, we'll close the chapter on what happened today. We'll look ahead to the doubles event, which is slated for Saturday (Nov 22).

"We used to bowl together in the Brazil Deaflympics and even won gold at the Jakarta Deaf SEA Games 2025 (in August)," she said through a sign language interpreter.

Malaysia climb to 116th in world rankings

THE off-field controversy facing the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) has not slowed the momentum of the Harimau Malaya squad, which have climbed to 116th in the Fifa world rankings.

In the latest update released on Wednesday night, Peter Cklamovski's squad rose two spots compared with 118th last month.

Malaysia were ranked 131st in April and have since consistently moved up the ranks. Thailand remain the best Southeast Asian team at 95th, followed by Vietnam (110), Indonesia (122), the Philippines (136) and Singapore (151).

Japan continue to dominate the Asian standings at 18th in the world, followed by Iran (20) and South Korea (22).

Spain retain their status as the world No. 1, followed by Argentina in second place and France in third.

THE Kelantan Football Association (Kafa) has been told to reconvene its annual congress immediately to resolve the issue of its suspension from the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM), following weaknesses in its governance.

State Youth, Sports, Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) and Unity Committee chairman Zamakhshari Muhamad said Kafa's suspension stems from a dispute over the presence of several affiliates, whose status is not recognised by the association itself.

"Based on the information I have, FAM has instructed Kafa to reconvene its annual congress, but no new date has been set thus far.

"This issue needs to be resolved by the middle of next year, at the latest, so that the state's football development is not affected," he told *Bernama* recently.

Zamakhshari emphasised that the state government constantly held talks with Kafa, the Sports Commissioner and FAM to seek a solution, but added that the state government does not have the legal power to

Poor governance

Kafa told to reconvene congress

meddle because Kafa is a body registered under the Sports Commissioner's Office (PJS) and an affiliate of FAM.

"This issue is important because PJS regulations do not allow the formation of a second football association as long as Kafa exists.

"Only if Kafa's registration is cancelled will a new association be allowed," he said.

Last December, FAM suspended Kafa's membership regarding the procedures for conducting the congress, in line with Article 17 of the FAM Statute, which states that the FAM Executive Committee can suspend the membership of any member.

Zamakhshari, meanwhile, added that the state government has allocated over RM2.3 million per year for the development of

football, including the organisation of the State Legislative Assembly Elite League (LED), the Menteri Besar's Cup, development of football fields and contributions to authorised private clubs.

"The LED serves as a platform for youngsters to catch the eyes of talent scouts from professional clubs in the Malaysia League (M-League).

"The cost of preparing a competitive M-League team is extremely high, at least RM12 million a year.

"The support of all parties is crucial to ensuring Kelantan football returns to the pinnacle, and Kafa needs to immediately resolve these issues for the future development of the sport in the state," he said. – Bernama

Marikh sailors in action with their yacht Uranus during the third race of the Raja Muda Selangor International Regatta yesterday. – BERNAMAPIC



Marikh momentum key to RMSIR podium dream

THE Marikh team from the Malaysian Armed Forces hope to maintain the momentum gained during the second race from Pangkor to Penang as they set sail for Langkawi yesterday in the 35th Raja Muda Selangor International Regatta (RMSIR).

Marikh skipper, Air Force Corporal Muhammad Husaini Mohd Rodzi, said that if they can sustain their strong performance, the team has the potential to finish on the podium in Class 5.

"In the first race from Port Klang to Pangkor, we were in fourth place.

"So I tried to catch up in the second race from Pangkor to Penang and, thank God, we finished third.

"We are staying focused, and if we are blessed with some luck, God willing, we can secure a podium position," he said when met yesterday.

Muhammad Husaini added that all

preparations for the race to Langkawi have gone smoothly and that he hopes to execute the strategies well.

"We have made our preparations, checked the wind and weather forecasts. I hope the crew is ready, and we pray that fortune will be on our side from Penang to Langkawi," he said.

Marikh currently sits in third place in Class 5 after accumulating 12 penalty points.

Malaysia's Dash and Sade 2 teams occupy first (three penalty points) and second place (six penalty points), respectively.

In the Class 1 category, Hollywood Samurai of Hong Kong sailed into a class of its own when the team won two titles at the RMSIR on Wednesday.

The victorious cruise led by skipper Raymond Roberts with 10 crew members won the second stage of RMSIR from Pulau Pangkor to Penang in 10 hours 49 minutes

and 23 seconds and also finished second in the inshore race.

They are now in first position with seven points followed by The Next Factor in second place (9 points), and Windsikher in third place (12 points).

"We had a good win after race two and we were really happy about that. But today we get second place overall and it disturbs our momentum a little bit.

"Although we did not have such great results today, we're still leading the regatta," said Sam Hunt the pitman of Hollywood Samurai to *Bernama*.

The RMSIR, held over nine days from Nov 14-22, features 23 teams.

First held in 1990, the RMSIR is the second-oldest regatta in Asia and was the brainchild of the Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, when he was the Raja Muda of Selangor. – Bernama



the Sun Sports

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SCAN ME



Scotland National Team (left) and Norway National Team. – AFPPIC

BY MIGUEL DELANEY

AS Steve Clarke finally settled and tried to make sense of what had just happened in Hampden Park, he seized the moment in his own way. The Scotland manager had been talking about those emotionally fraught seconds just before the qualification clinching goals of Kieran Tierney and Kenny McLean against Denmark.

“Everybody was in the stadium,” Clarke began. “Nobody left, because they could smell the magic.”

How couldn't they, after the week of football we had already witnessed? There was certainly a magic in the air. Something unlike anything else, which only the World Cup can do.

These pages previewed this international break by discussing how this is the best week of football every four years, but the truth is that it surpassed all expectation.

It was a rival for 1993. Scotland were one of many countries left marvelling at how “this doesn't usually happen to us”.

You only have to look at Hampden Park or the similar scenes involving Ireland, Iraq, Curacao, Haiti, DR Congo and Ukraine, to point to just the most prominent storylines.

Perhaps the only place to start is at the end, in a very literal sense. Scotland's late strikes were two of eight genuinely decisive goals that came after the 90th minute in the week's matches. If you can't get better sporting drama than that, there was still so, so much more.

Such strikes helped clear the way for 14 sides to confirm their places at the 2026 World Cup, with a further 22 still able to hope from March's play-offs.

Three of the European countries – Austria, Norway and Scotland – are enjoying their first qualification since 1998; Haiti their first since 1974.

Curacao are meanwhile enjoy-

ing their first full-stop, to also make them the smallest country to ever qualify, with a population of just 156,000.

They might yet be joined as fellow debutants by DR Congo, New Caledonia, Suriname, Albania, Kosovo and North Macedonia, who are all in the playoffs.

The stories from these games alone would warrant books or the new brand of sporting documentaries we tend to see. Many football

While that gifted Panama direct qualification, it denied Honduras in another group, due to the way that Concacaf's playoff spots were decided on a mini-league between runners-up.

Such permutations, of course, are all part of the glorious chaos of such nights.

Amid all of the euphoria, Honduras coach Reinaldo Rueda showed the other side. He was literally in tears and pleading forgiveness,

of the roar in Basra was something to behold, as it contained within it a 40-year wait for the World Cup and so much else.

And that's part of the reason why all represents so much more than the purest sporting drama, which it already is.

Haiti actually had to play their qualifiers in Curacao due to political unrest. Ukraine – where Oleksandr Zubkov is now a hero – are defiantly playing through an invasion, to give

It couldn't be modern football, of course, without seeing the other side of this; the more problematic political side.

Such qualifiers coincided with Cristiano Ronaldo visiting the White House with Mohammed Bin Salman, the crown prince of 2024 hosts Saudi Arabia. You couldn't have a clearer illustration of “sportswashing”.

So many of the global football body's decisions now are nakedly political, not least the otherwise controversial decision to increase this World Cup to 48 teams.

The increased places may have allowed some of these stories, but it's not like they're exclusive to this vote-guaranteeing expansion. They happened before.

Right now, they also leave the awkward situation of more qualifiers to come through the final playoffs, four months after the actual World Cup draw in Washington on Dec 5.

That could have a distorting effect. It also fosters the sense of some qualifiers being an afterthought, to go with the fans. Many of the very people celebrating the moments of the last few days won't even be able to attend due to the obscene prices of this World Cup, both in terms of tickets and travel. That's the price of the capitalism the game has embraced.

Ronaldo's own politicised presence was meanwhile all the more prominent given he his absence from Portugal's last game due to suspension. That sending off was one of many absorbing sub-plots over the last few days.

They are all products of the kind of theatre that only sport can produce, and that the World Cup does greater than anything else. It is the ultimate in so many ways.

There's a “magic” to this, as Clarke said, and one of its tricks is to always eventually evade those issues, to leave us with the glow of what football is supposed to be about. Only the World Cup can truly conjure that. –

The Independent

Best football week tops all expectations

Scenes of celebration across the globe highlighted how the World Cup retains a special 'magic' – even as those emotions are being used by wider forces

fans are consuming the scenes of celebration from Scottish and Irish fans, but there's also what happened with Iraq and Suriname.

The latter had gone into their Concacaf group on top. They then got eviscerated 3-0 by eliminated Guatemala, only for a 96th-minute own goal by Nicolas Samoyao to salvage a playoff spot.

as he spoke about football humbling you.

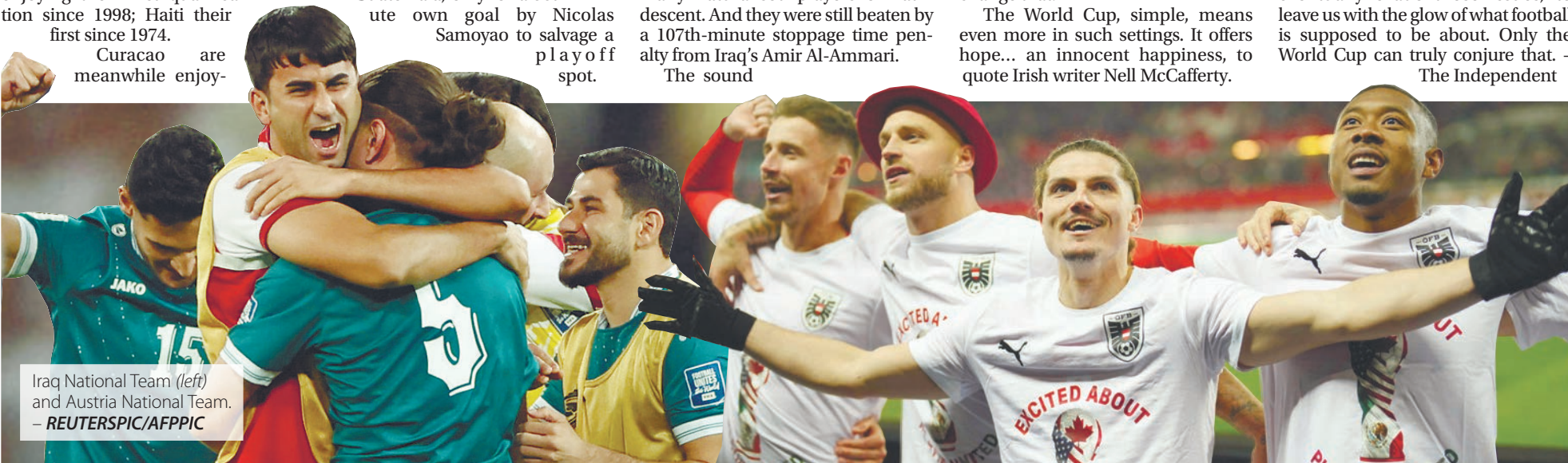
The United Arab Emirates might say similar. The state has pumped billions into football over the past two decades, to the point that their national team is currently made up of many naturalised players of Latin descent. And they were still beaten by a 107th-minute stoppage time penalty from Iraq's Amir Al-Ammari.

The sound

their people something to be happy about and also give themselves renewed focus in the international community.

Years of violence in DR Congo don't get the same attention, but World Cup qualification itself can change that.

The World Cup, simple, means even more in such settings. It offers hope... an innocent happiness, to quote Irish writer Nell McCafferty.



Iraq National Team (left) and Austria National Team. – REUTERS/PIC/AFPPIC